

FIFTH NATIONAL FORUM

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



NOVEMBER 28TH, 2019

Hibernia Conference Centre, Dublin
Castle



An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna
Department of
Education and Skills



National ESD Forum 2019

Sustainable Development Goal 4 – Quality Education



Purpose/ Cuspóir:

To **showcase** and **celebrate exemplars of quality, excellence and innovation** in Education for Sustainable Development within the Irish school system.

To **reflect on our progress** to date in relation to the National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development and to **facilitate discourse** about future direction post 2020 and towards 2030.



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Programme of Events/ Clár Imeachtaí

09:00: Registration

09:30: Opening of Forum

- Introduction to the Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills, Mary Mitchell O'Connor, T.D. by Mella Cusack, Chair
- Opening address from Minister Mitchell O'Connor

Keynote Address

- **Ms. Mary Robinson**
- Followed by open discussion with Ms. Robinson from the floor

10:45: SDG 4.2

- **Equal access to quality pre-primary education**
Dr. Anne-Marie Brooks, Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare
Department of Children and Youth Affairs

11.00: SDG 4.5

- **Eliminate discrimination in education**
- Social Inclusion in the Irish Education System
Susan Mulhall, Social Inclusion Unit, Department of Education and Skills

11.15: Tea and Coffee – Networking Break



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11.45: SDG 4.7

- **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Action**

Jack O'Connor – UN Youth Ambassador for the SDGs

GreenSchools - Shillelagh No 1 N.S.

*Irish Aid Schools - Glor na Mara National School, Tramore, Co Waterford
St Michael's School, Roscommon*

*SEAI Schools – Beech Hill College, Monaghan
St Attracta's Community College Sligo
St Mary's High School Cork*

WorldWise Global Schools – Aoife McMahon, Santa Sabina, Sutton

12.15: Breakout Sessions

- **SDG 4.2 – Early Childhood Education**
- **SDG 4.5 – Inclusion in Irish Education**
- **SDG 4.7 – Education for Sustainable Development**
- **SDG 4.A – School Buildings and Education Facilities**

- Followed by feedback to the floor

13.15: SDG Targets and indicators

- **CSO SDG Portal**
Mary Smith, CSO

13.35: Final Comments / Close of Forum

13:45: Networking Lunch



Chair of Forum/ Cathaoirleach an Fhóraitm

Mella Cusack



Mella Cusack has many years' experience in curriculum design, including writing the National Council for Curriculum Association (NCCA) 100-hour Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE) short course; the NCCA's 2018 *Study of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) curriculum opportunities from early childhood to senior cycle*; the WorldWise Doing Development Education series of resources; and, the curriculum materials for the annual Our World Irish Aid Awards.

Mella lectures in curriculum studies, CSPE and Politics and Society pedagogy modules in the National College of Art and Design and in DCU's Institute of Education. She is coordinator of an EU DEAR funded project called 'Get up and Goals!' which aims to strengthen Global Citizenship Education (GCE) and awareness about the Sustainable Development Goals in the education system.

Keynote Speakers/ Eochairchainteoirí

Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor



Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD is Minister of State at the Department of Education with special responsibility for Higher Education having been appointed on 14 June 2017.

Mary previously served as Minister of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation from 6 May 2016. Mary was totally committed to her Department's mission to lead on the creation and maintenance of high quality and sustainable full employment across all regions of the country, and worked very closely with IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, Science Foundation Ireland and Local Enterprise Offices as her Department promoted the jobs agenda, seeing, for the first time in almost a decade, over 2 million people employed in Ireland.



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Ms. Mary Robinson



Mary Robinson served as the first female president of Ireland from 1990-1997, before her appointment to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in 1997, a position she held until 2002.

A sought-after speaker on the impact of climate change on future generations and the disproportionate burden it places on developing countries, her Foundation, the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, established in 2010, came to a planned end in April 2019.

Between 2013 and 2016, Ms. Robinson served as the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy in 3 roles; first for the Great Lakes Region of Africa, then on Climate Change and most recently as his Special Envoy on El Niño and Climate, along with Macharia Kamau of Kenya, to focus the world's attention on meeting the urgent challenges posed by extreme weather events to the most disadvantaged and vulnerable communities.

Ms. Robinson co-founded the Council of Women World Leaders, a network which mobilises women leaders at the highest levels to promote democracy and gender equality. She sits on the board of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation. In 2009, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama, and was also the founder and president of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative from 2002 to 2010. Her memoir, *Everybody Matters*, was published in 2012.

Mary Robinson continues to move audiences around the world with her passionate call for all nations to work together on sustainable development to change the future of our planet.

Dr. Anne-Marie Brooks



Anne-Marie has responsibility at Principal Officer level for the development of the First 5 Implementation Plan 2019-2021 and reporting on progress; for progressing a range of First 5 actions, including the development of a new funding model for Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare; and overseeing a range of research, evaluation and data projects associated with or commissioned by the Division, including the Independent Review on the Cost of Delivering Quality Childcare and the Annual Early Years Sector Profile Survey.



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Susan Mulhall



Susan Mulhall is Assistant Principal Officer in the Social Inclusion Unit in the Department of Education and Skills. The Social Inclusion Unit is responsible for developing and promoting a co-ordinated Department response to tackling educational disadvantage in primary and post-primary schools and Susan has worked on all aspects of the DEIS programme. Susan joined the Department of Education and Skills in 2010, having previously worked in the Department of Finance.

Jack O'Connor



Jack O'Connor is from Kilcolman, County Limerick. Jack is an undergraduate student studying International Business in the University of Limerick and KEDGE Business School, Marseille.

Jack is the founder of Moyo Nua, a social enterprise initiative aimed at improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and their families in crop-dependent, developing regions worldwide. Jack's experiences to date have taken him across Ireland, Malawi, the USA, and México.

Here, Jack has formulated international development strategies for both students and employees, and has delivered his thoughts and understandings of business, politics, and sustainable development through a variety of keynote speeches, roundtable discussions, and one-to-one meetings.

Jack is a strong advocate for harmonising business work and humanitarian work to achieve global progress for the UN Sustainable Development Goals, winning awards such as the World Trade Centers Association 'Peace through Trade' World Cup and the Science for Development Award at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition for his efforts in this field.

In January 2019, Jack was invited to speak at the MIT & Higher Education Authority's 'Future of Work Summit' in Dublin Castle. He spoke to international business and policy leaders about the importance of a youth-focused outlook on tackling global issues such as reducing economic inequalities and becoming environmentally conscious in business activities.

Jack is passionate about youth activation, and in ensuring that the youth of today are adequately prepared to become the leaders of tomorrow. Jack believes that inclusive collaboration across all demographics and regions are vital in ensuring that the world's most challenging issues are addressed, and actively engages in work relating to youth empowerment, development education, and climate action."



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Mary Smith



Mary is a statistician in the Central Statistics Office, Cork, with responsibility for managing and reporting on the UN SDG Indicators. Her work involves participation in a number of National, International and UN working groups including developing the UN Statistics Division Road Map for SDGs, and EPA Steering Committee environmental projects. Having expertise on CSO Surveys and big data projects, Mary began working in the SDG Division, CSO, in 2017 (newly established by Dr Kevin McCormack, Senior Statistician, Western European Delegate to UN IAEG-SDG). Mary has an honours degree in both Mathematics and Geography, and a Ph.D in Applied Geophysics (NUIG).



Spotlight on SDG 4.7 – ESD in Action

Green Schools



Promoting long-term, whole-school action for the environment
Green-Schools is a student-led programme with involvement from the wider community. The programme is operated and co-ordinated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce (FEE member for Ireland).

Green-Schools is operated in partnership with Local Authorities and is supported by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government; Department of Communications, Climate

Action and Environment; Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport; The Department of Arts, Heritage Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Irish Aid, National Transport Authority; National Parks and Wildlife Service, Irish Water and the Wrigley Company Limited.

Shillelagh No 1 N.S. is a Church of Ireland school set in the small village of Shillelagh, Co Wicklow and serving the surrounding rural catchment area. We have long had an interest in environmental issues and we were introduced to the Global Goals through the Global Citizenship flag. The children that Goal 4, Quality Education was a very relevant topic and yet were surprised by many of their findings.

Becoming involved in these projects have offered a real life experience to our pupils about how they can as citizens interact with the world around them.

Our World Irish Aid Awards



The Our World Irish Aid Awards is an annual programme for primary pupils in 3rd – 6th class. Pupils work in pairs, as a class or as a whole school to present a project exploring the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the awards and its efforts to help children understand the links between their lives and the lives of those in developing countries.

Irish Aid Schools:

Glór na Mara National School, Tramore, Co Waterford and St Michael's School, Roscommon



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Ireland's national sustainable energy authority, SEAI works with homeowners, communities, businesses and government to transform how we think about, generate and use energy.

Leading the transition to smarter and more sustainable energy activities is central to the work of SEAI. We engage with schools across Ireland to teach students about these important issues. Every year primary and post primary students are invited to enter our annual competition and come up with their “One Good Idea” to save energy and help tackle climate change. They create an awareness campaign and develop a 1 minute film based on their idea.

SEAI - One Good Idea

The SEAI One Good Idea project is an annual competition that asks primary and post primary students to come up with 'One Good Idea' to save energy and help tackle climate change. The competition serves to both educate and motivate students to take simple actions by encouraging them to create an awareness campaign and a 1-minute film based on their idea.

Practical Plastics from **Beech Hill College, Monaghan**, were the overall winner at the One Good Idea competition in the secondary division. They want a #plexit from all single-use plastics in school & want to show dangers of its pollution.

St Attracta's Community College Sligo, - Power Rangers – Power Hour, Energy Saving project. Say goodbye to standby.

St Mary's High School, Cork - Water You Going to do without it – A mission to save water – one drip at a time.

World Wise Global Schools



Irish Aid's *WorldWise Global Schools* is Ireland's national Global Citizenship Education (GCE) programme for post-primary schools. It is the key channel through which Irish Aid support for GCE in post-primary schools is to be coordinated. The aim of the programme is to increase the number of post-primary schools engaging in quality global citizenship education by providing a comprehensive range of supports.

Aoife McMahon is from **Santa Sabina Dominican College, Sutton, Dublin**. She is a 3rd year student and she and her school have been working on projects relating to climate impact, food waste and other global issues. Aoife was recently selected as one of the RTE Youth Assembly delegates.



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Breakout Session/ Seisiún Briste

➤ Group 1 - SDG 4.2

By 2030 ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality **early childhood** development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.

➤ Group 2 - SDG 4.5

By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure **equal access** to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.

➤ Group 3 - SDG 4.7

By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through **education for sustainable development** and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

➤ Group 4 - SDG 4.A

Build and upgrade **education facilities** that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

➤ Questions for consideration by each breakout group

- Q1. What further actions do we need to take to ensure we meet the targets for your group by 2030
- Q2. Who would be the key stakeholders for delivery of these actions?
- Q3. Are there other issues which need to be addressed under this target?
- Q4. What value has the ESD strategy had in furthering your work to date? Give Examples.
- Q5. Do we need a new standalone ESD strategy 2021-2030 or could ESD be incorporated into a National SDG Strategy? What are the pros and cons of each approach?



My Breakout Session NOTES



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Attendees:

Name	Organisation
Ana Barbu	Irish Aid
Emer Barry	SEAI
Cathy Baxter	An Taisce/ GreenSchools
Margarita Boyle	DES
Maria Bracken	DES
Anne-Marie Brooks	D.CYA Speaker
Geraldine Brosnan	Mary Immaculate College
Clive Byrne	NAPD
Edmond Byrne	UCC
Liam Byrne	DES
Laura Cahill	WWGS
Aoife Cannon	SEAI
Emer Carney	Irish Aid, D.FA
Aidan Clifford	ESD Advisory Group
Patrick Coffey	Scoilnet, PDST
Terri Cole	Real Nation
Aaron Connell	DES
Mella Cusack	Get Up and Goals/Partnership for Africa
Tony Daly	80:20: Educating and Acting for a Better World
Leona De Khors	D.Education & Skills
John Dolan	SBU. DES
Áine Doody	DFA
David Duffy	Teacher's Union of Ireland
Valerie Duffy	NYCI
Eiman Elsnor	ISSU
Mai Fanning	NPCPP
Ciara Fanning	ISSU
Martin Fitzgerald	LIT
Hannah Fitzpatrick	Yound Friends of the Earth/EcoFminist Network
Mary Fleming	STAND
Deirdre Forest	IAA
Sarah Franklyn	C/O DCCAE
Aoife Franklyn	TCD
Joe Gallagher	D.CCAE, SDGs
Lisa Gallagher	WorldWise Global Schools
Dr. Brenda Gallagher	NUIG
Tara Gallagher	Irish Universities Association
Thérèse Gamble	Drumcondra Education Centre
Frank Geary	IDEA
Thomas Gleeson	JCT
Adekunle Gomez	African Cultural Project / the Africa Institute in Ireland
Clare Griffin	Inspectorate/DES



Chloe Griffin	ISSU
Karen Hawkshaw	DES, Building Unit.
John Harper	DES
Deirdre Hogan	School of Education, UL
Dr. Charlotte Holland	DCU
Maurice Hurley	Global Citizenship School
Barry Kenny	Teaching council of Ireland
Tanya Kenny	EPA
Frances KIELTY	DFA
Padraig Kirk	JCT
Valerie Lewis	ETBI
Frank Lewis	SBU, DES
Moira Leydon	ASTI
Breda Lynch	ASTI
Mary Lynch	DES
Judith Lyons	DES
Helen Maguire	St. Angela's College/NUIG
Joanne Malone	SUAS
Claire Marshall	Concern
Áine Mc Carthy	Drumcondra Education Centre
Jean McCarthy	
Kevin McCarthy	Ex DES
Amanda McCloot	St Angelas College
Dr. Patrick McCormack	St Paul's CBS Secondary School,
Kevin McCormack	CSO (Cork)
Eileen McDermott	Green Foundation Ireland
Aoife McDonnell	Scoilnet, PDST
Eileen McEvoy	National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning
Aoife McGrane	DES
Aishling McGrath	WorldWise Global schools
Aedín McLoughlin	Good Energies Alliance Ireland
Aoife McMahan/Student	Santa Sabina, Sutton.
Kevin McStravock	USI
Kate Minnock	North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School
Valery Molay	NYCI
Susan Mulhall	D.ES Speaker
Joanna Mulkeen	One Step Closer
Joanne Mulligan	STAND
Brid Murphy	T.Council
Niall Murphy	CEUD
Breda Naughton	Ex DES
David Neville	
Elaine Nevin	Eco-Unesco
Eibhlin Ni Scannlain	D.Education & Skills
Louise Nolan	St Paul's CBS Secondary School



Lizzy Noone	WWGS
Lorcán Ó hAlmhain	DES
Rowan Oberman	DCU
John O'Brien	INTO
Dr Sam O'Brien-Olinger	AONTAS
Evelyn O'Connor	CAP Unit, DES
Jack O'Connor	Speaker - UN Youth Delegate
Julie O'Donoghue	ASTI
Birgit O'Driscoll	An Taisce
Phil O'Flaherty	Further Ed
Anthony O'Grady	DCCA
Gerard O'Sullivan	NCCA
Barbara O'Toole,	Marino Institute of Education
Brian O' Toole	Presentation Interprovincial Justice
Anne Payne	Irish Aid/ D.FA
Deirdre Phelan	State Exams Commission
Niamh Potter.	Airfield Estate
Anthony Purcell	An Taisce
Aoife Rankin	WWGS
Conor Reale	Oireachtas
Mary Robinson	Keynote Speaker
Tom Roche	Just Forests
Paul Rowe	Educate Together
Aoife Rush	NCCA
Joseph Ryan	THEA
Helen Ryan	NALA
Nina Sachau	Goal Global
Joanne Scott	An Taisce/ GreenSchools
Kevin Sexton	DFA
Justin Sinott	Solas
Danny Smits	UNICEF
Dr. Mary Smyth	Speaker CSO
Eufemia Solinas	Global Action Plan
Emily Symes	Airfield Estate
Sarah Symes	
Rita Walsh	WWGS
Pr. Paul Walsh	School of Politics and International Relations, UCD
Fionnuala Ward	Educate Together
Damian White	Irish Primary Principals' Network
Rebecca White	Green Space Education



SDGs in the Curriculum

1 NO POVERTY 	2 ZERO HUNGER 	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	5 GENDER EQUALITY 	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 
Primary Geography Primary Science JC History JC Home Economics JC Business Studies JC CSPE LC Geography LC Politics & Society	Primary Geography Primary Science Primary SPHE JC History JC Home Economics JC Science JC Business Studies JC CSPE LC Ag. Science LC Geography LC Politics & Society	Primary Geography Primary Science Primary SPHE JC History JC Home Economics JC Science JC Business Studies JC CSPE LC Ag. Science LC Geography LC Politics & Society	Primary Geography JC History JC Business Studies JC Home Economics JC CSPE LC Politics & Society LC Geography	Primary Geography Primary SPHE JC History JC Business Studies JC Home Economics JC CSPE LC Geography LC Politics & Society	Primary Geography Primary Science JC Home Economics JC CSPE JC Business Studies JC History LC Geography LC Politics & Society
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 
Primary Geography Primary Science JC Business Studies JC Home Economics JC Science JC History JC CSPE LC Ag. Science LC Geography LC Politics & Society	Primary History Primary Geography JC History JC CSPE JC Business Studies JC Home Economics LC Geography LC Politics & Society	Primary History Primary Geography JC History JC Science JC CSPE JC Business Studies JC Home Economics LC Geography LC Politics & Society	Primary Geography Primary SPHE JC History LC Geography LC Politics & Society JC Business Studies JC History JC Home Economics JC CSPE LC Geography LC Politics & Society	Primary History JC History JC Home Economics JC Science JC CSPE JC Business Studies LC Ag. Science LC Geography LC Politics & Society	Primary History Primary Science Primary SPHE JC Business Studies JC History JC Home Economics JC Science JC CSPE LC Ag. Science LC Geography LC Politics & Society
13 CLIMATE ACTION 	14 LIFE BELOW WATER 	15 LIFE ON LAND 	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	
Primary History Primary Geography Primary Science Primary SPHE JC Business Studies JC Home Economics JC Science JC History JC CSPE LC Ag. Science	Primary Geography Primary Science Primary SPHE JC History JC Home Economics JC Science JC Business Studies JC CSPE LC Geography LC Politics & Society	Primary History Primary Geography Primary Science Primary SPHE JC History JC Home Economics JC Science JC Business Studies JC CSPE LC Ag. Science	Primary SPHE JC History JC CSPE JC Business Studies JC Home Economics LC Geography LC Politics & Society	Primary Geography Primary Science Primary SPHE JC Business Studies JC Science JC CSPE JC History JC Home Economics LC Geography LC Politics & Society	

*2018 NCCA Audit: https://www.ncca.ie/media/3573/esdreport_final_june2018.pdf



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