



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
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- UNESCO Chair in
- Children, Youth and Civic Engagement
- Ireland
- CHILD AND FAMILY RESEARCH CENTRE

## UNESCO Chair Newsletter Autumn 2010

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### Foundation Certificate in Youth Leadership and Community Action



Pictured (L-R) are: Deirdra Henry, Mayo; Nina McWilliams, Galway; Dymphna Freyne, Mayo; David Molloy, Galway; Wayne Travers, Dublin; Teresa Coleman, Roscommon.

Six young leaders graduated from NUI Galway in October with a Foundation Certificate in Youth Leadership and Community Action, the first teenagers in Ireland to do so. The certificate course, which is run in association with Foróige, the national youth development organisation, equips young people with the skills and experience needed to become leaders today and in the future.

Foróige and the UNESCO Chair firmly believe that young people have the power to have a real and meaningful impact on the world around them. The pioneering

graduates completed the year-long programme in their Foróige clubs, projects, and schools, completing a research project and putting their leadership skills into action in their communities.

### Developing Links with New Unesco Chair in Barcelona

A new UNESCO Chair, co-directed by the University of Catalonia and the Barcelona Football Club Foundation, in *Sport as a Tool for Social Coexistence and Conflict Resolution* was launched in 2010. The Chair is made up of two Co-directors, Yolanda Antin, Coordinator of Futbol Club Barcelona Foundation, and Eduard Vinyamata, Director of the Campus for Peace at the University of Catalonia. In October 2010,

Professor Pat Dolan met with representatives of the Barcelona programme to discuss the synergies between the new programme and the NUI Galway Chair and was invited onto their Expert Advisory Group. Both Chairs are listed by UNESCO as among five worldwide in the field of Youth and have an expressed commitment to working directly with children and youth through sport and civic action.

### Cooperation between UNESCO Chair and Charles University, Prague

The UNESCO Chair has established a partnership with Charles University, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Humanities in Prague, Czech Republic to facilitate an International Comparative Research Study on the Big Brothers Big Sisters Youth Mentoring Programme. The Study will be led by the Child and Family Research Centre, with Charles University providing valuable support and advice. The results of the study will contribute to knowledge on mentoring relationships, principles, the benefits of mentoring as well as risks and ethical dilemmas.

## Launch of Youth Development Partnership for Youth in Ireland and Zambia



Pictured (L-R) are: Sean Campbell, CEO Foróige; President Jim Browne, NUI Galway; Professor Pat Dolan, Unesco Chair; Phanwell Namangala, University of Zambia; Alan Kerins, CEO Alan Kerins Projects; Minister of State Peter Power T.D.

In June 2010, a partnership between the Unesco Chair, Foróige and the Alan Kerins Projects, an NGO working with children in Zambia, was launched in NUI Galway by the Minister of State with special responsibility for Overseas Development, Peter Power T.D. The overarching aim of this partnership is to further the longstanding commitment of the Chair to foster young people's participation in the development of their societies.

The three partners propose to develop a model of a Youth Centre targeting youth affected by HIV/AIDS in the Western Province of Zambia. The proposed Youth

Centre aims to integrate youth work and sport to provide a forum for youth to actively participate in a range of activities that extend beyond sport, including active citizenship, youth leadership programmes and life skills training. The partnership will work closely with the University of Zambia to further facilitate access, sharing and adaptation of knowledge.

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## Pathways to Resilience Project

The Pathways to Resilience Project is a longitudinal study that is being carried out by Professor Robyn Munford and Dr. Jackie Sanders at Massey University New Zealand who are partners of the Unesco Chair programme. It is aimed at better understanding what helps young people in New Zealand to thrive and survive and to learn about what types of experiences hold them back. The research is linked into an

international study being led by the Resilience Research Centre in Canada. The project is progressing well, with early information on this project due to be presented at the Youthline Symposium in November 2010. Regular updates can be accessed at the Youthline site: <http://www.youthline.co.nz/services/research-and-advocacy.html>

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## Conferences & Events

In September 2010 the Irish Penal Reform Trust hosted a Conference entitled *Shifting Focus - From Criminal Justice to Social Justice*. Professor Pat Dolan gave a presentation entitled *Building Better and Safer Communities* which addressed issues of prevention and early intervention, preventative youth policy, social support, resilience and youth civic action.

The Child and Family Research Centre will host its ninth annual Child and Family Network Event on the evening of December 7<sup>th</sup>. The keynote speaker is Professor Nigel Parton who will present on the challenges involved in reorientating child welfare services.

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If you wish to receive any further information in relation to the UNESCO Chair you can contact us at the Child and Family Research Centre.

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