



A Voice for Rural Ireland

Training Brochure 2011

www.irishrurallink.ie

About Irish Rural Link



Irish Rural Link (IRL) was formed in 1991 to act as a national network of organisations and individuals campaigning for sustainable rural development in Ireland and Europe. IRL is a non-profit organisation representing over 300 community groups with a combined membership of 25,000.

Vision Statement

- To create vibrant, inclusive and sustainable rural communities that will contribute to an equitable and just society
- To influence national and European development policies and programmes in favour of those who are marginalised as a result of poverty and social exclusion in rural areas

Commitment to Lifelong Learning

IRL is actively committed to advancing rural interests and opportunities through research and education. We are presently involved in a trans-European Life Long Learning Partnership called “50+” The project brings together partners from ten European countries with the aim of lifting the barriers to adult’s participation and learning process in rural areas.

Through our role in “50+” we are continuing to develop expertise in European models of best practice in community development, educational tools and microfinance. “50+” is co-financed by the European Commission within the **Learning Partnerships** action of the *Grundtvig sub-programme*, as part of the **Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-2013**



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

Training with IRL

In order to advance the interests of our members Irish Rural Link has developed and delivered a number of training courses to our members. We have now developed a broad choice of training opportunities which cater for the training and education needs of rural enterprises, community and voluntary groups with an interest in rural development.

We offer:

- Courses available on demand*
- Small class sizes
- Interactive learning methodologies
- Competitive rates for groups
- Skilled and experienced trainers
- Comprehensive training materials and handbooks

*subject to minimum numbers and availability

Meeting your training needs

Funding assistance may be available for community and voluntary organisations. Our staff can provide information and assistance in obtaining grants for training costs. Our flexible approach means that tailor made courses can be arranged to suit your specific training needs. Groups or trainees can select a combination of modules depending on the time they have to dedicate to training. Course times are flexible, evening or day courses may be arranged subject to numbers.



“I found it to be an engrossing and enlightening experience and one which I would recommend to any burgeoning or established community organisations anywhere in the country”
David Kerins, Treasurer,
Kilmicheal Parish Resource Centre

Training Facilities



The National Rural Development and Training Centre officially opened its doors in October 2003. This facility is home to Irish Rural Link staff offices and our state of the art training facilities.

We offer:

- Flexible, modern training rooms
- DVD, video and projector facilities
- Wireless high speed internet
- Canteen facilities
- Ample free car parking
- Induction loop system
- Wheelchair accessibility

Location

The IRL training centre is strategically located in the heart of the midlands at Moate Business Park Co. Westmeath at Exit 6 of the M6 Dublin – Galway Motorway.

IRL can also come to you and deliver training in your local area!



Skills for Community & Enterprise



Survival of rural based organisations depends on having skills to manage core activities in an efficient way. The expertise of our staff has proven invaluable for many groups who encounter barriers due to remoteness, funding and finance, or effective management.

We offer:

Modules in Skills for Community & Enterprise

- **Train the Trainer (FETAC)**
- **Media and Communications**
- **Policy and Advocacy Skills**
- **Making the Planning System work for your Community**
- **Community Organisation**
- **Engagement of Volunteers**
- **Finance and Fundraising in Communities**
- **Community Needs and Resource Analysis**
- **Strategic Planning and Evaluation Skills**

Community Powerdown



Training for Leadership, Livelihoods and Local Resilience

Irish Rural Link, in collaboration with Cultivate (www.cultivate.ie), developed the “Community Powerdown” Programme in order to progress towards sustainable rural lifestyles and resilient communities.

The objective of this course is to nurture community leadership in sustainability and support a strategic shift towards global citizenship, ecological thinking and local resilience. The full *Powerdown* programme consists of ten complete modules normally delivered over ten sessions lasting 2.5 hours each. We also offer a one-day introductory course covering the crucial elements of the community powerdown programme.

We offer:

Modules in Community Powerdown

- **The Challenge Ahead: Climate, Energy Sustainability**
- **The Power of Community: Social Capital, Resilience and the Local Economy**
- **It’s all connected: Whole Systems Thinking and Permaculture**
- **Rethinking Energy: Conservation, Curtailment, Efficiency and Appropriate Technology**
- **Getting Around: Transport and Mobility**
- **Deconstructing Dinner: Food Miles, Trade and Food Systems**
- **Shelter: Future Proofing Our Homes and Buildings**
- **Energy Descent Pathways: Post Carbon Cities, Transition Towns and Eco Villages**
- **Global Citizenship: Engaging Locally, Acting Globally**
- **Opportunities for Change: Where do we go from here? Communication and Livelihoods**

Community Development (FETAC Modules)



Irish Rural Link is a FETAC registered training provider.

We specialise in Community Development, Media and Communications and Train the Trainer.

We offer:

Modules in Community Development (Level 5)

- Working With Groups [E20143](#)
- Understanding Community Development [E20144](#)
- Community Development Practice [E20145](#)
- Communications [G20001](#)
- Management Committee Skills [E20147](#)
- Social Analysis [E20157](#)
- Intercultural Studies [E20169](#)
- Social Studies [G20031](#)
- Sustainable Development [L22380](#)
- Environmental Studies [L21324](#)

Modules in Community Development (Level 6)

- Community Development Practice [E30145](#)
- Social Analysis [E30157](#)
- Community Development Theory [E30160](#)
- Conflict Management [E30161](#)
- Policy Making in Community Development [E30162](#)
- Group Work Theory and Practice [E30163](#)
- Community Organisation Management [E30168](#)
- Communications [G20001](#)

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