



Project supported by the
**EU Programme
 for Peace and Reconciliation**

NcompasS Training Course for Teachers and Youth Workers

Managing Educational Exchanges, 2006 - 2007

Information and Guidelines

Introduction

As part of the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation, the British Council, Léargas and the Youth Council for Northern Ireland are jointly promoting NCompasS: a series of initiatives in the formal and non-formal education sectors.

Participation is open to schools and community/youth organizations in Northern Ireland and the border counties; Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Monaghan, Cavan and Louth.

One of the NcompasS initiatives will be a **common training course for youth workers and teachers**, to provide them with skills in delivering youth exchanges and learning interventions aimed at conflict resolution or conflict prevention, in the context of relations between communities on the island of Ireland.

- **Venue and duration.** The course will be offered on four week-ends, commencing on Friday evenings and ending on Sunday afternoons. The course will be residential, at a number of venues within Northern Ireland and the Border region. There is no fee although a refundable deposit of £100/€150 is requested. This is returned once participants have completed the course and submitted their portfolios of work. All residential and travel costs (at public transport rates) will be paid by the programme promoters.

The proposed dates and venues for the course are:

1	1- 3 December 2006	Belfast	3	11 – 13 May 2007	L'derry/Derry
2	2 – 4 March 2007	Sligo	4	5 – 7 October 2007	Louth

- Only those who can attend all four weekends will be considered for the course. An information evening will be held on **Tuesday 26th September 2006** in the Holiday Inn, Ormeau Avenue, Belfast from 5.45pm – 7.30pm
- **Application closing date.** The latest date by which applications will be accepted is **Monday 16th October 2006**. Applicants will be notified of the result at the latest by **31st October 2006**
- **Accreditation.** NI Open College Network (OCN) accreditation will be available for the course and further certification will be explored during the project. An exchange project will be a requirement for the course and for accreditation.

Aim

The aim of the course is to provide a joint training programme for practising community/youth workers and teachers that will equip and enable them to be more effective in managing and leading developmental educational exchanges in a north-south and east-west context.

Objectives

At the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Set realistic objectives and plan a process for a developmental exchange project
- Encourage and support young people in the planning and implementation, participation in/of a developmental exchange programme
- Encourage and facilitate young people to explore issues of:
 - conflict resolution, prejudice reduction and racism and xenophobia awareness
- put in place effective child protection procedures for the duration of the exchange project
- demonstrate an understanding of successful project management
- demonstrate a greater appreciation of background and working practices within formal/informal sectors
- form links between formal and informal education sectors to promote greater access to learning opportunities for young people
- demonstrate through project work that an agreed set of the learning outcomes has been applied in a practical setting.
- demonstrate evaluation skills
- use ICTs to develop and sustain exchange projects

Implicit Objectives

- To lower barriers between the non formal and formal education sectors
- To provide a model of good practice for cross-sectoral exchange training

Training Methodologies

- Approximately 100 contact/ project hours
- Training modules that can be used in other exchange project training
- Curricular materials that can be used in classrooms, with youth groups etc.
- A strong experiential element to the learning with personal inputs and learner-focused discussions.
- Acquisition of learning through an exchange project *
- An innovative approach, bringing the formal and non-formal sectors together
- Guided practice

*Participants and their organizations must be prepared to undertake an exchange as part of the course. Funding information can be accessed through Ncompass, or other programmes such as Causeway, East -West Schools programme etc.

Learning Outcomes will include

- Understanding the role and purpose of exchange programmes
- Engaging in reflective practice throughout exchange work
- Understanding the considerations and skills necessary for developing an exchange programme
- Understanding the causes and impact of prejudice, racism and discrimination
- Managing appropriate responses to resolving conflict
- The development of appropriate methods of evaluating exchange programmes
- An appreciation of the different working practices and methodologies within the formal/non-formal sectors in relation to exchange activities
- Recognition of the value of ICT as a relevant implementation tool for an exchange programme

Application

Application forms are available from the British Council and from Léargas, or on the Ncompass website at www.ncompass.org. Selection for participation on the course will be based on information provided in the application forms.

- The form to be used is that for application for the training course for teachers and youth workers: *Managing Educational Exchanges*
- The form should be completed only if you are available **for each** of the four week-ends indicated above.
- The promoting organisations will confirm if you have been awarded a place on the course during the week following the closing date for applications.
- The form may be typewritten, printed from a computer (word-processor) or hand-written in block capitals. It must be signed by the applicant and by the person legally authorised to sign on behalf of the applicant's organization and must include the stamp of the applicant's organization along with the refundable deposit of £100Stg/€150 depending on whether you are applying from N Ireland or Ireland.
- The information provided in your application form may be used for the purposes of evaluating this programme. The relevant data protection regulations will be respected. Some of the information provided on this form will be recorded on computer but will only be used in the administration of the scheme for which you have applied. Any information held in relation to your application may be accessed and inspected by you on request, in accordance with the relevant data protection acts.

Return Addresses

Please return the completed application form to one of the addresses below by **Monday 16th October 2006**.

Máire Ní Threasaigh
The NcompasS Co-ordinator
The British Council
Norwich Union House
7 Fountain Street
Belfast BT1 5EG
Northern Ireland

maire.nithreasaigh@britishcouncil.org
Tel: 028 9024 8220 Ext 246

Eva creely
The NcompasS Co-ordinator
Léargas
189 – 193 Parnell Street
Dublin 1
Ireland

ecreely@leargas.ie
Tel: 01 887 1235

Information is also available at any of the following websites:

www.ncompass.org

www.ycni.org

www.leargas.ie

www.britishcouncil.org/nireland

