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Learning, Teaching & Training Event



Clare Education Centre, 13th - 17th October 2025

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Enriching lives, opening minds.

European Educators Gather in Clare to Advance Climate Education and Pupil Voice



Clare Education Centre hosts European partners for a week of learning focused on climate action and pupil-led engagement.

The first Learning, Teaching and Training event of the Erasmus+ funded **PROTECT** Project was hosted in Clare Education Centre, Ennis, from 13th to 17th October 2025. The week brought together educators from **Ireland**, **Portugal**, **Norway**, **Croatia**, and **Serbia** to explore creative, inquiry-based pedagogies for teaching about climate change and to strengthen pupils' capacity to act as agents of change within their communities.



Throughout the week, participants engaged in a series of rich and varied learning experiences that combined theory, reflection, and hands-on practice. The programme opened with sessions led by **Martin Moloney, Director, Clare Education Centre** and **MJ Malone, Principal, Clarecastle NS**, who provided an overview of the Irish Education System and set the context for the week's collaborative learning. **Ray McInerney, Project Co-ordinator** from **Ennis National School**, introduced the aims and structure of the PROTECT Project, emphasising its commitment to pupil-led action and cross-European collaboration.



Workshops facilitated by **Michael Browne** explored STEAM as a teaching and learning methodology, demonstrating how interdisciplinary approaches can make climate learning more engaging and authentic for pupils. **Aaron Carroll** expanded on this through his session on the STEAM Community of Practice, encouraging teachers to use collaborative models of professional learning to embed sustainability and creativity in everyday teaching. Participants also benefitted from the expertise of **Emma Lenkes**, who demonstrated how **eTwinning** can be used to connect classrooms across Europe, and from **Evelyn Sorohan**, whose **Climate Education** workshop provided participants with practical tools and resources to guide meaningful classroom discussion and action on environmental issues.

Young Voices Lead the Way on Climate Action in Clare County Council Chamber



A highlight of the week was the celebration of pupil voice in **Áras an Chláir**, where the **Mayor of Clare, Councillor Paul Murphy**, formally welcomed the international delegation. Pupils from **Clarecastle National School, Knockanean National School, and Ennis National School** shared their perspectives with remarkable insight and passion. Their confident presentations embodied the spirit of the **PROTECT** Project—young people learning to research, reason, and respond to real-world climate challenges. Further presentations were made to delegates by **Karen Foley** and **Dara Dever** of **Clare County Council**.



Another standout experience came through the partnership with **Mary Immaculate College (MIC)**, Limerick, where the entire **STEM Education Team** facilitated a day of immersive learning. Participants engaged in workshops on learning scenarios, inquiry-based science, and the role of pupil voice in shaping classroom practice, culminating in hands-on exploration within MIC's Maker Space. The group was warmly greeted by **Professor Dermot Nestor, President of Mary Immaculate College**, who spoke of the importance of collaboration between teacher educators and practising teachers in advancing climate education and sustainability across Europe.



The professional dialogue, collegial sharing, and mutual support among educators reflected the essence of the **PROTECT** Project — to empower teachers and pupils to co-create learning that responds to the challenges of climate change. The PROTECT Project – Pupil-Led Response to the Effects of Climate Change on their Local Communities is co-funded by the **Erasmus+** Programme of the European Union through Ireland's national agency, **Léargas**. This first Learning, Teaching and Training event marks an important milestone in building shared understanding, professional capacity, and international collaboration that will continue to grow across partner countries.