

### Workstream 3.3: Service Learning, Civic & Community Engagement

**Coordinator: Dr Phil Mulvaney**

Workstream 3.3 is intended to institutionalise civic engagement in TU Dublin; specifically, to advance community engagement as a core academic activity within TU Dublin, building on experience and achievements in this area, and drawing on the insights and learnings from other HEIs, nationally and internationally, as well as [Campus Engage](#). The focus is on the development of a module on Active Citizenship for incorporation in the curriculum as a core 5ects module or as an extra-curricular activity under STLR. The module aims to educate students in citizenship and encourage them to get actively involved in their communities. A second key element is to advance community-engaged research, in keeping with the Campus Engage How to Guide, Engaged Research Planning for Impact: Society and Higher Education Addressing Grand Societal Challenges Together. The research is titled ‘A Profile and Evaluation of Local and Community development in South Dublin County. A third and final element is to examine the structures, management and impact of civic engagement activities across the three campuses in TU Dublin, with a view to informing the future organisational design and civic engagement strategy of the university.

Objectives	Key Achievements
<p>Advance community engagement as a core academic activity within TU Dublin, building on experience and achievements in this area, and drawing on the insights and learnings from other HEIs, nationally and internationally</p>	<p><b>1. Active Citizenship Module</b></p> <p>A module on <a href="#">Active Citizenship</a> was developed and validated in 2020-2021. It was piloted in 2021-2022 with a group of full-time students (first years) and part-time students (third years). The module is a five-credit, generic module that can be attached to any programme or discipline. It is framed against the UN SDG’s and <a href="#">The Council of Europe Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture (RFCDC)</a>. The module was developed with the involvement of external stakeholders/ community organisations. It incorporates a knowledge, skills and competencies framework and digital learning tools to support online and blended learning.</p> <p>Consequently, following supporting outcomes were also achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The module will form a pillar module under the new <a href="#">University Education Model (UEM)</a> that is in development, led by a designated team.</li> <li>• <i>Community-engaged Research and Learning (CERL)</i> links with: South Dublin Partnership, SDCC, South Dublin Volunteer, Tallaght Community Council and other local community and voluntary sector organisations. See, for example, <a href="#">Promoting Biodiversity</a>.</li> <li>• Engagement with <a href="#">South Dublin Chamber Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Network</a> – to share knowledge and experience on community engagement</li> <li>• Links with <i>Learning, Teaching &amp; Assessment Centre</i> in TU Dublin Events such as: <a href="#">Learning, Teaching &amp; Assessment Webinar</a> and at “<i>Educational Explorers Event</i>” (6 May, 2022)</li> <li>• Link with NFETL: Presentation on <a href="#">Education for Citizenship &amp; Development</a> at the <a href="#">Valuing Ireland’s Teaching and Learning</a></li> <li>• Links with <a href="#">Convene Project</a> on education for sustainability and global citizenship.</li> <li>• Links with <a href="#">European University of Technology (EUT+)</a> on collaborative projects.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Engaged Research Project on Local and Community Development.</b></p> <p>This was conducted with the support of South Dublin County Council (SDCC), the South Dublin Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), the South Dublin Public Participation Network (PPN), South Dublin Partnership, the South Dublin Volunteer Centre and other stakeholders. Various meetings and workshops took place to progress</p>

the research. The title of the thesis is 'A Profile and Evaluation of Local and Community Development in South Dublin County'. The thesis was submitted in July 2022 and the viva voce examination is scheduled for September 2022.

Consequently, the following supporting outcomes were also achieved:

- [LCDC Workshop Supporting Marginalised Communities: Priorities for SICAP 2022](#) (Abridged Report -Facilitated by the postgraduate scholar, Paula Donovan, Nov 2021)
- Engagement with [South Dublin County Local Community Development Committee](#) in the development of the South Dublin County Local Economic & Community Plan 2023-27
- Engagement with TCD, [Goal](#) and the University of Dar Es Salaam (UDSM, Tanzania) on Global Citizenship via a [New Foundations Irish Research Council Application - Blue Economy Living Labs for Global Citizenship Education in Sustainable Development](#)
- Links with TU Dublin Post-graduate Research – [Presentation on Engaged Research for Social Impact](#) (forthcoming, Sept 2022).

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Informed by [Campus Engage](#), to complement existing activity in TU Dublin, set new baseline figures and key performance indicators for engagement activity across research, teaching and learning, student, volunteering and public engagement.

As part of this work package, a cross-campus civic engagement group was established to evaluate the structures, policies and frameworks for civic engagement in TU Dublin. This objective aligned with the timing of the university's Institutional Review process, known as [CINNTE](#), and with the creation of a new [Organisational Design](#) for TU Dublin.

Key outputs from this work package are found in the following reports:

- [TU Dublin Institutional Profile](#): *Creating TU Dublin* (p.4), *Our Educational Principles* (p.11), *Engagement: Contributing to the social, civic and economic life of Dublin and Ireland* (p.40).
- [TU Dublin Institutional Self Evaluation Report 2021](#): *Industry, International and Civic Engagement*, Chapter 6.
- [TU Dublin Annual Report 2021](#) 2.2 *Creating Responsible Global Citizens*
- The outputs of this work package are also reflected in the [Institutional Review Report 2021 TU Dublin](#) published by QQI, which commends TU Dublin on its extensive focus on external engagement, including civic engagement.

The following complementary outcomes were also achieved:

- [Steering Higher Education for Community Engagement \(SHEFCE\)](#): We are now engaged in a follow-up project SHEFCE, that will provide the team with the opportunity to incorporate and further develop its findings. SHEFCE aims to further build the capacities of universities, policymakers and stakeholders in Europe for mainstreaming community engagement in higher education.
  - [European University of Technology \(EUt+\)](#): Within this consortium, TU Dublin will contribute to Work Package 2: *Europe for Everyone: Inclusiveness and Embeddedness*. TU Dublin is the lead on this work package and we will contribute to:
    - (a) Task 2.2: EUt+ will champion inclusiveness in Europe and will lead by example by ensuring that all of its programmes 'nurture European values and citizenship and to optimally develop Europe's human capital'.
    - (b) Task 2.4 EUt+ will deepen the connections with its ecosystems and link its diverse territories for inter- and intra-regional knowledge exchange and collaboration with stakeholders, including industry, government, civic and community organisations.
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### Workstream Impact and Continuity

- A programme of work will now continue through participation in a European-funded ERASMUS+ project, [Steering Higher Education for Community Engagement \(SHEFCE\)](#). The project will develop and implement an Action Plan for Civic Engagement in TU Dublin, encompassing the various strands already identified through this workstream. We will consolidate and implement new processes and procedures to advance CE in TU Dublin, working with Campus Engage, and other national, EU and international organisations.
- [University Education Model](#): The active citizenship module will be included as a pan-University pillar module. We will continue to work with the University Education Model (UEM) Team in the next academic year to support embedding the module into the TU Dublin curriculum project. We will consider possible revisions to the module, including a change in title – to ‘Citizenship, Democracy & Society’ - thereby broadening its scope to encompass/capture participation, as citizens, in the economy and in government, as well as civic society/community.
- Application Irish Research Council: Blue Economy Living Labs for Global Citizenship Education in Sustainable Development. ‘A Better World’ New Foundations Awards - Networking & Collaboration Grant, in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs (max €10,000).

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