



UN Year of Water Co-operation

2013 is the UN Year of Water Co-operation. World Water Day, which will take place on 22 March 2013, also will be dedicated to water cooperation. The objective of this International Year is to raise awareness, both on the potential for increased cooperation, and on the challenges facing water management in light of the increase in demand for water access, allocation and services. The Year will highlight the history of successful water cooperation initiatives, as well as identify burning issues on water education, water diplomacy, transboundary water management, financing cooperation, national/international legal frameworks, and the linkages with the Millennium Development Goals. It also will provide an opportunity to capitalize on the momentum created at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and to support the formulation of new objectives that will contribute towards developing water resources that are truly sustainable.

<http://www.unwater.org/watercooperation2013.html>

Future of CSPE

From NCCA website:

From 2017, CSPE will be assessed as a short course and not as a Junior Certificate subject examination (Framework p.24). This means that the group of students starting first year in September 2013 will be the last group to follow the current CSPE syllabus and to take the CSPE Junior Certificate examination at the end of third year. From **September 2014**, schools can either decide to offer the new NCCA short course in CSPE (100 hours) or to address the relevant learning (including **Statements of Learning**, No's 7, 9 and 10, p. 6 of the *Framework*) through other curriculum components, learning activities and experiences.

Conference 2013

We are hoping to come to Galway for Conference 2013. Planning is at an early stage but we hope to have it in October and to feature issues like the Year of Citizens and the Year of Water Co-operation among others.

Membership Matters

Membership for 2012/2013 is now overdue for renewal – if relevant renewal notices are included. Renewals necessary if you wish to keep receiving our newsletters and email alerts. Please send €20 to Brendan O'Regan, Ticknock Lane, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.

News

Year of Citizens

The European Year of Citizens takes place in 2013 and is organised by the European Commission. Contact details for this event in Ireland: Europe for Citizens Point Ireland IPA (Institute of Public Administration) 57-61 Lansdowne Road Ballsbridge, IE- Dublin 4 Tel : +353/124 03 600 Fax: +353/16689135 Contact: Ms Teresa Casserly Web: www.ipa.ie Email: europewforcitizens@ipa.ie More information on this initiative is available here: http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/european-year-of-citizens-2013/index_en.htm The official launch of the European Year of Citizens 2013 took place in Dublin on 10 January at a ceremony in Dublin Castle.

Human Rights Commission

This year the Irish Human Rights Commission invited Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE) students to make human rights the focus of their CSPE Action Project and to play their part in creating a society that recognises that human rights are everyone's rights. As part of the Action Project the Commission asked students to help promote human rights more widely by creating images that depict human rights in Ireland. The resulting display, 'Express Yourself!' is a National Exhibition organised by the IHRC at the Lighthouse Cinema, Dublin 7 from 27 February to 6 March 2013.

Amnesty News

Two items worth noting for CSPE teachers: On Wed 27 February at 4 pm there will be a 'webinar' with Karen Robinson, on the theme 'Speak Truth to Power - Human Rights Defenders who are changing our world'. Email hre@amnesty.ie to register for this event. This webinar will explore human rights education and will provide educators with new ideas and tools for teaching about human rights issues. It promises to be an engaging discussion of the role of human rights education, its value and importance to teachers and students. The webinar will consist of Karen's presentation and a question and answer session with the presenter. Karen is very much looking forward to talking with Irish teachers and educators.

Rights Sparks is a new way for primary and post-primary teachers with practical classroom experience to share their invaluable skills with other teachers. CPD sessions introduce teachers to a range of human rights education methodologies and resources, which can be integrated across the curriculum and encourage the development of skills like literacy and working with others.

Incorporating human rights education into the classroom encourages communication, conflict resolution and empathy to create a positive school atmosphere.

To find out about Rights Sparks CPD opportunities in your area, contact us at 01 863 8300 or hre@amnesty.ie

Holocaust Education Trust

Study Visit to Berlin - Teacher Education Programme - Continuous Professional Development 02-05 April 2013. This programme involves visits to authentic Holocaust sites and is an intensive course which will introduce teachers to some aspects of the complex and challenging subjects of the Holocaust. Lecturers, seminars and interactive workshops will feature on this programme. Visit includes: Topography of Terror Exhibition Walking Tour of Berlin with a focus on historical sites and commemoration of Nazi victims - Memorial for the murdered Jews of Europe, House of the Wannsee Conference Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp Memorial, The Anne Frank Centre, Berlin. Places limited. For further information, please contact the Trust office: T: 01 6690593 E: info@hetireland.org W: www.hetireland.org

On 10th December 2012 the death occurred of Zoltan Zinn-Collis, a Holocaust survivor living in Ireland. Zoltan was very generous with his time, visiting many Irish schools and speaking of his experiences.

Inservice

The following courses will be offered by the Support Service for CSPE Spring 2013:

Note: it is important to book promptly for these courses – just turning up on the night/morning is taking a chance. If there is not enough demand in advance courses may be cancelled. See below for booking info.

Using Photographs, Film Clips and other Active Learning Resources in CSPE

These workshops will take place on Saturdays from 10:00 am to 3:45 pm

Saturday, 2nd March: Athlone Education Centre
Saturday, 9th March: Limerick Education Centre
Saturday, 13th April: Cork Education Support Centre

Undertaking CSPE Action Projects and Reporting on them

These workshops take place in the evenings from 7:00 p to 9:30 pm

Tuesday, 26th February: Dublin West Education Centre
Tuesday, 26th February: Cork Education Support Centre
Wednesday, 27th February: Laois Education Centre
Wednesday, 27th February: Limerick Education Centre
Thursday, 28th February: Mayo Education Centre
Thursday, 28th February: Monaghan Education Centre

Tackling Controversial Issues

These workshops take place in the evenings from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm.

Teachers other than CSPE teachers may also be interested in attending these workshops!

Tuesday, 5th March: Cork Education Support Centre
Thursday, 7th March: Mayo Education Centre
Thursday, 7th March: Monaghan Education Centre
Wednesday, 13th March: Athlone Education Centre
Thursday, 14th March: Tralee Education Centre
Wednesday, 10th April: Galway Education Centre

National Co-ordinator for CSPE is Conor Harrison. Angie Grogan is the Administrator based in Dublin West Education Centre, Old Blessington Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24. She can be contacted by phone on 01-452 8018 and by fax on 01-452 8010. Her e-mail address is angiegrogan@pdst.ie
Booking form is here: <http://www.pdst.ie/sites/default/files/CSPE%20Booking%20Form.doc>
and here: <http://www.pdst.ie/node/152> with full information.

New Trócaire Resource



Trócaire's new CSPE/Citizenship Resource on India is available to download here:

http://www.trocaire.org/sites/trocaire/files/pdfs/edu/Lent_2013_CSPE_Citizenship_0.pdf

There are various activities about development in India, with action project ideas, curriculum links, web links, an emphasis on key words and key skills, along with homework and extension activities. Relevant photos are included and can also be downloaded at

www.trocaire.org/education/lentschools

Concern 2013 Writing Competition



This year, students are invited to explore solutions to some of the world's greatest development challenges.

Students choose from one of the three topics outlined below and submit their entry in no more than 750 – 1,000 words.

- Write a blog about how you would end world hunger
- Write a speech accepting the Nobel Peace Prize for improving the lives of the world's poorest people
- Write a story of what it is like to live in Haiti three years after the devastating earthquake

The deadline is midnight on 21 March.

Competition categories:

Junior (ages 13 to 15), Senior (ages 16 to 19) and Adult (age 20 years and over).

Prizes will be awarded in each of the competition categories as follows:

First prize: laptop; Second prize: e-reader; Third prize: Mp4 player

Download the rules of entry and full information here:

www.concern.net/get-involved/schools/concern-writing-competition/2013

For tips on writing about development issues for the competition, download booklet here:

www.concern.net/sites/www.concern.net/files/media/event/concern_writing_competition_writing_tips.pdf

Winning and selected entries are included in Concern's writing competition book.

Activate is published once per school term by the Association of CSPE Teachers—supporting citizenship education in Ireland. Articles and letters for publication should be sent to the editor, Brendan O'Regan, Arklow CBS, Co. Wicklow, or emailed to act@esatclear.ie