



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Seventh National Forum on Education for Sustainable Development

Friday 2 December 2022

The Printworks, Dublin Castle



National Forum on ESD

2 December 2022

Purpose / Cuspóir:

To facilitate discourse on implementation of ESD to 2030 and to **showcase** and **celebrate exemplars of quality, excellence** and **innovation** in Education for Sustainable Development across the Irish Education System.



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ESD to 2030:

Second National Strategy on
Education for Sustainable Development



Programme of Events / Clár Imeachtaí

09:30 – 10.00 Registration and coffee

10:00 – 10.15 Opening of Forum

- Introduction and welcome from the Chair, Dalton Tattan, Assistant Secretary General, Department of Education
- Video address – welcoming remarks from Minister Harris, Minister Foley and Minister O’Gorman

10:15 – 10.30 Introduction to *ESD to 2030*

- Joint presentation on *ESD to 2030* by Leona De Khors, Department of Education and Siobhán Sleeman, Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

10.30 – 11:00 Reflections on the UN Transforming Education Summit

- Professor Patrick Paul Walsh, Vice-President of Education UN SDSN and Director of the SDG Academy

11:00- 11.20 **Tea/ Coffee/ Networking**

11:20 – 12:50 **Breakout Sessions**

Lightning Talks and Group Discussion

a) **Topic:** Building Capacity of Educators

Session Chair: Deirdre Hogan, Ubuntu Network

Speakers:

- Elaine Hynes, Inspectorate, Department of Education
- Valerie Lewis, Take 1 Programme - Embedding ESD in Learning and Teaching at Post-Primary Level
- Dr. Fiona Maloney, Director of Further Education and Training Support Services, ETBI
- Dr. John Barimo, Engaged Research Officer, UCC

b) **Topic:** Embedding ESD in Governance and Leadership Structures

Session Chair: Professor Charlotte Holland, Deputy Dean, DCU Institute of Education & Director of RCE Dublin

Speakers:

- Jennifer Boyer, VP of Sustainability, TU Dublin
- Mary Gallagher-Cooke, Operations Director, NexSys Strategic Partnership Programme
- Dr. Patrick Kirwan, Irish Schools Sustainability Network (ISSN)

c) **Topic:** Empowering and Mobilising Youth & Local Community Engagement

Session Chair: Elaine Mahon, Capacity Development Manager, IDEA

Speakers:

- Jamie Mac Giolla Bhain, Sustainability Officer, Irish Secondary Students Union
- Nick Doran, Programme Manager, Saolta
- Joan Ward, Libraries Development, Local Government Management Agency

12:50 – 13:30 Panel: Policy Coherence and ESD, Reflections on the Morning

Panel Chair: Dr. Conor Galvin, Director, PhD Programmes at UCD SoE

- Liam Wegimont, Director, Global Education Network Europe
- Dr. Rob Mooney, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- Eimear Manning, National Youth Council of Ireland.
- Lena Jacobs, Wellbeing Framework, Department of the Taoiseach

13:30 – 14:30 **Close, Lunch and Networking; Tour of Dublin Castle**

Forum Chair: Dalton Tattan, Assistant Secretary General, Department of Education

Dalton Tattan is an Assistant Secretary General in the Department of Education with responsibility for Curriculum, Assessment and Teacher Education Policy. He is currently leading on a range of strategically important initiatives in this area, including senior cycle reform.

Dalton has worked in the civil service for over 25 years. He joined the Department of Education in 1998 and served in its Policy and Legal Services sections for 8 years. During this time he worked on landmark pieces of legislation in the education and training sector, managed sensitive litigation and provided legal advice on key policy and operational matters.

Dalton subsequently headed up the Department's Pensions Section and its School Staff Employment Terms and Conditions Section. In May 2013 he took up the position of Programme Manager for the Education and Training Board (ETB)/Solas Project Management Office and was responsible for leading on the ETB/Solas reform agenda.

In November 2015, he was appointed Head of Social Inclusion and Special Education at Assistant Secretary General level in the Department of Education. In July 2020 Dalton moved to his current position and played a leading role in the development and implementation of Calculated and Accredited Grades for the 2020 and 2021 Leaving Certificate.

Dalton is a graduate of the University of London, University College Dublin and the Honorable Society of King's Inns. He was called to the Irish Bar in 2003.

Leona De Khors, Assistant Principal Officer, Department of Education

Leona De Khors is an Assistant Principal Officer in the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Unit of the Department of Education with responsibility for a number of department strategies including Languages Connect – Ireland's Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education, the Department's input to the 20 year Strategy for the Irish Language and ESD to 2030 – the 2nd National Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development. Leona co-ordinates the Department's input on the SDGs and is a member of the SDG Interdepartmental Working Group as well as being the Irish Delegate on the EU Working Group on Schools: Learning for Sustainability.

Siobhán Sleeman, Assistant Principal Officer, Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science

Siobhán Sleeman works in the Higher Education Policy and Reform unit of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, with responsibility across a range of policy areas including Education for Sustainable Development, Skills initiatives (Human Capital Initiative, Springboard+, Languages Connect), Teaching and Learning, Digital Transformation in HE. Siobhán is the Department's representative to the EC Higher Education Working Group. Before joining the civil service, Siobhán worked in the Higher Education Authority, Dublin City University and in the not-for-profit sector in Ireland and South Africa. She holds a Masters in Business Administration (UCD Smurfit School) and MSc in Development Studies (SOAS, University of London).

Pr. Patrick Paul Walsh, Vice President of Education at UN SDSN and Director of the SDG Academy

Patrick Paul Walsh is Vice President of Education at the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Director of the SDG Academy. He is on secondment from University College Dublin where is a Full Professor of International Development Studies and Director of the Centre for Sustainable Development Studies in UCD, Dublin. He received a Ph.D. in Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

He has held academic positions in Trinity College Dublin, K.U. Leuven, Harvard University and Columbia University. He has also held positions in the United Nations, European Commission, IMF and the World Bank. His current focus is on Sustainable Development Education that is informed by Science, Practice and Policy.

Deirdre Hogan, Ubuntu Network Coordinator, University of Limerick

Deirdre Hogan is co-ordinator of the Ubuntu Network, a strategic partner of Irish Aid that supports the integration of Global Citizenship Education into post primary Initial Teacher Education in Ireland. She is based in the School of Education at the University of Limerick. Deirdre holds a Bachelor Degree in Science Education and a Higher Diploma in Systems Analysis. She has completed a Master of Education by research focusing on the nature of science as an academic discipline and implications for integrating Education for Sustainable Development into its teaching. She is a member of the national Advisory Committee on Education for Sustainable Development.

Elaine Hynes, Inspectorate, Department of Education

Elaine Hynes is an Early Years Inspector in the Department of Education. Elaine also holds the role of Early Years Education Specialist in the Early Years Education Policy Unit. During her time in the Inspectorate, Elaine has engaged in a range of cross-sectoral projects, including a project on Education for Sustainable Development.

Valerie Lewis, Take 1 Programme Director and Assistant Professor in Education for Sustainability, Dublin City University

Valerie Lewis is the Director of the Take 1 Programme, which has been designed to support post-primary schools to communicate, raise awareness of, and embed Education for Sustainable Development in learning and teaching. This is achieved through engaging with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, as part of a 'whole school' approach. She has over twenty years of experience in the Irish education arena in the area of curriculum design and development, working at both post-primary and tertiary level.

Valerie also holds the position of Assistant Professor in Education for Sustainability in the School of STEM Education, Innovation and Global Studies at Dublin City University as part of its Institute of Education. Outside of formal education Valerie sits as Chairperson of 80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World, an independent non-governmental organisation.

Dr. Fiona Maloney, ETBI Director of Further Education and Training Support Services

A senior Executive Director with responsibility for providing strategic direction and leadership in the development of education and training policy and strategic supports in the areas of Skills, Quality, Inclusion, Pathways and FET Planning, Reporting and Resourcing.

Fiona creates and strengthens strategic partnerships with internal and external stakeholders and coordinating engagement arrangements between national stakeholders and ETB FET.

Work has focused on many large-scale, high-profile projects including the development of the UDL Framework for FET, Learner Payments System, Further Education and Training Digital Library, Programme Learner Support System and the development of the first Outdoor Education Strategy. Current projects are focused on the areas of Learner Health and Wellbeing, Professional Learning and Development, Lifelong Guidance, RPL and Learner Voice.

Dr. John Barimo, Engaged Research Officer at University College Cork

Dr. John F. Barimo is the Engaged Research Officer at University College Cork in support of the UNIC European University of Post-Industrial Cities with the aim of improving, understanding or investigating issues of public interest or concern which includes societal or global challenges. He also led the co-creation of a pan-disciplinary SDG Toolkit and conducted a series of professional development workshops to support teaching staff with the integration of the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals across the UCC curricula.

John holds a M.Sc. from Virginia Commonwealth University in Biology and Ph.D. from the University of Miami (USA) in Marine Biology & Fisheries. John's scientific research was centred around physiological ecology with interests in biotic interactions and environmental toxicology. His professional career spans academia, governmental agencies, nongovernmental organisations and private industry which includes civil service within the US National Marine Sanctuary Programme.

Professor Charlotte Holland, Deputy Dean of DCU Institute of Education & Director of RCE Dublin

Professor Charlotte Holland is Deputy Dean of DCU Institute of Education and Professor in the School of STEM Education, Innovation and Global Studies in DCU Institute of Education, Dublin City University. She has been a member of the expert research and policy advice think tank (T20) advising G20 leaders since April 2019, and as lead author has published policy briefs on a number of areas relating to sustainability, including the monitoring and assessing of the integration of Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Education across the G20 partnership. She is founder and Director of the Regional Centre of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development for the greater Dublin region, RCE Dublin, which was acknowledged by the UN University in 2014. She leads the new Doctor of Education programme in 'Education for Sustainable Futures' at DCU Institute of Education.

Jennifer Boyer, Vice President of Sustainability, TU Dublin

Jennifer Boyer is the inaugural Vice President of Sustainability at Ireland's first Technological University, TU Dublin. As a member of the University Executive Team (UET), she actively contributes to delivering on the University's mission and shares responsibility for evolving the overall University Strategy. As Vice President for Sustainability at TU Dublin, Jennifer provides leadership, strategic direction and oversight for the coordination and management of the University's activities in relation to sustainability, across both professional services and academic domains. Jennifer is responsible for positioning the University as a leader and voice for sustainability, a way of living and working in a new, more balanced way, a way that protects our planet for future generations.

Most recently in her role as Assistant Head of School, responsible for the professional programmes in Architecture at TU Dublin, she enjoyed working with students and colleagues to develop the new Master of Architecture and implementing major curriculum revision to the Bachelor of Architecture to embed the *UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030* and address the challenges of climate change. As Practice Director at Murray O'Laoire Architects, Jennifer managed the Central European office and directed large multi-disciplinary design teams to deliver sustainable mixed-use urban design projects for commercial clients and government agencies around the world.

Jennifer's active research interests reside within the potential integration of change management, innovation and entrepreneurship to achieve models of sustainable practice. Her experience of professional practice, teaching, programme development and academic management has given her an understanding of the importance of practice-based, project-led student learning as essential to developing relevant, creative and responsible graduates. She is a registered architect, an active community organiser, a sustainability advocate and a firm believer that every person's future is brighter with the gift of education.

Jennifer is a graduate from Cornell University's Bachelor of Architecture programme in 2001, sitting her Professional Registration exams in Ireland at University College Dublin in 2007. She completed her MBA as an Aspire Scholar at the Michael Smurfit School of Business, UCD in 2014.

Mary Gallagher-Cooke, Operations Director, NexSys Strategic Partnership Programme.

Mary is the Operations Director of NexSys, an All Island SFI research partnership hosted by the UCD Energy Institute in partnership with eight other leading research institutions. It involves academics working in partnership with industry to tackle the challenges of energy decarbonisation, developing evidence-based pathways for a net zero energy system. Mary has worked in private and public sectors, including over 15 years working in University College Dublin in management, strategic development and governance positions.

Mary volunteers on sustainability and youth empowerment related issues, across governance, campaigns and projects. As part of her studies in UCD's MSc Sustainable Development, Mary analysed UCD's autonomous, documented governance for environmental sustainability and subsequently developed a framework through which such ambitions could begin to be realised.

Dr. Patrick Kirwan, Science Teacher Ardscoil na Mara and Founder of the Irish Schools Sustainability Network

Patrick trained as a secondary science teacher with TeachFirst in London. While working in disadvantaged London schools Patrick developed a bespoke award-winning model for a whole school nature curriculum. While continuing to teach, he set up a community social enterprise to share his model with other primary and secondary schools. He is now piloting this programme in

Ardscoil na Mara in Waterford. In March 2021 Patrick founded The Irish Schools Sustainability Network (ISSN). The network brings together teachers and students from different schools to work together on joint initiatives, share best practice, and work towards pushing sustainability to the top of the educational agenda. As part of his work with the ISSN Patrick founded the Climate and Nature Summit which ran during COP26 and COP27. The summit is all about partnerships which he believes is the key to systems change.

Elaine Mahon, IDEA, the Irish Development Education Association

Elaine Mahon has wide-ranging experience in the community and voluntary sector, with particular expertise in Development Education (also known as Global Citizenship education/Education for Sustainable Development). Elaine works part time for IDEA, the Irish Development Education Association, where she manages the Capacity Development Programme supporting members of IDEA to increase their knowledge and understanding of global issues including sustainability, strengthening quality in their educational work and measuring impact. Elaine has worked for international institutions including the European Commission and spent two years working in Sudan based at the EU Delegation in Khartoum. Elaine is also a freelance facilitator and trainer. In this field she specialises in areas relating to global justice, equality and interculturalism, youth participation, international volunteering and child safeguarding. Elaine is currently undertaking a Certificate in Global Citizenship Education (Maynooth University), and has a Masters in Management for the Community and Voluntary Sector (DCU, 2014) as well as a Bachelor's Degree in European Studies (TCD, 2004).

Jamie Mac Giolla Bhain, Sustainability Officer, Organisation: Irish Second-Level Students' Union (ISSU)

Jamie Mac Giolla Bháin is the Sustainability Officer of the Irish Second-Level Students' Union for the 2022/23 Coiste Gnó term. He is an 18 year old Youth Activist from County Monaghan but is now living in Dublin. He works predominantly in the areas of sustainability and climate justice. After taking office in July, Jamie has worked predominantly on raising student voice around sustainability, specifically in enhancing voices of rural students surrounding topics like transport and connectivity. Jamie has also furthered the work of the ISSU when it comes to Education for Sustainable Development and is currently organising a consultation event for 100 second-level students focusing on ESD.

Nick Doran, Programme Manager, Saolta

Nick Doran is Saolta's Programme Manager. His background is in media and critical linguistics which he has taught at youth groups, in adult and community education, and at universities in Ireland and South Korea. Nick has been working with Saolta in the area of Global Citizenship Education (GCE) in the Adult and Community Education (ACE) sector for 3 years and has been actively engaging educators and tutors on how they can embed GCE into their practices in order to address the root causes of poverty, inequality and climate change across fields of study. He's passionate about social justice and sustainability, has published numerous pieces on unequal power distribution in society, and is predisposed to spontaneous debate!

Joan Ward, Deputy Head, Libraries Development, Local Government Management Agency

Joan Ward is Deputy Head of Libraries Development, Local Government Management Agency. Libraries Development is the national advisor and development agency for public libraries in Ireland and works with the Department of Rural and Community Development and local authorities in strategic planning and implementation of public library development. While working directly with the local authorities in piloting and implementing strategies, Libraries Development also co-ordinates and monitors progress at national level. Libraries Development liaises and partners with international and national library and cultural sector bodies for innovation, best practice and expertise sharing and with EU expert groups for EU policy input.

Dr. Conor Galvin, Director, PhD Programmes at UCD SoE

Dr. Conor Galvin is Director, PhD Programmes at UCD SoE where he also teaches on sustainability and sustainable development, policy making, European values, and research design. His current projects focus on sustainable development, policy networks, professional knowledge, and the impact of new and emergent technology on learning and society. Dr. Galvin is an advisor to the EU Working Group on *Learning for Sustainability* and a member of the NCCA Development Group for the new *Climate Action & Sustainable Development* Leaving Certificate subject. He has worked with Irish Aid in academic capacity building in Lesotho and in pre-deployment preparation of the Government of Ireland Rapid Response Corp at UNTSI. He holds *The President's Award for Teaching Excellence at UCD* and a *National Forum for University Teaching & Learning (Ireland) Award for Innovative & Engaging Teaching*. Before joining UCD, Dr. Galvin taught and researched at University of Wales Swansea, and University of Cambridge, England.

Liam Wegimont

Liam is Executive Director of GENE – Global Education Network Europe – the European network Ministries and Agencies with national responsibility for Global Education in European countries. He is on secondment to GENE from his position as Principal of Mount Temple Comprehensive School. Liam co-founded GENE (www.gene.eu) in 2001. More recently he co-founded ANGEL – the Academic Network on Global Education Learning (www.angel-network.net). He recently co-led the process towards a new Declaration on Global Education in Europe to 2050, leading to the Dublin Declaration <https://www.gene.eu/ge2050-congress>. He is a member of the editorial Board of the [International Journal of Development Education and Global Learning](#) Institute of Education, UCL, London; and of [Sinergias ED](#), CEAUP, Oporto; and has been visiting lecturer in teacher education and global learning at Fredrich-Alexander University, Erlangen-Nurnberg and Trinity College, Dublin.

Dr. Rob Mooney, Citizen Engagement, Local Authorities and Community Leadership, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

Dr. Rob Mooney works at the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and has responsibility for the Citizen Engagement, Local Authorities and Community Leadership. His work includes the delivery of the citizen and stakeholder engagement programme for the Climate Action Plan through the National Dialogue on Climate Action, the development of Local Authority Climate

Action Plans, and the provision of supports to the community and voluntary sector. A central pillar of these diverse work programmes is the promotion of climate literacy across Irish society.

Eimear Manning, Youth & Climate Justice Development Officer in the National Youth Council of Ireland.

Eimear Manning is the Youth & Climate Justice Development Officer in the National Youth Council of Ireland. Eimear manages youth-led projects centred on issues of climate change, climate justice, and meaningful youth inclusion. Earlier this year, Eimear was nominated by the Department of Education to be Ireland's representative on the UNECE Education for Sustainable Development Steering Committee Youth Platform.

Lena Jacobs, Assistant Principal Officer, Department of the Taoiseach

Lena Jacobs has worked in the Department of the Taoiseach, primarily in economic policy, for six years. She is currently working in the Economic Development and Digital Unit, with responsibility for the development and implementation of the Well-being Framework for Ireland. She has worked across a range of policy areas including innovation and automation, the labour market, rural development, pension policy, the macro-economy and gender equality. Before joining the civil service, Lena worked in Eurofound and the Open Society Foundation. She holds degrees in Public Policy and Political Science.