

CITY NETWORKS ON PATH TO PROMOTE LIFE-LONG LEARNING

An initiative spearheaded by five universities and colleges across Dublin under the aegis of the Programme for Access to Higher Education (PATH), hosted the second meeting of the Irish Learning City Network recently. The Ireland Learning City' initiative will see festivals taking place in Dublin, Cork and Limerick in April to promote lifelong learning.

The meeting welcomed learning city representatives from Cork, Limerick, Derry and Belfast to discuss their work in promoting learning throughout the island of Ireland. Dublin launched its learning city initiative, as defined by UNESCO, in December 2018.

The Dublin Learning City initiative is led by the Leinster Pillar 1 cluster, comprising UCD, Trinity College Dublin, Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology (IADT), Marino Institute of Education (MIE) and the National College of Art and Design (NCAD). With the support of Dublin City Council, Dublin Learning City is being led by Denise McMorrow, Student Experience Manager at IADT, and Trevor Purtill, Research & Development Programme Manager at MIE.

Dublin is the newest member of the Irish Learning City Network, which aims to create a borderless country of learning, ensuring opportunities for accessible, life-long learning throughout Ireland.

EASY ACCESSIBILITY

The aim of the initiative is to ensure that education and learning is accessible for everyone, regardless of age, and in traditional and non-traditional settings. As part of the Dublin programme, a five-day festival will take place throughout the city from 8-12 April, with similar festivals also taking place in Cork and Limerick.

Festival co-ordinator Peadar Nolan said that the first Dublin Learning City Festival in April aims to encourage everyone living in Dublin to engage in learning and creativity. "A broad range of events will take place in venues across the city and anyone organising an event can get in touch to avail of promotional support from the Irish Learning City Network."

"Ireland Learning Cities' partners will amplify existing community education initiatives by using their city-wide network and retaining an inclusive and inter-generational focus as a core operational tenet."

Nolan added that, in doing so, citizens across these learning cities will benefit from enhanced individual empowerment, employability and social inclusion, economic development, cultural prosperity, and sustainable development.

For more information on the festival email learningcity@iadt.ie.



Irish Learning City Network: Representatives from Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Derry and Belfast networks pictured at recent meeting of the Ireland Learning City Network in Dublin.



Dublin Learning City: Pictured (l-r) – Trevor Purtill, Marino Institute of Education; Denise McMorrow, IADT; Paul Curran, IADT; Rose Kenny, Dublin City Council and Andrew Power, IADT.