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NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

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UNESCO Chair Programme of Work in Zambia

The UNESCO Chair is continuing to develop its programme of work in Zambia. This involves a three-way partnership between Foróige, Ireland's leading youth development organisation, the UNESCO Chair and the Alan Kerins African Project, which has an on the ground presence in Zambia. The partnership is due to be officially launched in NUI Galway by Minister of State with special responsibility for Overseas Development, Peter Power T.D., on June 21st. As part of this programme of work the partnership intends to develop a model for a youth centre which will use a combination of integrated sports, training and civic engagement interventions targeted at children and youth. It is intended that a pilot project will be initiated in Kaoma, Zambia. The three partners travelled to Zambia in early March to meet with the local community in Kaoma as well as the Zambian Ministry of Youth.



A consultation being held with young people and local members of the community in Kaoma, Zambia.

Youth Cafés – A Best Practice Guide

In April the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMYCA) published [“Youth Cafés in Ireland – A Best Practice Guide”](#). The research, commissioned by the OMYCA, was conducted by the Child and Family Research Centre. Youth cafés are seen as an increasingly important setting in which to help teenagers to build social skills, develop

relationships with their peers and adults and steer clear of getting into trouble on the streets. The Report is accompanied by a [Youth Café Toolkit](#), which provides practical advice on how to fund, manage and establish cafés that will appeal to young people. The Government has agreed to provide €1.5 million to fund a network of youth cafés across Ireland.

UNESCO Chair Annual Report

A year after the official launch of the UNESCO Chair, the Chair has submitted its first [Annual Progress Report](#) to UNESCO. The primary focus of the initial period of activity has been on strategic planning, establishing partnerships with national and international Universities and organisations working with children and youth and commencing its research programme.

UNESCO's Strategy on African Youth

UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector has published its [Strategy on African Youth: Towards an Enabling Policy Environment for Youth Development and Civic Engagement](#) in Africa. The Strategy was developed in cooperation with the African Group at UNESCO. It seeks to promote youth civic engagement in Africa, to empower youth as agents of peace and key actors in their community and assist them in making the transition to the workplace. The Chair's programme of work in Africa will be informed by and work in tandem with the Strategy.

Foróige's Best Practice Unit – One Year On

Foróige's Best Practice Unit (BPU) is celebrating its first birthday. So far it has developed a state of the art Youth Leadership Programme which has almost completed its pilot phase in 8 Irish and 2 American sites. Feedback from young participants, parents and facilitators is exceptional and the BPU is looking forward to carrying out research to evidence the outcomes in September. The BPU has also developed the new Citizenship Programme

Manual which it is hoping to roll out across the country in September. The BPU's Senior Researcher, based at the Child and Family Research Centre, will commence evaluating the outcomes and process of the Citizenship Programme in the Autumn, which has been piloted in 10 projects and clubs. Big Brother Big Sister-JUMP a mentoring programme for young people in Garda Youth Diversion Programmes is also currently being rolled out.

Conferences – Previous and Upcoming

Various conferences, workshops, and seminars have taken place over the previous few months. Professor Pat Dolan gave the keynote presentation at a national conference in Sweden entitled 'Youth Organisations and Civic Engagement' organised by the [Centre for Studies of Civic Engagement](#) in Örebro University, Sweden. Pat also spoke at a conference in Chicago to celebrate 75 years of the [Chicago Area Project](#), which works to empower young people and communities to create solutions to their own neighbourhood problems, and at a conference organised by the Social Policy and Research Centre in the University of New South Wales entitled '[Towards a Parenting Policy framework for Australia](#)'.

Celia Keenaghan, Research and Policy Fellow with the Child and Family Research Centre, and Danielle Kennan presented at a Conference in the University of Limerick, '[Researching Young Lives: power, representation and the research process](#)', on enabling young people to participate in the UNESCO Chair programme of work.

Our affiliated Research Centre in Canada, the Resilience Research Centre, is organising an upcoming international conference in Canada, '[Pathways to Resilience II: the Social Ecology of Resilience](#)', which will explore how individuals, families and communities from different cultures and contexts can overcome adversity and thrive.

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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