

INFONOMICS

FACTS MATTER

Quality Practice and Innovation in
the Delivery of Youth Information

October 4th - 5th
Ballykisteen Hotel
Limerick Junction, Tipperary

www.youthworkireland.ie/infonomics



Erasmus+



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Oí
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



Youth Work Ireland



Youth Work Ireland

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On behalf of the boards of Youth Work Ireland and Youth Work Ireland Tipperary we would like to welcome you to our international conference - Infonomics – Facts Matter International Conference. We are delighted to welcome delegates from across Europe for two days of discussion on the importance and practices of youth information provision in Ireland and across Europe.

Facts Matter is timely. While misinformation, disinformation, fake news and propaganda have been a constant in the history of humankind, social media, artificial intelligence and other technological advancements made these kinds of information much more pervasive. Now more than ever, the state needs to strengthen and grow the youth information sector in Ireland so that your young people can be supported to access reliable information on which to make good decision for their lives. As President of ERYICA, I very much feel that the, “Infonomics – Facts Matter Conference” is providing us with an opportunity to come together as a community of practice in the world of youth information provision. In addition to learning and sharing on key themes such as youth participation, quality provision and working together, we will also have an opportunity to share on new and innovative practices and technology which impact on our work.



Dr Patrick Burke
CEO Youth Work Ireland

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Day One: Wednesday, October 4th

Morning Session

- Introduction Session
- Youth Information in Ireland and Europe

Afternoon Session

- Youth Participation in Youth Information
- Working Together to Address Youth Information Challenges and Opportunities in Europe
- Youth Information Innovation Showcase

Day Two: Thursday, October 5th

Morning Session

- The changing Landscape in Youth Information in Europe
- Extremist Online Misinformation, Hate Speech and Fake News, Challenges for Youth Information and Youth Service Providers and Q&A
- New technologies and the need to Innovate

Afternoon Session

- Quality and Impact in Youth Information
- Strategic Vision for the future of Youth Information in Ireland



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Day One: Wednesday October 4th, 2023
9:00am - 10:45am

Introductory Session

Donal Kelly (session chair)

Regional Director Youth Work Ireland Tipperary

Introduction and Setting the Scene: The local Youth Information landscape

Aisling Moloney

Youth Work Ireland National Youth Action Group

The importance of Youth Information in the lives of young people right now

Dr Lorraine O'Donovan

Former Senior Executive Officer - South Munster Citizens Information Service,
Regional Director CDYS

The critical importance of a bespoke Youth Information in the lives of young people right now in a healthy democracy

Ross Flanagan, Ian Power & Gareth Gibson

Spunout and Donegal Youth Service

The National Youth Information Chat Services: A Partnership and Success Story.

Matthew Seebach

Head of Youth Work Practice and Strategy, Youth Work Ireland

Overview of Conference Themes

Minister Roderic O'Gorman TD

Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth of Ireland

Official Conference Opening

Q&A Session

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Day One: Wednesday October 4th, 2023
11:00am - 13:00pm

Youth Information in Ireland and Europe

Tom Dunne (session chair)

CEO In Sync Youth & Family Services

Welcome back and introduction of speakers for session

Prof Maurice Devlin

Professor of Applied Social Studies at Maynooth University and Jean Monnet Chair in European Youth Studies

An overview of Youth Information Service Provision and Policy in Europe and in Ireland

Adam Gunning

Assistant Principal, DCEDIY

The Review of Youth Information Funding Scheme in Ireland - Current Status

Aoife Cartwright

Project Specialist (research and evaluation), Centre for Effective Services

The Review of Youth Information Funding Scheme in Ireland - Current Status

Q&A Session

13:00pm - 13:45pm - Lunch Break



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Day One: Wednesday October 4th, 2023
13:45pm - 15:00pm

Youth Participation in Youth Information

Aisling Moloney (session chair)

Youth Work Ireland National Youth Action Group

Welcome back and introduction of speakers for session

Dan Moxon

People, Dialogue and Change

Best practice in the participation of young people in the design and provision of Youth Information in Europe

Declan Burgess

Cathaoirleach of Tipperary Cahir Cashel MD, Tipperary County Council

From Youth Information to Young Cathaoirleach

Eric O'Connell

Youth Work Ireland Galway - Youth Information Officer

From Youth Information Participant to Youth Information Officer

Grace Maher & Lauren Barry

Junior Board Members, Youth Work Ireland Tipperary

Decisions, Decisions, Decisions... Experience on the Junior Board of Youth Work Ireland Tipperary

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Day One: Wednesday October 4th, 2023
15:00pm - 16:00pm

Working Together to Address Youth Information Challenges and Opportunities in Europe

Pauline Strappe (session chair)

Youth Information Officer, Youth Work Ireland Tipperary

Welcome back and introduction of speakers for session

Lorraine Gilligan

Executive Director, Leargas

Youth Information, Erasmus+ - Challenges and Opportunities within the EU

Michael McLoughlin

Head of Advocacy and Policy, Youth Work Ireland

The European Policy Context - A perspective from the European Social and Economic Council

Mathieu Orphanides

European Commission

Youth Information, Eurodesk network and SALTO Participation & The European Policy Context.

Q&A Session

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Day One: Wednesday October 4th, 2023
16:00pm - 17:15pm

Youth Information Innovation Showcase: World Café
Participants will have four 20 minutes sessions with
presentations and discussions with four contributors.

Caolan Faux

CEO, Youth Work Ireland Cavan Monaghan

The Connecting You Youth Information App - A new innovation in Irish Youth Information Provision

Marie Cleary (Rapporteur)

Third Space

InfoFair and Networking

(Ballykisteen Bar)

19:30pm ERYICA Quality Label Awards Ceremony

3-Course Gala Dinner in the Ballykisteen Ballroom



Award Recipients



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Day Two: Thursday October 5th, 2023
9:00am - 10:00am

The Changing Landscape in Youth Information in Europe

Donal Kelly (session chair)

Regional Director Youth Work Ireland Tipperary

Welcome to day-two

Mary Cunningham

Director of the National Youth Council of Ireland

International Panel Discussion - Changing landscape of Youth Information in Europe and Q&A

PANEL MEMBERS

Eva Reina

Director of ERYICA - **LUXEMBOURG**

Donal Kelly

Regional Director, Youth Work Ireland Tipperary - **IRELAND**

Sif Vik

Forum for ungdomsinformasjon i Norge - **NORWAY**

Didace Kalisa

ANIJ (Agence Nationale pour l'Information des Jeunes - **LUXEMBOURG**

Victoria de la Hoz

Dirección General de Juventud. Comunidad de Madrid - **SPAIN**

Larissa Liebertz

Jugendinfo - **BELGIUM**

Tanya Herceg

Zajednica informativnih centara za mlade u Hrvatskoj - **CROATIA**

Q&A Session

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Day Two: Thursday October 5th, 2023
10:30am - 13:00pm

New Technologies and the need to Innovate

Lorraine Thompson (session chair)

CEO Donegal Youth Service

Welcome back and introduction of speakers for the session

Moira Merrigan

Youth Information Officer, Youth Work Ireland Tipperary

The changing digital context for young people and information.

Mark Malone

Researcher, The Hope and Courage Collective

Kate O'Connell

Equality and Intercultural Programme Officer, NYCI

Extremist Online Misinformation, Hate Speech and Fake News, challenges for youth information and youth service provider

Veronica Ștefan

Council of Europe

The world of Artificial Intelligence and how it impacts young people and the larger youth sector

Paul Keating

Lecturer, TUS Midwest

The Metaverse, Virtual Reality and Youth Information, Fake News & Hate Speech Perspectives



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Day Two: Thursday October 5th, 2023
14:00pm - 15:00pm

Quality and Impact in Youth Information

Fiona O'Grady (session chair)

CEO, Limerick Youth Service

Welcome back and introduction of speakers for the session

Dubheasa Kelly

Head of Governance & Strategy, Spunout

Jack Deacon

Head of Multi Media, Spunout

Impact and Quality in Spunout

TJ Hourigan

Youth Advocacy Officer, YMCA

Impact and Quality in YMCA Youth Information

Mairead Maher

Youth Work Ireland Tipperary

Impact on the lives of young people, from early school leaving, to EVS to Youth Information Officer

Julie Kelleher

Youth Information Team Leader, Crosscare

Impact and Quality in Crosscare

Geraldine Lacey

CEO Youth Work Ireland Midlands

Impact and Quality in Youth Work Ireland Midlands and Youth Work Ireland Youth Information within an Integrated Youth Service.

Q&A Session

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Day Two: Thursday October 5th, 2023
15:00pm - 16:00pm

Strategic Vision for the Future of Youth Information in Ireland

Mary Cunningham (session chair)

Director National Youth Council of Ireland

Welcome back and introduction of speakers for the session

PANEL MEMBERS

Ian Power

CEO Spunout

Matthew Seebach

Head of Practice and Strategy Youth Work Ireland

Eva Reina

Director, ERYICA

David Backhouse

Deputy National Secretary, YMCA

Julie Kelleher

Youth Information Team Leader, Crosscare

Marie Cleary (Rapporteur)

Third Space

Summary of the event and strategic directions for the future

Donal Kelly

CEO, Youth Work Ireland Tipperary

Close of event

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Speaker Bios

Dr. Patrick Burke

Dr. Patrick Burke has over thirty years' experience of working with people experiencing poverty and social exclusion. He has worked for many years with volunteers and other professionals in the area of social justice and human rights in South America, Europe and Ireland. Since the early 1990s he has operated at a senior management level in the community and voluntary sector, culminating in over 20 years as Chief Executive Officer of large, and complex Irish voluntary organisations operating in the areas of homelessness, housing, income deprivation, poverty, social exclusion and social and economic issues which impact on the lives of disadvantaged young people, their families and communities. He is currently the President of ERYICA, the European Youth Information Counselling Agency. He holds a PHD in Governance from the School of Law, Queens University, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Aoife Cartwright

Dr Aoife Cartwright is a research and evaluation specialist working at the Centre for Effective Services (CES). Aoife has worked on a range of national evaluations and reviews at CES, in areas such as early years, community health and education. She is currently leading on a review of youth information provision in Ireland, commissioned by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Aoife holds a PhD and MSc in Psychology from Maynooth University. Prior to joining CES, she worked in research and project management in the non-profit sector

Marie Cleary

Marie is the founder and director of Thirdspace Consulting. She specialises in the design and delivery of strategic management interventions which include; organisational reviews, facilitation and strategic planning, high-performance team-building and leadership development. Maries' clients span a range of sectors including Professional Services; Financial Services; Global Technology providers; Government Departments and Voluntary Agencies. Marie's career has spanned both public and private sector across Europe and has focused on training, facilitation, coaching, research. Her qualifications in Business, Education, Finance and Psychology, coupled with her previous experience in management of EU funded programmes, provides a competence for working in a variety of settings. She is currently completing Doctoral Studies on future skills in DCU. She is an external evaluator for European Education programmes. She is a member of the European Association for International Education (EAIE). Marie is a coaching psychologist with extensive experience as an executive coach and has worked at a senior level to assist clients resolve challenging issues, build resilience, enhance leadership capability and manage stakeholder needs.

Prof Maurice Devlin

Maurice Devlin is Professor in the Department of Applied Social Studies at Maynooth University, where he also holds the Jean Monnet Chair in European Youth Studies and is Co-Director of the Centre for Youth Research and Development. A native of Maghera, County Derry, he has been involved in youth work and youth services since childhood. He has contributed to youth policy development in Ireland and internationally and published widely on numerous aspects of youth studies. He was a founding director of BeLonG To - LGBTQ+ Youth Ireland. He was also founding joint chairperson of the North South Education and Training Standards Committee for Youth Work (NSETS). Maurice served two terms as Vice President for Europe of the Research Committee on Youth of the International Sociological Association and is Irish Correspondent for the European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy. He is currently working as chief editor on the Elgar Encyclopedia of Youth Studies.

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Lorraine Gilligan

Lorraine Gilligan is the Executive Director of Léargas, the National Agency for EU programmes in education, training, sport, volunteering and youth. Léargas aims to provide educational and learning experiences for young people; and supports organisations across Ireland to develop and exchange good practices through programmes and initiatives such as Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps.

Adam Gunning

Adam Gunning is an Assistant Principal Officer in the Youth Affairs Unit of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth (DCEDIY). He has been in DCEDIY for 8 years, spending 5 years in Early Years and nearly 3 in Youth. Within the Youth Affairs Unit he has responsibility for youth information, ICT development, data and analytics, and parliamentary affairs.

Paul Keating

Paul Keating is a Researcher and Lecturer in the Technological University of the Shannon based in Tipperary. With a background in Engineering and Community Development he has worked as a Community Worker in Ireland, across the EU, East Africa and the Balkans for over 20 years. In recent years Paul has partnered with the National Youth Council of Ireland and Youth Work Ireland, exploring and developing the use of games in youth work practice particularly as it related to development education. He has also partnered with international NGOs such as Trocaire in integrating games into their development education programmes.

Mark Malone

Mark leads research and communications with Hope and Courage Collective. He has been active in social movements for social, economic and ecological justice for over two decades. This has included work in community education, anti-racism, tax and debt justice and climate justice. Since 2014 Mark has also focused on understanding reactionary far right movements, and more recently the ways and means by which communities and civil society might better equip itself against these movements. Both of which are a core focus of HCC's work today"

Michael McLoughlin

Michael Mc Loughlin is Head of Advocacy and Communications with Youth Work Ireland where he specializes in advocacy on the range of policy issues for young people and those who work with them. He is a former Chairperson of Leargas and Board member of the Children's Rights Alliance. He is a Government nominee to the European Economic and Social Committee where he has authored opinions on youth, education, employment, social policy and EU External Action as part of the EU legislative and policy process.

Aisling Moloney

Aisling is a third-year Law with Politics student in UCD. She has worked on topics such as climate change, the SDGs and mental health through her involvement in Youth Work Ireland, both on a local and national level. She currently serves as our delegate to the National Youth Assembly of Ireland, and also works on both highlighting and increasing opportunities for other young people.

Dan Moxton

Dan is a researcher and practitioner specialising in inclusive youth participation with over 25 years experience working with children and young people in the voluntary, public, for-profit and academic sectors. His research focuses on how children and young people's participation can influence policy and practice, as well as the development of participatory structures and processes. Originally a youth worker at local and

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regional level in the North West of England, he now works throughout Europe and beyond supporting a variety of organisations, to develop their approach to youth participation. He was recently the author of ERYICA and Eurodesk's guide on Youth participation in youth information services.

Kate O'Connell

Kate O'Connell an Equality and Intercultural programme officer with the National Youth Council of Ireland and over the last 12 months has been leading the programme work supporting youth services to respond the threat of the Far Right in Ireland. NYCI works closely with the Hope and Courage Collective to co-create responses for youth workers and community workers in Ireland. Kate has over a decade of experience in anti-racist activism and has worked across a number of local and national organisations promoting migrant integration and intercultural dialogue.

Dr Lorraine O'Donovan

Lorraine O'Donovan joined CDYS as their new CEO in March 2023. Prior to my appointment to CDYS, I was the Senior Executive at South Munster Citizens Information Service, leading the restructuring of five services in Cork and Kerry into one strong, streamlined service. I enjoyed working with Le Chéile Mentoring and The Probation Service to support young people and families involved with the Justice system. My background also includes youth and community work, the delivery of parenting programmes and family support work as well as the development of best practice materials to support you and community workers as well as funders.

Mathieu Orphanides

Mathieu Orphanides is a Cypriot national living in Brussels and working for the European Commission. He graduated in marketing and started his professional career in an advertising company. He joined the European Commission in 2002, first in the HR department dealing with finances and budget during 4 years, then he was recruited in the DG for Education, Youth, Culture and Sport (DG EAC). In DG EAC, he worked in several departments : resources, budget/finance and National Agencies. In 2016 he joined the youth unit in DG EAC as Programme Manager for Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps. He is currently in charge of SALTO Participation & Information, Eurodesk and ERYICA. He is also responsible for the development and the implementation of the DiscoverEU action and the general coordination of the European Youth Week 2024.

Veronica Ștefan

Veronica is a professional with more than 17 years of experience in the youth sector, working intensively at the intersection of education, policy and new technologies.

She has been engaged in a variety of international initiatives, from research to public policy, capacity building or project management, while providing expertise for different stakeholders such as the Council of Europe, UN agencies, European Union bodies, as well as many other national and international private and public entities.

Her recent activity includes contributions to digital policies, research on the social impact of artificial intelligence & new technologies, development of digital competences for educational and youth actors.

Veronica is originally from Romania, where she has founded a series of non-profits, including the first Romanian Digital Think-Tank; starting with 2021 she leads a series of international partnerships related to youth participation and digital transformation on behalf of the Estonian National Agency for Erasmus+ and European Solidary Corps.

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Access to reliable information is essential in the modern age. In particular, young people require access to high quality information to make informed decisions in their own lives. The Infonomics Conference promises to deliver valuable insights into how we can improve youth information provision.

Roderic O’Gorman,
Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth of Ireland

As President of ERYICA, I very much hope that the, “Infonomics – Facts Matter Conference” will provide us with an opportunity to come together as a community of practices in the world of youth information provision. In addition to learning and sharing on key important teams such as youth participation, quality provision and policy issues, we also have an opportunity to share new and innovative practices and technology which impact on our work. This conference is an opportunity not to be missed by all who are passionate about empowering young people.

Dr Patrick Burke,
President of ERYICA and CEO,
Youth Work Ireland

This is a fantastic opportunity to come together to explore, discuss and learn about challenges and opportunities for the Youth Information Sector both nationally and internationally

Julie Kelleher
Youth Information Team Leader
in Crosscare Social Care Agency

Infonomics is an exciting opportunity to explore the importance of quality youth information at a time when young people are struggling to access reliable sources that are relevant to their lives in an Irish context. It’s also a welcome opportunity to showcase the innovation of youth information providers in Ireland.

Ian Power,
CEO spunout

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