**Building capacity for transformative GCE and youth empowerment in post-primary schools**

Project Personnel

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## Role Descriptions

**Rob O’Donnell - ISSU Student Voice Development Manager (SVDM)**

Role in Project: Financial administration, communication with external expert Co-ordinators regarding delivery of project. Participation in 2 quarterly peer-learning meetings for purposes of sharing learning with ISSU staff, Board, 490 ISSU member Councils.

**ISSU Communications Officer**

Role in Project: Communication of news and learning from the project to ISSU Member Councils and supporters other organisations and audiences in the post-primary education field including trade unions and organisations related to School Management, and the general public.

**ISSU Student Engagement & Training Lead**

Role in Project: Sharing learning from the project incorporating recruitment of schools launching the course in 2022-2023, and 10 teachers to attend the in-person meeting in March 2022. Engagement with schools to achieve confirmation of new schools and teachers by March 2022.

**Sian Cowman - Project Coordinator**

Main Duties: Project coordination, planning and management. Facilitate quarterly meetings.Weekly support to teachers on online platform. Facilitation of workshop sessions.Coordinate student and teacher evaluation.Compile and disseminate resources produced with teachers

Full list of duties

* Coordination and planning and follow up for introductory meeting and schedule of dates for the year - External expert: Sian Cowman
* Set up, delivery and weekly support of online peer learning platform (1 hr per week\*32 weeks = 4 days) - External expert: Sian Cowman
* Facilitation of introductory meeting with 16 pilot teachers, Mon 2nd Aug, providing guide to existing resources, showing how to use peer learning digital hub - Sian Cowman
* Teacher Training Day 1 part 1 - Learning for Climate Action, course introduction, introduction to GCE, whole school approach to GCE and how to use the WWGS Global Passport framework - Sian Cowman with short inputs from ISSU and EFS. Short input to be requested from WWGS.
* Coordination (including planning, follow up) residential training Feb/March 2022 Burren Beo - External expert: Sian Cowman
* Facilitation of quarter peer learning meetings (2hrs x 3 meetings) - External Facilitator: Sian Cowman
* *Coordination of student evaluation of their learning experience during the year. External Expert: Sian Cowman*
* Resource compilation, generation and formatting and dissemination, in collaboration with teachers who are developing and testing resources. 2 External Expert A: Sian Cowman and Expert B: Nancy Serrano

**Nancy Serrano- Assistant Coordinator**

Main Duties: Coordinate teacher training.Coordinate website design and construction. Coordinate review of the Climate Action short course specification. Compile and disseminate resources generated with teachers.Compile quarterly newsletter /update from pilot programme

Full list of duties

* Coordination and planning of teacher training - External expert: Nancy Serrano
* *Coordination of review of the Climate Action short course specification, as part of peer learning meetings, and final reflection on the specification in May 2022. Preparation of recommendations for review of the specification and assessment guidelines based on teacher and student feedback.External Expert: Nancy Serrano*
* Coordination and management of website design and construction - External expert: Nancy Serrano
* Resource compilation, generation and formatting and dissemination, in collaboration with teachers who are developing and testing resources. 2 External Expert A: Sian Cowman and Expert B: Nancy Serrano
* Generation of newsletter /update from pilot programme x 4 for public distribution to schools via email, including recruitment notices for year 2 - External expert: Nancy Serrano

**Susana Nunez, Educate Together**

Role in Project: Education Officer of the Educate Together Schools’ Network. Participation in the quarterly peer learning and in-person meetings and dissemination of shared learning from the project including news and resources to the Educate Together network and beyond.

**Finola Cunnane, St. Louis Schools Network**

Role in Project: Coordinator of St. Louis Schools’ Network since 2013. Participation in the quarterly peer learning and in-person meetings and dissemination of shared learning from the project including news and resources to the St. Louis School network and beyond..

**Ronan Barry, Spiritan Education Trust**

Role in Project: Spiritan Identity, Faith and Mission Officer for the Spiritan Education Trust. Participation in the quarterly peer learning and in-person meetings and dissemination of shared learning from the project including news and resources to Spiritan Schools.

## ISSU Staff Bios

**Rob O’Donnell - ISSU Student Voice Development Manager (SVDM)**

This member of ISSU staff will be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the project required by ISSU including liaising with the two external experts delivering the project (Sian Cowman and Nancy Serrano).

Rob O'Donnell is the Student Voice Development Manager of the ISSU. Rob has previously served as a Board Member of the Organizing Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU), where his portfolios included Human Rights Education, Global Citizenship Education and Vocational Education and Training.

The SVDM role involves managing the Secretariat and office of the ISSU in Dublin. Other responsibilities include;

* To adhere to ISSU policies and practices, and actively supporting and promoting the vision, mission, and objectives of the ISSU
* To uphold the values of the organisation, as an appropriate role model and ensuring that the promotion of equality and diversity for all officers, volunteers, staff and other stakeholders;
* To enable the ISSU structures for student voice including the National Student Executive and the support with the coordination National Council of Schools;
* To develop and advocate for organisational policy positions including, education and welfare research report writing in conjunction with the National Student Executive;
* Supporting the National Student Executive and providing guidance with their annual work plan;
* Managing the communications of the organisation, where required, including the issuing of press releases and officer statements;
* Completion of administrative duties and office management duties as required by the organisation;
* Supporting the development and growth of the ISSU, including facilitating strategic planning;
* Execution and development of organisational governance policies and procedures;
* Building and maintaining relationships with all stakeholders within the education and youth sectors, and trade union movement;
* Securing and maintaining organisational funding as well as financial planning/management;
* Meeting with stakeholders and potential donors, and delivering presentations;
* Overseeing Garda vetting of staff and volunteers in serving as the Child Protection Designated Person;
* Ensure all records and files are stored and maintained in compliance with data protection legislation;
* Management of staff members;
* Attending Board of Directors meetings by invitation as a non‐voting participant.
* In conjunction with the Student Council Coordinator;
* To liaise with schools and student councils to develop and expand the membership of ISSU;
* To organise the ISSU Regional Councils, Annual Assembly and Summer Skills Academy assisted by the other staff members and volunteers;
* To coordinate regional and national fora for student voice consultations;
* This role may involve delivering student council training and visiting schools.

**ISSU Communications Officer**

This person is being recruited in July 2021. The ISSU Communications Officer will be a full-time paid role in the ISSU from August 2021. The role and responsibilities are outlined below.

* To identify, cultivate, solicit, and steward prospects through ongoing organisation development, networking, connecting, and proposing engagement opportunities.
* To represent the organisation in communities and at relevant events around the country in order to generate new partnerships, steward existing partners, and build brand awareness.
* Compile and share detailed reports and performance analyses.
* To participate in relevant training and development courses.
* To develop and implement compelling PR and creative strategies to boost awareness of the organisation and important work carried out.
* To lead online and offline communications, including social and traditional media engagement, email marketing, website, blogs.
* To work with the National Student Executive to develop event and campaign marketing and promotional materials.
* To draft and publish press releases and liaise with national and local media.
* To keep abreast of the charity landscape in Ireland and fundraising and communication techniques used in the sector in order to identify areas for leverage and opportunity..
* To provide office support as needed.
* To undertake work delegated by the Student Voice Development Manager.

**ISSU Student Engagement & Training Lead**

This person is being recruited in June 2021. The Student Engagement and Training Lead will work with the ISSU from July 2021. Their role includes the following responsibilities;

* To develop and grow the online ISSU student council training programme including developing and highlighting new training services
* To liaise with schools and student councils to develop and expand the membership of the ISSU, Satisfying one of the key aims of the Parent and Student Charter by promoting increased student participation in the decision-making process.
* To coordinate, attend and expand the 22 ISSU Regional Councils and training events each year
* To increase ISSU membership and look after the retention of current members
* To help organise the ISSU Annual Assembly and the ISSU Skills Academy for Future Leaders
* To manage the ISSU Trainers program, ensuring they are fulfilling their role and are provided with the necessary resources to deliver high-quality services to student councils nationwide.
* To coordinate regional and national fora for student voice consultations including developing the Regional Officer Body as a functioning body, as per our constitution, which will provide a forum for students nationwide to come together to discuss important issues, share ideas, participate in decision-making processes and develop key skills including public speaking, team working, critical thinking, research and communication skills.
* To support the National Student Executive and Regional Officer Body to fulfil their mandates, as per the ISSU Constitution, on a regional and national level and organise training to ensure this.
* To develop high quality resources for student councils, student liaison teachers and outreach centres including continually developing the ISSU Student Council Training Scale model, the ISSU Student Council Handbook and the ISSU Charter
* To maintain and update the ISSU membership database
* To provide administrative support in the ISSU Head Office, especially during the summer and mid-term breaks.
* To promote the ISIC student discount card through trainings and events

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## External experts - Project Co-ordinator Bios

**External Expert - Sian Cowman**

**Sian Cowman** has worked in the area of climate change and environmental justice as an educator and campaigner, in Ireland and in Latin America, for the past 10 years. She holds a BSc (Hons) in International Development and Food Policy from UCC and a postgraduate diploma in Integral Ecology and Ethno-ecological Interventions from the Salesian University in Bolivia. Her environmental education work has mostly focused on the non-formal education sector - designing and delivering environmental campaigning strategy workshops with adults, and climate and environmental justice workshops with young people. She has also been responsible for delivering Irish Aid funded Development Education and Global Citizenship Education projects with the Latin America Solidarity Centre and Friends of the Earth Ireland, including a 10-week QQI certified course. She is currently an appointee to the City of Dublin Education and Training Board’s Climate Justice Education tutor panel, and a research assistant at UCD with the Education in a Warming World global research consortium. She has also been active for a number of years in climate justice activism and is a keen organic food grower and permaculturalist.

**External Expert - Nancy L. Serrano**

**Nancy L. Serrano** has experience in the area of environmental activism, research and education for sustainability over the past 20 years. She holds a BSc in Applied Physics (University of Limerick), and a Masters in Sustainable Development and Environmental Management, (University of Valencia, Spain). She has volunteered and worked in the Irish environmental NGO sector for over 10 years, mainly as a youth facilitator for ESD in the non-formal education sector, as well as a group facilitator in activist networks. She is co-founder and co-director of Gluaiseacht for Global Justice, an Irish activist environmental NGO promoting sustainability, social and environmental justice. She has worked as a research assistant for the Irish Aid-funded RCE-Ireland network at the University of Limerick, researching participative methodologies for ESD within secondary school curricula. More recently she spent six years working as a research assistant with Ecosur (Federal Postgraduate Institute in Chiapas, Mexico) on an agroecology research project to integrate edible school gardens into primary and secondary school curricula. At present she is working with the SOPhia project in the Department of Physics, University of Limerick, designing online hands-on STEM activities for primary and secondary level to encourage girls to study physics at third level.

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## School Network Coordinator Bios

**Susana Nunez, Educate Together**

Susana is the Education Officer of the Educate Together Schools’ Network, appointed in March 2021. She has over twenty years of experience in the field of education in Ireland gained through teaching and developing education programmes at primary and second level, further education, community education, as well as in the youth sector. In her most recent role, she managed a very successful social and emotional learning school programme at national level, which grew from 10 to over 200 schools across the country in just over 8 years. She has extensive experience in project management and development, as well as delivery of learning programmes to children and young people, training and mentoring. She has a special interest in the area of empathy, emotional learning, social justice and the impact of adverse childhood experiences on children’s wellbeing, learning and development. She holds an Honours Degree in Sociology, graduated as a secondary school teacher in University College Dublin in 1999 and holds various training and professional certificates including a Post Graduate Certificate in Inclusive Education.

**Finola Cunnane, St. Louis Network**

Sr. Finola Cunnane is coordinator of St. Louis Schools’ Network since 2013. Finola works closely with all the schools promoting Global Citizenship Education. She is also an author, lecturer, retreat facilitator, and a spiritual director. She has a PhD in Education.

**Ronan Barry, Spiritan Education Trust**

Mr. Ronan Barry was appointed to the position of Spiritan Identity, Faith and Mission Officer in June 2015 for the Spiritan Education Trust. As a member of the Spiritan Education Trust Executive team, he engages with the Spiritan Province in the development of the Spiritan identity through their mission at home and abroad. His works within the Trust also includes collaborative engagement with the Pastoral Care Team (RE teachers, Chaplains, and others) in the support of and the development of capacity within the Spiritan School network for Faith development programmes and the delivery of Spiritan Identity and Mission programmes. Ronan previously worked in the areas of Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care within Spiritan schools. He had many years of experience working with Education and Mission through his work as the National coordinator of the Mission Alive programme located in the Irish Missionary Union offices, now the Association of Missionaries and Religious in Ireland. Previously to this work, Ronan worked in management roles in faith and justice programmes in community and educational settings.

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## Teacher participants

Sixteen teachers who will be delivering the Climate Action short course in their schools, participating in the activities and developing and sharing resources developed within their schools. These names have been confirmed by principals in each school where shown. CETSS Principal Colm O’Connor has confirmed the CETSS will cover substitution and travel costs associated with participation from all three teachers from CETSS.

1. Jerrieann Sullivan, CETSS
2. Julia White, CETSS
3. Aislinn Delaney, CETSS
4. Kate Minnock, NWETSS
5. Claire Brady, Margaret Aylward Community College
6. Fiona Whitney, Belmayne ETSS
7. Sallie Ennis (or another SETSS teacher tbc), SETSS, Dublin
8. Alison Brady, St. Louis High School, Rathmines
9. Jonathan Williams, St. Louis Secondary School Monaghan
10. Gorey ETSS teacher (being recruited in June)
11. Clodagh Farrell, Clarin College Athenry
12. Bernie Judge, Hansfield ETSS
13. Aaron Copeland, St. Michael’s College
14. Sandra Shanagher, St. Finian’s Community College
15. Pádhraic Gibbons, OLM Drimnagh
16. Brain Murray, St. Olivers’ Community College Drogheda

## External facilitator Bios

**External Facilitator - Kathryn McCabe**

**Kathryn Mc Cabe** studied Science and Applied Physics at Maynooth University, however continued seeking academic pathways that would explore a big picture approach to changing the world. A radical masters in Australia, Social Ecology, enabled her to engage with complex systems, design context-specific change strategies and, crucially, feel inspired about what is possible when people feel respected and trusted to take their next step towards transformation.

She now works as an independent consultant designing programmes for groups that are engaged in change; community, schools, business. She has lectured at the University of Western Sydney, has worked internationally guiding NGOs and large multinationals towards sustainability and well-being. She has a special interest in youth Rites of Passage; delivering a summer program on Vancouver Island, Canada. She is a published author in Social Ecology; Applying Ecological Thinking to Our Lives and Our work.

**External Facilitator - Vicky Donnelly**

**Vicky**  is the Education worker and coordinator of the Galway One World Centre. GOWC was formed in 1992 with a mission to create educational opportunities that develop a critical analysis of the unequal power relationships that exist between diverse groups, both locally and globally. GOWC’s aim is to empower people through education, direct action, networking, outreach and provision of resources to create a world where all people have equality of rights, opportunities and respect. GOWC believes Development Education is about questioning our knowledge and perceptions about how the world works and about what role we play in it. At post primary level Vicky and GOWC has been piloting a programme called Beyond Borders in workshops and teacher training colleges. The programme, which includes a resources toolkit, explores issues relating to refugees and migration. It encourages students to consider the underlying context of why people leave their homes, and examine how migration is handled in Ireland and elsewhere. Vicky delivers the Global Teacher training award to both practicing and student teachers. Six one-hour modules involve capacity building for educators to build their own awareness of development issues. GOWC also collaborates with a number of universities on Initial Teacher Education. Vicky has also previously supported student capacity building activities of the Students’ Climate Action Network and is familiar with the youth climate activism in Ireland.

**External Facilitator - Meaghan Carmody**

**Meaghan Carmody** is the Global Citizenship Coordinator at Financial Justice Ireland. She previously worked with Friends of the Earth Ireland for three years. She is an experienced group facilitator, specialising in grassroots organising, supporting groups and individuals to develop the skills necessary to carry out campaigns for environmental and climate justice. She has extensive experience designing effective, participatory workshops and multi-session trainings to build the campaigning capacity of potential organisers. She also has ample experience in coordinating large groups, including the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition, a coalition of 30+ organisations campaigning for Ireland to do its fair share on climate, and Young Friends of the Earth, a grassroots volunteer group working to advance global climate justice. Her passion for building and maintaining partnerships and networks in the grassroots campaigning sector is central to her work, and she hopes to see the work she does inspire people to work together to take action for positive change.

**External Facilitator - Deirdre Walsh**

**Deirdre Walsh** is the Youth Activism Officer with Amnesty International Ireland. She has previously run workshops for WWGS about taking meaningful action in youth activism. She has many years of experience facilitating environmental and development education projects with young people, using creative participatory methods to support learning and reflective action. Her skills include project management, creative facilitation & training, M&E, and communications Her graphic design skills and knowledge of education methodologies have allowed her to design and create education resources that have been used in schools and with youth projects around Ireland. Has worked in the youth NGO sector. She received a 1st class honours MA in Development Studies in 2015.

**External Facilitator - Áine Bird**

**Áine Bird** has been Education and Communications Officer for the Burrenbeo Trust since 2012. In this role she develops and coordinates place-based education programmes including the Áitbheo primary and secondary programmes which the Trust delivers to over 300 young people a year. With a background in botany, she has a masters in Science Communication, is a heritage in schools specialist and recently completed a Master in Education at NUI Galway with a focus on place-based education. In October 2018, Áine commenced an Irish Research Council funded employment based PhD project focused on evaluating the impact of place-based learning in the Burren region and the potential for knowledge transfer to other regions. Prior to Burrenbeo Áine was an education officer in Glenveagh National Park and previously worked with Eco-Unesco and TASC.

**Facilitator - Kate Minnock**

**Kate Minnock** is an art, ethical education and sustainability teacher with over 10 years’ experience in ESD related education and training. She co-authored a Junior Cycle short course in Sustainability, which she has been delivering to students in North Wicklow Educate Together for the past 4 years. She has experience delivering teacher training in a range of Education for Sustainability contexts, including at Junior Cycle and Transition Year levels. Kate has a Master of Science in Learning for Sustainability from the University of Edinburgh. She recently worked with Dr. Beth Christie on an applied project as part of her dissertation, giving her a good overview of the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence and current best practice internationally in EfS (https://www.ed.ac.uk/profile/beth-christie.) Kate was a co-founder of Secondary Teachers for Sustainability in 2018 and the Students’ Climate Action Network in 2019.

## Other background information - authors of the short course specification

Educators for Sustainability is the team that initiated the short course specification development process in May 2020, with Kate Minnock, Jerrieann Sullivan, Hedda Dick working on the process in 2020. In January 2021 the team was expanded to include Nancy Serrano and Sian Cowman, while Hedda Dick moved on to other work and is no longer involved in the project. Kate Minnock and Jerrieann Sullivan are now becoming participant teachers in the pilot project and will be running the short course in their schools along with 14 other teachers. Sian Cowman and Nancy Serrano will deliver the coordination of the proposed project for ISSU.

**Kate Minnock** is an art, ethical education and sustainability teacher with over 10 years’ experience in ESD related education and training. She co-authored a Junior Cycle short course in Sustainability, which she has been delivering to students in North Wicklow Educate Together for the past 4 years. She has experience delivering teacher training in a range of Education for Sustainability contexts, including at Junior Cycle and Transition Year levels. Kate has a Master of Science in Learning for Sustainability from the University of Edinburgh. She recently worked with Dr. Beth Christie on an applied project as part of her dissertation, giving her a good overview of the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence and current best practice internationally in EfS (https://www.ed.ac.uk/profile/beth-christie.) Kate was a co-founder of Secondary Teachers for Sustainability in 2018 and the Students’ Climate Action Network in 2019.

**Jerrieann Sullivan** is a Science, Sustainability, Biology and CSPE teacher. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Geochemistry and a Master of Arts in Community Education, Equality and Social Activism. She has previously worked in the non-formal education sector as a development education facilitator and as Youth for Sustainable Development Coordinator with ECO-UNESCO. Over the past decade she has been a co-founder of a number of groups and projects focused on climate action including Street Feast (www.streetfeast.ie), Young Friends of the Earth (www.youngfoe.ie) and Secondary Teachers for Sustainability. She has been involved in many years of climate justice related activism and social innovation activities, particularly in the field of supporting young people and communities to take action on climate change. With Kate she has co-authored a Junior Cycle short course in Sustainability, which she has been delivering to students in Cork Educate Together Secondary School for the past 4 years, and also supports the Students’ Climate Action Network.

**Hedda Dick** has worked in the area of Education for Sustainability for over a decade in both the formal and non-formal sectors. She holds an MSc in Sustainable Development and a BA in Communication Studies. Hedda has a wealth of experience in developing and designing educational programmes related to sustainability for all ages from preschool to teacher training. These programmes have covered a range of topics including climate action, renewable energy, sustainable technologies, global citizenship and biodiversity. Hedda also has experience in STEM public engagement and was team lead in developing ‘Earth Quest’ a new STEM trail at Brigit’s Garden in 2019 through the Science Foundation Ireland Discover Programme. Hedda has also been involved in running a range of events related to sustainability and the environment. Hedda Dick was previously a member of the team writing the new Climate Action short course, but will not be involved in the pilot project.

**Nancy L. Serrano** has experience in the area of environmental activism, research and education for sustainability over the past 20 years. She holds a BSc in Applied Physics (University of Limerick), and a Masters in Sustainable Development and Environmental Management, (University of Valencia, Spain). She has volunteered and worked in the Irish environmental NGO sector for over 10 years, mainly as a youth facilitator for ESD in the non-formal education sector, as well as a group facilitator in activist networks. She is co-founder and co-director of Gluaiseacht for Global Justice, an Irish activist environmental NGO promoting sustainability, social and environmental justice. She has worked as a research assistant for the Irish Aid-funded RCE-Ireland network at the University of Limerick, researching participative methodologies for ESD within secondary school curricula. More recently she spent six years working as a research assistant with Ecosur (Federal Postgraduate Institute in Chiapas, Mexico) on an agroecology research project to integrate edible school gardens into primary and secondary school curricula. At present she is working with the SOPhia project in the Department of Physics, University of Limerick, designing online hands-on STEM activities for primary and secondary level to encourage girls to study physics at third level.

**Sian Cowman** has worked in the area of climate change and environmental justice as an educator and campaigner, in Ireland and in Latin America, for the past 10 years. She holds a BSc (Hons) in International Development and Food Policy from UCC and a postgraduate diploma in Integral Ecology and Ethno-ecological Interventions from the Salesian University in Bolivia. Her environmental education work has mostly been in the non-formal education sector - designing and delivering environmental campaigning strategy workshops with adults, and climate and environmental justice workshops with young people. She has also been responsible for delivering Irish Aid funded Development Education and Global Citizenship Education projects with the Latin America Solidarity Centre and Friends of the Earth Ireland, including a 10-week QQI certified course. She is currently an appointee to the City of Dublin Education and Training Board’s Climate Justice Education tutor panel. She has also been active for a number of years in climate justice activism and is a keen organic food grower and permaculturalist.