



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Chair in
Children, Youth and Civic Engagement
Ireland



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

UNESCO - the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was founded on 16 November 1945 to:

- Build peace
- Eradicate poverty
- Promote sustainable development
- Build intercultural dialogue

“Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.”

UNESCO Constitution

The UNESCO Chair in Children Youth and Civic Engagement

UNESCO Chairs are a mark of recognition from UNESCO that a university has expertise that can help achieve UNESCO’s goals.

In 2009 Professor Pat Dolan and the Child and Family Research Centre in NUI Galway became the **first Chair in the Republic of Ireland**. This is because of the Centre’s work in supporting children, young people and families and those who work with them.

The purpose of the Chair is to understand civic engagement and its benefits to children and young people. In doing this it can help promote good civic engagement programmes.

Civic engagement includes being active on local community issues, volunteering, mentoring, getting involved in human rights activities and youth leadership. Being involved in this way provides children and young people with a range of practical and life skills including problem solving, social skills and empathy. It can increase people’s ability to cope with life’s problems and it can empower people to actively participate in community issues.

UNESCO and Irish Youth Development Organisation Foróige

The UNESCO Chair includes partners in Ireland and internationally. Foróige is an important partner working with the Chair particularly in developing and promoting civic engagement programmes.

Young people will have a direct impact on the work that is carried out as part of the UNESCO Chair in Children Youth and Civic Engagement. The work of the Chair includes research, teaching, policy and advocacy and programme development and evaluation.

Local Foróige club members will be kept informed through their elected Reference Panel on the work of the Chair as it develops over the coming years.

Further Information:

- www.foroige.ie
- www.childandfamilyresearch.ie
- www.unesco.org