BANK OF ACTIONS
FOR GLOBAL CITIZENS

Developed for
The Global Citizen Award with

EIL INTERCULTURAL LEARNING
AFS
development dp
CREATIVITY & CHANGE
Nurturing Change-Makers Imagining a better World
Irish Aid
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Ireland
Crawford College of Art & Design
Cork

ENRICHING LIVES • INSPIRING GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP
International Programme of Action
international perspectives
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**Terms abbreviated in this document:**
- Development Education = **DE**
- Global Citizen Award = **GCA**
- Non Governmental Organisations = **NGOs**
- Sustainable Development Goals / Global Goals = **SDGs**
- United Nations = **UN**
1 INTRODUCTION

EIL Intercultural Learning, Creativity & Change and Development Perspectives engage with people who are interested in working in, learning more about, or sharing their knowledge about Development Education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals with others. The three organisations came together to collaborate and share their experience of designing actions with this resource. It is divided into five sections: Organisations, Development Education Action, Action Guide, Ideas for Dev-Ed Action and Support Tips. It is important to read the document as a whole. We hope that you find it supportive and we welcome any feedback you might have.
This ‘Bank of Actions’ resource has been designed in the context of returned international volunteers participating in the Global Citizen Award programme, but can be used by anyone looking for creative inspiration to take action. It is designed as a toolkit for engaging the public in global justice issues in meaningful ways that can help bring about positive change in our world.

The Global Citizen Award (GCA) is a programme that encourages international volunteers to use their overseas experience to take meaningful action and raise awareness of global justice on their return to Ireland. We believe that returned volunteers offer a unique opportunity to connect the local and the global, and champion global issues in their local communities. Therefore, by way of encouragement, we offer returned volunteers the opportunity to apply for and achieve one of three Awards: Bronze, Silver or Gold.

Goals of the award are to encourage increased knowledge of the SDGs and development issues, as well as obtain a personal achievement and achieve recognition at a national awards ceremony.

See our website, [www.globalcitizenaward.ie](http://www.globalcitizenaward.ie) for more information.

All GCA participants are required to complete at least one action project as part of their activities for the award’s programme. This is part of the ‘Actions at Home’ element in the following diagram:
2 ORGANISATIONS

Introduction to the organisations involved in producing this resource.
EIL Intercultural Learning is an Irish not-for-profit organisation that provides intercultural learning opportunities through study abroad, youth leadership, language training, travel awards, group educational programmes and other cultural immersion activities for over 2,500 people each year. The organisation celebrated 50 years in Ireland in 2014. The overall mission is to inspire global citizenship through various activities and programmes, such as the Global Citizen Award programme.

Mission

People of different cultures working together to develop mutual understanding and create a fair, cooperative and tolerant world.
Development Perspectives is an NGO that works with adult and community practitioners to explore, examine and act upon a range of issues and challenges that face our world. DP offers a range of training and capacity building workshops for the adult and community sector including SDG Advocate Training, a Train the Trainer programme and regional Sustainable Development Goal workshops. The organisation uses participatory and interactive learning methods to ensure the greatest impact for participants on their projects.

TO CONTRIBUTE TO LESSENING POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION AND ACTIVE GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP.

DP's Insight programme participants, 2014
Sonairte Ecology Centre, Meath
Creativity & Change is an education programme based in the heart of Cork City as part of Crawford College of Art & Design, CIT. They provide innovative education and training experiences that aim to inspire, nurture and empower changemakers. The broad programme consists of a postgraduate award, as well as focused masterclasses, events, a Creative Fair roadshow and youth activist studio. It is aimed at educators, activists, artists, community workers, adult educators, youth workers, volunteers and anyone who is interested in the power of the arts in creating social change and empowering others to take action around social and global justice issues. This work is supported by Irish Aid’s Development Education unit.
WHAT IS DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION?

Have you ever questioned why poverty exists in Ireland, yet it is one of the richest countries in the world, or wondered what really are the root causes of inequality and climate change? Have you ever wanted to do something to create change in your community? This is where Development Education comes in.

Development Education (also known as Global Citizenship Education) is an educational process that aims to explore global justice issues such as poverty, inequality and climate change and support people to take informed action.

DE supports people to make connections between the local and global and usually takes place in non-formal education settings, such as youth or community groups. DE also encourages people to take the time to reflect on their experiences, which can contribute to transformative learning experiences. In the case of the Global Citizen Award, participants are asked to take their volunteering in the Global South into account to inspire their action upon return to Ireland.
DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION: SOLIDARITY, NOT CHARITY

Oftentimes, people can associate the work of NGOs with the ‘charity model’ of donating money as the only means of creating change. The job of DE is to look beneath the surface and question why certain social and environmental issues exist in the first place, and identify how people can take effective action to influence positive and sustainable change.

KEY PILLARS WITHIN DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

DE aims to bring about positive change, informed by values of equality, diversity, sustainability and human rights and responsibilities. There are four distinct pillars:
DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION VALUES

‘If you do not stand for something, you will fall for anything.’ African proverb

Fostering values of respect, equality, diversity and solidarity are key components of DE. The United Nation’s body for education, UNESCO, stated that one of the main objectives of DE is to ‘have a sense of belonging to a common humanity, sharing values and responsibilities, empathy, solidarity and respect for difference and diversity’. (2015)

For further discussion on defining DE and the core values it describes, see this article from DevelopmentEducation.ie:


HOW DOES DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION WORK?

Don’t let the word education scare you away. Development Education is very different to the stereotypical schooling system. DE aims to ensure that all people, regardless of age or preferred learning style have the opportunity to engage with the process.

LOCATION

One of the brilliant aspects of DE is that it can take place anywhere - a community centre, a cafe, under a tree, in the street...the list goes on.

METHODS

DE facilitators will use a wide variety of creative methods to ensure engagement is effective. This will vary from theatre to art to sports and games. Again, the list is endless.

ACTION ORIENTATED

Often people will ask what makes DE programmes different from other educational courses. One of the answers is that it has a focus on informed action. Following on from any exploration of theories or global issues, DE programmes should always support groups to take action.

INTERACTIVE LEARNING

A key part of DE is the interactive approach which it takes. Do not expect to be sitting back listening. Participation is key in order for all members of the group to hear and learn from each other.
DE FACILITATORS WILL USE A WIDE VARIETY OF CREATIVE METHODS TO ENSURE ENGAGEMENT IS EFFECTIVE. THIS WILL VARY FROM THEATRE TO ART TO SPORTS AND GAMES. AGAIN, THE LIST IS ENDLESS.
SDGS AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

The UN Sustainable Development Goals or Global Goals are 17 interconnected goals that aim to provide a global framework for ending poverty and inequality and ensuring sustainable development by 2030. The SDGs apply equally to every country and can only be achieved if all sectors of society, including government, civil society, the private sector, local communities and individual citizens draw on each other’s strengths and work together towards achieving the goals. (IDEA, 2019).

Within the SDGs, 4.7 (Goal 4, Target 7) calls for all states to ensure their citizens are educated on global citizenship, sustainable development and human rights. DE has a crucial role to play in supporting and empowering people in Ireland to become aware of and take action on the goals, both locally and globally.

The principles of People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership (5 Ps) can be used as a way of navigating the SDGs by key themes. They highlight how the SDGs are an intertwined framework and not just a group of siloed goals. It is clear that progress on one P must balance and support progress on another (UN Foundation, 2020).

Further information on the SDGs:


Resources:

www.globalgoals.org/resources

TAKING ACTION USING A DE PERSPECTIVE

THINKING CRITICALLY ABOUT THE ACTION

People take action because they are passionate. They want to contribute to a better world for all. They want to give their time and energy to something they care about. However, there is always the risk that an action could be misinformed, badly timed and potentially even cause more harm than good. Thinking critically about your action is crucial in creating a meaningful project that could influence sustainable change.
Need some inspiration? Reflect on your feelings when watching this video by SAIH Norway: www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbqA6o8_WC0

**USE THE SDGS AS A FRAMEWORK**

As we continue our journey of active citizenship, the SDGs provide a unique opportunity to align our actions to a wider agenda and create unique connections.

Before taking action, we invite you to research the SDGs further and see where your action fits. For example, if your action is related to reducing food waste in Ireland, look at **SDG 2: Zero Hunger** or **SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production**. If you hoped to focus on increasing the number of women in politics, explore **SDG 5: Gender Equality**.

Connecting your work to that of a global agenda is a great first step in connecting the dots between the local and global and becoming inspired by the work of others across the world.

**EXERCISING CAUTION WHEN RUNNING AN ACTION**

It is crucial to be sensitive and aware of how you represent your experience, host country and its people who are involved in the ‘international’ dimension. There are guidelines you can follow, such as the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messaging. The code promotes respect for the dignity of the people concerned, belief in the equality of all people and acceptance of the need to promote fairness, solidarity and justice.

See the code here: https://dochas.ie/sites/default/files/Images_and_Messages.pdf
BE AWARE OF THE LANGUAGE YOU USE

Language is a complex, multifaceted, contested area within DE and Global Citizenship. Within the area of international development, language has many complex histories and associations with power and inequality.

It is important to keep in mind that the terms ‘development’, ‘developing countries’ and ‘Development Education’ are often contested and at times controversial. Individuals, organisations and countries can differ in their policies and use of language. Sometimes words may be taken for granted and the language one uses can cause hurt or offence without them realising.

With this in mind, consider if the following words could be misinterpreted.

DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION POLICIES

The international development context itself changes and evolves rapidly. Policies and goals are always being improved and amended, therefore it is advisable to keep up to date with Ireland’s newest international development policies. These can be found on the Irish Aid website, irishaid.ie.

WHY ENGAGE WITH DE?

Development Education is an active and engaging educational process that allows learners to increase their knowledge of global issues and develop confidence and skills to take action and challenge global injustices. DE within Ireland empowers individuals, communities, the government and other influential bodies to make more conscious and considerate decisions in their actions, which in turn goes on to empower others and bring about lasting change.

WHY SHOULD I CONTINUE MY LEARNING AND TAKE ACTION?

If you have volunteered abroad, you may have witnessed first hand some of the injustices and inequalities that are happening in different parts of the world. You may have also seen or experienced injustices closer to home. You may have worked with and become friends with local people from a different culture and had conversations and opportunities to learn about their lives. You have likely seen how the actions of more economically affluent countries can have an impact on other parts of the world and seen some of the ways their local communities work.

WHAT ARE THE SIMILARITIES OR DIFFERENCES YOU HAVE SEEN TO HOW YOU LIVE AT HOME?
WHERE DO PEOPLE SOURCE THEIR FOOD AND DRINK?
HOW DO THEIR COMMUNITIES SUPPORT AND PROVIDE FOR ONE ANOTHER?
HOW ARE THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTED OR VIOLATED?
You have had a unique opportunity and undertaking the GCA allows you to critically reflect on what you have learned and experienced. Undertaking a DE action allows you to share that insight and knowledge with your peers and communities.

**CAN DE ACTIONS INFLUENCE POSITIVE CHANGE?**

DE actions aim to inspire learners to become more globally conscious - to become active global citizens, willing to take action themselves. DE actions linking local and global issues can contribute to changing the mindset of an ‘us and them’ approach to a knowledge and understanding that what you do here and now will affect more than just you, it will impact us. DE actions also promote tolerance and acceptance of others, which diminishes divisions and helps us move towards a more peaceful world.

**GLOBAL INEQUALITY AND REFLECTING ON YOUR EXPERIENCE**

We have discussed the need for critical thinking when running an action. However, what does it mean to critically reflect?

Critical reflection is central to the volunteering process, as it allows people to make sense of their experience and how it fits into the wider picture. Reflection may take the form of a structured activity, a conversation, or simply posing questions. The aim of the Global Citizen Award is to support this process.

In section 6, this resource offers support tips on bridging the gap between your experience, critically reflecting on it and taking action.
Teamwork and creativity could be the key to running an engaging action. Think about what skills you and your team can bring to a project. This can be anything from knowledge of social media to interpersonal or creative skills. Everyone has different strengths!
ASK YOURSELF

WHAT'S MY MOTIVATION FOR DOING THIS ACTION?
WHO IS THE ACTION FOR?
WHERE DO I SEE INJUSTICE AT HOME?
WHAT DID I LEARN DURING MY TIME ABROAD?
WHAT CAUSES DO I CONNECT TO AND WOULD LIKE OTHERS TO CONNECT TO / KNOW MORE ABOUT?
WHAT EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS DID I SEE WHILE VOLUNTEERING?
WHAT TYPE OF ACTION WOULD I LIKE TO RUN?
SMALL/LARGE
ONCE OFF/SERIES
INDIVIDUAL/COLLECTIVE
PUBLIC EVENT
PARTICIPATIVE
LECTURE STYLE
EXHIBITION

WHAT DO I WANT MY ACTION TO DO?
EDUCATE
NURTURE CURIOSITY
RAISE AWARENESS/INSPIRE
INSPIRE COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
CREATE SYSTEMIC CHANGE
CHALLENGE POLICY
GET OTHERS INVOLVED IN TAKING ACTION
EMPOWER COMMUNITIES
GET PEOPLE THINKING CRITICALLY ABOUT AN ISSUE

NOTE!
THE ACTION NEEDS TO ASK KEY QUESTIONS AND HAVE A CRITICAL PERSPECTIVE. IT SHOULD BE MEANINGFUL AND ALLOW LEARNING TO TAKE PLACE. BE CAREFUL NOT TO loose THE GLOBAL CONNECTION TO YOUR ACTION.
Street actions are interactions, interruptions or learning opportunities that happen on the street or in any public place, like a park or plaza. There are wonderful examples from all over the world, where individuals or groups are using the street as their stage, in all sorts of creative ways to inspire and engage the public meaningfully as they go about their day.

College can be a good place to run street actions. Campuses are full of young and up-for-fun participants, knowledgeable staff and supportive societies. Something happening on campus is a break from the norm for students and likely to catch lots of attention.
STREET ACTION EXAMPLES

FLASHMOB

A flashmob is a surprise act by a seemingly ‘normal’ group of people in a public place. It can involve singing, acting, dance or all three and can be used to highlight an issue in a way that captures the public’s attention as a break from the norm. Think about your potential audience - eg., consider running a flashmob as part of an existing festival or event.

INVISIBLE THEATRE

Similar to a flashmob, invisible theatre is a rehearsed piece that surprises passers by, who believe what is happening to be real and stop to take notice. Aim to make audiences aware of your cause and intentions by the end of the piece.

PARTICIPATORY ARTS

Create an interactive activity for the public to engage with. You could invite them to draw on a large canvas in response to a question, chalk ideas for change on the ground, create wildflower seed bombs, or make postcards to be sent to decision makers around an issue or cause.

GAMES

Invent a giant board game with questions and facts to do with your project. For example, a life-size ‘Snakes & Ladders’ could highlight the difficult path an immigrant travels to gain asylum. This could be chalked onto the ground in a public place for people to play, while learning about an issue.

STREET ART

Making public art can be a great way for groups to explore an issue and create something together that draws attention to a message, while also brightening up an area in the community. You could get members of the community or arts groups involved. See the Case Studies section for an example of how Creativity & Change, EIL and Development Perspectives collaborated on creating street art as an action. Make sure you have permission to paint!

DIGITAL ACTION

The internet is a globally available arena that can be hugely effective in engaging the public and reaching a wide audience, so it could make sense for your project to take advantage of this. Think about the various platforms available to you and how you can best represent your project or campaign online - social media, a blog, a website, a podcast, a live stream...there are many to choose from!

If you are setting up a social media account, consider the focus of this account - to raise awareness? To get people involved? To highlight positive action? Consider who will update and monitor the page on an ongoing basis.

See www.creativityandchange.ie/online-actions for some examples.
SHORT FILM

Filmmaking can be a fun individual or group project to undertake. Films can be created using phones and digital apps, or more advanced filmmaking gear if it is available to you. Could you make a documentary or short story to highlight an issue? Can this point back to your time abroad? Or could you rope in some ‘actors’ to play out a story? Your finished film could be uploaded to the internet, shown at a movie night event, or even submitted to independent film festivals.

Be cautious of using footage without permission and be aware of child protection issues. As mentioned previously, refer to the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages, regarding permission and representation of people in your film.

See the code here:

EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS Raise awareness of an issue through the arts.

MOVIE NIGHT Show a film that draws attention to an issue.

FOOD EVENT Host an dining experience/event/market/pop up.

FAIR TRADE EVENT Run an educational event with a focus on a fairtrade product, such as coffee or chocolate. Host initiatives or challenges to buy fair trade.

CLOTHES AND FAST FASHION Host a swap shop or charity shop challenge. You could try only buying second hand clothes for a year, or making a workshop around connecting clothes to stories.

PARTY/NIGHTCLUB EVENTS Could you run a party with a difference? For example, the entry fee is a pledge to take action, or an action that people take part in on the night.

TREASURE HUNT Send participants to different places around the area that connect to the wider world - eg. food shops, mosques/synagogues, immigrant support centres, charity shops. Have a conversation with somebody to ‘unlock’ the next step of the task.
CASE STUDIES

**BE MY EYES**

**PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION**

Aleksandra Ananica,
Global Citizen Award participant

**TYPE OF ACTION:** Individual
**MEDIUM USED:** Exhibition of photography
**LOCATION:** Cork Institute of Technology
**DURATION:** Two weeks
**TARGET AUDIENCE:** College students and members of the public
**SDG ADDRESSED:** SDG4 Quality Education

**PURPOSE OF ACTION**

The reason I decided to run an exhibition was because I love taking photos and I believe that one photo can speak a thousand words. I wanted people to see what I saw and hear the information about the types of education available around Vietnam. Some of the things I encountered which I wanted to emphasise were rote learning styles versus participative learning, unequal access to formal education in remote areas and children having to choose between attending school and making crafts to sell to tourists.

**HOW IT WORKED**

Even though I had graduated from my college, when I returned from volunteering I got in touch with the society’s office and student union and got permission to host the exhibition in the college. There were a few possible spaces and I finally decided on the student centre since there is a lot of traffic of students passing by.

I decided to print photos on foam board, so that they didn’t need a frame. I spoke with the staff in Reads printers and they gave me a small discount for printing 20 prints. Since the location was not an exhibition centre, there was no railing to hang the photos. Given that the walls were brick, I was able to use double sided sticky tape and tape it to the wall without damaging it. The exhibition lasted for two weeks. The opening night was advertised on the college website, in a local events guide, on facebook and by word of mouth.

I presented my experiences of the education system in Vietnam at the opening night of the exhibition and also printed a brochure which was available for people to learn about the story of each of the photographs.

**FEEDBACK FROM AUDIENCE:**

“Beautiful reflection of a different life and culture.”
“So inspiring, you caught a powerful essence of the place and the people.”
THEATRE OF THE OPPRESSED: ARE YOU AWARE?

SERIES OF INTERACTIVE PERFORMANCES

Deirdre Gavin, Development Perspectives Insight programme participant
and Global Citizen Award participant

TYPE OF ACTION: Collective
MEDIUM USED: Theatre of the Oppressed
LOCATION: Axis Centre, Ballymun, Dublin
Droichead Arts Centre, Drogheda, Louth
Dundalk Library, Louth
Sonairte National Ecology Centre, Laytown, Meath
St. Mary’s Theatre, Navan, Meath
DURATION: Five performances
TARGET AUDIENCE: General public
SDG ADDRESSED: SDG1: No Poverty

PURPOSE OF ACTION

Exploring poverty and its effects through the creative, interactive medium of theatre. The process of Theatre of the Oppressed allowed the audience to experience what a poverty trap feels like and how difficult it is to escape it. A process designed in the 1970s by Brazilian theatre practitioner Augusto Boal, who was influenced by the work of the educator and theorist, Paulo Freire.

“The aim of Theatre of the Oppressed is to explore real practice scenarios in a way that empowers students to rehearse solutions and change the outcome of a scenario for the better. It is a form of interactive drama. Imagine going out to a play one evening, where the plot unfolds, characters develop and a crisis is presented and resolved. The show doesn’t end there however, as the audience is offered a chance to think up a different end to the play. The solutions cannot be offered from the comfort of an audience seat, but require the spectator to come on stage, replace actors and direct the action.” (Boal, 1998)
HOW IT WORKED

The group came up with a story where there was a central character and all other characters were ‘oppressors’ to the goal that the main character wanted to achieve. In our story, the goal was to get out of poverty. We came up with the story and the dialogue for each character’s interaction with the main character and practiced and performed it. We didn’t have a script as we knew we could ad-lib as long as everybody was sure what their role was.

On the performance nights we performed the piece once, then a moderator asked the audience to try to change the ending or outcome for the main character by becoming the main character. An audience member would come on stage and become the main character and engage with the other characters to try and change the outcome. By doing this they would experience first hand what it felt like to be in a position of oppression with many obstacles and characters in your way. It also gave them a sense of empathy for the character’s situation and the difficulty in changing their narrative. After the audience members’ engagement the moderator asked them a couple of questions as a debrief - how they found the experience to vocalise what was actually happening and how they felt after trying to change the story. You don’t need acting experience to engage in this activity, just an understanding for the story and message you are trying to convey.

FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANT:
“Using such a creative medium really gave me a true understanding of what it must feel like to experience poverty, and how society and systems make it so difficult to overcome it. There can be so many barriers and difficulties one faces.”  Deirdre Gavin
PHYSIOTHERAPY IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

INTERACTIVE SHOWCASE

Emma McCarthy, Global Citizen Award participant and UCDVO volunteer

TYPE OF ACTION: Individual
MEDIUM USED: Interactive photography exhibition
LOCATION: Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists Annual Conference 2018, Sligo
DURATION: One day
TARGET AUDIENCE: Physiotherapists from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland attending the conference
SDG ADDRESSED: SDG3: Good Health and Wellbeing

PURPOSE OF ACTION

To demonstrate the value of working as a physiotherapist in the international health and development context. To highlight the skills and experience of physiotherapists who live and work in the Global South. To inspire others to explore opportunities to volunteer using their valuable skills at home or overseas.

HOW IT WORKED

Choosing the target audience was crucial to this action project. The topic of building sustainable rehabilitation is of keen interest to my fellow physiotherapists. This was an opportunity to showcase not only the contribution of the overseas volunteers from UCDVO, but also the work being completed by the local physiotherapists based in local projects in India and Uganda.

FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANT:

“I felt this was a valuable action project as it helped to raise awareness of global justice issues in a healthcare context which I am personally experienced and familiar with. This proved to be a great opportunity to take action as it is a national conference where we were able to engage with physiotherapists who work in a variety of places and contexts.” Emma McCarthy

THINK ABOUT TEA

STREET ACTION

Group of participants on Creativity & Change’s accredited course

TYPE OF ACTION: Collective
MEDIUM USED: Direct engagement with the public through interactive street activity
LOCATION: Grand Parade, Cork City
DURATION: One day
TARGET AUDIENCE: General public
SDGS ADDRESSED: SDG 3: Good Health and wellbeing; SDG 10: Reduced inequality; SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production; SDG 13: Climate Action; SDG 15: Life on Land
PURPOSE OF ACTION

To open a new space for positive community interaction and learning. To engage with the public in a new, creative way, by inviting them to sit and try locally-foraged tea. To share knowledge on how tea can be made from wild plants and herbs. To educate the public about the global impact of tea drinking and to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals.

MATERIALS USED:
Foraged tea with information about each tea and its health benefits, teacups, hot water, table, chairs, vertical herb garden and interactive sheets and markers.

HOW IT WORKED

The group created a large, eye-catching ‘TEA’ sign using recycled corrugated and herbs to inspire curiosity on the street. They made a chart about the global impact of drinking tea to encourage conversations with the public about the global goals and encouraged participation with charts of information about tea production and consumption around the world and questions for the public.

FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANT:
“We decided to use tea made from locally-grown herbs to engage with the public directly to broaden the conversation to food security. Once we knew people were going to stop and have a cup of tea, we knew they would stay with us for at least five minutes. This was an opportunity to bring the conversation from tea to food and the SDGs.” Tommy Lysaght

LINK:
https://www.creativityandchange.ie/street-action-think-about-tea

Think About Tea Street Action
April 2018 - Cork
Public Art Project
SDG Street Art Collaboration between Creativity & Change, EIL Intercultural Learning, Development Perspectives, Cork Life Centre and SERVE

Type of Action: Collective
Medium Used: Street art
Location: Cork City
Duration: One day
Target Audience: Youth/community workers, artists, activists, interested members of the public
SDGs Addressed: All SDGs, SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Purpose of Action
To raise awareness of the SDGs by creating an eye-catching, interactive piece of SDG-themed street art in Cork City. To learn skills to turn the SDG icons (and other images) into stencils and make a public mural. To engage the public by inviting them to step into the picture and take photos that could be further shared online.

How it Worked
The event was advertised online, inviting interested people to sign up and meet at the wall on the day. SDG stencils had been prepared in advance and two facilitators briefed the group around creating public art and the safe use of materials. The facilitators helped participants to apply the stencils to the wall using spray paint.

Materials Used:
Projector, computer, cutting mats, craft/stanley blades, markers, paint, duct tape, spray paint (water-based non toxic spray paint), masks, SDG imagery widely available online, card to make stencils (we often get great free posters from shops and cinemas who are getting rid of signage. Canvas or plastic coated posters are durable and make great stencils), a wall. For this project we got permission from a construction company to paint their hoardings around a building site, it is often easier to get permission to paint these rather than walls, as they are temporary.

Process:
You can create stencils by sticking stencil card/recycled posters to a wall. Project the SDG symbols in your chosen size onto the card and trace the image. Using a craft knife, cut out the parts that you want the paint to go through onto the wall. We created a background for our stencils using a cog shape, we matched the colours from the SDG resources and painted the interlocking cogs with these colours. We left them to dry and added our stencils to the cogs to create the finished mural. We added a handle so that the public could step into the frame and look as if they were in control of putting the cogs of the SDG’s in motion.

Feedback from Participant:
“The reaction from passers-by was really powerful, people were really curious and grateful to us for brightening up the area. I can’t wait to use my new stencil making skills with young people in my work.” Hazel Hurley

Link: www.issuu.com/creativitychange/docs/street_art
GUERRILLA POSTERS

POSTER-MAKING WORKSHOP

Group of participants on Creativity & Change’s Street Art Masterclass

TYPE OF ACTION: Collective
MEDIUM USED: Participative workshop
LOCATION: Crawford College of Art & Design, Cork
DURATION: One afternoon
TARGET AUDIENCE: Youth/community workers, artists, activists, interested members of the public
SDG ADDRESSED: SDG 13: Climate Action

PURPOSE OF ACTION

To explore the SDGs in depth using visual art. Working on recycled election posters during election time, they created new versions of these, which they displayed among the existing posters around the city. Being more colourful and eye catching than those pictures, they aimed to draw the viewer’s attention and highlight the need for the government to take urgent climate action.

HOW IT WORKED

Participants were invited to create posters addressing what we don’t see, hear or speak about when it comes to climate change. The group were asked to complete the sentence: ‘Open your eyes/ears/mouth to…’, which was printed, along with an edited image of themselves. They were then free to use these and any chosen materials to complete their poster.
MATERIALS NEEDED:
Space to work and exhibit. A room with enough tables and chairs for participants to work on. Space for exhibition of work - college canteen, society event. Printouts of different SDG resources, available from www.globalgoals.org/resources. Paper/card, from postcard size to A4, A3 or bigger - recycled is best! One option is to use recycled election posters to make big, waterproof posters that can be displayed outside. Markers - Posca paint markers are bright and colourful and work great on most surfaces. Sharpies or other permanent markers are also useful. Paint, brushes, water containers. Spray paint - preferably water based, as this is odorless, non-toxic and can be used indoors. Stencils if available, or participants can make their own. Magazines - National Geographics can often be found in charity shops and always contain great images from around the world. Scissors/craft knives and cutting mats. Glue sticks.

PROCESS:
The SDGs already come with simple, colourful, visually effective graphic images that are useful starting points for poster making. Invite participants to respond to a chosen SDG, or related issue that they wish to highlight, by making a poster or postcard using a chosen medium, or mixed media. Printed resources may be used as inspiration, or as collage materials. Work created can go on to be exhibited, to further engage people and raise awareness. Posters photographed to make postcards can be sent by ‘snail mail’ to decision makers to incite them to action.

TIP!
Sticking to a certain colour palette makes for a more cohesive style and ties posters together when displayed in public so that they are recognisable as an action or campaign.

FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANT:
“Engaging with topics such as this in a creative way makes them more accessible and engaging, it helps break down the barriers to local and global responsibility.” Martha Cashman

Climate Action Poster Workshop
June 2019 - Cork
**AMICITA HUB ATHENRY**

**COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Patrick Mulvihill and Heather Griffin

*Development Perspectives’ SDG Advocate Programme participants*

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**TYPE OF ACTION:** Collective

**MEDIUM USED:** Creation of a physical space and delivery of training

**LOCATION:** Athenry, Galway

**DURATION:** Ongoing

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** The community in Athenry, Galway

**SDG ADDRESSED:** All SDGs, but in the first 3 years, primarily:

- SDG 2: Zero Hunger;
- SDG 12: Sustainable Production and Consumption;
- SDG 13: Climate Action;
- SDG 15: Life on Land

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**PURPOSE OF ACTION**

To provide a collaborative space in the heart of Athenry for the local community to work on the SDGs through a range of key projects including; a community kitchen, a gardening project and a project focused on the future of plastics and a project focusing on rural rejuvenation. The hub also provides space for the community to participate in events and activities such as theatre classes, pottery workshops and small-scale plastic recycling. Fifteen different organisations make use of the hub throughout the year including disability organisations, elderly support networks, community development and creative groups.

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**HOW IT WORKED**

Funding for the projects was secured from various organisations, including Galway County County and through the LEADER programme. Work on the plastic recycling project has also been commissioned by Science Gallery Dublin. A greater understanding of the SDG’s has allowed Amicita to co-design different projects to take action on individual goals with the local community. This approach encourages relationships to form with local people working together to make the town of Athenry more sustainable in the long-term.

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**FEEDBACK FROM PROJECT LEADERS:**

“The SDGs allow me to better understand the complexities of the world. Everything is so interconnected it can feel daunting but at the same time it is empowering to know that millions of people from all walks of life are taking positive action to shape a better world. I believe it is important for all of us to play our part in this movement and affect change in whatever way we can, even the smallest action can lead to the biggest change when part of a collective effort.”

Patrick Mulvihill.
“My SDG journey began with me wanting to provoke change in an unjust world, but with no idea of where to start or how to do so in a meaningful yet critical way through my practice. What I did realise is that this is not an individual journey, it is an infinitely collective one. Using the Goals as a framework for problem finding it quickly became apparent that everything is intrinsically connected, therefore by focusing on one goal or action you are potentially having an impact on the others. If the overarching goal is sustainable futures for all, I believe long term vision and collective action is the means to achieve this societal transition.” Heather Griffin.

LINK: https://amicitia.org

**SKERRIES WELLNESS FESTIVAL**

**COMMUNITY FESTIVAL**

*Maria Connelly, Development Perspectives*  
SDG Advocate Programme participant

**TYPE OF ACTION:** Individual  
**MEDIUM USED:** Hosting of a one day Wellness Festival  
**LOCATION:** Skerries, Dublin  
**DURATION:** Two one day events over two years  
**TARGET AUDIENCE:** The community in Skerries, Dublin  
**SDG ADDRESSED:** SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

**PURPOSE OF ACTION**

My action project was to organise the first ever Skerries Wellness Festival, in October 2018. I wanted to raise awareness and have people more engaged and aware, and have a more connected community. For me, a healthier society is a more productive and happier society. The aim of the festival was to empower families and individuals to live a healthier, happier and more sustainable lifestyle.

**HOW IT WORKED**

The Festival was a fun-filled family day with; free meditation and yoga classes, a Health Olympics challenge, a Park HIIT Pop Up, Nutrition and Wellness interactive talks, delicious healthy food, demonstrations on fermentation, homemade non-toxic deodorant and tips on how to compost waste and recycle. We also had children's entertainment and music and all the activities were free. I reached out to various people to ask them to talk at the event, especially those locally involved in health and wellness businesses. I wanted to promote them on the day, so I had a stand with everyone's contact details and brochures and they could chat to people about the different services they offer. This was the first time that I had organised an event like this and while it was a challenge it was also hugely enjoyable. But I could not have done it without the support from people with experience of putting on events within the community and resources from local shops. It went very well and I am working towards making it an annual event, to expand it and maybe create an interest group out of it.
Maria Connelly promoting the 2018 Skerries Wellness Festival

GENDER EQUALITY

GIRL GUIDE WORKSHOPS
Amy McAuley, Development Perspectives
SDG Advocate Programme participant

TYPE OF ACTION: Individual
MEDIUM USED: Workshops
LOCATION: Various locations in Ireland
DURATION: 5 days
TARGET AUDIENCE: Young people, members of The Girl Guides
SDG ADDRESSED: SDG 5: Gender Equality; SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

PURPOSE OF ACTION
To link in with the Irish Girl Guides to inspire them to use the SDGs in their future programmes.

HOW IT WORKED
I ran a camp for Girl Guides over 5 days. Each day, I facilitated 4 workshops. In total 600 girls took part in the training. In the workshop, we played a game called ‘Walk in my Shoes’, where participants were given a persona. These ranged from illiterate, unemployed women to high-profile bankers. A series of statements were read out and the girls had to step forward if the statement applied to them. What they discovered was there is huge amounts of inequality in the world.

We watched a video highlighting how women are portrayed in the media. Younger girls participating tended to be fearless and confident, whereas the sessions I ran with older teenagers left them feeling unsure and afraid of what other people would think. It was interesting to hear about the experiences of girls from different countries, and the similarities and differences with Ireland.
We then recorded radio vox pops, which were put up online after the camp. The girls had the opportunity to record themselves in small groups, creating interviews, songs, poems, stories and news reports that highlighted issues that mattered to them. I left feeling inspired and amazed at the creativity of the girls.

GOING FORWARD:
Since then, I have given workshops to over 1000 girls and young women at the Girl Guides’ international camp in 2018, and plan to do the same at the next international camp in 2021. We developed 3 Gender Equality Girl Guide badges as a result of these workshops, which became the best-selling badges in their shop.

FEEDBACK FROM THE PROJECT LEADER:
“I took part in the SDG Advocate programme because I wanted to gain more confidence and further my knowledge of the Global Goals. From the moment I walked into our first training session, I was filled with hope and confidence. Sitting around me were 26 change-makers and advocates (one from each county), who wanted to learn more and make a change in their communities.”
Amy McAuley

LINK: www.irishgirlguides.ie/become-sdg-advocate/

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**BUTTERFLIES FOR BEALTAINÉ**

**PARTICIPATIVE CREATIVE ACTION DURING COVID-19 SELF-ISOLATION**

*Amelia Caulfield, Sinead Cullen and Margaret Organ*

Creativity & Change accredited course participants

**TYPE OF ACTION:** Collective

**MEDIUM USED:** Internet

**LOCATION:** Online and in locations throughout Ireland and beyond

**DURATION:** One month

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** General public

**SDG ADDRESSED:**
- SDG 13: Climate Action;
- SDG 15: Life on Land;
- SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

**PURPOSE OF ACTION**

‘Butterflies for Bealtaine’ was an online action created by participants on the Creativity & Change course, 2020. The project was developed as a creative response to lockdown during the Covid-19 pandemic. It invited people to consider how a cocoon becomes a butterfly, creating art that expressed their hopes for the future of the world as we emerge from isolation and sharing it online using the hashtag #butterfliesforbealtaine.

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Butterflies for Bealtaine

Publicity for Butterflies for Bealtaine
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HOW IT WORKED

In Irish Celtic tradition, Bealtaine (May) signifies the beginning of summer and is a time of celebration and blessings. During the Covid pandemic, however, many people experienced isolation, sadness and despair due to the current global situation. Amidst the challenges, we saw amazing changes and incredible acts of kindness; things that once seemed impossible have become possible, which has given us a basis to hope for resilient, interconnected communities going forward into the future.

For the month of May, the group invited the public to creatively respond to the theme of The Butterfly. Using the butterfly theme, they asked people to share a change they wished for on a personal, community or global level. People from across Ireland and beyond took part, creating their own mini-actions in their communities.

PROCESS:

We invited all ages to creatively respond to the theme of The Butterfly and to share a change they wish for on a personal, community or global level. In Ireland as in many parts of the world we have been in a quarantine situation because of the global pandemic. This environment informed our project.

We asked: What positive changes that have happened in the last few weeks, inspire you to imagine more connected communities for all of us? How do you hope the future will be in our interconnected world after isolation?

We hoped that people would celebrate creativity and connection in our communities, inviting investigation that inspires hope for the future of our communities. We asked participants to consider things that inspired hope (head), to create something inspired by the ideas they considered (hand) and to connect with their hearts; with the feeling of what it would be to live in more connected communities (heart).

During the month of May we saw:
* Beautiful creative responses to the theme.
* Engagement with the questions that we posed.
* Intergenerational activity: older people delighting in the invitation to be creative and young children embracing the creative idea of the butterfly.
* Videos showing others how to create butterflies (including fun tutorials on how to make your own).
* Positive feedback.
* People thinking outside the box because of the current limiting situation and limited access to materials.

The principles and ethical considerations that were important to us included:
Accessibility, inclusivity and ease of use across all ages and demographics.
The creative responses could be online and/or physical pieces of work that exist in the community. This is predominantly an online action and we felt it really important to make this project accessible for people who do not use social media or have on-line access. We wanted the possibility of creating physical pieces of art in the community.

The principles used in this awareness-raising activity could be taken into future actions by:
Considering and including people who do not have online access.
Bringing awareness to other people’s situations and creating empathy for others.
Including input from communities through a consultation and engagement process.
Remembering that an inclusive community action can be very simple and engaging.
TIPS FOR ANYONE WHO IS INSPIRED TO CARRY OUT THEIR OWN ACTION:
Consider allowing the action to run within a definite time frame.
Connect with a particular time of the year and its significance for the traditions and cultures of your country but not exclusive to it.
Connect with other organisation in your communities with a remit for creativity e.g. arts offices, festivals, library services, intergenerational organisations, national arts organisations.
Don’t be too precious or anticipate outcomes, let the action happen organically.
Leave space for inspiration, growth... possibilities.
Don’t be too prescriptive, be open to any unexpected responses.

QUOTE FROM PARTICIPANT:
“We created Butterlies for Bealtaine as a way to foster creative community connection across generations during quarantine. We wanted to address themes such as loneliness, isolation, the importance of human connection and creativity for wellbeing. We aimed to inspire participants to connect to themselves, to their family or cocooning relatives, to their communities and to the wider world.” Amelia Caulfield

LINKS: www.creativityandchange.ie/butterliesforbealtaine
www.creativityandchange.ie/online-actions
BROWSING ONLINE

Make sure you know as much as possible about your topic before you start. Do some desk research by browsing websites on the issue and the type of project you wish to do.

DevelopmentEducation.ie is a good place to start, as it has a range of resources and articles which focus on the unequal and unjust nature of the world today: www.developmenteducation.ie

In particular, the Stories of Change section has further case studies and action in practice examples: www.developmenteducation.ie/features/stories-of-change/

The internet is a great source for examples of creative actions. For example, www.actipedia.org is a good place to browse examples of actions from around the world. Consider using the internet, a site like actipedia or social media to showcase your own action.

‘The Upside’, is a new Guardian series on solutions from across the world targeting the SDGs and climate change focused agendas. This can be useful place to find out what is topical at the moment: https://www.theguardian.com/world/series/the-upside
FUNDING

There are grants available for action projects - here are some funding ideas to get you started. Have you approached your University? Your Volunteer Sending Agency?

EIL Seed Fund - Individual or group applications up to €200 for action projects.
www.eilireland.org/global-citizenship/seedfund/

European Solidarity Corps - Solidarity Projects - Groups of five young people (18-30) or more working on a project lasting 2 to 12 months, with up to €500 per month to support your project
https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity/solidarity_projects_en

Community Environment Action Fund - This project involves partnership arrangements between local authorities and various local groups including community groups, schools and environmental NGOs.

Go Fund Me - Free fundraising for people and causes that you care about. ie.gofundme.com/

NYCI - One World Week Mini Grants for activities and events related to One World Week are available from NYCI. Grant applications of up to a maximum of €400 will be considered. The deadline for receipt of application is in September each year.
www.oneworldweek.ie/programmes/projects-initiatives/one-world-week/
NETWORKING

What specific networks could support you with your project?

- FELLOW GLOBAL CITIZEN AWARD PARTICIPANTS
- GLOBAL CITIZEN AWARD MENTORS
- YOUR UNIVERSITY/WORKPLACE
- AONTAS COMMUNITY EDUCATION NETWORKS - www.aontas.com/community/community-education-network
- YOUR LOCAL VOLUNTEER IRELAND OFFICE www.volunteer.ie
- CLIMATE AMBASSADOR NEAR YOU www.climateambassador.ie
- SPARK CHANGE - SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS www.sparkchange.ie/about/
- SPUN OUT - IRELAND’S YOUTH INFORMATION WEBSITE www.spunout.ie
- NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL OF IRELAND, NYCI www.youth.ie

MARKETING AND PROMOTION

There are many free ways to promote and market your project online. Examples include:
- Create your own graphics with Canva www.canva.com
- Create a ticketed event with Eventbrite www.eventbrite.ie
- Advertise your project on Activelink www.activelink.ie
- Share your action project on social media, such as: Facebook www.facebook.com Twitter www.twitter.com Instagram www.instagram.com Tiktok www.tiktok.com

Facebook marketing is useful as you can pay a small amount to target a large amount of people. Be aware of General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) when processing people’s personal information www.dataprotection.ie/en/legal/data-protection-legislation

Creativity & Change Street Action
April 2019 - Cork
WORKSHOP RESOURCES

There is a huge range of DE workshop resources readily available online.

You can find many themed and creative resources and tools designed to allow you to recreate your own workshops and activities at [www.creativityandchange.ie/exercises/](http://www.creativityandchange.ie/exercises/)

Development Perspectives' website has a workbook section with workshop outlines on the SDGs and Development Education. [www.developmentperspectives.ie/saolta-resources](http://www.developmentperspectives.ie/saolta-resources)

Information on Irish Aid’s various education programmes, practical teaching resources as well as suggestions about how to engage learners in interesting ways: [https://www.irishaid.ie/teaching-and-learning/](https://www.irishaid.ie/teaching-and-learning/)

The Ombudsman for Children’s office offers a large range of resources that can be used to educate young people about human rights. They will also send out colourful posters and booklets for free that you could use to design a workshop or activity around. [https://www.oco.ie/childrens-rights/education-materials/](https://www.oco.ie/childrens-rights/education-materials/)

The National Youth Council of Ireland offers a wide range of resources for working with young people on DE projects, including an interactive map where you can find projects happening in your local area. [https://www.youth.ie/resources/](https://www.youth.ie/resources/)

Trocaire has a large number of educational resources available on their website and you can search by age range, curriculum area, resource type, theme, country and publication year. [https://www.trocaire.org/getinvolved/education/resources](https://www.trocaire.org/getinvolved/education/resources)

IMAGES AND MESSAGING

DÓCHAS CODE OF CONDUCT ON IMAGES AND MESSAGES

As mentioned previously, the Code offers a set of guidelines to assist organisations and individuals in their decision-making about which images and messages to choose in their communication, while maintaining full respect for human dignity. By signing the Code, Development NGOs commit to a set of principles, ensuring that they will avoid stereotypical or sensational images. The adoption of the Code means that aid agencies will choose images and messages that represent the full complexity of the situations in which they work, and that they will seek the permission of the people portrayed in the photos they use.

As an individual doing an action project, it is a good resource to use when decision-making.

Link: [www.dochas.ie/images-and-messages](http://www.dochas.ie/images-and-messages)

SOCIAL MEDIA REPRESENTATION

These social media ‘principles’ from Africa for Norway also provide a clear guide of what to think about before posting. Do you want your image or language to perpetuate more stereotypes or create nuanced descriptions of the complex world we live in?

Link: [https://www.radiaid.com/social-media-guide](https://www.radiaid.com/social-media-guide)
COPYRIGHT

If your project involves working creatively with images or film or keep copyright restrictions in mind, be aware of plagiarism and make sure to reference artists/authors/filmmakers and where possible seek permission from an artist if you wish to use their music or images somewhere in your project. You can find copyright free stock images on websites that are free for people to download and use on posters or websites. For example, www.pixabay.com/

The Creative Commons is a nonprofit organization dedicated to building a globally-accessible public commons of knowledge and culture and a great place to source free music that you can use if you are making a film/animation you wish to share online.
Link: www.creativecommons.org/

Creativity & Change SDG Creative Fair
July 2019 - Galway

THANK YOU

Thanks for taking the time to read this resource. We hope that you have found it useful! Please do contact us to let us know what you think or if you have any feedback.

Global Citizen Award - info@globalcitizenaward.ie
Development Perspectives - info@developmentperspectives.ie
Creativity & Change - creativityandchange@cit.ie
REFERENCES


Group activity, GCA Ceremony 2017 - Smock Alley, Dublin.

Creativity & Change Street Action 2019 - Cork City

Creativity & Change Creative Fair 2019 - Dublin