



IDEA Annual Report 2017

## IDEA's Strategic Aims 2016 – 2018

- To create an enabling environment for Development Education
- To strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of the Development Education sector in Ireland
- To ensure recognition of Development Education's essential role in achieving global justice, global citizenship and sustainability
- To strengthen IDEA's capacity to work effectively.

Read the full IDEA Strategy 2016 – 2018 [here](#).

## IDEA's Vision

IDEA's vision is of a world based on global justice, solidarity, equality and sustainability. We see Development Education as an essential process that empowers people to create this world. Read the full IDEA Vision [here](#).

## IDEA's Mission

IDEA's mission is to work with our members to promote, support and enhance Development Education throughout the island of Ireland. We will achieve this by:

- Acting as a representative voice of Ireland's Development Education sector and
- Encouraging shared learning and improving standards of practice within the Development Education sector.



*IDEA gratefully acknowledges funding received from Irish Aid's Civil Society and Development Education Unit. The ideas, opinions and comments in this report are entirely IDEA's responsibility and do not necessarily reflect those of Irish Aid.*

**trócaire**

**CONCERN**  
worldwide



*IDEA is also funded by Concern Worldwide and Trócaire and the Bridge 47 project is co-funded by the European Union.*

**IDEA is a registered Charity: Charitable Tax Exemption Number: CHY 16504; Registered Charity Number: 20144517**

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## A Message from the Director

During 2017 sustainable development and global citizenship came under sustained attack from political leaders and public figures. Isolationist voices worldwide were emboldened. Attempts to solve interdependent global issues, such as the Paris Accord's targets on climate change, were challenged and undermined. As a Development Education community we have had to ask some hard questions. What happens to Development Education and global citizenship in a time of isolationism like this? Is it strengthened or marginalised? Made irrelevant or made more relevant than ever? How can we as a Development Education community, as a community that believes in global citizenship, respond to attacks on global solidarity?

The IDEA community has again and again come to the conclusion that in these challenging times we need Development Education more than ever. IDEA has worked hard during the last year to spread this message and to highlight the essential role of Development Education in addressing the issues of our times.

Through our work on an enabling environment for Development Education we have influenced the policies and practices that facilitate the work of IDEA members. Thanks to the engagement of IDEA members with policy makers and public representatives, there is now a policy infrastructure for Development Education in Ireland that did not exist five years ago. Policies supporting Development Education are now in place in government departments including the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department of Education and Skills, and the Department for Children and Youth Affairs. IDEA has supported our members to engage in new partnerships and to create new dialogues through Development Education. We are continuing to support and strengthen the capacity of our sector, with 196 participants in our Capacity Development activities in 2017. IDEA's Capacity Development programme is enabling our members to share knowledge, to make connections and to ensure that our work is stronger together.

IDEA's work to ensure recognition of Development Education's essential role in achieving global justice, global citizenship and sustainability focusses on internal and external communications. To support this we have published an updated Development Education in Ireland Report and a leaflet on Development Education and the Sustainable Development Goals. Through our work in this area, we strengthen our network, open up opportunities, and create awareness of the power and impact of Development Education.

Participation is at the heart of Development Education, and participation is at the heart of our work in IDEA. As a membership network, the active engagement of members in all aspects of our work, from governance to quality and impact, is the lifeblood of IDEA. The energy and dynamism of IDEA comes from our shared endeavour and our shared contribution and enthusiasm. We look forward to more inspiration and more shared action for social justice, global citizenship and transformative social change in the year ahead.

In solidarity,

Frank

## Enabling Environment

### Policy and Advocacy

During the last year, IDEA successfully worked to influence national and European policy makers to integrate Development Education into relevant policies. Regarding engaging with policy, advocacy and research, 90% of survey respondents rated IDEA's work as very effective or quite effective. IDEA enabled and supported our members to participate in policy processes through information sharing, shared submissions and facilitation of engagement between IDEA members and policy makers.

#### **IDEA's work on Policy and Advocacy included:**

- 3 IDEA task groups submitted feedback to Irish Aid on the Performance Management Framework for Development Education
- 2 IDEA task groups submitted feedback to Irish Aid on Strategic Partnerships for Adult/Community, and Youth sectors
- Advocacy Irish Aid and Minister Ciaran Cannon on funding for Development Education
- Submissions by IDEA and our members to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade review of the Irish Aid programme
- IDEA and Coalition 2030 submissions to a consultation on Ireland's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) National Implementation Plan
- Formal Education Working Groups submission on Leaving Certificate Economics and to the NCCA Junior Cycle Geography draft specification consultation
- IDEA submission to the Citizens Assembly discussion on climate change
- Coalition 2030 meetings on Ireland's National Implementation Plan on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with Ministers and senior officials in the Dept. of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and Dept. of an Taoiseach
- Participation in the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) National Strategy Advisory Group, Forum and mid-term review

You can read the submissions here: <https://www.ideaonline.ie/what-wedo/enable/policy-advocacy/>

### Partnerships and Representation

IDEA further developed its strategic alliances with civil society in Ireland and internationally, actively engaging in Coalition 2030, the Irish civil society coalition promoting national implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Bridge 47: Building Global Citizenship project which promotes the importance of partnership and Global Citizenship Education in the SDGs. It also represented the Development Education sector on the Department of Education and Skills' National Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development Advisory Group, and engaged in pilot partnership work with the Gaelic Players Association. IDEA also ran capacity building training on partnerships for its members, and developed resources to support its members in this area.

IDEA represented the Development Education sector in Ireland by speaking at the events including the UNESCO Week for Peace and Sustainable Development: The Role of Education in Ottawa, Canada Summit on ESD and GCE in Ottawa, and events in Ireland on Development Education, Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship. We also attended a range of events that were relevant to IDEA's work to avail of the networking opportunities they presented.

*The Irish Aid Dev Ed strategy was well influenced by IDEA and we were very pleased with what came out of that, this sort of work is very important. (Annual Member Survey (AMS) 2017 Respondent)*

*IDEA is a great advocate for DE and is the voice for DE in Ireland. IDEA played an important role in representing and coordinating the sectors input into Irish Aid's DE strategy. (AMS 2017 Respondent)*

## Capacity Development

IDEA's Capacity Development programme continues to facilitate and support our members to develop their capacity to provide effective Development Education. It is based on a holistic approach that encompasses Development Education Knowledge and Skills, Quality and Impact, and Organisational Management. Across 119 evaluation forms completed at IDEA events during 2017, 92% of respondents rated the quality of our events as excellent (65%) or good (27%), while 76% of are likely to apply their learning in practice.

### *Knowledge and Skills*

IDEA provides space for members to access up-to-date knowledge and skills within the Development Education sector, connecting with best practice internationally, and contributing to a dynamic sector that embodies the latest thinking in development and education. Based on feedback from our members in 2016, we ran more collaborative sessions, which allowed us to offer a more exciting and rich menu of content to our members. Events attracted many participants, and the evaluations were extremely positive.

#### **IDEA's work on Knowledge and Skills in 2017 included:**

- 125 participants attended Development Education Knowledge and Skills events including a 'Creative Fair', in conjunction with Comhlámh, and a 'Politics and Society' seminar, in conjunction with the Citizenship Education Network (CEN)
- 3 IDEA Conversation Circles on 'Development Education's response to Trump and Brexit', 'Islamophobia' and 'Activism'
- IDEA Annual Conference on Global Citizenship in a time of Isolationism'
  - Keynote: Mohamedou Ould Slahi, Author of Guantánamo Diary
  - Panel: Ruadhán Mac Cormaic (Foreign Affairs Correspondent, Irish Times)
  - Panel: Shaun O'Boyle, (Science Communicator & Co-Chair of March for Science Ireland),
  - Panel: Suzanne Keatinge, (CEO, Dóchas
  - Valerie Duffy, Dev Ed & UN Youth Delegate Programme Coordinator, NYCI
  - Workshops: Compassion in Education, The Power of Storytelling, Leave No-one Behind, IDEA Strategy Consultation

*A super day, what a joy to be part of such a vibrant, nurturing, compassionate community, excellent practical activities which I will use in my classroom' (Training Participant)*

*The seminar I attended on Politics and Society was excellent and really increased my understanding of the needs of teachers and students and how the NGO sector can support through DE resources and activities. (AMS 2017 Respondent)*

### *Quality and Impact*

The area of 'Quality and Impact' really grew in importance for IDEA and our members in 2017. Building on work carried out in 2016, IDEA updated our toolkit 'Using Results-Based Approaches in Development Education Settings' based on the new Irish Aid Development Strategy and related Performance Measurement Framework (2017-2023).

We also drafted a Code of Good Practice for Development Education in consultation with our members. A task group, facilitated by an external consultant, was established with 14 IDEA members and met three times during Summer 2017. The draft Code is being piloted in 2018 with a number of IDEA members.

**IDEA's work on Quality and Impact in 2017 included:**

- 33 organisations and individuals participated in IDEA training on Quality and Impact including a workshop on 'Results-based frameworks in DE' and a webinar on 'Monitoring & Evaluation for longer-term DE projects'
- Redraft of IDEA toolkit 'Using Results-Based Approaches in Development Education Settings' based on the new Irish Aid Development Strategy and related Performance Measurement Framework (2017-2023), with support provided to members
- Code of Good Practice for Development Education drafted with IDEA members

*Thank you IDEA for organising this - I have attended a webinar with Alasdhair before and found it really useful in terms of sorting my own file management in relation to M&E. This has reinforced that and made me more confident in this area'. (Training Participant)*

*Delighted to find a 'RF support group'!!!! Thank you for your clarity, discernment, professionalism and warmth. (Training Participant)*

**Organisation Management & Support for Members**

A crucial element of IDEA's capacity development – in addition to formal training and events - is our day-to-day 'invisible' support for members. During the Irish Aid Annual Grants round members sought our support through training interventions and significantly on a one-to-one basis via phone, email, meetings etc. 40 members were engaged in organisational management training and support. The changes brought about by the Irish Aid PMF and the need to align funding applications with it involved a significant amount of time for IDEA and our members. The work was well-received by members and made an important contribution to their understanding and confidence in submitting their applications. We also ran a training workshop on 'Financial Tools for DE projects' which included inputs on donor requirements from Irish Aid and WorldWide Global Schools.

*The support given this year on managing the new IA Dev Ed format was outstanding. (AMS 2017 Respondent)*

*The trainings and support provided by IDEA have been very useful this year. I found the Financial Tools for DE projects workshop very useful. [The staff] was also very supportive and helpful in directing me towards many resources when I was applying for the World Wise Global Schools Grant. (AMS 2017 Respondent)*

## Communications

Communication and shared learning across the sector is a crucial aspect of our work, enabling peer learning across Development Education in Ireland, facilitating partnership within the sector, and supporting the cohesiveness of Development Education in Ireland. As the national network for Development Education in Ireland, IDEA plays a crucial role as an information hub for the sector.

### *Communications and Promotion*

Through our regular communications channels we share information about the work of IDEA and our members across the sector and beyond it. IDEA staff provide support, guidance and information for our members, acting as a central information resource for the sector. 95% of respondents rated IDEA's work as 'very effective' or 'quite effective' in this area in 2017.

#### **IDEA's work on Communications and Promotion in 2017 included:**

- Fortnightly E-Circular
- Social Media
- IDEA Website
- Emails to Members
- Sharing IDEA's leaflets and reports relating to Development Education, with IDEA members and relevant parties outside the sector to enhance recognition of Development Education and its value
- Signatory to the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages, incorporating it into IDEA's work at all available opportunities throughout the year

*No one can ever say they didn't know...IDEA circulars, social media and website are up to date, informative and keep us 'in the know' (AMS 2017 Respondent)*

*IDEA is very good at communicating what the sector is doing and at promoting its members events. The Circular and Facebook are especially useful. (AMS 2017 Respondent)*

### **Resources**

In 2017, IDEA created a leaflet [Development Education and the SDGs](#), outlining why Development Education is essential to achieving the SDGs and positioning Development Education as an important player in the SDG process.

We also completed the second iteration of the [Development Education in Ireland Report](#) - an update of the initial pilot version of 'Development Education in Ireland 2015.' This is being used by IDEA and its members as an advocacy tool and as an entry point into Development Education for potential partners or stakeholders.

To support our partnerships work, we developed [Stronger Together: A Toolkit for Partnerships in and beyond Development Education](#) as a resource for members to increase their capacity in this area, along with a series of videos sharing insights from IDEA members regarding their experiences of partnership.

*Vital source of information for members and non-members. (AMS 2017 Respondent)*

*I know from IDEA's communications with us where I can go with questions or for support around Dev. Ed. (AMS 2017 Respondent)*

## IDEA as a Network

IDEA continues to work on our capacity to work effectively as a network. As a membership network, IDEA must ensure that it has both the capacity to facilitate engagement with our members and to work as an effective organisation. In order to do this, we must continue to develop our governance and programme management systems, our processes for engaging members, our funding base and our monitoring and evaluation. During 2017 we have continued to develop our capacity, systems, and practice to enable us to be an effective network for Development Education in Ireland.

### ***IDEA's work as a network included:***

- Meetings of working groups and task groups made up of and convened by IDEA members, ensured that IDEA members are engaged in the work of their network and play an active role in the activities and planning of IDEA.
- The IDEA Strategy 2016-2018 developed in consultation with IDEA members, continues to be a strong framework for our activity and planning.
- High levels of membership involvement with the IDEA task groups, indicating that members are fully engaged with the strategic development of IDEA's work.
- Good governance and strategic oversight of IDEA's work was ensured through 6 National Council meetings. 6 Directors' Reports to the National Council ensured effective monitoring and evaluation within IDEA's governance function.
- The Governance Code and policies developed through the Governance Code journey continue to be used by the National Council, providing a framework for monitoring IDEA's governance.
- IDEA's first Strategic Partnership with Irish Aid was completed at the end of 2017 and a new Strategic Partnership was agreed, enabling us to support the Development Education sector in Ireland.
- A complete external evaluation of the Strategic Partnership programme with Irish Aid was carried out by DP Evaluation, UK, including an Annual Members' Survey in 2017. This work was complemented by a consultative needs analysis with IDEA members to inform the new IDEA-Irish Aid Strategic Partnership for the capacity development of the DE sector.
- IDEA's work, including our work on new partnerships for Development Education, was enabled by financial support from a Concern Development Education Grant and a Trócaire 'Mobilising for Justice' grant.
- IDEA is a member of a consortium which has successfully applied for European Commission DEAR funding for the coming three years for the Bridge 47: Building Global Citizenship project which will focus on Global Citizenship Education network-building, partnership, advocacy and innovative practice.
- IDEA's ability to be an independent voice for Development Education in Ireland is enabled by unrestricted funds from membership fees.
- IDEA staff participated in Continuous Professional Development on a variety of areas relevant to our work including child protection training, finance training, Governance training, Impact Measurement, project planning leadership, teamwork and management.
- IDEA's financial management, reporting and transparency for these programmes was assured through 12 monthly financial reports, an annual audit of accounts which is compliant with Charity SORP.
- IDEA became Charity Registered with the Charity Regulator and received its RCN 20144517 number in 2017.
- The use of our Results Framework as a management tool has focused IDEA's work on meeting our programme targets and learning from previous years' activities.

*IDEA events are great to know better who is in the sector and what they are doing. It helps networking that it wouldn't happen in other cases as there are very few opportunities with meet with other organisations. (AMS 2017 Respondent)*

*It's now the key coordinating and strategic networking node for the dev ed sector and representing Ireland in Europe and internationally. (AMS 2017 Respondent)*

*IDEA plays a vital role in bringing different stakeholders in the sector together, sharing ideas, collaborative work. (AMS 2017 Respondent)*

## Appendices

### **APPENDIX 1: IDEA National Council**

IDEA is governed by its members, through the Annual General Meeting which elects a board of directors (known as the National Council) to manage the organisation on behalf of its members. The National Council is the main decision making body of the organisation. The governance structure of IDEA is further described in the Memorandum and Articles of Understanding. The National Council held six meetings during the year with a quorum of National Council members participating in all decisions.

#### ***This year the IDEA National Council members were:***

- Maria Barry - Company Secretary
- Valerie Duffy
- Stephen Farley
- Eavan Foy - Treasurer
- Su-Ming Khoo
- McKinley Ann Neal
- Johnny Sheehan - Vice-Chair
- Siobhán Sleeman – Chair
- Allison Aldred
- Mary McCarthy

At the 2017 AGM, Stephen McCloskey and Ciaran Stewart stood down from the National Council having completed their terms of office. Allison Aldred and Mary McCarthy stood down in late 2017 and early 2018.

## **APPENDIX 2: Communications Monitoring**

### **1 a) Statistics from the IDEA website for 2017**

- **Unique visitors:** 10,623
- **Page views:** 27,866

### **1 b) Social Media statistics for 2017**

#### **Facebook**

- **Post Reach:** 24,491 throughout 2017

#### **Twitter**

- **Followers:** 427 new followers in 2017
- **Tweets:** 263 across 2017
- **Impressions:** 207,257 during 2017
- **Profile Visits:** 8132 visits during 2017

### APPENDIX 3: Working Groups and Task Groups

Working Group/Task Group	Results
<p><b>Formal Education WG</b>  <b>Convenor:</b> Mella Cusack</p>	<p><b>Agreed areas of work for 2017:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To facilitate shared learning and networking amongst members; to encourage a culture of reflective practice, collaboration and research</li> <li>• To build a broad coalition of support for DE, particularly amongst those working in related sectors</li> <li>• To work with members to showcase good practice in DE</li> <li>• Those working in the DE sector have the knowledge, skills &amp; opportunities to influence policy agendas (relevant to their work) and participate in research activities</li> </ul> <p><b>Results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement with the Irish Aid consultative process to develop a Performance Measurement Framework (PMF) for their new Development Education Strategy</li> <li>• Submissions to the Department of Education, NCCA and other relevant bodies on curricular and education developments</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community Sector WG</b>  <b>Convenor:</b> Helena McNeill</p>	<p><b>Agreed areas of work for 2017</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To facilitate shared learning and networking amongst members; to encourage a culture of reflective practice, collaboration and research</li> <li>• To build a broad coalition of support for DE, particularly amongst those working in related sectors</li> <li>• To work with members to showcase good practice in DE</li> <li>• Those working in the DE sector have the knowledge, skills &amp; opportunities to influence policy agendas (relevant to their work) and participate in research activities</li> <li>• Improve our ability to describe what we actually do, and its impact</li> </ul> <p><b>Results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement with the Irish Aid consultative process to develop a Performance Measurement Framework (PMF) for their new Development Education Strategy</li> <li>• Consulted by Irish Aid on the work towards a Strategic Partnership for Development Education in the Community sector including on the proposed application process</li> </ul>

<p><b>Quality and Impact working group</b>  <b>Convenor:</b> Mags Liddy</p>	<p><b>Agreed areas of work for 2017:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring- To explore the concepts of ‘quality’ and ‘impact’ in DE</li> <li>• Learning- To work with IDEA staff to create opportunities for IDEA members to build capacity in the area of impact measurement</li> <li>• Applying- To explore different approaches to measuring impact and to consider ways in which they can be aligned with results-based frameworks</li> </ul> <p><b>Results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed a new ToR for the group, appointment of a new convenor and development of a 2018 workplan</li> <li>• Successful engagement with Irish Aid staff to request a presentation on aligning DE Annual Grants to the Performance Measurement Framework (of the Irish Aid Development Education Strategy) at the information session in October 2017</li> <li>• Input into the inclusion of non-formal education for SDG 4.7</li> </ul>
<p><b>Youth Task Group</b>  <b>Convenor:</b> Valerie Duffy</p>	<p><b>Agreed areas of work for 2017:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To build a broad coalition of support for DE, particularly amongst those working in related sectors</li> <li>• Those working in the DE sector have the knowledge, skills &amp; opportunities to influence policy agendas (relevant to their work) and participate in research activities</li> </ul> <p><b>Results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaged with Irish Aid on the Performance Measurement Framework (of the Irish Aid Development Education Strategy) via a meeting and through contributing to the sectoral response</li> <li>• Consulted by Irish Aid on the work towards a Strategic Partnership for Development Education in the Youth sector including on the proposed application process</li> </ul>