



## **Fostering Young People's Creativity through Youth Work: A Mixed Method Study- Part 1 Survey Information Sheet**

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Please read the following information carefully before you decide whether or not you wish to take part.

### **Purpose of the Study:**

I am Saoirse Reynolds Conlon ([Saoirse.reynoldsconlon@mu.ie](mailto:Saoirse.reynoldsconlon@mu.ie)), a doctoral student, in the Department of Applied Social Studies, Maynooth University and I am currently employed by the National Youth Council of Ireland. I have recently been awarded the Irish Research Council's employment-based scholarship which began September 2023.

As part of the requirements for the doctorate in Social Sciences, I am undertaking a research study under the supervision of Dr. Sinead McMahon and Emeritus Professor Maurice Devlin.

This research aims to find out if there are features in youth work (non-formal education, voluntary participation, etc.) that support young people to be creative. The goal is to help make these things better supported by policies and improve how they're done in practice.

There are two parts within this study that involve participants:

- **Part 1** will consist of two online surveys:
  - **Survey 1:** Is looking for young people who are currently involved as a participant in a youth work/ youth arts setting. They need to be aged 18 to 24 years and from Ireland.

- **Survey 2:** Is looking for youth workers/youth arts practitioners who are actively working in a youth work/ youth arts setting. They need to be aged 18 years and older working in Ireland.
- **Part 2** will consist of eight 'story circles' that will take place in person and online. For more information on this, please refer back to the website.

This information sheet is specific to part 1 of the research.



### Part 1 Online Surveys- further information:

**What will the study involve?** The study will involve participating in an online survey, which will take approximately 10-12 minutes (youth worker) or 6-8 minutes (young person one) to complete.

**Who has approved this study?** This study has been reviewed and received ethical approval from Maynooth University Research Ethics Committee. You may have a copy of this approval if you request it.

**Why have you been asked to take part?** You have been invited to participate in this research because your current involvement in a youth work setting brings a unique and valuable perspective to the study. This involvement is a compelling reason for your inclusion in this research, as it brings a wealth of expertise, practical insights, contextual understanding, and diverse perspectives to the study. Your contributions are instrumental in advancing the knowledge and understanding of youth work and its impact on young people's lives.

### **Do you have to take part?**

No, you are under no obligation whatsoever to take part in this research.

### **What would I be asked to do if I took part?**

You are invited to take part in an online survey. It is entirely up to you to decide whether or not you would like to take part. If you decide to do so, you will be asked

to consent on the opening page of the survey. You will then be asked a series of questions that relate to your experience within a youth work setting. Each question can be skipped, to ensure opportunities to exercise choice throughout the survey.

**What information will be collected?** There is no personal data being sought in this survey e.g. name, address, contact details. The aim is to explore distinctive features of youth work and ways in which young people are enabled to express themselves creatively in youth work settings. The answers you provide in the online survey will be anonymised and gathered for further exploration.

**Will your participation in the study be kept confidential?** This study is anonymous. You will not be asked to submit any personally identifiable information in the survey. Your data will be stored on the researcher's MU platforms as these are secure and regularly backed up. By data, I mean the information you share with me through the survey. All data files will be encrypted and password-protected.

The findings of the research will be available to individuals upon request and will be widely shared within the sector. As the survey is anonymous and voluntary there will be no direct follow-up with participants.

It must be recognised that, in some circumstances, confidentiality of research data and records may be overridden by courts in the event of litigation or in the course of investigation by lawful authority. In such circumstances the University will take all reasonable steps within law to ensure that confidentiality is maintained to the greatest possible extent. Please refer to MU's section 3.3 of the ethics policy if you require further information on the limits to confidentiality policy.

**What will happen to the information which you give?** The information you provide when you answer questions will later be represented as statistics, numbers, and charts. Any narratives or quotes supplied in your answers may be used within the research and any subsequent publications; all of this will be anonymous.

As noted, all the information you provide is anonymous and will be stored on the Maynooth University server. The doctoral thesis, in accordance with MU's (2021) Policy on Open Access to Research, will be stored in MURAL–Maynooth University's Open Access Repository.

Survey results data will be moved from proprietary platforms and stored in more easily accessible software like Excel before being shared with the National Youth Council of Ireland and Irish Qualitative Data Archive repository.

**What will happen to the results?** The research findings will be presented as part of a doctoral thesis. There may be associated use by way of articles, book chapters, conference presentations and other outputs. I plan to share the findings of this research directly with the youth sector in a variety of fora, such as practice resources and online exhibitions that will be nationally disseminated for free and open to the public through the NYCI website.

If you give permission, I would also like the opportunity to re-analyse the data for future research projects. This is called secondary use.

**What are the possible disadvantages of taking part?** I don't envisage any negative consequences for you in taking part because the survey has been carefully designed to be straightforward and convenient. The questions are focused on specific aspects related to your experiences and expertise, and the survey will only require you to answer a short number of questions. Your participation is entirely voluntary, and we have taken measures to ensure that your responses will be kept anonymous and confidential. Your insights are highly valuable and will contribute to the advancement of my research in a meaningful way. I have made every effort to make your participation in this survey as user-friendly and beneficial as possible, with minimal intrusion and maximum benefit.

**What if there is a problem?** You may contact my supervisors Dr. Sinead McMahon ([Sinead.mcmahon@mu.ie](mailto:Sinead.mcmahon@mu.ie)) and/ or Emeritus Professor Maurice Devlin ([Maurice.devlin@mu.ie](mailto:Maurice.devlin@mu.ie)) if you feel the research has not been carried out as described above.

**Any further queries?** If you need any further information, you can contact me: Saoirse Reynolds Conlon [saoirse.reynoldsconlon@mu.ie](mailto:saoirse.reynoldsconlon@mu.ie)

**Thank you for taking the time to read this.**

For further information about how Maynooth University processes personal data for research purposes and your data rights please visit our ethics webpage.

Ethics Webpage: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/research/research-development-office/research-ethics>

If during your participation in this study you feel the information and guidelines that you were given have been neglected or disregarded in any way, or if you are unhappy about the process, please contact the Secretary of the Maynooth University Social Research Ethics Committee at [research.ethics@mu.ie](mailto:research.ethics@mu.ie) or +353 (0)1 708 6019. Please be assured that your concerns will be dealt with in a sensitive manner.

For your information the Data Controller for this research project is Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Maynooth University Data Protection officer is Ann McKeon in Humanity house, room 17, who can be contacted at [dataprotection@mu.ie](mailto:dataprotection@mu.ie) . Maynooth University Data Privacy policies can be found at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/data-protection> .