

2017 Review

Introduction

2017 was an interesting and unique year for Development Perspectives. It was the 1st year since we began our work in 2006 that we were not running “Insight”. This project has been the flagship programme for the organisation so this decision wasn’t taken lightly but was necessary to allow space for the development of the “SDG challenge” as a project. This is in part due to the limited funding options available to the organisation. This has proven to have been a positive decision. 2017 saw us collect two national awards for our efforts. DP received the Dóchas 2017 “SDG Champion” award for the SDG challenge project while the Dóchas 2017 “Global Citizen of the year” award went to our Director and co-founder, Bobby McCormack.

2017 wasn’t a year without its challenges and disappointments. A few funding decisions didn’t go our way and we would have liked a few more people at some of our workshops during the year.

However, three other positive trends in 2017 worth mentioning was the increasing number of partners we are working with both at home and abroad, the increasing number of requests we receive to design and deliver training courses and lastly the scale of public engagement we are achieving is increasing year on year. This annual report gives an overview and summary of the main activities we have conducted during the year, where possible we have provided associated results and lastly we have looked forward with a view to capturing what the future might hold for us.

This review is laid out under the following headings

- **Vision, mission and aims**
- **Highlights**
- **Staffing and resources**

Vision, mission and aims

Our focus and activities in 2017 were contributing to the mission and aims of our current strategic plan (2016 – 2018)

Development Perspectives’ **vision** of the world is one where people live in peace with each other, in harmony with nature, free from the shackles of hunger and poverty and who are willing to work and cooperate with each other to bring about an equitable, just and sustainable world.

Development Perspectives’ **mission** is to contribute to lessening poverty, inequality and climate change through transformative education and active global citizenship.

Our strategic plan outlines five strategic aims:

1. Citizens in Ireland have an increased knowledge and understanding of and deeper engagement with Global Justice issues.

- The SDG challenge was the focus of the majority of our efforts in 2017. We delivered 21 workshops in 18 locations with over 300 people taking part. We designed and distributed 12 information and resource packs to 1200 people. We delivered a 2 minute documentary for an online audience which has had 1,500 views so far. We designed and facilitated an 8 month SDG advocate programme for 21 people from across the country which included mentoring and coaching. We have also facilitated workshops for UCDVO, the Presentation Sisters, Sustainable Agriculture Students, Business Studies students, Development Practitioners, Fingal, Galway & Louth PPN's.
- Our efforts continued with DPTV as we worked on "Spirit". "Spirit" is a 30 minute documentary made for an online audience which will be launched in Sept 2018. It focuses on the work of the some of the Sisters involved in the Medical Missionaries of Mary. We also worked with Trócaire in August 2017 in Dundalk by showing "This is Palestine". 85 people attended the showing of the documentary with a further 30 people attending the accompanying exhibition.
- The "Perspectives" short Film Competition was held in late 2017. 7 shortlisted entrants were invited to a Masterclass with Darren Thornton and Dearbhla Glynn, which was held in late 2017. The winner of the competition was announced on the 23rd of Feb at our national showcase event in the Rotunda Hospital.
- In terms of research the "Most Significant Change" which was conducted by Sheila Coyle is available for download from our website. The results of the research mirror and confirm previous findings while the recommendations have helped us improve the SDG advocate programme for 2018.

2. Empowered and skilled citizens in Ireland and Tanzania are actively involved in tackling poverty, inequality and climate change

- The SDG challenge – 15 advocates designed and delivered action projects in communities of their choice. This engaged a further 600 people.
- DP designed and facilitated an intense 8 week programme for young people who are not in education, training or employment in the Drogheda area. This was the 3rd edition of "IgnYte" and was funded by "The Mill". 7 young people completed the programme
- Once off workshops were facilitated for IDEA, the GCA award, Worldwide Global schools, Maynooth Education Dept and Comhlamh. 80 people attended these workshops.

3. Increased recognition of the importance and relevance of Development Education in contributing to a more equitable, just and sustainable world

- In March of 2017, Development Perspectives hosted a workshop at the UNESCO “Global Citizenship Education” week in Ottawa as well as having an SDG stand present for the week. This was a competitive process with DP being selected to participate from hundreds of proposals from across the world.
- DP took part in two Erasmus + strategic partnerships in 2017. One was called the “Global Education Learning Platform” and was successfully completed in December 2017. This involved partners from Ireland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, France, Benin and South Africa. 9 Irish participants took part in 4 week long study visits. A further 5 workshops were organised in Ireland by DP catering for 75 people. We also hosted a webinar and contributed to the completion of an educational resource, which will be published soon. The 2nd partnership began in late 2017 with a meeting in Florence and will continue in March 2018 with a further meeting in Portugal. A 3rd Strategic partnership has recently started.
- DP designed and facilitated day long training courses for AKU in Estonia, PCDS in Slovakia and CONCORD in Belgium. These trainings catered for 60 Development Professionals from across Europe with the focus on the importance of storytelling in Development contexts.
- DP facilitated discussions surrounding the “A Hundred years of the Irish in Kenya” exhibition. These discussions were held in partnership with the Medical Missionaries of Mary and involved two Drogheda based schools and an adult event. These 3 events catered for 100 people.
- DP co-designed and co facilitated the “Danger of a Single Story” training course in the Czech Rep. This was a week long training for 25 Youth workers from across Europe and focused on “Storytelling and Global Education”.
- DP’s Public Engagement efforts continued in 2017. We now have 6,482 people Liking our Facebook page with 4,269 following us on Twitter. The SDG challenge has just over 4,000 followers on Twitter with a further 1,000 followers approx on Instagram. Our blog, “See the World Differently” had 15 posts in 2017 with approx 60 hits per article. Our Newsletter is sent out quarterly to 750 subscribers.
- DP has been sitting on the EC’s, “Development Education and Awareness Raising” Multi Stakeholder group for the last two years and in the Global Citizenship Education Hub of CONCORD for the last 4 years. Both representations ceased in 2017. During that timeframe, DP has been the most active member of Dóchas within CONCORD.
- In November of 2017, DP worked with KEHYS (Finnish Platform) organising and facilitating a workshop at the Civicus, International Civil Society Week in Fiji. 20

activists from organisations around the world took part in the half day event with positive feedback received. The session was exploring the importance of Global Citizenship Education in dealing with Global challenges.

4. Build sustainable partnerships locally and internationally to broaden engagement and expand Development Perspectives' impact

- DP is the only Irish member of the "Global Education Network of Young Europeans" and currently sits on its steering committee
- DP now has agreements with both Trócaire and Concern up until near the end of 2019.
- DP has established a new partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Development Studies in Hanoi, which will begin to deliver activities together in 2018.
- DP took time to review "Insight" partner relationships and have made some important improvements for 2018.
- Through the SDG Challenge project, DP works with a different Irish partner every month. These include Social Justice Ireland, the Irish Environmental Network, the GAA, White Ribbon Ireland, An Taisce, Children in Crossfire and the Irish Wildlife Trust.
- DP is an active member of Dóchas and IDEA and is also a member of the Wheel and Aontas.
- DP is an active signatory to the Comhlámh code of Conduct on Images and messages and contributed to their work on values underpinning volunteering.
- DP was asked to participate in a VENRO (German Development Platform) conference and event in Bonn in May 2017. Over 250 professionals from across Germany attended the event, which focused on the importance of "Global Citizenship Education".
- DP is an active member of "Coalition 2030".

5. Strengthen the organisational capacity of Development Perspectives to ensure sustainability, effectiveness, transparency and accountability

- The expansion of the DP board in 2017 was very positive with Michael Doorly, Denis Cummins, Elaine Cronin and Laura Harmon joining our existing board.
- 4 Board Meetings and 3 Sub committee meetings were held in 2017.
- A draft of our Staff handbook is now available for board perusal and will be signed off on at our May meeting.
- 9 team meetings were held in 2017.

- A draft social media policy has been created and will be agreed upon on at our May board meeting. Updating of other relevant policies also took place.
- Income raised from training was very positive in 2017. This choice and direction has had a very positive impact on the organisation. Already in 2018 we have secured commitments for the year which will raise our unrestricted revenue.
- A Sports Quiz was held in City North Hotel in September 2017 to raise unrestricted revenue for the organisation. Darragh Maloney hosted the event for us with Trevor Giles and Adam Burke participating in a sports themed discussion after the quiz.
- Gareth Conlon kindly donated a field of Sunflowers to DP, which were sold at local venues to raise revenue for the organisation.

Highlights

- Two awards – The standard of our work is now gaining external recognition. This is helpful when it comes to funding applications and marketing of our projects.
- Training and facilitation – The unrestricted revenue that this brings in to the organisation is positive while it also serves to improve brand recognition of our work. The Melton Foundation has requested that we partner with them to deliver a week long training in Paris for 25 changemakers from across the world. This has been funded by the a private German Foundation
- The growth and development of the SDG challenge is very positive.

Staffing and resources

DP has the equivalent of 13 paid for staff days per week to call upon to deliver the work of the organisation. Although highly commendable this workload isn't sustainable. It is incumbent on us as an organisation to seek and secure the extra resources needed to ensure the skilled and committed team we have in place remains with the organisation. 2017 saw two interns (Stacey Dunne and Shane Walsh) add substantially to our capacity. 2018 has seen us recruit 3 placements and interns already which is helpful. Interest in working with DP is growing with regular requests now coming in to the organisation to conduct trainings and facilitate events.

A few snaps from 2017



From left to right

1. The Dóchas 2017 Awards.
2. Workshop on SDGs in UNDP Vietnam
3. South African study visit as part of the GELP project. (Global Education Learning Platform)
4. Workshop on Global Citizenship Education as part of Civics International Civil Society Week held with Kehys
5. SDG advocates during a residential weekend in the Gyreum, Sligo.
6. DP director Bobby McCormack speaking at the SDG showcase event. Panel includes Suzanne Keatinge, Dóchas, Maria Barry, DCU, and Peter McVerry, Peter McVerry Trust.