IDEA Submission for Budget 2021

Development Education is a life-long educational process which enables people to understand the world around them and to act to transform it. It works to tackle the root causes of injustice and inequality, globally and locally, to create a more just and sustainable future for everyone.

Ireland has a high impact Development Education sector, informed by values of equality, diversity, sustainability and human rights and responsibilities. In its recent Development Assistance Committee report, the OECD noted that "Ireland has received international recognition for its development education strategies".

Our sector has the potential to bring about large-scale positive societal change to create a just, equal and sustainable society and fulfil the commitments of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Following very sharp funding cuts from 2009, funding to our sector stabilised in more recent years and the OECD has commented that "increased spending on development awareness would enable Ireland to further reap the benefits of its strong approach to development education".

It is important that Budget 2021 is utilised as an opportunity to increase funding for Development Education and begin a process of acceleration towards fulfilment of its transformative potential and achievement of SDG Target 4.7.

Specific Development Education 'asks':

- Increase Development Education funding in Budget 2021 and give a clear commitment to phased annual increases to reach the European funding benchmark of 3% of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) by 2025.
- Ensure adequate resourcing for the forthcoming National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development, led by the Department of Education and Skills.
- Make Development Education a strategic priority in the government's policy agenda, with a coherent, integrated approach that reaches across relevant departments, including the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Education and Skills, the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment and the Department of Finance.
- As sought by Dóchas, maintain Ireland's existing investments in ODA, which stand at an estimated €838million in 2020, and continue the momentum to reach the target of 0.7% of GNI.
- For a 'whole of government, whole of society' approach to and funding commensurate with successful implementation of the forthcoming SDG National Implementation Plan, and for a specific line in Budget 2021 with dedicated resources for implementation of the SDGs.

For more information, contact: Des Hennelly des@ideaonline.ie