



DELIVERING ON THE UNESCO CORK CALL TO ACTION



October 1st, 2019 | Opening Ceremony
Medellin Colombia 2019



Host of 3rd UNESCO International Conference
on Learning Cities 2017

CORK KEYNOTE AT THE UNESCO UIL GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON LEARNING CITIES, COLOMBIA 2019



Cork Learning City Partners on stage at the UNESCO UIL Global Conference 2019 :
L to R: Prof Patrick O'Shea, Dr Aine Ni Sea, Mr Denis Leamy, Ms Adrienne Rodgers

INTRODUCTION TO CORK LEARNING CITY - ADRIENNE RODGERS

Our presentation focuses on work Cork city has been undertaking since hosting the 2017 UNESCO Conference.

We are basing our presentation on the outcome document of the conference: **the UNESCO Cork Call to Action on Learning Cities**

3 themes were identified in this document and each of the three partners will each take one theme and explore it, and its connection to inclusion.

Each of the examples featured is a real life project that addresses these themes, and each will be further explored in relation to their commitment to inclusion and to actively reach-out to citizens furthest from the mainstream;

All these examples are:

- Collaborative;
- Transferable, to other contexts;
- Inspirational we hope as they are proven projects;
- Replicable, the same approach can be taken in any other city;

Our 4 equal lead partners are each presenting



CORK - TOWARDS AN EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE LEARNING CITY - DENIS LEAMY

The Challenge

Sustainable, Inclusive development of our cities
The Vision from the Cork Call to Action
In particular, we commit to implementing lifelong learning strategies pertaining to the social, environmental and economic dimensions of the SDGs:



Denis Leamy,

is Chief Executive of Cork Education and Training Board (CETB) since April 2019. He is currently chair of the OECD local economic and employment development (LEED) directing committee and is also chair of the OECD LEED forum board.

The Solution

promote equitable and inclusive learning and living environments by eradicating all forms of discrimination and widening access to learning opportunities for all members of society, particularly for vulnerable groups;

The projects or Examples

Prison Education, 'Inside'

Now provided in prison at all levels, informal and non formal, and formal starting at Adult literacy, through formal education qualifications at second level and in recent years now including guest lectures and taster sessions at third level through visiting academics from both third level partners. We have seen the first ex-prisoners self identifying at entry to third level and success.

Prison Education, 'outside'.

An education project focussing on women who are partners or family of prisoners.

Formal qualifications and success in progression to work, apprenticeships and further education.

These two initiatives are partners of a Learning Neighbourhood in the community the prison is located, helping to break down barriers by identifying learning as a common experience.





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Welcome English community education language and culture centre

One of a number of community bases that actively includes all migrants, from all nationalities, across all levels of English language proficiency. These centres are provided by a mix of paid tutors and volunteers, tutors are funded through partnership with the Formal Education partners. Through participation in the annual Lifelong Learning Festival the Welcome English centre hosts a celebration of each nationality through food, costume and performance. The festival through its 18,000 copies of its programmes and the extensive public awareness campaign brings this story of inclusion and language into the public domain.

Music Generation - inclusive music education

The image is of a visit by our President Michael D Higgins to a performance in the Central Library during the Lifelong Learning Festival of a Music Generation jazz band who call themselves 'Rebel Brass'. This programme is funded and supported by all the partners in Cork Learning City and brings music education to reach families and communities who otherwise would not have the opportunity to learn and instrument or to explore their creativity and perform in public. Our young learners include those from all social backgrounds, young people with disabilities, some profound disabilities who can still perform using new technologies, and includes young migrants from the refugee camp who are awaiting citizenship. Music and the Arts has been a means of inclusion and has opening up opportunities to academic progression in Music and Creative Arts third level programmes

Partners

With our 4 lead partners, other partners include Community Music Organisations, Schools of Music, and Philanthropy from U2, and the Ireland Funds.

When young people are learning together and performing together, the music connects them and differences are forgotten.



CORK - TOWARDS DECENT WORK AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN OUR LEARNING CITY - DR. ÁINE NÍ SHÉ

The Vision: from the Cork Call to Action

In particular, we commit to implementing lifelong learning strategies that promote opportunities for decent work and entrepreneurship, including enhancing skills development and securing safe and healthy work conditions for everyone, particularly in the informal work sector.



Dr Áine Ní Shé,
is currently Registrar & Vice-President
for Academic Affairs (Acting) at Cork Institute of
Technology (CIT), Cork, Ireland

The Solutions:

To create a culture of learning in workplaces;

To create new ways that bring workers at all levels, and the companies that employ, them into a greater connection with the world of learning and education; and

To embed entrepreneurship across young people in education;

The Projects

Learning Workplaces

An annual exchange on Cork Learning City Day, where good practice examples are shared and celebrated as a means of encouraging others to follow;

Learning in workplaces covers all educational levels and the voice of the individual learners are featured as central to spreading the practice among other companies.

Student Entrepreneurship

This example is one among a range of inclusive entrepreneurship programmes now embedded at all levels in the formal education system. These programme reach out to all schools at Primary and Secondary levels, and the programmes also are in the third level settings.

The group pictured are involved in entrepreneurship at third level.





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The Lifelong Learning Festival

includes an annual entrepreneurship programme involving older and retired people, called Senior Entrepreneurs, proving that age is not a barrier.

Learning Factories

Learning Factories open their doors during the Lifelong Learning Festival each year, bringing groups of people of all ages and backgrounds in to talk to workers about the companies, what they do, how work is organised and what opportunities they could offer for the future.

These factories are also committed as corporate social responsibility partners and companies including Apple, Dell and Pharmaceutical companies sponsor young people with potential to progress successfully to third level, offering them work placements as students, often leading to employment as graduates.

The partners

Businesses, companies, industries, HR managers, the Chamber of Commerce, but always based on person to person commitment

Business are learning organisations and people are people everywhere, even one workplace learners story can inspire others



CORK - TOWARDS A GREEN AND HEALTHY LEARNING CITY - PROF. PAT O'SHEA

The Challenge

To support the building of sustainable learning cities:



Professor Patrick O'Shea,

FIEEE, FAPS, FAAAS, FIAE

15th President of University College Cork
and Chair of the Irish Universities Association Ireland

The Vision from the Cork call to action

In particular, we commit to implementing lifelong learning strategies pertaining to the social, environmental and economic dimensions of the SDGs that:

promote green and healthy learning and living environments by combating climate change, pollution and poor health conditions and fostering safe drinking water and sanitation, sustainable mobility and good health services

The Solution – green and healthy initiatives that are open and inclusive of new partners, that break new ground and forge new links between people and organisations :

Green Campus

This initiative that resulted in the first Green Flag achieved globally by a third level campus, was lead by students, who had been involved in Green Schools at Primary and Second Level asking the University for an opportunity to take the same leadership role around improving the campus as a sustainable development in practice.

On our fourth green flag this year, the initiatives include 'Farm to Fork' where food grown on campus is on the menu on campus, reducing waste and the need for transport;





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The Food Forest

is in the Learning Neighborhood of South Parish.

It is a garden with harvest-able food, planted by volunteers in the corner of a car park. The Food Forrest

was launched in the Lifelong Learning Festival by the then Mayor who was a resident of that area. It is a partnership open to all residents with the Environmental Forum, and the city Health Promotion Services.

Cork Play Streets,

where the Council worked with local residents and volunteers to close a street for Cork Play Day during the Lifelong Learning Festival in 2019. The street, closed to traffic became a playground where families walked, cycled, played giant games, and mixed together. These events are inclusive, open to all, and are one of a series of action days using this approach, making Cork a Playful City, thereby improving health, the environment and the quality of life for all citizens.

The partners

Students, young people, Green Schools movement

Cork WHO Healthy Cities group

Cork Environmental Forum and other partners using the EcCoWell approach

Young people can provide the energy, with a strategy, a plan and organisational support this can make a lasting difference



INTER CITY NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS - ADRIENNE RODGERS

The Vision: from the Cork Call to Action

In particular, we commit to strategic networking among member cities, documenting and disseminating activities for shared learning; monitoring and evaluating progress;



Adrienne Rodgers

Director of Services for Community, Culture and Placemaking
in Cork City Council, Ireland

Learning City Networks in Ireland

Formed in 2018, and in 2019 5 cities all signed a Memorandum of Understanding to share good practice and support each other;

Learning City Network across Europe and North America

A meeting held in Cork in April 2019 with UIL support agreed to form a network open to include cities and institutions across Europe and North America that is committed to the UIL Learning City Agenda;

MOUs between Cork and other cities

In addition to the Irish cities, San Francisco and Shanghai we are proceeding to sign MOUs this week with Medellin and Manizales. These are not legally binding contracts but are more powerful as formal statements of commitment to work together.

The future...

All of these examples are partnerships or collaborations involving multiple organisations, and that has been key to their successes, and as we mentioned all are transferable to other cities.

There is more to come, we are planning towards 2030, and the implementation of the 17 SDGs. We keep striving for improvement, For example, we are working in partnership with charity groups dealing with the Homeless, who have now developed a range of educational and lifelong learning programmes to help people move on in their lives. Certificates for informal non formal and formal learning are being presented in City Hall this week. We are sorry to miss this inspirational annual event. This year it will include the launch of two books of poetry and writing from two women who have been on the streets since a young age, but through creative writing classes have engaged with support services and will now have books of their work in the library.

In all we do as a Learning City we remember our motto

'No-one left behind'.

