



NOVEMBER 2022

AUTUMN REPORT



WELCOME TO THE FUTURE LEADERS AUTUMN REPORT 2022

Dear Co-operation Ireland Future Leaders Ambassador,

We celebrated a busy and productive second year with a wonderful celebration of our young people's learning and development at a showcase event at the EPIC Museum in May 2022.

On the evening of the showcase, An Tánaiste Leo Varadkar TD was the guest speaker at a Co-operation Ireland business leaders event. He spoke about the importance of the relationship building work of Co-operation Ireland, with programmes such as Future Leaders, in the promotion of peace and reconciliation on the island of Ireland.

Future Leaders ambassador Margaret Sweeney, CEO of I-RES, also spoke of the importance of involving her staff directly in supporting the young people, and the benefits not only for the young participants but for the staff involved as well.

To round off the event, Leah Delaney, one of our young leaders, shared her inspiring journey from joining the programme through Finglas Youth Resource Centre, graduating, helping to design Future Leaders, and then getting the opportunity to represent the programme globally on a study visit to Boston.

During the summer, the programme team had the opportunity reflect and to review the lessons learned from our 2021-22 programme, and begin to plan for this year's programme, prioritising the need to continue to develop the progression pathways for our young people, as well as the international dimension.

Our third delivery year is now well underway, and we have recruited another 150 young people into our targeted groups. Recruitment continues for young people who are ready to join a new all-island group as independent 'self-starters'. The final evaluation for the 2021-22 programme has been completed and we attach an executive summary, with the full report available on request.

Margaret Lucey, Programme Manager

PROGRAMME DELIVERY ROUTES

1. Future Leaders Targeted Groups

These are youth and school groups selected within local communities who then partner up to build relationships on a cross border basis.

We have welcomed 150 new young people via these groups with some new groups in Belfast, Galway and Limerick.

Republic of Ireland	Northern Ireland
Cross community group Cork: Knocknaheeny, Cobh, Bishopstown	Lagmore Youth Project, West Belfast
Nagle Community College Mahon, Cork	Belfast High School, Newtownabbey
Finglas Youth Resource Centre, Dublin	Uniting Communities South Belfast
Ballymun Youth Resource Centre, Dublin	Uniting Communities, Lurgan/Portadown
Youth Work Ireland, Galway City	St. Columb's Park House, Derry~Londonderry
Crescent Comprehensive School, Limerick	St. Joseph's High School, Belfast

Teachers and youth leaders involved in our targeted pathway came together in September for a training and planning event in Dublin, where they had the opportunity to plan for the year ahead. They worked together to share experiences and ideas, review existing programme activities, and consider potential development areas.

Each group will undertake activities in the 3 outcome areas of Future Leaders - personal learning via leadership training, relationship building via reciprocal residentials, and social action via the design and delivery of projects to tackle issues important to the group. All groups are now underway with their leadership training courses which include sports leadership, guided reading and leadership in conservation.

One of our new partnerships, Youth Ireland Galway and St. Columb's Park House, have the honour of kicking off the first of 12 Future Leaders residentials between now and March next year. The young people and leaders are looking forward to a jam-packed schedule of workshops and community tours in Derry~Londonderry in early December and will reconvene in Galway early next year.

PROGRAMME DELIVERY ROUTES

2. Self-starters (Independent Learners)

We developed the self-starter route as a progression route for graduates from our targeted programme, graduates of other Co-operation Ireland programmes and young people aged 16-25 from across the island through open recruitment. As with the targeted groups, this programme also encompasses the 3 pillars of Future Leaders, but in more depth:

Personal Learning with OCN accredited training in leadership, activism or communication/lobbying;

Relationship Building with other young people from across the island through in person connect days in Belfast and Dublin, and online social and team building activities;

Social Action where participants will have the opportunity to campaign for issues they are passionate about and create change on a local, regional, national and potentially global level. We are supporting them to engage in a programme of change exploring 4 passion project areas of: Peace Building, Climate Justice, Equality/Diversity and Mental Health.

CIFL Connect Day #1

We held our first connect day in the Carmichael Centre in Dublin where young people interested in the self-starter route came together and hear more about what the programme involves.

During the day, the young people engaged in a range of team building and personal development activities as well as a “How to present yourself online” workshop developed by staff from I-RES, one of our programme ambassadors.

Following the workshop, they began the process of presenting themselves professionally on-line, creating their own personal profile on LinkedIn, including a head shot taken by a professional photographer on the day.

33 young people have registered for self-starters, and we are currently working to establish the group, settling into a core group who meet together online weekly, on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

EAST WEST PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

We have continued our partnership with the Luton Irish Forum and Scotland Youth, offering the opportunity for their young people to join in with our self-starters and engage with young people from across the island of Ireland.

As part of our targeted programme the Finglas Youth Resource Centre and Uniting Communities in Belfast will be travelling to Manchester for an exchange visit together with a youth group there. Not only does this overcome potential visa issues for some of the young people in the Belfast group, but also gives them the opportunity to explore identity in the broader context of East/West as well as North/South.

ALOHA! OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP WITH HAWAIIKIDSCAN

As part of our international development, we have partnered with HawaiiKidsCan to develop an international youth exchange programme exploring global citizenship. This initiative will bring together young people from NI, ROI and Hawaii to learn from each other and gain and develop skills and capabilities that will assist them to become effective and positive leaders, locally and beyond.

Working on the project alongside staff are 4 of our young leaders; Arón Hughes from Belfast, Tiarnan Moss from Castlederg, Leah Delaney from Dublin and Saoirse Moloney from Cork. They are designing this youth led initiative for implementation for 20+ young people in each jurisdiction from Summer 2023.

Thank you to Dr Brett Carey, Kekoa McLellan and David Sun-Miyashiro for your commitment to this exciting initiative. And to our own team and young leaders for all those 7am meetings - that's commitment!

AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

Our programme supporters and ambassadors, have begun this year as enthusiastically as last with several organisations and individuals volunteering for both in-person and online workshops.

We were delighted to be invited by ABP food group to their Angus Youth Challenge prizegiving and launch event at the Eikon Centre last month. This is a unique initiative that works with a range of schools, rural and urban, encouraging healthy competition and a close look at sustainability while picking up lots of skills. We hope to explore further how we can link this initiative with Future Leaders going forward.

In terms of in person activity with our targeted groups, a partnership is underway between Glenveagh and our Dublin groups in Finglas and Ballymun. Glenveagh staff will support the delivery of the programme locally and have begun work with the youth leaders on a range of potential joint programme activities, including supporting the programme launch, the creation of a video journal of the young people's journey, site visits and career/leadership workshops.

We are hoping to develop this model further with other programme ambassadors. So far, Energia and Gilbert Ash have expressed interest in partnering up with some of our targeted groups to provide a range of opportunities, from site visits to workshops and potential mentoring down the line. If this model is of interest to you or your organisation, please do get in touch.

We recently completed our 11th annual student diversity programme in partnership with Net Éire at Morgan Stanley. Thank you to Caroline McLaughlin and William Daly for making it happen and to ambassadors Julia McLernon (JP Morgan & Chase) and Candya Farmer (The Honourable The Irish Society) for supporting the finale student presentations.

Each year (Covid notwithstanding) since 2010, we have brought together 24 students onsite at Morgan Stanley's offices in Canary Wharf. Working with young people aged 16-18 from NI, ROI and London, this is a short programme that really packs a punch in terms of impact. This is partly due to the intense nature of the programme, but largely due to the experience of working together on-site in Canary Wharf. We have wonderful people at Morgan Stanley who make this happen by providing a base camp, as well as organising food, site visits, speakers and tours.

AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME CONT.

Thank you also to Future Leaders ambassador Bloomberg for hosting us in their amazing London headquarters for an afternoon, and to our friends at the Houses of Parliament for a very entertaining private tour.

We have signposted these young people to take part in our Future Leaders self-starters programme, but we would like to embed an experience like this as an integral part of the Future Leaders offering going forward. A number of short programmes like this, hosted by our ambassadors and offering travel and a taste of the real world working environment, would be an opportunity offered to self-starters who have committed to working with us over the course of a year.

Which is where our ambassadors come in. If you are interested in potentially developing and hosting this kind of initiative, we'd love to hear from you. We will set up an initial meeting with any interested parties to get the conversation started.

Finally, we'd like to start a working group to plan how best to approach developing a mentoring programme for our young people. If you are interested in exploring and supporting this area of work, again please do get in touch.

We'll be back in January with the winter report, but in the meantime, do feel free to get in touch with questions, ideas, suggestions and especially if you're interested in any of the suggestions for development above.

Best wishes,
The Future Leaders Team

