11th Meeting of ESD Advisory Committee

Monday 18th February 2019 at 10am.

Minutes

Room G13/14 Marlborough Street

In Attendance:
Evelyn O’Connor, D.ES (Chair)
Leona De Khors, D.ES
Eibhlin Ni Scannlin, D.ES
Joe Gallagher, D.CCAE
Elaine Nevin, ECO-UNESCO
Aishling McGrath, World Wise Global Schools
Chloe Kinsella, Green Schools
Frank Geary, IDEA
Aidan Clifford, CDETB
Miriam O’Donoghue, CDETB
Deirdre Hogan, UBUNTU Network

Apologies:
Aedin McLoughlin, Environmental Pillar
Aoife Rush, NCCA
Mary Browne, Irish Aid
Aoife Cannon, SEAI

1. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

2. The meeting commenced with a review of membership of the Advisory Committee. It was agreed by the group that an invitation to join the Advisory Committee would be issued to the National Youth Council of Ireland and the teacher unions to would be requested to provide one representative (INTO/TUI and ASTI).

   It was agreed that other representatives would be considered in the membership of the various working groups. JMB, ETBI (and perhaps other patronage bodies?), the IPPN, NAPD, Teaching Council, SEC, ISSU.

   There was a suggestion that Associate Membership could be further considered, provided a demonstration to commitment to buy into ESD principles was indicated.
3. The establishment of working groups was reviewed with the responsibility awarded to the following individuals/bodies:

- Youth Participation – Elaine Nevin agreed to chair
- Raising Awareness – Frank Geary agreed to chair
- Curriculum – NCCA
- Sustainability in Action – Green Schools
- Data Collection and baseline measurement – Irish Aid/Aidan Clifford

4. An update on 2019 Q1 actions was provided: There was an update on 1 action, 2 actions for follow up with D.CYA/Irish Aid, and 1 action for follow up with Green Schools.

5. The issue of how closer alignment with the SDGs (and particularly Goal 4) could be achieved, was discussed. The Chair said that Environmental strand fits into current cross departmental work on climate change, for example.

6. Ideas and planning for the 2019 Forum on ESD, with a provisional date of Wednesday 27th November, were put forth and arrangements made as follows:

- Theme: A Proposal Paper is to be circulated. Some ideas included Reaching Out, Democracy in Action, Coming Together, Connecting as Global Citizens
- Audience: The importance of diversity and not preaching to the converted – teachers/students/principals
- Venue: Possible venues considered were Dublin Castle, National Gallery, Trinity/DCU
- Format: Should this be the same or different as previous years?
- Speakers: Keynote address/speaker - Mary Robinson (the D.ES currently in discussion with), Caroline Petit, Deputy Regional Director, UN.
- Considerations for the SDG Education Champion: Blind Boy Paxton, Eoin McDermott (Youth Audience)
- Chair: Mella Cusack agreed to chair the event

7. An update was provided on The D.CCAE SDG Forum which took place on January 31st. Questions were circulated to group and they were invited to add to draft responses for publication by D.CCAE at end of February.

ESD strategy post 2020: A strong sense from the group that Education is key to delivering on the SDGs and must be kept to the front and centre
Aidan Clifford stated that ESD work is fundamental, and that it is very important to maintain interconnectedness between the different fora. The National Implementation plan for the SDGs, which is to be developed post the current plan to 2020, will be a Whole of Government Plan.

Frank Geary highlighted the 3 strands/pillars of the ESD nexus, and how they function at UNESCO level, as part of the SDGs at national level, and in ESD in Education.

Joe Gallagher advised that there is a National Youth Forum planned and that the D.CCAE, D.ES and D.CYA are involved in progressing this. JG advised that D.CCAE have an open call-out for SDG Champions closing on February 28th. JG advised of the Government decision regarding the Public Service ban on single use plastics from the 1st of April 2019, and of the next SDG Forum on the 30th of July.

FG asked about the HLPF (High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development) event at the UN in July on SDG 4, and the group agreed that it is important that ESD in Ireland is well-represented.

WWGS (World Wise Global Schools) advised they are hosting an event on the 29th of March through Irish in Galway. They want to highlight resources available through Irish. Green Schools have material on this and will follow up with WWGS directly. They also have event for Post Primary schools in Croke Park on April 4th. This will be promoted with use of #notimetowaste.

ECO UNESCO will celebrate 20 years of its Young Environmentalist Award with an event on May 23rd in the Convention Centre, Dublin.

The Bridge 47 project involves 16 organisations across 13 countries in its promotion of Global Citizenship Education.

It was agreed that the Advisory Committee will next convene on a date towards the end of May.