



DICE NEWSLETTER

Edition 1, Winter 2008



Welcome to the first issue of the DICE Newsletter!

This once-per-term newsletter is aimed at lecturers in the colleges of education and at student teachers with an interest in Development Education (DE) and Intercultural Education (ICE). It is produced by the DICE project for all 5 colleges of education in the Republic of Ireland. It is meant to inform educators about opportunities to enhance their work in bringing the global dimension to their classrooms, while also highlighting news about up-coming research and initiatives relevant to DE and ICE.

In keeping with current news, a small section will be dedicated to highlight a few local, European and global events which might not necessarily make the big headlines but present a good opportunity to discuss key areas of DE and ICE (human rights, sustainable development, diversity, etc.) with students. Finally, the newsletter is intended as a catalyst for innovative thinking about research ideas, extra-curricular initiatives and more.

If you wish to make a contribution to the newsletter or want to send in your suggestions and comments, please feel free to email us at: info@diceproject.org

Dr. Matthias Fiedler & Astrid Pérez Piñán



A new roll of the DICE!

Following four years of facilitating courses in Development Education and Intercultural Education in each of the 5 Colleges of Education, the DICE project is now at the start of a new phase. We are delighted to announce that, with the support of Irish Aid, each college of Education has appointed its own dedicated lecturer for Development Education and Intercultural Education. These lecturers will be part of an all-colleges

DICE network, coordinated by the DICE core project. The core project is hosted by the Church of Ireland College of Education and consists of a Project Coordinator and a Project Officer.

Our aim in the DICE core project is to further work with the Colleges of Education in Ireland to develop their expertise in planning and teaching global and justice perspectives. We coordinate, undertake and promote research in the theory and practice of Development Education and Intercultural Education within primary teacher education (we will let you know all about it via the newsletter twice a year but more often through our website!). Additionally, informed by our national and international networking, we assist and support the colleges in identifying opportunities to supplement their activities related to global justice and intercultural themes.

The DICE Core Project is composed of:

Dr. Matthias Fiedler, Project Coordinator

Astrid Pérez Piñán, Project Officer

The Development Education and Intercultural Education lecturers are:

Brian Tubbert - Froebel College of Education, Blackrock

Brian Ruane - St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra

Deirdre O'Rourke - Mary Immaculate College of Education, Limerick

Sean Bracken - Coláiste Mhuire, Marino

Rosalind Duke - Church of Ireland College of Education, Rathmines

Further details about the DICE project and activities is available from www.diceproject.org



What is Development Education & Intercultural Education for DICE?

The DICE project recognises the complex debate which has been taking place over the last years in terms of defining what development education is. We also recognise the practical challenges posed by using the term itself. We are of the view that the task of educating our future teachers in these areas is an urgent one and requires focus on *doing* development education and intercultural education (while not losing sight of this evolving debate and contributing to it!).

DICE therefore promotes an understanding of development education and intercultural education which:

- Develops positive attitudes and values such as peace, tolerance and social justice
- Promotes global solidarity, human rights and environmental awareness
- Recognises and challenges discrimination and inequality

Comprehensive definitions of development education and intercultural education can be found in the 'about us' section of the DICE website (www.diceproject.org).

Opportunities for future teachers to be aware of



Irish Aid Volunteering and Information Centre opens in O'Connell St

The Irish Aid Centre is a state-of-the-art, flexible multi-media exhibition space which highlights development issues. It offers a dynamic environment for groups to learn about and engage with the work of Irish Aid. It features a range of interactive displays, an exhibition area, a workshop area for approximately 30 people and a conference area for 100.

The centre is divided into different areas, each with a particular theme and focus. These include:

- A general introduction to development issues
- Country and sectoral information points: Education, Health, etc
- Volunteering area
- Workshop space for group work

Schools and youth groups are encouraged to visit the centre to learn more about development and the international and Irish response to global development challenges. This should be an excellent opportunity for student teachers to learn outside the classroom.

For further information about the centre and for bookings contact:

Irish Aid Volunteering and Information Centre
O'Connell St
Dublin 1

Lo-call number: 1890 252 676

E-mail: irishaidcentre@dfa.ie

Website: www.irishaid.gov.ie/centre



Facilitating participation in 'Our Global Schools Award Programme'

Irish Aid, responsible for the Irish government's overseas development programme, has launched the **Our World Global Schools Awards programme**, which offers an engaging and creative way for younger people to gain an insight and understanding of issues in developing countries. Open to pupils in 3rd through 6th classes in the Republic of Ireland and in years 4 through 7 in Northern Ireland, the programme is now entering its third year. Exploring the issue of poverty the Our World Global Schools Awards programme encourages groups of pupils to participate in the creation of media projects in response to what they learn and understand about poverty. The creation of these projects fosters an understanding of global issues and can take any form including art, drama, projects, essays, poetry, film, music, etc. Schools and teachers are provided with tools and materials to aid with the research and execution of projects. These include dedicated project managers, a help-line, information packs, a DVD and tailored lesson plans.

This year, Irish Aid will be rewarding 200 schools that submit projects that demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the subject matter and a creative approach with an Irish Aid Our World Global Schools Awards Plaque, to denote them as globally aware. Alternatively project entrants that show an outstanding level of awareness about poverty will be invited to an awards ceremony in Dublin to receive a trophy to commend their hard work.

By the time you read this newsletter the deadline to register would have passed but you can keep this in mind as an opportunity for next year.



Local, European and Global Affairs

Changing Ireland?

A new question on the 2006 Census asked respondents to specify their ethnic or cultural background. Of the overall population of 4,172,013 over 87% were "White Irish". Other groups (with % of total) were "other white" (6.9%), "Asian or Asian Irish" (1.3%), "Black or Black Irish" (1.1%), and "Irish Traveller" (0.5%). A further 2.9% were "Other including mixed background" or did not specify. (*Full article in 'In Touch' magazine, Issue 88, October 2007*)

LDS Live

LDS Live is a new venture for Leadership Development for Schools (LDS). LDS and the NCTE have commissioned and implemented a Virtual Learning Environment (LVE), an internet based tool designed to facilitate communication and cooperation between groups of people who have a common learning goal, no matter where they are physically located. See www.lds21.ie for more details.

Tackling Homophobia in Schools (Report)

This issue of diversity and human rights was discussed at a conference in held in London last July. While its focus is on the current situation in Britain it contains important messages which can be applied to the Irish context. Organised by Stonewall, the conference heard speakers develop strategies to challenge homophobia and to create a safe, affirmative, inclusive learning environment for all pupils, teachers and parents. More information can be found at: http://www.stonewall.org.uk/education_for_all/

European attitudes towards Development Aid

Most citizens in new member states see European aid in a good light even if they do not understand it very well.

During International Poverty Eradication Day on 17 October, the European Commission published results from a new **Eurobarometer** survey on how the new member states saw development aid.

This survey of 11,000 citizens, from the 12 countries that joined the EU since 2004, appears to establish a positive link between accession and assistance to developing countries. Most of them see the EU as the biggest fund donor (which it actually is, and provides more than 55% of public development aid worldwide). They consider that poverty eradication is the main development aim and that the EU, compared to member states, is the best channel for providing aid. Despite these perceptions, EU12 citizens do not know European development policy very well (more than two thirds affirm that they have not seen or heard any information or campaigns about it). The Millennium Development Objectives are not familiar to them either. A series of parliamentary debates on MDGs is currently taking place (15-22 October) in the EU12. (A.N.).

For full report see: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_286_en.pdf

Buddhas need a passport!

A new law was passed in China stating that from the 1 September 2007 all reincarnated beings must carry a valid permit. Now reincarnated Tibetan monks must go through a complex bureaucratic process and mind an extensive list of requirements before they can be issued with their '**Living Buddha permit**' granting them permission to exist. The move has been designed to ensure that the succession of the next Dalai Lama and other high level religious positions is controlled by the Chinese government and not 'under the dominion of any foreign organisation or individual'.

Full article available in the New Internationalist Magazine, Issue 446, Nov 2007.

Climate Bill's 60% emission cut

The UK has committed to reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 60% before 2050 to help tackle global warming. An independent committee on climate change will be set up to advise on 'five year carbon budgets' part of the new commitment to carbon reduction. While the bill will also enforce reductions of greenhouse gas emissions of between 26% and 32% by 2020, the Prime Minister previously said he would consult the new committee to see if bigger reductions were required.

Full article available online at http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/7080580.stm

Africom: the new US military command for Africa

On 6 February 2007, President Bush announced that the United States would create a new military command for Africa, to be known as Africa Command or Africom. The Bush administration wants to significantly expand its security assistance program for regimes in Africa that are willing to act as surrogates, says Daniel Volman. It also reflects the growing alarm at the efforts of China to expand its energy supplies in Africa and to extend its political influence on the continent.

Full article available at www.pambazuka.org



Research

Some of the latest research available in Development Education and Intercultural Education

'*The contributions of postcolonial theory to development education*' (by Vanessa Andreotti) is a think-piece commissioned by the Development Education Association (DEA) in England. It is an introduction to the field of post-colonial theory, which explores the potential contributions of this area to development education. The piece is available from the DEA's website at: <http://www.dea.org.uk/sub-554735>

'*The Relationship between Development Education and Intercultural Education in Initial Teacher Education*' (by Helen Fitzgerald) is available through DICE's website at www.diceproject.org

Research ideas to consider

Thinking about themes for new research or perhaps for your students? Irish Aid has identified gaps in current development education research in a number of areas, some of which are listed below:

1. The rationale for a development education approach to intercultural education - examples of best practice.
2. Developing and implementing key performance indicators for development education in Ireland.
3. Examining the role and capacity building needs of ethnic minority and solidarity groups in development education in Ireland.
4. Impact of development education in learners - for specific sectors in the formal and non-formal sector.
5. The role of critical literacy in development education.

Further areas of research are listed on the Funding Scheme document produced by Irish Aid (p.7). This document (and the new DE strategy) is accessible online on Irish Aid's website: <http://www.irishaid.gov.ie/article.asp?article=1120> (at the bottom of the press release in PDF format).



Ideas for extra curricular activities

Have you ever been stuck for ideas on extra-curricular activities? Here are some suggestions to get your mind going!

1. 'All colleges' debate(s) on development and intercultural issues.
2. Photo exhibitions linking local and global issues and to stimulate deeper thinking on the root causes of inequality and poverty.
3. Poetry nights at cafes or local pubs as part of Global Weeks or to mark a particular international day.
4. Art exhibitions (using recyclable material, for example, or in collaboration with non-traditional departments such as engineering, school of medicine, schools of law, etc).
5. And finally... why not form a Global Committee of students who can get active in organizing activities?

If you have any other ideas which you wish to share with your colleagues in other colleges of education, you can do so through this newsletter. Just send us an email to: info@diceproject.org and we will feature them in the next issue!



Publications & Articles

'From the slave trade to 'free' trade: How trade undermines democracy and justice in Africa'

Can trade in the era of globalisation be 'fair' or 'just'? Drawing on lessons from the slave trade and studies of the international finance institutions, these essays provide insights into how free trade policies have a profoundly negative impact on the rights of communities, environmental sustainability and the development of democracy in Africa. More about this book and how to order at: <http://www.pambazuka.org/en/publications/index.php>

An introduction to the situation and experience of women migrant workers in Ireland

This publication was prepared by the Equality Authority to mark Anti-Racist Workplace Week in 2006. It was published to stimulate and inform debate on the experience and situation of women migrant workers. This is important if the intercultural workplace is to benefit both men and women migrant workers. It can be downloaded in PDF format from www.equality.ie in the 'Publications' section.

www.globalization101.org

In October, globalization101.org added two *News Analyses* to the site: [Health Care Coverage in a Globalized World](#), which looks at the positive and negative aspects of different health care systems around the world, and [Improving the Status of Women in Africa: Overview of Recent and Upcoming Elections](#), which examines how different African countries are addressing the inequality of women in the public sphere. See details in www.globalization101.org



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