

DARE Meeting, Strasbourg/Kehl 22-23 May

Notes by Dóchas representation in DARE – Elaine Mahon, NYCI elainem@nyci.ie

Day 1 – Main Focus on European Parliament Campaign

Some brief news/updates:

DARE forum Steering Group (SG) will be sending a letter to the European Commission regarding the delays in processing the concept notes of the NSA Call for Proposals (Nov 2011). The draft letter was revised during the DARE forum and will be sent directly. In terms of delays to finances, interest is calculated and paid automatically to the grant beneficiary once the delay reaches 45 days.

In the context of the follow-up to the ‘DEAR Study’, the EC has initiated a number of processes aimed at the DEAR Community:

1. There will be a **meeting 25/26 June in Brussels** with project managers of ongoing projects in DEAR funded by the EC.

Question: Have Irish orgs received an invitation to this meeting?

2. **EC DEAR Strategy:** Matthias Fiedler (IDEA) gave an update on the **7 May meeting on a potential EC DEAR Strategy with the European Commission**. In the context of the new Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) of the EC for 2014-2020, EC have opportunity to include and prioritise DE. However there needs to be a clear EC rationale for including DE in development funding programmes. 60 reps were invited on 7 May from Member States, Civil Society and the EC. Harm-Jan (UK DARE rep) is the consultant hired by the EC to facilitate the process. It seems it may not be a Strategy but a **Staff Working Paper annexed to an EC Communication on the role of Civil Society in Development** (to the EP and the Council). This reinforced commitment of the EC is positive, but we must make sure it doesn't focus solely on funding mechanisms, but can also be relevant to Member States.
3. **EC DEAR Support Unit:** This is a consultancy hired by the EC to support DEAR actors in Member States. They propose to host 10 workshops in Member States, in conjunction with the DEAR community. It is unclear exactly what the agenda of such workshops should be. The DARE forum has a role in establishing what 'we need'. The **Advocacy WG will draft a letter to the DEAR Support Unit to communicate some priorities**. The DARE forum will be invited to comment 6-11 June.

EP Declaration – campaign day at the European Parliament

306 MEPs have now signed – we can ask for a one-month extension to reach the magical target of 374 signatures. 68 to go! We spent Tuesday at the European Parliament, engaging with MEPs on the Written Declaration for DE.

11 of the 12 Irish MEPs have signed. Brian Crowley is currently on sick leave.

Reflection on the EP DE Declaration Campaign (reflection happened in Day 2 of our meeting)

- Positive generally
- The Declaration will be a good tool if it is adapted
- This is our first direct lobby action. CONCORD has never done something similar.
- Future emails go to MEP and in CC to assistant
- Example of the 'Advocacy WG' practical day – could other WGs also have a practical session involving the whole forum?

EP Event: Do European Citizens care about the rest of the World?

How DE and global learning contribute to shaping a just future

We also hosted this event at 5pm and invited MEPs etc.

Two Irish MEPs attended: Emer Costello and Gay Mitchell, among others who tabled and co-signed the declaration

Chaired by Rilli Lappanainen, KEHYS (lead applicant of DEEP 4 and also on CONCORD Board)

Note: Full notes on event are in separate document attached

DARE Forum Day 2 – Regular DARE meeting

Elections to Steering Group happening in September 2012

Update from Rilli re **Global Education Congress in September** – planned by North-South Centre as it is 10 years since the Maastricht Declaration on GE (Maastricht Declaration 2002 – first pan-European declaration on GE)

- DARE forum will be held exactly before (25-26 September)
- GE Congress (organised NSC, CONCORD and GENE) (27-28 September)
- 200 participants – including DARE forum
- Nicole, Rene, Ana, Tobias and Rilli input on organisation and logistics

- Key-note speakers: need to show that DE is the tool to survive in this planet, and especially in the current economic crisis in Europe
- Suggestions for key-note speakers – FoE El Salvador – ask Trócaire
- www.gecongress2012.org
- Focus of the Congress is on:
 1. national strategies,
 2. school curriculum,
 3. quality,
 4. competencies,
 5. campaigning and outreach (for Development/of Ministries, e.g. Frames and Values)

Presentation on Quality and Impact toolkit, by Harm-Jan (Chair of Q&I working group)

Draft toolkit disseminated in advance of DARE forum

This is an additional support to quality DE. It is not replacing what already exists. Feedback was provided during the Forum and a 2nd draft will be circulated by Harm-Jan in June.

Request: Forward examples of any documents, toolkits etc on Monitoring, Evaluation, Quality and Impact in DE to elainem@nyci.ie

Presentation on the Revised DEAR Advocacy Toolkit by Gerasimos and Marina

Why the Advocacy Toolkit?

- Arguments for DE
- Planning for advocacy
- Examples and Case Studies

Toolkit lay-out

- Explaining DEAR (conceptual clarity)
- Making the Case (global context, current challenges, Trócaire referenced) (Changing self, changing together, changing the rules, changing paradigms)
- Advocacy: the basics
- How to develop a successful DEAR strategy
- Acronyms and references

Note: I have given one hard copy to Thomas (Dóchas) and one is also being circulated among DEG members

Presentation on DEEP 3 evaluation by Gerasimos Kouvaras and Glykeria Arapi

- There has been a mid-term evaluation

- Aim to be forward-looking, living-working tool and inclusive of all stakeholders
- Deadline/Presentation: 12 September final presentation

Other stakeholders:

- N.B to include national platforms in evaluation and impact assessment (what feedback do they have from DARE reps?)

Working Group sessions – Priorities for next 6 months (ie up to end of DEEEP 3 in September) Future of WGs beyond September is not really clear as it also depends if funding application of DEEEP 4 is successful.

Advocacy WG priorities

- EP campaign: Update list for 307 signatures; plus mini-plenary 10-14 June
- Need to harvest lessons learnt from the EP campaign
- Influence EC communication on DE
- Send letter to EC on EC DEAR Support Unit and EC Communications on DE, comments between 6-11 June (letter on NSA application process will be sent by DARE Steering Group)
- Dissemination of the advocacy toolkit – what next? Training etc...

Request: is anyone from DEG/Dóchas interested in participating in the lobby campaign at the EP in Strasbourg during June, please contact elainem@nyci.ie

Communications WG

- Online resource library will be developed for the DEEEP website

Action: if you have documents you would like to share at European level via the DEEEP online library, please contact elainem@nyci.ie or fill attached form

- Thematic Dossier still to be done on the Economic Crisis (Portugal, Greece, Ireland), as well as dossiers on Formal Education, Quality and Impact, DESS 2012 working groups
- National Pages on DEEEP website – template will be disseminated.

Note: The current Irish page is here: <http://www.deeep.org/national-and-networks-pages/204-ireland.html> Do you have anything that you wish to add? Please let me know elainem@nyci.ie

- **Code of Conduct seminar: 10 July: one-day in Brussels, focus on communications officers**
 - Southern perspectives
 - Practical part: peer review own materials
 - Exchange national experiences

- Mandate from DARE forum on European peer review process

Formal Education WG:

- Planning the thematic dossier: DE in ITE (Initial Teacher Education) is the specific focus; this will include the results of the DARE survey on ITE.

Quality and Impact WG:

- Feedback on Q&I toolkit very useful (in the DARE forum) and there will be a 2nd draft of the document (circulated end of June latest)
- Publication and print (in English) of toolkit/framework early September
- Plan to introduce it (or have a workshop) at the DARE forum and in the GE congress, September in Lisbon
- Option to translate it via other national platforms

Youth and Children WG

- Reflection on work achieved so far
 - Dissemination of PP and TD – broad and personal provided ‘food for thought’, ‘provoking organisations’, ‘helping to articulate good practice’
 - Engagement with key stakeholders, e.g. Council of Europe (follow-up with Tiina-Maria from yesterday)
 - Input to DEEEP 4
 - Spin-off activity application to NSA by 4 members of the WG
- Tasks for next 6 months
 - Social Media campaign via DEEEP Twitter and Facebook for International Youth Day (14 Aug) Elaine/Asta
 - Create a youth-friendly accompanying document for the Advocacy Toolkit to promote advocacy by youth (language/terminology and methods)

AOB

- Letter on delays of funding to projects will be drafted by Advocacy WG

Request: if any project in Ireland have experience of delays in funding from the EC in DE projects, please contact elainem@nyci.ie

- Experience of projects nationally which have experienced delays in funding
- Letter on delays in NSA process will be sent by DARE Steering Group (no further circulation)
- 6-11 June period for comments on EC Dear support team/strategy

- mid-July Q&I publication: DARE forum approval needed
- 25/26 Sept DARE Forum in Lisbon
- Also, there is a newly created working group in the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes EADI on "Global Learning meets Development". See more information here: <http://www.eadi.org/working-groups/wg-global-learning-meets-development.html>

Request: It would be great if you could send me names, contacts and maybe some words on profile/background of researchers or academics you think could be interested in joining the group. Please send to elainem@nyci.ie

Request: Also: A DARE member is looking recommendations on possible experts for a seminar that we are going to have in September on Global Education & adult learning. It is organised by an organisation the Czech Republic. The key note speaker should give an input on GE/DE and connect it to adult learning, the main focus being that GE is not only for youth and children, but also for adults, and why it is relevant for adults. Any ideas, please contact elainem@nyci.ie

Invitation: DARE member 'Südwind' (Austria) is inviting you to a European Roundtable "Decent Work-Decent Life. Achievements and Recommendations for the Future" on Tuesday, 19th June 9-12.00 hours in the European Parliament in Brussels in Room A1-E1, that is jointly organized by Südwind together with NGOs and unions from Austria, Romania and Bulgaria and the MEP Ivailo Kalfin: Contact Stefan Kerl [stefan.kerl@suedwind.at]