



SOCIAL INNOVATION ACTION PROGRAMME



SENIOR CYCLE

www.youngsocialinnovators.ie

BUILDING A FORCE FOR GOOD THROUGH YOUTH-LED SOCIAL INNOVATION

Young Social Innovators has been promoting social innovation education in Ireland since its establishment in 2001. Our purpose is to fire young people's passion to change the world for good and to empower them to take creative and collaborative action on social issues facing them, their communities and wider society.

Our unique social innovation framework puts young people in the driving seat. It asks them to examine the world through a new lens and to reimagine the type of society they would like to live in - one that is more caring, equal and fair.

But more than that, it challenges them to put their ideas into action and to bring their vision to reality. In this way, young people realise their own capacity to effect change in the world around them.

Our programme at Senior Cycle engages thousands of students every year equipping them with knowledge, skills and experience unique to this type of learning and practice.

Schools in targeted regions can now benefit from increased opportunities, engagement and support from Young Social Innovators as they come together as part of Local Community Networks, sharing ideas, resources, learning and experience.

Each year, new regions will be supported by YSI Local Leaders who will enable school and inter-school collaboration by facilitating Teach Meets, student workshops, network events and local recognition for young people.

What can your young people do to build a force for good in your community?

Talk to us about Local Community Network availability in your region



Every society can be strengthened by providing young people with real and authentic opportunities to engage, volunteer and be heard.
- Rachel Collier, Co-founder and CEO, Young Social Innovators

SOCIAL INNOVATION ACTION PROGRAMME: SENIOR CYCLE

The Social Innovation Action programme at Senior Cycle enables students (aged 15-18) to work in teams to explore social issues that concern them and to develop and implement creative responses to those they feel passionately about.

Learning is youth-led and action-based, infused with an understanding of human rights, social justice, citizenship and sustainability.

Supported by teacher training and world class resources, the programme promotes youth participation and youth voice as well as developing critical and creative skills required for life and work in the 21st century.

Events and platforms to amplify the issues and voice of young people and to recognise their participation are offered as part of this in-depth programme.

- PART 1 - INTRODUCING SOCIAL INNOVATION**
Students explore what social innovation means, discover global examples of innovation for social good and identify their own abilities to be social innovators.
- PART 2 - EXPLORE & CREATE**
Students identify social issues, explore them and select one to take action on. They work together to create a vision for change and a big idea to bring that vision to reality.
- PART 3 - TEST & ADAPT**
Students use human-centred design and design for sustainable development to test and adapt their ideas.
- PART 4 - ACT & REFLECT**
Students work with others in their community to roll out their ideas and present their project at a regional Speak Out event and during #YSIweek
- PART 5 - RECOGNISE & CELEBRATE**
Students evaluate and report on their work submitting an online portfolio on which feedback and certification is provided.

HOW IT WORKS

- Schools sign up to the YSI Social Innovation Action Programme (Senior)
- Teachers invited to regional YSI in-service and networking events
- Teachers access online programme resources and active learning methodologies
- Students form a team, select an issue they care about and create and develop a social innovation project around it bringing their ideas to action
- All teams invited to present their projects at regional events as part of the YSI Speak Out Tour
- Teams submit an online portfolio and receive feedback and certification
- Teams celebrate by hosting a community based event as part of #YSIweek
- Shortlisted teams invited to compete at the Young Social Innovators of the Year Ireland Awards*

Sample breakdown for Senior Programme

TITLE OF UNIT Social Innovation Action Programme (Senior)	ALIGNMENT TY, LCA, LCVP, 5 th year, Politics & Society
SUITABLE FOR All Senior Cycle Students	DURATION 40 hours (scalable)

* Entry into the Young Social Innovators of the Year Ireland Awards is optional

PLATFORMS AND EVENTS



YSI Den

Teams have the option of applying for further support to increase the impact of their innovation through the YSI Den. Money, means or mentoring can be requested through the Den from YSI's Social Innovation Fund.

Speak Out Tour

Teams present their project to a YSI Panel and audience of their peers using creative communications highlighting the need for and impact of their social innovation.



#YSIweek

Teams host a community event to showcase their project locally. Shared on social media, YSI amplifies their work through its digital platforms.



Young Social Innovators of the Year Awards

Teams can enter into the annual Young Social Innovators of the Year Ireland Awards at the end of the academic year. Selected finalists attend and compete for our Title and Challenge Awards.



PROGRAMME BENEFITS

FOR SCHOOLS

- ✓ Ready-made resources and learning materials
- ✓ Timetable planning and links to Senior Cycle curriculum/key skills
- ✓ Tailored support from the Young Social Innovators team
- ✓ Facilitate active engagement of young people in the local community

FOR TEACHERS

- ✓ Teacher training and Continuous Professional Development
- ✓ Student learning across and beyond the curriculum
- ✓ Foster holistic and healthy learning environment
- ✓ Build and maintain relationships with students and the wider community
- ✓ Certification as YSI Guides

FOR STUDENTS

- ✓ Develop key skills for life and work
- ✓ Ownership of project and self-directed learning experience
- ✓ Create and implement action-based projects
- ✓ Engage with and volunteer in their wider community
- ✓ Understand the world and their capacity to effect change
- ✓ Certification as Young Social Innovators

THE PROGRAMME IN ACTION

LET'S TALK ABOUT CONSENT

Bush Post Primary School
Dundalk, Co. Louth



Aimed at helping young people to understand the meaning of consent in an accessible way, students produced an animated video and podcast and engaged with national media to communicate about the issue.

WE ARE ALL HUMAN

Largy College
Clones, Co. Monaghan



Focused on promoting inclusion for asylum seekers and refugees, the team raised awareness in their local community in creative ways. Working with Monaghan County Council, they created and developed an app to provide information in various languages for newcomers to their area.

GREENER GLOBE

Tullamore College
Tullamore, Co. Offaly



Motivated to reduce water wastage, the team developed an innovative shower head that encourages users to conserve water by taking shorter showers.

MISSING PERSONS

Davis College
Mallow, Co. Cork



Moved by the plight of families of missing people in Ireland, the team lobbied the Government to introduce a national day of remembrance. The high impact campaign resulted in the establishment of a National Missing Persons Day in Ireland which takes place each December.



"Through Young Social Innovators, the students learn valuable 21st Century Skills and the programme gives them the initiative to think outside of the box."

- Lorraine Crowley, YSI Guide
Killarney Community College
Co. Kerry



Make social innovation part of your school's ethos and commitment to wellbeing, Global Citizenship, the Sustainable Development Goals and Social Justice.

OUR PARTNERS



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Tomar Trust
National influence. Local implementation

ciste na gcuntas díomhaoin
the dormant accounts fund



Building a Better Health Service



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE A FORCE FOR GOOD?

Invite us to come and talk to you about what Young Social Innovators can offer your school.

youngsocialinnovators.ie/signup
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