



AONTAS CEN: 10 Facts

1. A Strong Representative Membership

Over 100 community education organisations, reaching tens of 1000s of learners across Ireland.

2. Grassroots Driven

- An agreed definition of community education across the Network
- CEN Steering Group established in 2007 and representing community education practitioners from across Ireland

3. Community of Support, Networking and Information

28 action-focused, participatory national meetings plus regional meetings

4. Solution Focused Grassroots Advocacy

Extensive range of policy submissions and position papers and representations on issues impacting community education highlighting the need for: a sustainable funding model; continued provision of QQI accredited programmes; and non-accredited learning.

5. Advocacy-Based Research

Funding: Funding Mechanism for Community Education (2011)

Social Action Model: Sowing the Seeds of Social Change (2011)

QQI Reengagement: Scenarios for Community Education Reengagement (2015)

6. Continuous Professional Development

Successfully secured Training Links funding for lobbying training (2009) and CPD for a social action model of community education (2012).

Responsive CPD: Social Media (2011), Equality Training (2013), Measuring Outcomes of Community Education (2013), Integrating Development (2012), Local Government and Participative Democracy (2017) to name a few.

7. Contributing to the Academic field

- 7 discussion sessions with top academics in the field at CEN national meetings
- 2 Masters Theses completed between CEN member groups and Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT)
- 2 PhD Theses part contribution (National: Maynooth University, 2015 and Internationally: German Institute for Adult Education (DIE), 2013)

8. ERASMUS+

CEN part of European Commission funded national and transnational programmes:

ERASMUS+ Key Action 1 (2016/2017)

Making an Impact at European level

ERASMUS+ Key Action 2 (2016/2017)

Financing Adult Education in Europe (FINALE)

ERASMUS+ Key Action 3 (2015/2017)

Learning Today for a Better Tomorrow

Lifelong Learning Programme (2013)

VITA (ICT-aided validation of learning outcomes)

9. Promoting Community Education

BAI funded television programmes Beyond the Classroom (2011). Two national conferences on community education, CEN member blogs, Adult Learners' Festival Events, 100s of open days.

10. Model of Best Practice

International presentations regarding the CEN as a model of excellence across Europe but also specifically in Scotland (2010), Lithuania (2010) and Canada (2015).