



BELIEVING IN
A BRIGHTER
FUTURE
FOR IRELAND'S
YOUNG PEOPLE



NFTE CORK PROGRESS REPORT - September 2020

Growth in reach of the NFTE Programme

Foróige received funding from basis.point, initially in September 2017, to establish the NFTE programme in Cork. Demand for the NFTE programme remains very strong in both schools (DEIS schools in the main) and youth work settings in Cork. There are currently 408 young people involved in NFTE in Cork in 19 schools and community sites (youth projects/early school leavers/Youthreach)

Overview of the NFTE Programme in Cork in 2020

Year	Sites	Schools (Number of Young People)	Youth Reaches and Projects (Number of Young people)	Total Number of Young People

2020	19	12 schools (340) young people)	8 (68 young people)	408 young people
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Impact of Covid-19

We have been very fortunate to be able to adapt and continue to deliver the NFTE programme online during Covid-19, including all of our sites in Cork. Over 4,000 young people and 120 Schools and Youth Projects took part in NFTE across the country this year.

Against the backdrop of a global pandemic, the young people and Certified Entrepreneurship Trainers (CETs) involved in NFTE demonstrated resilience, determination and adaptability, with over 90% of participants continuing with their businesses and completing the programme online. Many of the young NFTE participants adapted their business models to reflect the changing times and environment.

Achievements of the NFTE Programme in Cork

The NFTE programme is currently active in **19** sites across Cork and is operating in some of the most disadvantaged areas of the region. Some achievements to note of the NFTE programme this year are;

▣ In-house NFTE Competitions and Regional Finals in Cork

In the academic year 2019/2020 there were **19** In-house NFTE Competitions held in schools and youth work settings. In addition to this three days of regional finals in Cork for young people were planned and took place online.

▣ Step It Up workshops in Cork

During the academic year, prior to Covid 19, a number of Step It Up workshops were organised and hosted in Cork to offer young people an opportunity to develop their skills further and focus on areas of their business in which they needed extra help. These included topics such as; product development, marketing, presentations, design, public speaking and overall additional support.

▣ Cork Participating in the NFTE Semi Finals Online

Six businesses from Cork competed in the Semi Finals of the NFTE Awards online this year where a total of **45** semi-finalists received an award for their achievements in the NFTE programme.

▣ National Special Recognition Award Winner for NFTE Cork 2020

Cork received a special recognition award this year for the second year running at the National Finals online. Best friends Cian and Dylan received a special recognition award for their business Lavender Lullabies. Cian and Dylan are 11 years old and in fifth class. Cian is confined to a wheelchair and has multiple disabilities. He has spent much of his short life travelling to Crumlin hospital for treatments and surgery. The two boys wanted to acknowledge and support the wonderful care Cian received during his time in Crumlin Hospital so they decided to donate some of the profits from their business to the Children's Hospital. The boys attend the project twice weekly where they are fully encouraged to participate and programmes designed to meet their needs. Dylan attended Junior BIZ Camp and was very enthusiastic about starting his own business. Dylan helped Cian around in the garden in his wheelchair to harvest the lavender. They both worked well together when doing their business plan. Dylan is an amazing young man and the patience he has shown in encouraging his best friend has been a joy to behold. Cian's development has had a huge positive impact on his parents and staff. They have also been a positive example to other young people in the Project.

<https://www.foroige.ie/blog/cork-friends-win-nfte-special-recognition-award>

▣ **Cork Wins the National - Best Innovation Idea Category - 2020**

Jessica Griffin, aged 18, from the Cork Life Centre, was the winner of the Foróige Innovator of the Year 2020 with her business, Jessie GH Designs 'One Piece Missing'.

'One Piece Missing' is a Real Life Comic Series to educate people about what it's like to live with Asperger's. Being diagnosed with Asperger's as a child, Jessica wanted to create a comic book series to make Autism easier to understand. Growing up there was no one in books or on television that reflected Jessica's life and so 'One Piece Missing' was born. Jessica's goal with the 'One Piece Missing' Comic Series is to provide knowledge, comfort and support to people living with Autism. The comic will also help parents introduce their children to the fact that it is ok to be who they are and no matter what their struggle is, support is there.

<https://www.foroige.ie/blog/young-entrepreneurs-thrive-uncertain-times>

▣ **Cork Girl Wins NFTE Summer Design Challenge - 2020**

NFTE ran a Summer Design Challenge allowing young entrepreneurs and innovators to channel their talents. One of the winning entries came from Emma Heffernan from Youghal, Co. Cork. Emma established her company Luna with a mission to find a solution to textile waste. Luna offers an alternative sustainable fashion fix within the local community. The fashion industry is the second largest polluter of clean water after agri-business. And the textile sector is responsible for between 8% and 10% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. The fashion industry emits 1.2 billion tonnes of CO2 equal per year. By 2050 the fashion industry could be responsible for a quarter of all carbon emissions. Luna is a clothes upcycling/ revamping service born to tackle this problem. Helping people reduce their carbon footprint by buying less. Also stopping people from throwing away clothes to reduce clothes waste. "By not buying clothes constantly we are not supporting big companies who take part in fast fashion" said Emma. This service also helps to create awareness of the impact that fast fashion on our environment.

<https://www.foroige.ie/blog/cork-girl-offers-sustainable-fast-fashion-fix>