

To Know, to Know How to Do and to Know How to Be

Professional Youth Work Education & Training in HE - a perspective from Ireland

30 June 2023

Dr. Hilary Tierney

Associate Professor & Programme Lead for CYW

Co-Director Centre for Youth Research & Dev. (CYRD)

Maynooth University, Ireland

Presentation Sequence

1. Very short overview of youth work in Ireland
and professional youth work ed & training in HE in Ireland
Q&A
2. Professional formation and integrating practice development
into the programme overall
Q&A
3. Curriculum design and content in UG & PG programmes in
higher education – example from MU
Q&A



Next stop west Newfoundland 3,031_{km}
Ireland Land Mass 84,421 km²

Population (2022) c. 5,000,000
c.1,560,000 under 25 (CSO 2022)

Colonised by England for 753* years
1169-1922

Four Provinces – Ulster, Munster, Leinster,
Connaught in 32 counties
26 in RoI and 6 in NI (UK)

Republic since 1949

Joined EU (EEC) in 1973 ‘
Militarily Neutral**

Member of UN Security Council in 21/22

Origins of Irish Youth Work – Context Matters



Current USA Logo
since July 2010

Youth Work Act (2001) definition

- "a **planned programme of education** designed for the purpose of aiding and enhancing the **personal and social development** of young persons through their **voluntary participation**, and which is:
- **complementary** to their **formal**, academic or vocational **education and training**;
- provided primarily by **voluntary youth work organisations**." (2001)

The outcomes of youth work for young people [VFMPR]

1

*7 social and
personal
outcomes:*

Communication
skills

Confidence and
agency

Planning and
problem
solving

Relationships

Creativity and
imagination

Resilience and
determination

Emotional
intelligence

¹ Department of Children and Youth Affairs (2014) *Value For Money and Policy Review of Youth Programmes*. Dublin: Government Publications.

A snapshot of the Irish Youth Work 'Sector'



Youth Work Ireland



IRISH GIRL GUIDES

‘Funders’ of youth work



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency



Irish Youth Justice Service
Seirbhís na hIreann um Cheartas i leith an Aosa Óig



Erasmus+



Irish Aid

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**Professional Education and Training
of youth workers in Higher
Education since early 1980s**

**Professional Endorsement of HE
programmes since 2006**

**Youth work is not a regulated
profession or protected title**

North South Education & Training Standards Committee

[NSETS] established 2006



All-Ireland framework for the **professional endorsement** of youth work education and training which sets out to:

- ensure *quality standards and fitness-for-purpose*;
- support *best practice*; and
- facilitate professional *mobility, exchange and peer learning*

both on a North/South and East/West basis.

NSETS PROFESSIONAL ENDORSEMENT

Criteria and procedures for the:
Professional Endorsement of
Higher Education Programmes
of Study in Youth Work

Professional qualification benchmarked at Level 8 on the NFQ

Criteria for endorsement revised 2021



Professional Endorsement

- Professional endorsement **represents a formal recognition by the youth work sector** that specific qualifications, awards or programmes have reached a minimum standard or met prescribed criteria .. including **intercultural awareness/competence**
- It is **distinct from academic validation** which is conferred by higher educational institutions themselves or other relevant qualification authorities... 5 year cycle.
- Purpose of professional education and training is to enable practitioners to **develop a strong sense of their own professional identity**, enabling them to **engage critically** with a variety of **policy contexts and with complex fields of accountability**

NSETS view of professional youth work

‘..... engage first and foremost as **educators with a sense of moral purpose and responsibility**.

It is the **interaction between mission, ethical understanding, and professional knowledge** in which the essence of good youth work practice is to be found.

.... **never be reduced to a set of discrete skills** to be mastered in some **mechanical process of assimilation**.

(To do so is) ...**to deny the intellectual basis** of youth work and the richness of the on **going dialogue and learning that enhances professional practice** (NSETS, 2013 p 10).

Five Areas of Professional Ability

- A.** Facilitate the **personal, social and political education** and development of young people and adults
- B.** Promote **equality and change** in the interests and welfare of young people and communities and **uphold the value base** of youth work and community work
- C.** Work with young people, with communities and with peers and partners, **build and sustain empowering relationships**
- D.** Develop youth work and community **work strategy and practice**
- E. Manage** their own work and lead and manage the work of teams and individuals

Professional Youth Work Programmes in Irish HE Institutions Endorsed by NSETS

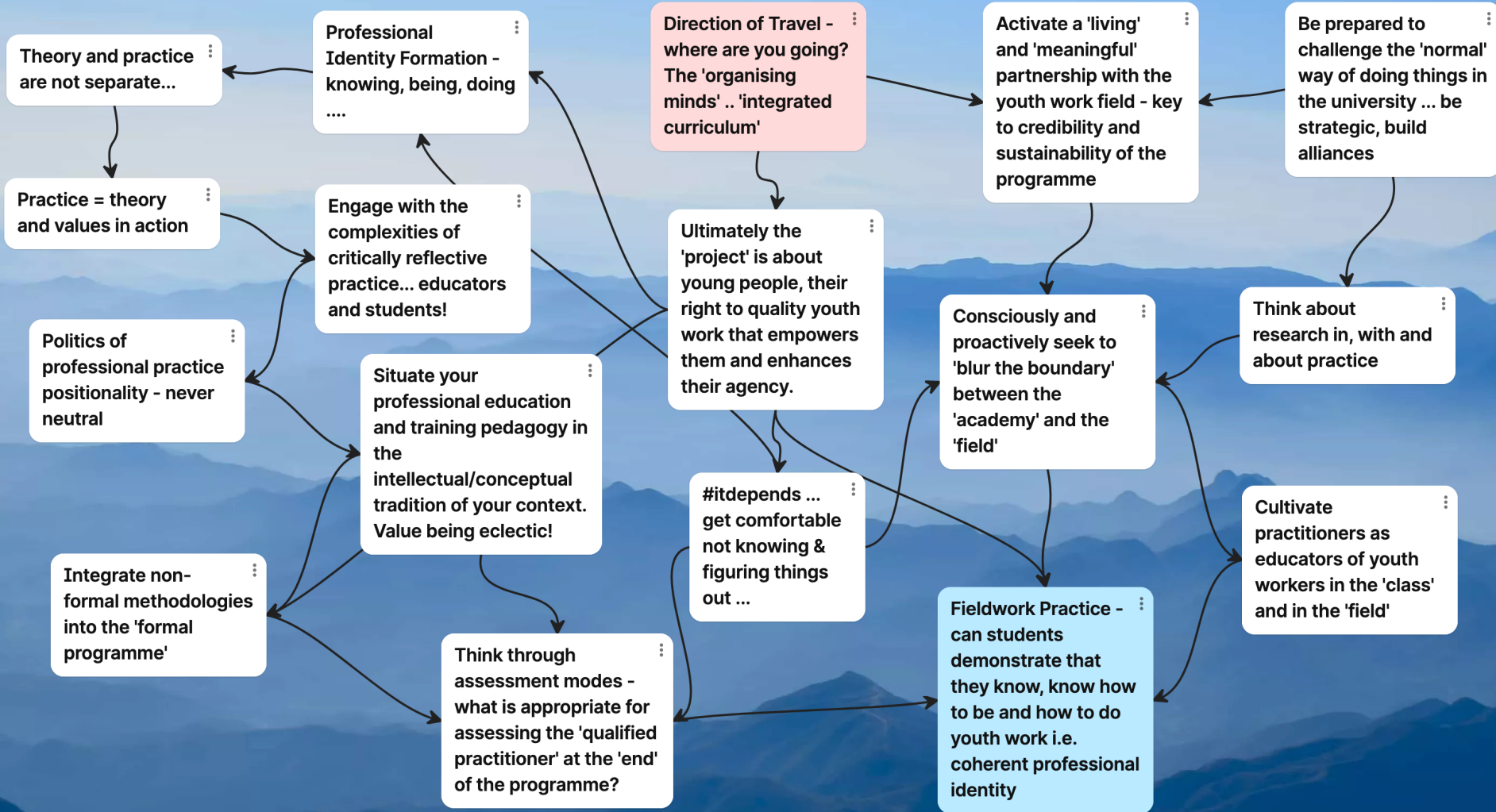


So now what?



Start at the end and work back

reflections and insights from youth work education practice





Maynooth University

established in 1795*

Three faculties:

Arts and Humanities

Science and Engineering

Social Science

c. 15,000
students

c. 1,200 staff



Department of Applied Social Studies
(DAPPSS) established in 1980

Undergraduate and post-graduate programmes in:
Youth Work and Community Work

Social Work
Social Science

DAPPSS - Professional Youth Work Education & Training Programmes

BSocSc Community and Youth Work [BCYW]

☐ 3 years full-time/4 years part-time Level 8 (NFQ)
Honours degree [Level 7 EQF] 225 ECTS*

MSocSc Community and Youth Work [MCYW]

☐ 2 years full-time/3 years part-time, in-service Level 9
(NFQ) post-graduate degree [Level 8 EQF] 120 ECTS

☐ **Fieldwork Placement** full ECTS alongside full academic ECTS

*1 credit = c. 25-30 student 'effort hours' incl. teaching, study, assessment etc.

M/BSocSc Community & Youth Work



‘a fully integrated programme of education and training in both community work and youth work’.

Curriculum Integration

Two key ideas:

1. Idea of bringing traditional knowledge disciplines together in the service of fundamental and important problems and questions.
2. Pedagogical idea of Deweyan constructivism where a learner's prior knowledge is incorporated into new understanding (Bacon, Marino Institute)

Curriculum Focus

- Process of **Professional Formation** – academic excellence and practice competence have equal value.
- **Social Science Foundation** - Disciplines of Sociology, Psychology, Management etc.
- Underpinned by **explicit Equality and Human Rights** focus
- **Theory, policy and practice** of youth work and community work
- **Block supervised fieldwork placement** (14 weeks full-time) in each year of the programme.



'There's nothing so practical as a good theory' (Kurt Lewin)

CY333 Youth Work Politics and Praxis

Anonymous 5d

Right Here Mental Wellbeing Framework

I chose this guide/framework because I thought it was extremely insightful. The Right Here initiative was/is developed with the principle of partnership working between young people, youth organisations and mental health services across the UK. It offers a guide on how to engage young people in conversations about mental health and how to network with local services to support young peoples mental well-being. I think this guide could be personalised to any age group in any location to meet the needs of young people. Challenging the stigma attached to 'mental health' is important and especially with the times we are currently in.



BRYAN EDWARD LENEHAN 6d

Youth Justice Strategy 2020-2026 DRAFT

As we as a class will soon be looking at Youth Justice I have attached the DRAFT of the Youth Justice Strategy. I feel this is an important read, as youth workers this strategy will challenge us to think about what the strategy entails, if we are accepting of or how it should be improved.

Thank you to the team who created this document

Love designed to present in new Youth Justice Strategy for 2020-2026. This Strategy has been published by the Home Secretary, the 2020 Youth Justice Strategy sets out the government's vision for the future of the Youth Justice System and the role of the Youth Justice Board.

The Strategy sets out the government's vision for the future of the Youth Justice System and the role of the Youth Justice Board. It also sets out the government's commitment to the Youth Justice System and the role of the Youth Justice Board.

Draft_Youth_Justice_Strategy_2020_(Pub... PDF document padlet drive

☆ RATE

TAMMY JOY DONAGHY 7d

The problem of 'youth' for youth work

I found this chapter so helpful and informative whilst on placement. The three different ways society can view young people really made me think and relate to my own practise working in a youth justice project. These three views are facisiating and I think anyone involved with youth justice work should read this article. This piece gave me links from theory to practice and also created new goggles for me to view how other organisations work with young people.



The problem of 'youth' for youth work Contents: introduction · control · so wher... info

CYW_MU 4d

Over the course of the module - you are asked to post twice on this topic. Remember to include your name!

You can upload websites, books, articles, any theory/idea that helps you to think about youth work doing youth work being a youth worker.

Looking forward to the conversation, Hilary

☆ RATE

● Add comment

Anonymous 10d

Understanding consent

I chose this piece as it has great links to help us as youth workers to approach the issue of consent with

Features of the Programmes

- **Professional Formation** role of Year Co-ordinators
- Small Group **Experiential Learning**
- **Practitioners as Educators**
 - Engagement with the field
 - Field in the 'academy'
- **Creative Methods Central**
- **Study Visits** – one day & residential
- **Range of Assessment Types**
 - Presentations
 - Individual and Group Projects
 - Arts based work
 - Essays
- **Accountability** e.g. attendance, sick certs etc.

Restricted Entry

- Recruitment Process

Supervised Fieldwork Placement*

- Must be passed in order to receive professional qualification
 - * **Exit Award** – Academic Only

Final Oral Exam

- Involves the external examiners and practitioners
- must be passed independently of other components

Final Year Values Presentation

- Statement of Professional Identity to peers - values, principles, practice commitments

Indicative Themes

- Youth Work Principles and Processes
- Community Work Principles & Processes
-
- Youth & Community Arts
- Professional Practice Skills
- Youth Justice
- Management
- International Youth Work
- Conflict and Mediation Skills
- Group Work
- Equality & Human Rights Studies
- Comparative & International Studies
- Sociology
- Global Youth Work & Development Education
- Psychology

BCYW (225 ECTS)**Stage 1 modules**

CY102A Practice Skills Development (15 ECTS)
CY103A Community Work Principles and Processes (7.5 ECTS)
CY104A Youth Work Principles and Processes (7.5 ECTS)
CY105A Youth & Community Images & Arts (7.5 ECTS)
CY107 Fieldwork Practice 1 (15 ECTS)
CY111B Study & Inquiry at Third Level (7.5 ECTS)
CY117 Introduction to the Social Sciences (15 ECTS)

Stage 2 modules

CY202B Practice Skills Development 2 (15 ECTS)
CY203A Community Work Issues & Policies (10 ECTS)
CY204A Youth Work Issues & Policies (10 ECTS)
CY207 Fieldwork Practice 2 (15 ECTS)
CY215 Professional Studies (10 ECTS)
CY216 Applied Social Science (15 ECTS)

Stage 3 modules

CY307 Fieldwork Practice 3 (15 ECTS)
CY330 Professional Development (15 ECTS)
CY331 Research for Practice (15 ECTS)
CY332 The Social Science Context of Practice (15 ECTS)
CY333 Critical Issues in Practice (15 ECTS)

MCYW (120 ECTS)**Stage 1 modules**

CY622A Professional Development & Fieldwork Practice 1 (20 ECTS)
CY623A Community Work Principles, Processes and Policies (10 ECTS)
CY633A Foundations of Social Science (10 ECTS)
CY624A Youth Work Principles, Processes and Policies (10 ECTS)
CY630A Fundamentals of Equality, Social Justice and Human Rights (10 ECTS)

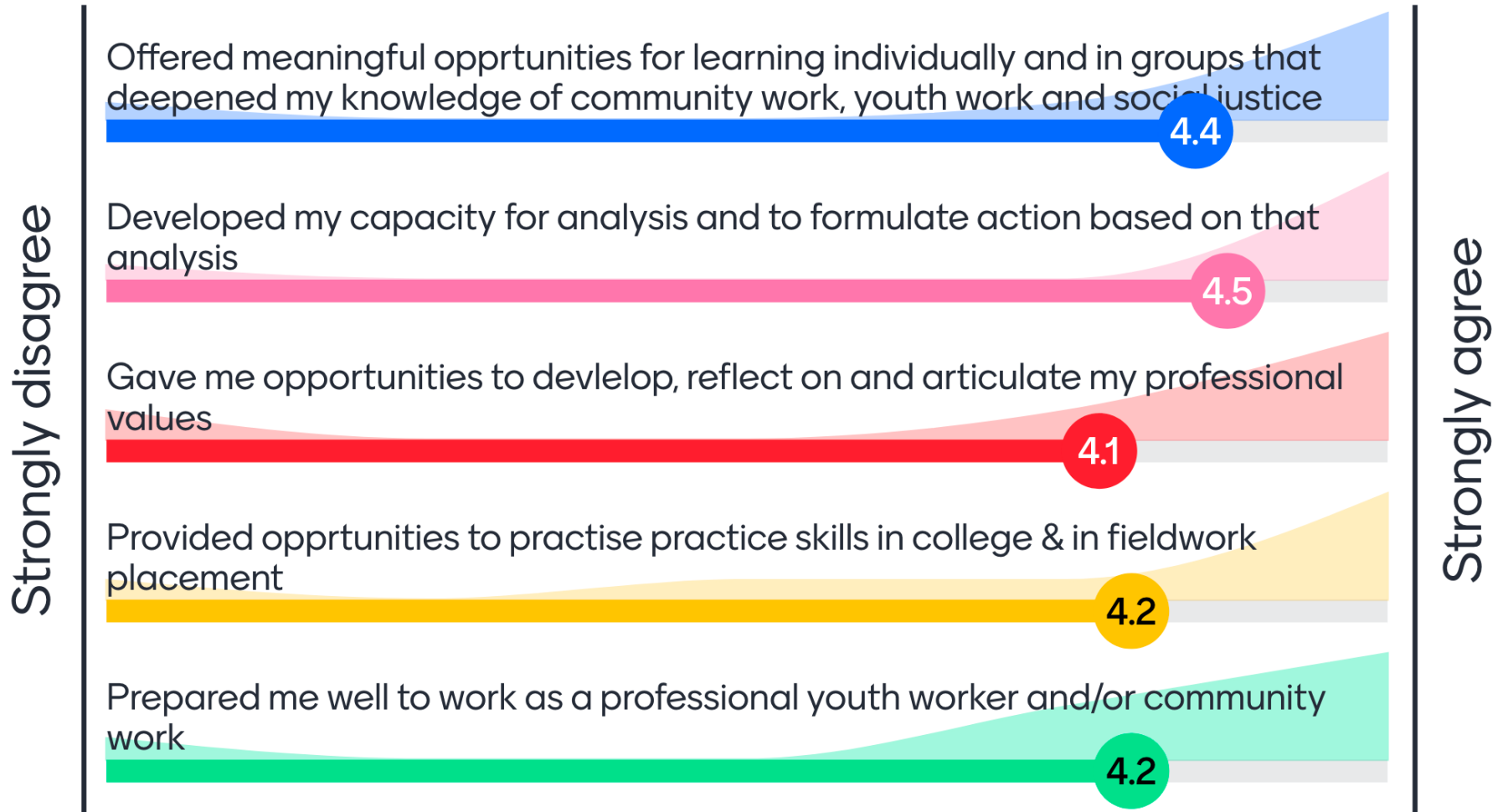
Stage 2 modules

CY622B Professional Development & Fieldwork Practice 2 (20 ECTS)
CY623B Community Work Praxis and Politics (7.5 ECTS)
CY624B Youth Work Praxis and Politics 2 (7.5 ECTS)
CY630B Equality, Social Justice and Human Rights Practice (7.5 ECTS)
CY633B Integrative Social Science (7.5 ECTS)
CY637B Practice Research Project (10 ECTS)

Impact of the MCYW on you/life/work?



The MCYW ...



Contact

Dr. Hilary Tierney

hilary.tierney@mu.ie

w. +353879194812 [WhatsApp, Viber]

Useful Websites

Maynooth University Department of Applied Social Studies

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/applied-social-studies>

North-South Education and Training Committee [NSETS]

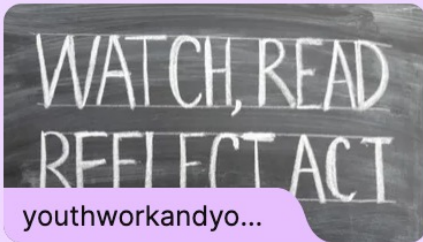
<https://www.youth.ie/programmes/projects-initiatives/nsets/>

NSETS Endorsement Criteria

<https://www.youth.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/NSETS-Professional-Endorsement-Criteria.pdf>

A small sample of online curriculum resources

YouthWorkandYou



YWeLP Modules -
YouthWorkAndYou.org

Common project btw
partners/universities
around EU and beyond
about youth work
education and training

Youth Knowledge Books

LEARNING MOBILITY,
SOCIAL INCLUSION AND
NON-FORMAL EDUCATION
Access, processes and outcomes



pjp-eu.coe.int

Youth Knowledge Books

Teaching youth work in HE - book



humak.fi

Teaching Youth Work in Higher
Education

T-Kit: CoE Youth Partnership Toolkits eg Project Management



The training kits series

Youth Partnership
Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth

pjp-eu.coe.int

T-kits

Focus Learning

FOCUS



focus-learning.eu

FOCUS learning - exploration on non
formal learning

it's a project by several NA's
(eg. DE, IE, LV etc) to explore
the learning dimensions of
youth work and to provide and
create tools, materials around
this topic.

NSETS Endorsed Providers in Ireland

ATU

<https://www.gmit.ie/bachelor-of-arts-honours-in-community-development-and-youth-work>

DKIT

[https://www.dkit.ie/courses/school-of-business-and-humanities/humanities/ba-\(hons\)-in-applied-youth-work.html](https://www.dkit.ie/courses/school-of-business-and-humanities/humanities/ba-(hons)-in-applied-youth-work.html)

MU

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth/find-course/community-and-youth-work>

TU Dublin

<https://www.tudublin.ie/study/undergraduate/courses/community-development---youth-work-tu992/>

UCC

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/ck114/>

UU

<https://www.ulster.ac.uk/courses/202324/community-youth-work-30757>

