



Learning Limerick

Together for a brighter future

Newsletter

ISSUE OCTOBER 2021

Chairperson's Reflection

At the heart of the ethos of Learning Limerick is promoting opportunities for inclusive learning for all, and throughout life. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how we have continued to engage in learning through the many innovative ways in which we can access learning; and our communities have demonstrated tremendous resilience in continuing learning during these challenging times.



Our Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival has continued to be an extremely effective mechanism for bringing education providers together to promote formal and informal learning activities and connect with learners throughout Limerick. Despite the restrictions, we were delighted to be able to continue to offer our festival using a new virtual format over the last two years. This was definitely a learning curve for us all and we look forward to continuing to offer virtual events as part of our 'hybrid' festival in 2022.

Learning Limerick is also honoured to be a member of both the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities and the Irish Network of Learning Cities, and to share learning and best practice on issues of common interest. It is also a great opportunity to showcase Limerick as a superb region for both educational and business development. Learning is now more important than ever; and there are now many opportunities for learning and actively learning online; as well as welcoming the return to all forms of group and in-person learning.

Eimear Brophy, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

Irish Learning Cities Day – 30th September 2021



The Irish Network of Learning Cities (INLC) is a five-city joint initiative to promote learning across the cities, city regions and the island of Ireland. The cities include Limerick, Cork, Belfast, Derry Strabane and Dublin. One of the positive outcomes of 2020 is that now, more than ever, it's easier to access the learning opportunities provided by other cities, and the network cities have actively contributed to and supported each other's online events.

Learning Limerick participated in the second annual Irish Learning Cities Day on 30th September 2021. This included launching a number of short videos on the day, profiling Learning Limerick and our involvement in the Irish Network.



Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival 2021



The 11th Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival took place from Monday 24th to Sunday 31st May; with the theme **'New Futures, New Adventures in Learning'**. There were over 100 online events held throughout the week; for what was our second virtual festival. There certainly was something for everyone to choose from; with a diversity of activities that included Technology, Art, Wellbeing, Cookery, Language Taster Sessions, Mindful Walking, IT and Future Skills.

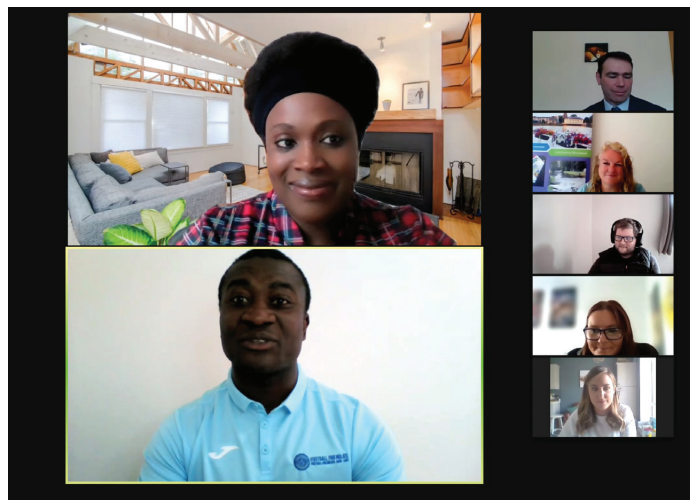
Key feedback from event organisers and participants and recommendations for future festivals included:

- Include a hybrid of both online and in-person events in future festivals.
- Excellent feedback for the Digital Marketing campaign; and important to maintain this.
- Strong desire to get back to optimal in-person events, for networking and interactivity.
- Continue to ensure no 'competing' events; not to over fill the festival week and careful scheduling.
- Encourage and support more interactive online events, e.g. The key event questions could be forwarded to attendees in advance, so that they can be addressed together during the session. Include even more opportunities for hands-on type learning - skills, experiences etc. More use of 'Break-out' rooms etc.
- Event Organisers workshops are great as key training and networking supports.

Thank you to all of those involved for their commitment and hard work in the planning and running of the festival and hosting events; thus, helping to make the festival a great success again this year. The wide engagement in the festival is a mark of the commitment to promoting learning in all its forms and the interest in lifelong learning across all groups.

Learning Ambassadors Project

The flagship event for the festival this year was the 'Live Interviews and Panel Discussion' Webinar event with the Learning Ambassadors on the first day of the festival.



One of our Learning Ambassadors, Lillian Fotabong interviewed her fellow Ambassadors about their learning adventures and future plans for both their careers and continued learning.

The interactive interviews were then followed by a panel discussion to include Learning City partners from the Irish Network of Learning Cities. This was a wonderful grassroots initiative, and the event was led by the learners themselves.



A presentation was made to our Learning Ambassadors of a photobook profiling their involvement in the project over the last two years. This was an acknowledgement of their important work in promoting lifelong learning.

UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Institute
for Lifelong Learning

- Winner of UNESCO
- Learning City
- Award 2017

The UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC) is coordinated by the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning and is an international policy-oriented network geared towards knowledge production and sharing, peer learning and capacity-building.

UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC) member Yeonsu-gu, Republic of Korea, will host the fifth International Conference on Learning Cities; and this will take place on 27th – 29th October 2021. The event will welcome education experts and representatives of the members of the UNESCO GNLC to deliberate on the conference theme **'Global health education and emergency response'**. Our Mayor of Limerick City and County, Councillor Daniel Butler, will be presenting at this conference on the theme of **'Approaches for inclusive education in learning for health'**.

Learning Limerick has been an active member of two clusters of the UNESCO GNLC; that focused on the themes 'Entrepreneurship and Entrepreneurial Learning' and 'Educational Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation'. During 2021, Learning Limerick participated in workshops and meetings of these two thematic clusters, and contributed a Limerick best practice case study focusing on 'From Unemployment to Entrepreneurship' to be included in an UNESCO publication for the conference in October.

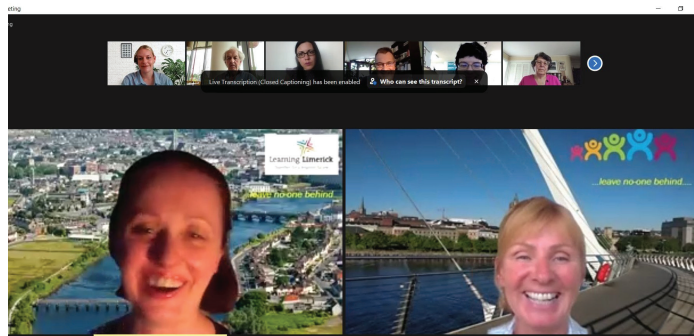
PASCAL 'Transformation through Empathy Partnerships Webinar



Learning Limerick with our colleagues in **Wyndham Learning City** in Australia came together with the **PASCAL Learning Cities Network** to run an EcCoWell Webinar last May. The PASCAL Networks Programme provides for online exchanges of ideas and experience between cities around the world relevant to fostering lifelong learning and building inclusive learning communities. The EcCoWell concept was developed by PASCAL in 2012 to integrate development in learning cities: -Economy/ Ecology, Community/Culture/Cohesion, Wellness/ Wellbeing and Lifelong Learning. The partnership models that were explored included ones from Taipei, Mexico, Colombia, the Irish Network of Learning Cities and the Global Learning Festival. To view the report and webinar recording, visit the PASCAL site at <http://pascalobservatory.org/pascalnow/pascal-activities/news/transformation-through-empathy-partnerships-webinar-report-jac-torr>

Learning Limerick Presents at North American Alliance of Learning Cities 'Reflections' Event

Learning Limerick was invited to present at an event hosted by the North American Alliance of Learning Cities on 19th July 2021. The event was titled 'Learning City Reflections: Persistence, Resilience, Learning'. The speakers, including from Limerick, Derry Strabane; and Pécs, Hungary; reviewed accomplishments and developments amidst challenges of the lockdowns and ongoing pandemic. Some of the questions explored included: How have relationships of your Learning City with other Learning Cities changed, developed or shifted and what roles have networks played for your work regarding Learning Cities during this time.



Global Learning Festival

Learning Limerick is delighted to participate in upcoming Global Learning Festival which is being held from the 8th – 11th November 2021 with a '**Conversations with Learners**' event. Learning Limerick engages in this global festival, which is organised by Wyndham and Melton Learning Cities, for the second year as a member of the Irish Network of Learning Cities (INLC). For more details on the Global Festival, visit www.globallearningfestival.com

Conversations with Learners

Wednesday 10th November 2021
10.00-11.00am Dublin time/9.00-10.00pm Melbourne time

Free Webinar

Hosted by the Irish Network of Learning Cities

- Meet the five learning cities
- Hear five diverse learners' stories

Join us to hear more!

Many thanks to all our partners in Learning Limerick:

- Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board
- Limerick City and County Council
- PAUL Partnership
- University of Limerick
- Mary Immaculate College
- Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest
- West Limerick Resources
- Ballyhoura Development
- Limerick Childcare Committee
- Limerick Community Education Network
- National Learning Network
- Limerick Integration Working Group
- Limerick Mental Health Association
- Youth Work Limerick
- Mid West Regional Skills Forum
- Limerick Chamber Skillnet
- Limerick Local Enterprise Office
- Department of Social Protection

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