



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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• UNESCO Chair "Transforming the Lives
• of People with Disabilities, their Families
• and Communities, Through Physical Education,
• Sport, Recreation and Fitness"

UNESCO Chair, IT Tralee - Newsletter October 2015

Welcome to our newsletter. We're delighted to be reaching out and connecting with you as we have much news to share, including updates about the official launch of the Chair, new concepts developed by the Chair to work towards mainstreaming diversity, new team members and the various projects and collaborations we are leading and/or contributing to.

If you require this newsletter in another format due to a disability please contact the UNESCO IT Tralee office and we will be happy to facilitate your request (+353 66714 4109 or email unesco@ittralee.ie).

The Launch of the UNESCO Chair at IT Tralee



The UNESCO Chair was officially launched on the 24th of February by President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins. This recognition is testimony to the Institute's commitment to inclusivizing practice and promoting the process of UniversAbility in relation to Article 30 of the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006) and UNESCO's International Charter of Physical Education and Sport (1978).



The day was a festive celebration of diversity which showcased a broad range of programmes, initiatives and inclusive movement opportunities, and involved Disability Service Providers, people who experience a disability and participate in various sport, fitness and recreation activities and various leaders in the field.

Former Irish International rugby player, **Keith Wood**, is **patron of the UNESCO Chair**



Link to UNESCO Chair ITT video



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrhcVpG7HVg>

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THE UNESCO IT Tralee Team

We realise that our team goes far beyond the UNESCO staff members, extending to all members of IT Tralee staff and students as we work towards developing a Campus of Inclusion here at IT Tralee; and also our national partners, especially the CARA National Adapted Physical Activity Centre and our international partners.



We would like to express a special thank you to all, whether you have contributed directly or indirectly to our mission, or do so in the future.

Dr. Florian Kiuppis became the **UNESCO Chair Holder** in April. Dr. Kiuppis is Associate Professor at Lillehammer University College, Norway in the Department of Education and Social Work where he is Head (co-leader) of the MA-programme 'Inclusive Education', responsible for teaching international students in Disability Studies and leading a research group called "Education -- Marginalisation and Minorities" (EDUMAMI), as part of the Ph.D programme entitled "Research Centre for Child and Youth Competence Development".



Catherine Carty is the **UNESCO Chair Manager** and has worked in the Health and Leisure department at the IT Tralee for longer than she cares to admit! During this time Catherine lectured in health promotion, lifestyle programming, exercise prescription, exercise physiology, behaviour change, activity leadership and was involved in the development and supervision of many research projects. Catherine maintained connections with professional bodies and EU research in areas of relevance to her teaching and research interests. As such,

she was actively involved in many European Commission projects including EUROFIT, EUROSEEN, VOCASPORT, ECVET, and SMS- Sustainable Management of Sports Facilities. Catherine developed and coordinate European Commission funded projects including European Inclusive Physical Education Training (EIPET), Adapted Physical Activity in Vocational Education and Training (APAVET) and Universal Fitness Innovation & Transformation –UFIT. Catherine sat on the National General Practitioner Exercise Referral Steering Committee in Ireland for many years. She was on the board of

the leisure industry body Ireland Active (formerly ILAM) for 13 years, she also briefly assumed the role of Registrar of Register of Exercise Professionals (REPS) Ireland and in that guise linked with other registers internationally via ICREPs- the Internationally Confederation of Registers of Exercise professionals.



Postdoctoral Researcher Therese Conway completed her primary degree in Geography and Sociology in University College Cork in 2006, she then completed a Masters in Planning and Sustainable Development also at UCC. Following a short planning career Therese commenced her PhD at NUI Galway having been awarded a scholarship through PRTL14, as part of the Irish Social Sciences Platform (ISSP) and the Whitaker Institute (NUI Galway), Programme of research. While there Therese lectured in Human Geography and also supervised

undergraduate and MA research dissertations. Her research interests include tourism destination planning and development, with particular emphasis on alternative tourism and recreation forms such as wilderness escapes, ecotourism, social farming and inclusive recreation and tourism provision. Therese also has a specific interest in the importance of networks, networking and collaboration in tourism and recreation development and her work in these areas has been published in peer reviewed journals.



International Development & Research Ann O'Connor is from County Kerry and has extensive experience working in the sport, leisure and education sectors in particular with Sporting National Governing Bodies. Ann has worked on a number of projects including specific education and inclusion in Ireland and also in European projects in the sports and recreation arena. Ann holds a BA degree, a higher Diploma in Education, a number of post-graduate diplomas and a Master of Business degree as well as a number of internationally recognised professional qualifications.



Sport and Development Katharina Schlueter is from Germany and worked for the German Paralympic Sport Federation of Lower-Saxony, from 2010 until 2015 as the leader of the section 'Grassroots Sports/Youth/School'. Before that she conducted sport programmes for children with special needs in after school courses in primary schools in Cologne, Germany. She is currently undergoing a postgraduate diploma in 'Sports Foreign Relations Expert' through the German Sport University Cologne. Katharina previous qualifications include a 'Diplom Sport Scientist' (equivalent to Masters) and teaching qualification for Physical Education and English.



European Projects & Social Media Shauna Kearney hails from County Wexford in Ireland. Shauna has worked for the Agitos Foundation the developing arm of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). Shauna has B.Sc (hons) in Sports Science from Dublin City University (DCU) and received her Masters in in Adapted Physical Activity from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.



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Resource Development Aisling Sugrue is from County Kerry and is a graduate from Health and Leisure with Massage at the Institute of Technology, Tralee and also completed a Masters by research at the Institute. Aisling has worked in the fields of both Wellness and Disability Service provision for years and works with a strengths-based, salutogenic and multidimensional philosophy which is alignment with the philosophy of the UNESCO Chair.

Masters Students & their Research

Jennifer O Carroll, Ireland, *"An exploration of best practice in community based disability sports provision"*

Diana Issac, India *"Investigation into the effect of UPSEE on the Cognitive Social and Physical Development of Young Children with Downs Syndrome"*

Dominique Wehrcamp, Germany/Ireland *"Golf-Access for All? An analysis of golf from a universal access perspective, towards the development of a functional map for best policy and practice"*

Jerrone Suganthi Selvaraj, India, *"An Evaluation of the Erine Els #GameON Autism Golf Programme"*

Gerard Masdeu Yelamos, Spain, *"Developing, Validating and Activating the Universal Transformational Management Framework (UTMF) For Universal Fitness"*

Aoife Fitzpatrick *"Design a motor skills activity program with a mobile application for use in and out of schools by parents as para-educators of children with autism"*

Maura Leen, Ireland, *"A Descriptive Phenomenological Study to Examine the Effect of Assistance Dogs on Engagement of Children with Autism, in Sport and Physical Activity (PAADS)"*

Sheila O'Sullivan, Ireland, *"A phenomenological, mixed-methods evaluation, of the prospective health-related impact of a physical activity programme for adults with an intellectual disability"*

Thabo Philmon Tsiki, Lesotho, Africa, *"The Development of Occupational Standards for use by NGOs Pertaining to the inclusion of people with Disabilities in Sports Programmes in the Developing countries"*

Kofi Atitso Fiati, Togo, Africa, *is developing and validating a resource kit for use by NGOs pertaining to the inclusion of people with disabilities in sports based programmes in developing, post disaster and post conflict regions*

Alexander Maguire, UK, *"Applications of Sensor Technology in Autism & Associated Sensory Learning Environments"*





Publications

Since stepping into the role of Chair holder, Dr. Kiuppis has worked on the following publications:

Kiuppis, F. (in preparation) (Ed.) Sport, Disability and Participation. Special Issue of "Sport in Society -- Cultures, Commerce, Media, Politics" (Routledge) [Expected delivery date of manuscript: January 31, 2016]. **Edited Special Issue of Journal (incl. Editorial and co-authored article).**

Kiuppis, F. (in press) Inclusion and Education International: UNESCO [given title for invited contribution]. In: Hedderich, I., Biewer, G., Hollenweger, J., Markowetz, R. (forthcoming) (Eds.) Handbook "Inclusion and Inclusive Education" (Bad Heilbrunn: Julius Klinkhardt). **Book chapter.**

Kiuppis, F. (2015) Friendly but Demanding? On Different Meanings of Inclusive Education as an Imagined Concept in National Reform Planning. *Opuscula Sociologica* 1/2015. **Journal Article**

UNESCO IT Tralee Concepts

The Pathway to Diversity

Mainstreaming Diversity is our vision. In recognising the varied journeys international stakeholders must travel in order to achieve this vision we have identified a Pathway to Diversity



UniversAbility



In working towards Mainstreaming Diversity the UNESCO Chair has designed a brand logo that indicates *UniversAbility*. *UniversAbility* is applicable across a range of contexts including organisations, professionals, programmes, products, facilities and venues. The brand indicates the ability to be Universally Accessible, recognising this ability as a dynamic and continuous process.

Inclusivize

Inclusivize is a word coined by the UNESCO Chair. It is an action verb that underpins all the willingness, intent, actions, and resources needed to increase accessibility for people with disabilities and other marginalised groups. 'Inclusivizing practice' represents a need to revise practice, or train to expand existing practice in order to include people with disabilities.



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A Blueprint For Action



The Chair has developed a comprehensive Blueprint for Action which is presented using the internationally validated Universal Transformational Management Framework (UTMF – described shortly) and the Chair's CRAFT Strategy. The CRAFT strategy outlines specific actions in the domains of Communication, Research, Advocacy, Funding, Training and Education. The entire document can be found on the UNESCO IT Tralee website at the following link <http://unescoitttralee.com/unesco-it-tralee-documentation/>

The Universal Transformational Management Framework (UTMF)

The UTMF is a validated framework that has been developed at IT Tralee over 21 years. Its use embeds inclusivity across all dimensions of application, welcoming people with diverse levels of.

The precursors are Verification, Values and Vision. **Verification** is defined as awareness of the need to embrace diversity. **Values Proposition** indicates the value of an inclusive approach. **Vision** refers to the willingness to embed this ideology into the philosophy of the intervention or organisation.

Philosophy refers to the values and ideology of the project or organisation which guide the work of those involved in implementation.

Policy indicates decisions that drive action. When written these decisions become a statement of intent which can be referred to when guiding protocol.

Processes are the methods used to *inclusivize* practice.

People embody the philosophy, processes and policies and are the most valuable asset to any organization or initiative, encompassing the staff, the partnerships and the interaction between them.

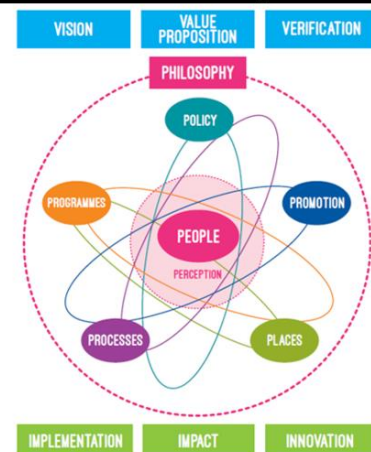
Programmes are the mechanisms that create change. The UNESCO Chair's suite of activities to *inclusivize* practice includes UFIT, PLAN to Inclusivize, EIPET and Project RECALL.

Promotion raises awareness of the ideology and activities of the organisation and can range from conferences, academic papers, mainstream and social media.

Places refers to the facilities, amenities, environment and geographical scope which facilitates UniversAbility.

Perceptions can be those of the end users and the personnel facilitating the intervention. The other Ps inform perceptions.

Universal Transformational Management Framework





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The three I's which support the process of inclusivizing practice are Innovation, Implementation and Impact. **Innovation** indicates the necessity for new practices to facilitate this process. **Implementation** refers to the practicalities of the process, for example, cost, behaviour change etc. **Impact** highlights the importance of monitoring and evaluating the process. In this case monitoring and tracking of the use of the resources is key.

Projects

RECALL & Launch in Brussels

The UNESCO team were involved in a European project led by The Association for International Sport for All (**TAFISA**) in collaboration with eleven other partners. The Project is called "Recall – Games of the Past – Sport for Today" and it aimed to use Traditional Sports and Games (TSG) as a vehicle to encourage universal participation in the daily lives of young people. The role of the UNESCO Chair in this project was to work towards mainstreaming diversity by *inclusiving* each of the TSG. This was done using the TREE model which was developed by the Australian Sports Commission for adapting physical activities. Examples were provided to trigger the creativity of

the activity leaders by showing how easily the **t**eaching style, **r**ules, **e**quipment and **e**nvironment of each TSG can be adapted to support

UniversAbility. The launch of the website, the app, the interactive PDF and resource cards took place at the European Parliament in Brussels on June 2015 and was hosted by Sean Kelly, MEP and former President of the GAA.

RECALL: Games of the Past – Sports for Today



<http://recallgames.com/about>

app: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=ie.imar.recall>

The Maltese Sports Council

In June members of the Maltese Sports Council came to Kerry to learn about the management of sport in Ireland. The trip was part of training that was developed for the Maltese group by EOSE (a European not-for-profit association which supports skills development in sport) developed training for the Maltese group that incorporated the trip to Kerry because of the Institutes international reputation in

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high quality industry relevant education and partnership. UNESCO Chair staff coordinated a diverse programme for the visitors to showcase Kerry and the expertise we have in the county. John Breen, Kerry County Council, welcomed the group highlighting how innovative partnerships between the Council, the Institute and many service providers in the county enhance the provision of sport.

Work shadowing was coordinated for each member of the group at Cappanlea Outdoor Education & Training Centre; the Regional Sports and Leisure Centre in Tralee; the Aquadome; the GAA Gaelic Sports office; and the Run the Kingdom organisation. These organisations coupled with the academic staff of Health & Leisure Department, IT Tralee showcased the importance of collaboration between higher education and the business world.

Maltese Sports Council visit IT Tralee



Robert Portelli, head of Programme Development for the Maltese Sport Council, commented on behalf of the Maltese delegation, "we have been made very welcome and are very grateful for the time and generosity of our hosts. We have been greatly impressed by their passion and enthusiasm for their work, especially that which is inclusive of people with disabilities, and which has brought some remarkable successes. We have learned a great deal and hope in the future we can put these ideas into practice back home in Malta, and indeed to welcome our hosts themselves back to our Island. We have even been able to enjoy a week of

Maltese like sunshine here in Tralee!"

Plan2Inclusivize – Togo & Ethiopia

In partnership with international children's charity, Plan International Ireland and the CARA Centre (National Adapted Physical Activity Centre Ireland) the UNESCO Chair, IT Tralee has developed a pioneering sports inclusion programme and toolkit called 'Plan2Inclusivize' for use in developing countries to promote participation and inclusion in sports among children and adults with disabilities. Children with disabilities across West Africa are subject to profound levels of poverty, exclusion and discrimination. They are widely excluded from education and denied access to protection

Plan2Inclusivize – Togo, Africa



services as well as other rights enjoyed by abled children.

“Plan2Inclusivize” provides a fundamental understanding of disability along with hands-on practice in order to include children with disabilities in sport and play activities. The ultimate aim is to improve the lives of children with a disability through the medium of sport and active play.

The innovative training will be piloted in Togo in West Africa in October 2015. 24 community volunteers and youth workers, three representatives from the Togolese Paralympic Committee and two staff of Monde Radieux (DPO) will participate in the innovative training workshop which will be translated into French and delivered by Ann O’Connor from the UNESCO office, Frank Velthuisen from Plan International Ireland and Aine Coogan, a CARA Disability Inclusion Training tutor.

*A special thanks to the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) and the Kerry GAA County Board who have kindly donated 50 footballs and 120 Kerry Cúl Camps Kits respectively. This will ensure that the 120 children who will take part in the initial training programme will be kitted out properly.

This pilot will also be modified and contextualised for roll-out in Ethiopia in November.

Universal Fitness Innovation and Transformation (UFIT)



The UNESCO Chair and CARA centre at IT, Tralee have partnered with the European Observatory of Sports Employment (EOSE), Universidad Politecnica De Madrid, Skillsactive UK, Palacky University in Olomouc and the International Health, Racquet and Sportsclub Association (IHRSA) to develop resources for Vocational and Educational Training (VET) trainers. The project will equip fitness professionals and managers with a

toolkit for Universal Transformational Management and Practice that aims to provide them with sufficient knowledge, competence and skill to work with people with disabilities in fitness environments. UFIT draws together a Sector Skills Alliance and Knowledge Alliance to maximise the impact of the programme and to ensure responsiveness to labour market needs. In Ireland the CARA centre will be the primary training provider of this programme, following the launch of the Toolkit for Universal Management and Practice. This launch will take place at the 15th Annual IHRSA European Conference in Marseille, France, October 2015. IHRSA is the trade association to the global health club and fitness industry. Further details of the Universal Fitness Inclusion Training are available at www.justdoufit.com





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EWOS ABILITY LINK* KIT

The UNESCO Chair is a partner, among others, in the EWOS ABILITY LINK*KIT PROJECT which is an initiative led by the European Paralympic Committee (EPC). The project aims to link the Para-Sport sector to the European Week of Sport (EWoS) by developing a kit that will guide and support national and local disability sport stakeholders to contribute to future EWoS' while also increasing and sustaining regular participation in sports and physical activity for people experiencing a disability.

Meetings have already taken place in Vienna and Budapest. The next meeting will be hosted in mid-October in Tralee, Ireland by the UNESCO Chair. The Ability Link*Kit will be launched in September 2016.

<http://unesco.ittralee.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/EWoS-ParaSport-Toolkit-launch-info.pdf>

<http://www.europaralympic.org/>



The Reinvention of EIPET



The European inclusive Physical Education Training Project launched in 2009 and was adopted internationally by many higher education teacher training institutions and by many allied professionals for in-service training or lifelong learning. It is currently undergoing complete review to encompass the scope and international remit of the UNESCO Chair. This will embrace UNESCO's quality PE guidelines and will have relevance in school and out of school contexts and into post-conflict, post/disaster and developing regions.

New Partnerships & Collaborations



The UNESCO Chair was invited by UNESCO Headquarters to join the 'Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities' (GPCwd) which is a network of over 240 organisations led by UNICEF. It provides a platform for advocacy and aligned action to





support children with disabilities for local, national and international NGOs, disability groups, governments, academia and the private sector. <http://www.gpcwd.org/>

Through membership of GPCwd the UNESCO Chair holder, Dr. Florian Kiuppis, received and accepted an invitation by UNICEF to lead the Teacher Education Working Group as part of the Task Force 'Inclusive Education'

The UNESCO Chair also received and accepted an invitation by UNESCO Headquarters to join the GPCwd Physical Activity & Sport Task Force, the Chair is represented by Florian Kiuppis and Catherine Carty. *The mission of the Physical Activity and Sport Task Force is to promote mechanisms for cooperation and collaboration to enhance policies and programmes that promote the right for children with disabilities to inclusive physical activity, physical education, sport, recreation and play in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and other relevant human rights legislation.*



This Task Force developed the web-based, 'Commit to Inclusion International' campaign which invites key stakeholders to make a commitment that facilitates the realisation of the rights of people with disabilities by inclusivizing physical activity and all domains associated with the UNESCO Chair at IT Tralee. The campaign acknowledges the societal AND the individual responsibility that demands a multi-sectoral, multidisciplinary, and culturally relevant approach. The UNESCO Chair and UNICEF are some of the founding members of this campaign which is also lead by GPCwd. <http://committoinclusion.org/international/>



The UNESCO Chair is also a member of the Inclusive Fitness Coalition (IFC) (who are also members of Commit to Inclusion. The IFC aims to promote inclusive physical activity in a unified manner led by a partnership of the National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability (NCHPAD) and the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM). <http://incfit.org/> <http://incfit.org/node/176>

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