

Comments on:
National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development
Analysis of Public Consultation process 19 November 2013 Document

From: The National Youth Council of Ireland

1. NYCI welcomes this document and analysis of submissions from various viewpoints as a starting point.
2. There are no recommendations for the non formal education sector particularly the youth work sector and this is a major failing.
3. A cross-sectoral, co-ordinated approach is required as too is a cross-departmental approach for any new strategy to have meaning and potential for success.
4. There is a National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 0-25 years currently being drafted by DCYA which will involve all government departments (proposed launch early 2014) so it is important both documents/frameworks/strategies inform each other's work at the earliest stage possible.
5. The Development Education sector in Ireland has a vast array of knowledge and experience in the development and implementation of ESD activity (policy, educational materials, delivery of workshops and events, training and education, etc) and any new strategy must include actors/experts from this sector.
6. Many of those from various DE sectors have linkages with international organisations/platforms and policy opportunities and these should be acknowledged in the strategy. They include the Decade of ESD, the UN Secretary General's Global Education First Initiative, and involvement by different organisations in DEEEP, GENE, the North South Centre, the DARE Forum, the European Youth Forum, the Africa-Europe Youth Platform, CONCORD and CIVICUS.
7. Any new National Strategy must be properly funded, resourced, publicised, and implemented.

Specifically on the analysis document:

Page 13/14: NYCI would welcome any moves towards developing recommendations for the youth sector and suggest that the Departments of Education & Skills, DCYA, and the DFA together with relevant actors in the youth sector cooperate on developing recommendations. There is a major gap otherwise in the youth sector which can deliver significantly on any proposed strategy across all sectors.

Page 15: Regarding Point 15 and the potential new senior cycle subject of Politics and Society, NYCI suggests a phased implementation in a limited number of schools which would not be very costly and would provide information and insight in how to roll out the new subject to all school. Alternatively, NYCI proposes a feasibility study of the conditions and resources required for potential implementation of the subject.

Page 15: Under Professional training for teacher and educators, NYCI suggests that the professional development of youth workers should also be referenced.

Page 22: Regarding Further Education, Skills and Training and following bullet point one, a FETAC accredited course focusing on Global and Social Justice is offered by NYCI (including sustainable development) to youth and community workers.