

Mapping Development Education Provision in the Irish Adult & Community Education Sector 2020-2021

About this research

The purpose of the research is to begin mapping Development Education (DE) provision and providers in the wide-ranging Irish Adult & Community Education (ACE) sector. This includes those working with adults on DE and DE-related issues on accredited and non-accredited programmes in both formal and informal education settings. Adult and Community Education thus incorporates Further Education, Community Education as well as Community Development organisations and NGOs that provide DE training, workshops and awareness-raising events to the public as well to other professionals in the field.



What is Development Education (DE)?

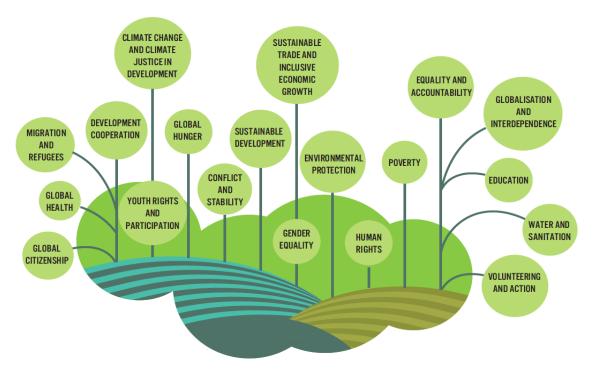
Development education is a lifelong educational process which aims to increase public knowledge and understanding of the rapidly changing, interdependent and unequal world in which we live. By challenging stereotypes and encouraging independent thinking, development education helps people to critically explore how global justice issues interlink with their everyday lives. (Irish Aid, 2017).

Development Education is Transformative...

Development education empowers people to analyse, reflect on and challenge, at a local and global level, the root causes and consequences of global hunger, poverty, injustice, inequality and climate change; presenting multiple perspectives on global justice issues. Development education enables people to take action - locally and globally - the understanding or theory of change that such action will contribute to desired transformation in the social, cultural political and economic structures which affect their lives and the lives of others. (lbid.)

Development Education: Themes & Issues

Development education addresses a wide range of themes and issues, including:



Source: Irish Aid (2017)

Not sure if your organisation or project is engaged in Development Education? Irish Aid (2020) describes the particular characteristics of Development Education as:

- ✓ Contributing to the learner's knowledge and **understanding of global justice issues** and facilitating the learner to engage with multiple perspectives on the matter;
- ✓ Enhancing the learner's skills and competencies, placing particular emphasis on the development of critical engagement;
- ✓ Strengthening the learner's values and attitudes, supporting the learner to recognise our global interconnectedness and consequently our rights and responsibilities as global citizens;
- ✓ Promoting action at a local and global level, empowering the learner to engage in individual and/or collective action to bring about a positive difference in the world;

The IDEA Code of Good Practice In 2019, the Irish Development Education Association (IDEA) published a *Code of Good Practice for Development Education* to help guide providers in establishing development education as a core part of their educational as well as organisational practice. This incorporates twelve principles, as follows:

Educational Practice

01 Contribute to Knowledge in Ireland about global development Educational Practice Organisational Practice

02 Explore the Root Causes of local and global injustices and inequalities in our interdependent world

03 Be explicit about the ethos of Development Education

04 Encourage Critical
Thinking in our exploration of local and global justice issues and seeking of solutions

05 Use Participatory, Creative methodologies

06 Produce and use Quality Resources and Materials, based on continuous learning



7 Build Skills for Informed, Meaningful Action that is Collective in nature

08 Imagine and Explore Solutions for a better world

09 Actively and consistently Reflect and Learn from our own Development Education practice and participants' feedback

Organisational Practice

10 Have a clear Development Education Strategy and Action Plan

11 Reflect the Key Values of Development Education

12 Advocate for Quality Development Education

Further information on this Code of Good Practice for Development Education, as well as supporting materials, are available from IDEA, the Irish Development Education Association: www.ideaonline.ie

What will happen with the data that I supply for the research? The details that you provide about your DE activity along with information about your organisation will appear in an interim report to be published by Salota later this year. This data will also appear in an interactive map that will appear on the Salota website. We hope that this will be a valuable resource for all of those working in the DE as well as the Adult & Community Education sector.

More about us... Saolta is a Development Education strategic partnership programme for the Adult and Community Education sector in Ireland. Development Perspectives is the lead partner in the consortium, which also includes AONTAS, Concern Worldwide, Irish Rural Link and the Adult and Community Education Dept of Maynooth University.

Worth knowing... There is a **wealth of resources available for DE tutors and providers**, including funding, trainings and workshops. You can find out more about funding and resources for Development Education in Ireland via the following organisations and links:

Irish Aid is the Irish Government's programme for overseas development. The programme is managed by the Development Co-operation Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. As well as providing overseas development aid and supports, Irish Aid is a key provider of funding and supports for Development Education here in Ireland. More at: www.lrishAid.ie

Development Perspectives (DP) is an **independent Development Education non-governmental organisation (NGO)** based in Drogheda, Co. Louth. Part of the DP remit is to provide Development Education training and resources to the adult and community education sector as part of embedding DE as a core part of curricula in formal as well as non-formal education settings. DP also runs the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Advocacy Programme which allows advocates deepen their knowledge of these goals, represent the project internationally as well as leading transformative change in Ireland. See: www.developmentperspectives.ie for more details.













This project was funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The content of this communication represents the views of the author only and does not necessarily represent or reflect DFAT policy.