



National Student Engagement Programme

Clár Rannpháirtíochta Náisiúnta na Mac Léinn

June 2017

NStEP Begins 5 New Projects

5 National Projects

The Institutional Analysis Workshops completed in the pilot generated institutional reports which were also analysed from a national perspective. The pilot Working Group reviewed the outputs and determined the five topics to be addressed by the national programme. The five projects will each have a project team led by one of the higher education institutions involved in the NStEP pilot. A call for project team members has been issued and can also be found on usi.ie/nstep. The five projects are:

- The Role and Recruitment of Class Representatives (Led by National College of Ireland)
- The Design, Review and Delivery of Programmes (Led by NUI Galway)
- Student Feedback Opportunities, Data and Follow Up (Led by Waterford Institute of Technology)
- Students in formal system level procedures, strategy and decision making (Led by Letterkenny Institute of Technology)
- Staff Roles and Capacity Building (Led by Cork Institute of Technology)

Work plans for each project will be published before November.

NStEP Work Streams



2017 Induction events

On April 6th the National Student Training Programme Induction event was held in the Radisson Blu, Golden Lane. Over 40 participants from institutions and students' unions learned about the Class Rep Training Sessions and reviewed the work of the pilot training programme. To complete the induction event a panel of pilot participants, moderated by Jack Leahy USI Deputy President & VP Academic Affairs, shared their experiences and we thank Dr. Maurice FitzGerald (NCI), Cathal Sherlock (NUIG), Cliona Hatano (CIT) and Simon Varwell (sparqs) for their insights and advice.

The 2017 Institutional Analysis Work Stream will involve 6 institutions and induction meetings began in June with DIT, DCU and Griffith College. Meetings are being scheduled with IT Tralee, Maynooth University and IT Sligo.

Get involved with #NStEPRollOut:

Join the National Student Engagement Network

In November the network will be launched. Email cat.odriscoll@usi.ie to join and get a login in for the online platform.

Apply for the Internship

The paid part time 13-week internship will commence in August. Read the call on www.usi.ie/nstep and apply by July 21st.

Get nominated for a project team

Each of the 5 projects are looking for team members nominated by institutions and Students' Unions.

Join the student expert pools

The QA Student Reviewers Pool is recruiting. Check out the call: www.usi.ie/nstep

What's happening in your institution.

Your Students' Union and Institutional Leaders can tell you what's going on across your campuses.

Student Trainers Recruited

With the Student Training Programme preparing to be delivered across 23 institutions from September the trainers' pool has also expanded. Emi Ryan, Logan Arnold, Patricia O'Brien, Darren Malone, Emma Tunnickliffe, Robert Kiely and Aimee Connolly were all successful in the 2017 selection process and will complete the sparqs residential training in August in Dundee. They will then join the rest of the trainers' pool, Laura O'Connor, Catherine Ryan, Dannii Curtis and Joanna Siewierska for training in Dublin before the training programme rolls out across the sector.

NStEP goes International

Before NStEP was established sparqs (Student Partnerships in Quality Scotland) brought the international perspective to the development of the programme. In the time since NStEP has engaged with other projects across the world, many developed from the close ties with sparqs. In April 2017, the NStEP Coordinator led a delegation of SU Officers to Yerevan, Armenia to participate in the European funded ESPAQ (Enhancing Student Participation in Quality in Armenia) project week long study exchange. In May a group of students from the Armenian National Students' Association (ANSA) came to Ireland for a study visit hosted by NStEP and USI. From June 6th-8th the NStEP Coordinator attended QAA Scotlands conference in Glasgow which marked the end of the enhancement theme on Transitions. On June 19th NStEP was presented to the Harmonisation and Innovation in Central American Higher Education (HICA) delegation hosted by the Irish Universities Association and University College Cork in University College Dublin. In September 2017 NStEP will be presented to the National Fellowship Symposium of Dr. Sally Varham in Sydney Australia.



Cat O'Driscoll facilitating an ESPAQ workshop in Yerevan, Armenia

NStEP Internship

USI is currently recruiting an intern for the programme. The role will primarily focus on developing the programme communications and supporting the National Student Training Programme, but the intern will also attend meetings with the NStEP Coordinator and take an active role in programme events. The 13 week part time paid role will be flexible to cater for someone with study, parental or caring commitments. Applications must be submitted to the NStEP Coordinator by email to cat.odriscoll@usi.ie before 5pm on July 21st. A selection panel will be convened including the programme partners to decide a shortlist who will progress to interviews with the panel.

Goodbye and thanks

This time of year sees many Students' Union Officers leave the movement as crossovers take place. NStEP would not be successful without the commitment of SU Officers and the work they put in to the programme. Many thanks and best wishes to our former Working Group Members Shane Falvey, Ruth O'Leary and Rej Makinano in CIT SU, Cathal Sherlock in NUIG SU and Dylan McGowan in LYIT SU. One of the NStEP Student Trainers is also leaving the programme. Molly Kenny, a former Education Officer in Trinity College Dublin Students' Union brought great experience to the pool of trainers and helped shape how it will roll out. Many thanks Molly.

Finally, we say goodbye to Jack Leahy, Deputy President & VP Academic Affairs of USI, who chaired the Working Group throughout the pilot. NStEP would not have been established without the commitment and enthusiasm Jack has for student engagement and the hard work he put in throughout his two terms in the VP Academic Affairs role. Thanks for everything and best wishes in your future endeavours.



Jack Leahy addressing USI Congress

For further information go to usi.ie/nstep and follow @NStEPie on twitter for regular programme updates.

The National Student Engagement Programme is funded and supported by:

