



Funding Scheme

Promoting public engagement for development

Development Education

The Government intends that every person in Ireland will have access to educational opportunities to understand their rights and responsibilities as global citizens as well as their potential to effect change for a more just and equal world.

White Paper on Irish Aid 2006

Development Education Funding Scheme

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Introduction

Development education is an educational process aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of the rapidly changing, interdependent and unequal world in which we live. It seeks to engage people in analysis, reflection and action for local and global citizenship and participation. It is about supporting people in understanding, and in acting to transform the social, cultural, political and economic structures which affect their lives and the lives of others at personal, community, national and international levels.

The work of Irish Aid is guided by the *White Paper on Irish Aid (2006)* which outlines the policy framework and performance benchmarks for the Irish Aid Programme. The focus of the programme is poverty reduction, particularly in least developed countries in Africa. Four priority issues - good governance, gender equality, environmental sustainability and HIV/AIDS cut across the entire Irish Aid Programme. These priority issues will inform our support for development education programmes.

The *White Paper on Irish Aid (2006)* states that the Government intends that every person in Ireland will have access to educational opportunities to understand their rights and responsibilities as global citizens as well as their potential to effect change for a more just and equal world.

Development education has a crucial role to play in enlarging public understanding of development issues, both local and global. It is vitally important in promoting a greater sense of global solidarity and responsibility with people of the developing world. It can also be an important tool in strengthening public awareness of and commitment to development cooperation.

Irish Aid acknowledges the important role played by groups and organisations throughout Ireland that are actively committed to development education. We recognise the value of diverse approaches to correspond with different needs, opportunities, target groups and issues. We wish to contribute to high-quality development education in Ireland through strengthening support for development education practitioners and the organisations in which they work.

The current Irish Aid Development Education Strategy 2007-2011 '*Promoting Public Engagement for Development*' sets out four component objectives for support for development education in Ireland over the next five years.

The objectives are:

1. Strengthen coherence between development education and national education, citizenship and development policies in Ireland and support the growth of best practice in development education at European and international levels.
2. Contribute to high-quality development education in Ireland through strengthened support for development education practitioners and the organisations in which they work.
3. Support the further integration of development education in formal and non-formal education programmes in Ireland.
4. Ensure that our development education initiatives raise public awareness and understanding of the underlying causes of global poverty and inequality and Ireland's role in tackling these issues.

The strategy builds on the previous Development Education Strategy 2003-2005 and a wide consultation process both within Irish Aid and with the development education sector in Ireland.

Based on the above objectives, Irish Aid operates a Development Education Funding Scheme to support development education programmes in the formal and non-formal education sectors.

You are advised to read through the guidelines and the Development Education Strategy 2007-2011 carefully before submitting an application to the Development Education Funding Scheme. These guidelines need to be read in conjunction with the application form and explanatory notes for each grant type.

Section One: Development Education Funding Scheme Guidelines

1. Eligibility

Who can apply?

Organisations and/or institutions that are undertaking development education activities or that include a development education perspective in their education work are eligible to apply for funding for these activities under the Irish Aid Development Education Funding Scheme.

Organisations and institutions eligible to apply include, but are not limited to:

- > Development education organisations
- > School networks at primary and post-primary level
- > Further education colleges
- > Higher education institutions
- > Trade Unions
- > Youth organisations
- > Community and Women's groups
- > Adult education providers
- > Non-governmental development organisations
- > Faith-based groups
- > Campaign and solidarity groups

If you have a query about your organisation's eligibility to apply for funding please contact the Development Education Unit, Irish Aid for advice.

Please note:

- > Organisations and institutions are encouraged where possible to consolidate multiple project proposals into one application per funding round. Where a single organisation submits more than one application under any funding round, each application should make reference to any others made by the organisation in the given round.
- > First-time applicants are eligible to apply for one-year funding only.

- > Organisations currently in receipt of multi-annual funding under the Development Education Funding Scheme are eligible to apply for a one-year grant for additional activities provided that it is completed within the timeframe of the multi-annual funding.

What types of activities can be funded?

Three main areas of activity in development education can be funded: education projects, capacity building initiatives and research.

1. Education

Eligible activities must have a development education focus. The key features of development education are:

1. A focus on knowledge, ideas and understanding of the causes and consequences of global poverty and development. Content should relate to the broad issue of global development and themes could include aid, trade, human rights, gender equality, governance, environmental sustainability, health and HIV/AIDS, education, culture, etc.
2. A strong emphasis on learner-centred and action-based methodologies including group work, discussion, simulation exercises and debate.
3. A focus on developing key communication, intellectual and action skills which allow the learner to engage critically with development issues.
4. An emphasis on linking local and global justice and development issues. Applications with a uniquely local perspective are not eligible for funding under the Scheme.

2. Capacity Building

In addition to supporting development education activities, the Scheme also provides funding support for strengthening the capacity of the development education sector. Capacity building activities can include organisational development, training and networking, amongst others. To be eligible for funding under the Scheme, these activities must be undertaken in support of a wider development education programme.

3. Research

The Scheme also provides support for research in the area of development education. Irish Aid has identified gaps in current development education research in the following areas:

- > Developing and implementing key performance indicators for development education in Ireland.
- > Examining the role and capacity building needs of ethnic minority and solidarity groups in development education in Ireland.
- > The rationale for a development education approach to intercultural education - examples of best practice.
- > Developing the action component in development education.
- > Images and messages of the Global South in development education resources published in Ireland.
- > Impact of development education on learners – for specific sectors within the formal and non-formal education sectors.
- > The role of critical literacy in development education.
- > Examining the relevance of development education to learners' lives - the challenge of connecting the local and global.
- > Delivering development education to decision makers and influencers in society - key challenges and possible strategies.
- > The values dimension of development education.
- > The relationship between development education and campaigning and advocacy.
- > Examining issues relating to the regional provision of development education supports.

Irish Aid also welcomes research proposals based on development education issues not listed above. However, these should be in areas consistent with the priorities outlined in the Development Education Strategy 2007-2011. Research proposals should be discussed with the Development Education Unit prior to submission of an application.

Supplementary Information:

Campaigning and Advocacy

Development education projects can incorporate an element of campaigning and advocacy for change. In order to qualify for funding under the Development Education Funding Scheme, campaigning and advocacy activities must be genuinely educational and informed by sound pedagogical practice. In practice, this means providing target groups with a range of information and perspectives, as opposed to a single viewpoint. It also implies enabling target groups to reach their own conclusions, rather than providing a single solution.

United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014

To mark the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014, Irish Aid welcomes development education funding applications which focus on key thematic areas associated with sustainable development. These themes include poverty alleviation, citizenship, peace, ethics, responsibility in local and global contexts, democracy and governance, justice, security, human rights, health, gender equity, cultural diversity, production and consumption patterns, corporate responsibility, environmental protection, natural resource management and biological and landscape diversity.

Island of Ireland Dimension

Irish Aid encourages applications for funding for development education projects with a cross-border dimension within Ireland. We also welcome applications for projects to be carried out jointly between two organisations, one of which is based in the North of Ireland and the other in the South.

For a fuller exploration of development education, its meaning, values, skills and case studies, see the booklet entitled "*Irish Aid and Development Education*" (available from Irish Aid).

What are Irish Aid's target groups for development education activities?

Irish Aid's Development Education Strategy 2007-2011 sets out as a key objective "to support the further integration of development education in formal and non-formal education programmes in Ireland."

1. Formal Education Sector

A number of priority areas within the formal education sector have been selected for support at each stage of the education cycle on the basis of their potential impact, coherence with national education policies, ability to attract new audiences, their multiplier effect and potential for regional involvement.

These areas are:

- > Primary education including teacher education, curriculum support and resource development and production.
- > Post-primary education including teacher education, curriculum support and resource development and production.
- > Higher education including support for professional development for development educators and promoting development education within undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Ireland.

2. Non-Formal Education Sector

Irish Aid has also identified priority areas within the non-formal education sector in the context of life-long learning. Of particular interest are long-term strategic education interventions following best practice and the mainstreaming of development education across organisations working in the non-formal education sector.

Irish Aid has identified a number of priority areas in non-formal education for support.

These are:

- > Voluntary youth work, including training of youth workers and youth leaders, mainstreaming development education within youth organisations and resource production. Applicants from the voluntary youth sector should refer to the joint *Irish Aid/National Youth Council of Ireland Development Education Strategy for Voluntary Youth Work* (available at www.youthdeved.ie).
- > Community education, including the training of educators, the design and implementation of accredited learning programmes and the production of resources.
- > Further education, including the training of educators, the design and implementation of accredited learning programmes and the production of resources.
- > Adult education, including the training of educators, the design and implementation of accredited learning programmes and the production of resources.

Ineligible Activities

Irish Aid cannot provide funding under the Scheme for:

- > Cultural events, unless part of a wider development education project.
- > Welfare projects, such as provision of language classes or information on legal and social welfare rights.
- > Projects of which the primary aim is to raise the profile of an organisation or to raise funds.
- > Projects with an environmental focus which are exclusively or mainly concerned with problems and solutions in Ireland.
- > Exposure visits overseas, unless part of a wider development education project and where it can be demonstrated that the learning will benefit a broad group of people.
- > Libraries or resource centres, unless part of a wider development education project.
- > Projects with an anti-racism focus which are exclusively or mainly concerned with problems and solutions in Ireland.

- > School talks which are not linked to the curriculum or cognisant of best pedagogical practices.
- > Projects confined to individual schools. However Irish Aid welcomes applications from school networks/ clusters or schools working in partnership with other groups or organisations.
- > Grants for schools linking and immersion projects/ programmes at second level. These activities are now funded under the Irish Aid Schools Linking and Immersion Scheme. Details on the scheme can be found on the Irish Aid website www.irishaid.gov.ie/schools or on request from Léargas.
- > Campaigning and advocacy projects which do not adequately demonstrate a development education focus.

Organisations in receipt of funding under the Irish Aid Multi-Annual Programme Scheme (MAPS) are not eligible to apply for funding under the Development Education Funding Scheme. However, MAPS funding recipients are encouraged to include development education activities in their MAPS applications.

Eligible Costs

- > Direct project costs.
- > Overhead costs up to 15% of the total direct costs requested from Irish Aid.
- > External evaluation costs to a maximum of 5% of direct costs requested from Irish Aid.
- > Capacity building costs, as part of a multi-annual grant application, to a maximum of 10% of the total direct costs requested from Irish Aid.

Detailed estimates of all costs will be required as part of the application process.

When submitting budgets, applicants should first supply the total direct project cost. Any additional overhead, evaluation or capacity building costs sought from Irish Aid as part of the funding application can then be added to the direct costs requested, to an amount not exceeding the percentages indicated above.

Ineligible Costs

Grants are not given for:

- > Retrospective work.
- > Capital or equipment costs (unless justified as essential to the delivery of the project/programme).
- > Consultant fees to prepare applications.
- > Third-level fees.
- > The purchase, repair or furnishing of buildings.
- > Servicing debts or loans.
- > Projects undertaken by individuals.

Applicants should also note the minimum grant thresholds which apply to each grant type.

2. Types of Grants

Grants are available on a one-year or multi-annual basis. Applications for both one-year and multi-annual grants will be accepted in each funding round.

> One-Year Grants

Rationale: To support groups or organisations in carrying out specific projects in development education.

Duration: Maximum one year.

Grant levels: Minimum grant awarded €10,000 a year.

> Multi-Annual Grants

Rationale: To support groups and organisations undertaking longer-term more strategic development education work. Multi-annual grant applicants are encouraged to integrate an organisational capacity building component into their applications, up to an additional 10% of the total direct costs requested from Irish Aid. Capacity building costs must be separately identified.

Duration: Minimum two years, maximum three years.

Grant levels: Minimum grant awarded €75,000 a year.

In addition to these grants, Irish Aid may enter into strategic funding arrangements with organisations delivering development education programmes at a national or sectoral level, in accordance with specific priority areas outlined in the Irish Aid Development Education Strategy 2007-2011. Such arrangements are developed in consultation with Irish Aid and may be subject to competitive tender processes.

3. Criteria

Irish Aid applies the following criteria in the assessment of applications under the Development Education Funding Scheme:

- > The extent to which the project/programme is in line with the objectives of the Irish Aid Development Education Strategy 2007-2011.
- > The extent to which the project/programme of work demonstrates a development education focus.
- > The quality of the project/programme proposal.
In assessing quality, the following will be taken into account:
 - The clarity of the rationale for the proposed project or programme – the extent to which it is based on identified needs and appropriate consultations;
 - The clarity of aims and objectives;
 - The clarity of expected outcomes and the extent to which these are measurable;
 - How well the activities can be expected to achieve the aims and objectives;
 - The extent of participation by the target group in the design, planning and implementation of the project or programme;
 - The extent of collaboration and co-operation amongst relevant education partners in the formal and/or non-formal education sectors.
- > Value for Money. Funds for development education are limited and proposals should be realistically costed. Applications will be assessed in terms of value for money i.e. whether the cost of achieving the intended or planned outcomes can be justified. Irish Aid reserves the right to evaluate and audit projects from time to time.
- > The extent to which the activities are integrated with mainstream educational activities in the formal and non-formal sectors. Proposals that target the formal education sector must clearly show how they relate to the curriculum.

- > Demonstration of a multiplier effect i.e. ensuring that specified elements of the development education project/programme are targeted at individuals who can use this learning/training with others. The project/programme should build this into its work from the beginning.
- > Evidence of a clear monitoring and evaluation strategy for the project/programme.

Additional Criteria for research projects:

- > Relevance. Applications for funding for research projects must clearly demonstrate the project's relevance to the policy and implementation of development education in Ireland.
- > Dissemination. Research project applications must clearly indicate how and to what extent the research will be disseminated across the development education sector.

In summary, you might ask yourself:

- > Does your project have a strong development education focus?
- > Do your planned activities fit with the priorities of the Irish Aid Development Education Strategy 2007-2011?
- > Are you clear about your objectives and how you will achieve and measure them?
- > Is it clear that the grant has a good chance of making a difference if awarded?
- > Is the budget realistically costed?

If you are in any doubt as to whether a particular project or programme is eligible for funding, please contact the Development Education Unit for advice before submitting the application.

Section Two: General Conditions

Closing Dates

The closing dates for each round are as follows:

Round One:	Applications to be received before 5pm on the last Friday in January.
Round Two:	Applications to be received before 5pm on the last Friday in June.

Please see the Irish Aid website for further details of closing dates.

Grant Timeframe

Annual Funding

Projects funded in round one cannot begin before April and must conclude not later than March the following year. Projects funded in round two cannot begin before September and must conclude not later than August the following year.

Multi-annual Funding

Projects/programmes funded in round one cannot begin before April and must conclude not later than March of the final year of the funding.

Projects/programmes funded in round two cannot begin before September and must conclude not later than August of the final year of the funding.

Organisations in receipt of multi-annual funding are eligible to apply for an additional one-year grant which must be completed within the timeframe of the multi-annual funding.

Applications

Applicants should ensure that they are using the correct application format for the type of grant they are seeking. In the case of multi-annual grant funding, organisations are advised to submit a concept note up to six weeks in advance of the closing date for applications.

Applications are accepted by e-mail or post. Faxed applications will not be accepted. An application sent by post or email should be posted in sufficient time to ensure delivery by the deadline. Allegations of loss or delay will not be considered unless supported by a certificate of posting. The cost of postage must be borne by the applicant.

Processing

Applications will normally be processed within eight to ten weeks of the relevant deadline.

Groups should receive notification about the decision on their application within this timescale.

The Development Education Grants Committee's recommendations, once approved by the Minister of State with responsibility for Overseas Development, are final. Appeals on funding decisions are not entertained. In cases of a decision not to fund, applicants are given feedback in writing. Information on funding decisions is available under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003.

Members of the Development Education Grants Committee include officials from Irish Aid, the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, the Department of Education and Science and independent consultants.

Canvassing

Any attempt to influence the outcome of the decision-making process in relation to grant applications will result in the relevant application(s) being disqualified.

Grant Levels

Irish Aid may fund up to 100% of one-year grant and multi-annual grant costs, but organisations are encouraged to seek funding from other sources also.

Grant Payments

Successful applicants for multi-annual funding are paid 100% of the grant for the first year and in subsequent years on satisfactory completion of reporting requirements. In the case of one-year grants, 80% is paid when the grant is awarded and the remaining 20% on receipt of a satisfactory final report.

Recipients of funding under the Scheme who fail to provide satisfactory reports on time or violate in any other way their contract with the Department of Foreign Affairs will be required to return part or all of monies paid out.

Reporting Requirements

An annual narrative and financial report (interim or final) is required. Recipients of grants in excess of €12,700 must provide audited or certified accounts (whichever is appropriate) of all relevant income and expenditure on completion of projects or programmes.

Evaluation and Audit

Irish Aid reserves the right to evaluate and audit projects from time to time.

Tax Clearance

The Government's tax clearance procedures apply to all grants allocated. These procedures mean that before a grant is awarded the successful applicant will be required to provide a current tax clearance certificate. If you do not already have a tax number you can get one from your local tax office. Applications without a tax number will not be considered.

Freedom of Information

Applicants are reminded that information contained in their application form may be subject to release under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003. If you believe that any of the information supplied by you should not be disclosed because of its sensitivity, you should identify this information and state the reasons for its sensitivity. The Department of Foreign Affairs will consult with you about this sensitive information before making a decision on any Freedom of Information request received.

Where you can get advice and guidance

Development Education Unit staff are available to assist you if you have any queries or require assistance in relation to your application. Queries from first-time applicants prior to making an application are particularly welcome. Queries will be dealt with by Development Education Unit staff up to two weeks before the grant round deadline. Applicants are encouraged to submit a concept note to Development Education Unit staff when making a query. However, staff cannot assist directly in the preparation of funding applications.

A 'Question and Answer' section on the Development Education Funding Scheme is available on our website www.irishaid.gov.ie

Notes

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