



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Comhairle na nÓg
Young Voices. Local Issues.

Comhairle na nÓg Regional Networking Events Report 2022

Introduction



The National Participation Team for Comhairle na nÓg organised and ran three Comhairle Members' Networking Events on 28th, 29th and 30th June 2022. The events took place in Sligo, Limerick and Dublin respectively and were attended by a total of 112 participants from each of the 31 Comhairlí na nÓg around the country.

The purpose of the Networking Events is to give Comhairle members the opportunity to come together to share information and good practice, and to look in an informal way at the challenges that they face and overcome. . Throughout the day there were ice-breaker games to help everyone get to know each other and to have some fun as well.

For the first time since 2020, we were able to hold these events in person, bringing young people together from all Comhairlí around the country. The three venues were Glasshouse Hotel, Sligo, Absolute Hotel in Limerick and the offices of Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth in Dublin

The purpose of this report

This report documents all of the engagements with Comhairle members over the three days and gives a run down of the schedule

The report will be circulated to all participants and made available to all stakeholders on the Comhairle na nÓg website

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Schedule

- 11:30 Icebreakers
- 11:45 Networking Carousel
- 12:05 Discovering our Comhairle
Shared learning/peer support activity
- 13:10 **LUNCH**
- 14:00 Creative Ireland Consultation
- 15:00 Group chat
- 15:15 Evaluation and Close of Events

Venues & Photos



Sligo, Glasshouse Hotel: Tuesday 28th June

- Comhairlí participating in this venue:
Donegal, Galway County, Galway City, Leitrim, Longford, Mayo,
Roscommon and Sligo



Venues & Photos



Limerick, Absolute Hotel, Limerick, Wed 29th June

- Comhairlí participating in this venue:
Clare, Cork City, Cork County, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary and Waterford





Venues & Photos

Dublin, DCEDIY Buildings, 30th June

- Comhairlí participating in this venue:
Carlow, Cavan, Dublin City, Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown, Fingal, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Louth, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, South Dublin, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow





Networking Carousel

Ice-Breakers: Getting to know each other

Comhairle members formed two concentric circles, facing each other, and moving in a circular direction had the opportunity to ask the person opposite a series of questions (below) to find out more about them

- What's your favourite food?
- Three things you'd bring to a desert island?
- What's your favourite movie/tv show?
- One thing that puts a smile on your face?
- Greatest annoyance in life?





Discovering our Comhairle

Working with their own Comhairle members in small discussion groups

- What we love about our Comhairle
- The strengths of our Comhairle
- Things we'd like to improve about our Comhairle
- The one thing we'd like help with today
- What do we do at our meetings (including when and how we meet)
- Highlights of the year so far





Discovering our Comhairle

The strengths of our Comhairle

An overview across the 3 events

"Communication. Passion. Diversity.
Participation"

"Respectful of each other's
opinions"

"Strong work ethic. Strong relationship
with County Council through our
Steering Committee"

What we love about our Comhairle

"Inclusivity. We work well as a group"

"The people and friendships that we
have made"

"Mutual respect"



Discovering our Comhairle

Things we'd like to improve about our Comhairle

" More diversity. More frequent meetings "

"Faster progress on topics. Better attendance"

"Improve advertisement / promotion of Comhairle"

The one thing we'd like help with today

"Forming links and partnering with other Comhairlí"

"How can we engage certain members better. How do we get schools to support us and engage with us more"

"Advice on social media"



Discovering our Comhairle

What do we do at our meetings (including when and how we meet)

"Check-in with everyone. Discuss our schedule for the day"

"Discuss important topics"

"Plan / record podcasts. Eat pizza.
Go on trips"

Highlights of the year so far

"Dáil na nÓg"

"Anti-Bullying consultation"

"Bonding / Team-Building trips"



Discovering our Comhairle

What are the main youth issues you are working on in your Comhairle?

"Climate Change "

"Mental Health, focusing on LGBTI+
Mental Health"

"Equality"...
"Discrimination"

"Drugs and Youth"

"Social Inclusion"

"Sexual Violence and Consent"

"Youth Services"

"Environment with a specific focus on
litter and fast fashion"

"Disabilities and Accessibility"

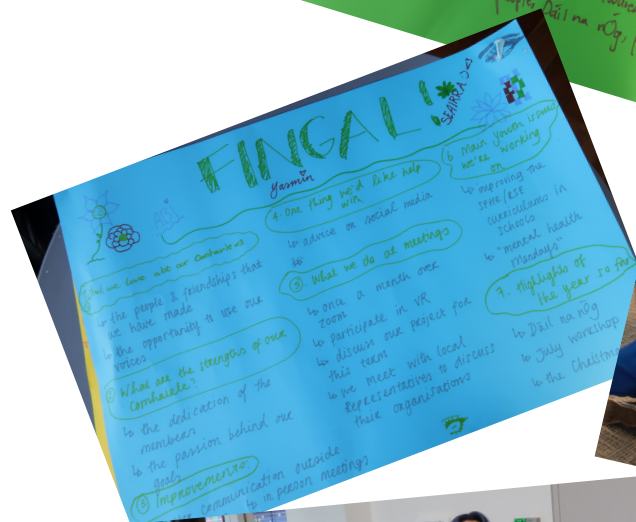
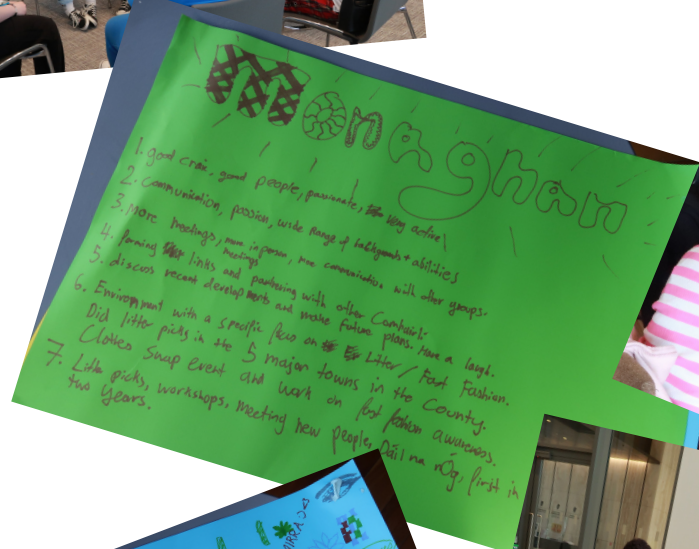
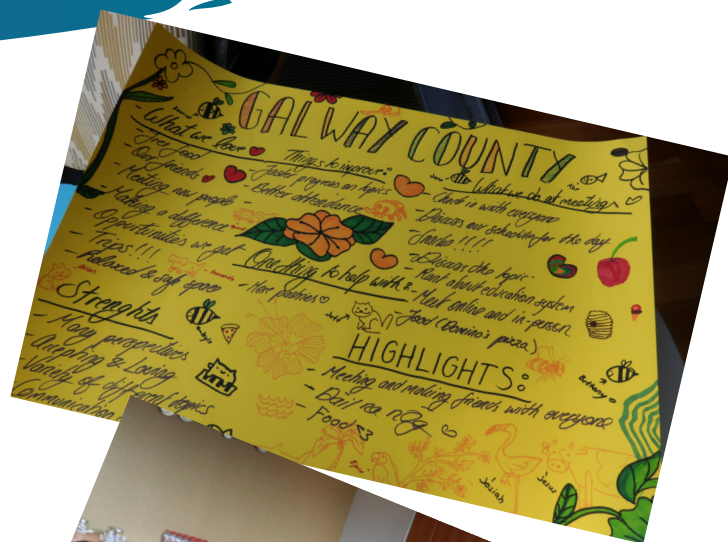
"Positive Body Image"

"Exam Stress"

"Gender Inequality"



Discovering our Comhairle



Shared learning/peer support activity



Each group nominates 1 to 2 people to stay in their group
This person presents the worksheet to the visiting Comhairle
(Option to swap the nominated people throughout this exercise)





Creative Ireland Consultation

Creative Ireland are the in process of developing a new Creative Youth Plan 2023-2027. They wanted to hear from young people on the following:

- What things should be included in the Creative Youth Plan?
- What are the best things about creative opportunities for young people?
- What needs to change or be improved to help young people be more creative?

We asked young people two questions

- 1) What are the things that help young people to be creative in Ireland?
- 2) What should be improved for young people to help them to be more creative in Ireland?

Young people were separated into groups and responded to the questions on Mentimeter. Finally the group had a discussion on the responses and provided more qualitative feedback.

The following pages cover a selection of your feedback to the facilitation team on the day.



What are the things that help young people to be creative in Ireland?

Creative Campus, street art and murals in cities and towns to inspire young people

Summer Camps and sheltered outdoor youth spaces

Creativity in school through subject choices

Online communities, photography, videos and influences from creators

Youth Art Displays where teenagers can display their artwork

Art programmes, music groups (music generations), theatre/acting groups and youth programmes



Creative Ireland Consultation

What should be improved for young people to help them to be more creative in Ireland?

Advertise the creative youth groups and youth summits that exist so young people know what's out there!

More art and colours on and in buildings

Public and legal graffiti spaces and safe spaces to be creative

Public and legal graffiti spaces and safe spaces to be creative

Music lessons are expensive and there should be opportunities to play different musical instruments

Listen to young people when organising art events



Additional Comments by Young People

‘Rather than all of the homework and school work being written, they could make it more visual, and creative (theatre, singing, dance, drama could all be part of normal subjects like Science or English).’

‘School subjects are gendered and conform to old fashioned gender stereotypes.’

‘There is a stigma that Art and Music are not academic, so they don’t get as much attention in schools.’

‘In school there’s great opportunity to be creative in Transition Year, but that can be expensive for young people and their families (it can be prohibitive).’

‘Stop schools from limiting young people’s self-expression e.g. piercings, hair colour etc. Schools need to be more progressive.’

‘Some schools say they are LGBTQIA+ friendly, but they are not in practice.’

‘Some activities like GAA are only available for one gender.’



What participants liked about the Events

"The staff and the giggles made it fun "

"Meeting people from other Comhairles and hearing how they do things "

"How comfortable people were talking and there was never an awkward silence"

"Hearing everyone's experience with their Comhairles"

"The icebreakers and getting to know people"

"it had a very nice atmosphere"

"Sharing opinions and advice with new people"



What participants would change about the Events

" I would make the network day slightly longer so that we could flesh out all of the discussions and ideas. "

"Have a moderator available to help for each group discussion "

"More of a chance to work with other Comhairles "

"Longer time connecting with others"

"I'm still not certain as to why Creative Ireland wanted our opinions , it was sort of vague"

"Make giving information or learning about creative ireland a game or have a Kahoot! After to promote engagement "

THANK YOU!