

# A Tale of a Modern Meitheal: SETU Sustainability in the Arts Festival

## Fostering SDGs Through Creative Collective Action



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# Meitheal

- Meitheal is the Irish word for a work team, gang, or party and denotes the co-operative labour system in Ireland where groups of neighbours help each other in turn with farming work, such as harvesting crops. Neighbours who give their work to others are helped in turn with their own heavy seasonal tasks.
- To the heart of the concept is **community unity** through **cooperative work** and **mutually reciprocal support**.
- Meitheal is the Irish expression of the ancient and universal appliance of **cooperation to social need**.



*...e helped out at the thrashing in the old days. Here Mrs. ...  
 lan, Christy Culleton, Paddy Gorman, Johnny Seery and ...  
 with some local boys and the dog are busy at a thrash ...  
 ...en in the 1930's.*



# Images of Meitheal



Everyone helped out at the thrashing in the old days. Here Mrs. Lalor, Paddy Phelan, Christy Culleton, Paddy Gorman, Johnny Seery and Billy O'neill with some local boys and the dog are busy at a thrashing in Ballyvaughan in the 1930's.



Carting Hay: By 1900, hay was the most widely cultivated crop in Ireland. The increase can be related to the shift from arable to pastoral farming, and to more intensive farming which led to an increase in the practice of housing livestock during winter.



Tom Hyland, Birchwood, John Walshe, Jim Walshe, Tom Hyland, Mary Cousins, Margaret Cousins, Joe Hyland and friend making hay in Hylands in 1960.

# Mono – transdisciplinary Mindset

Transdisciplinary Journal of Engineering & Science

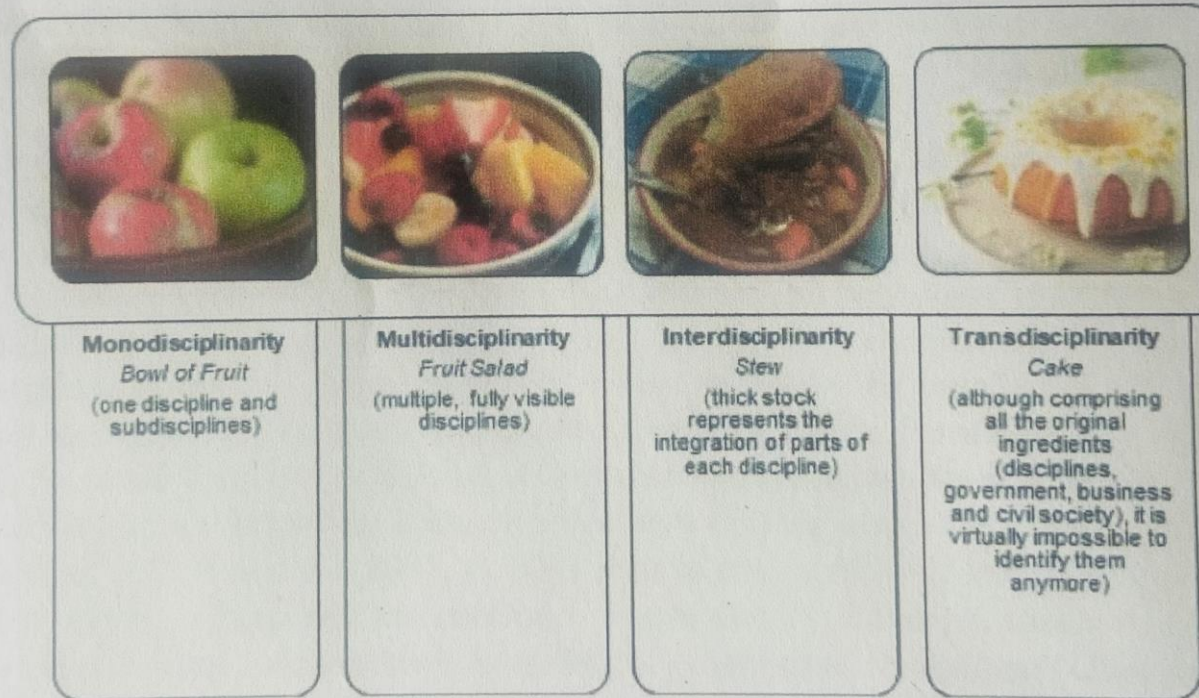


Figure 1: Food Metaphor for Mono-, Multi-, Inter- and Transdisciplinarity.



# Mono-disciplinary Mindset

Music

Culinary  
Arts

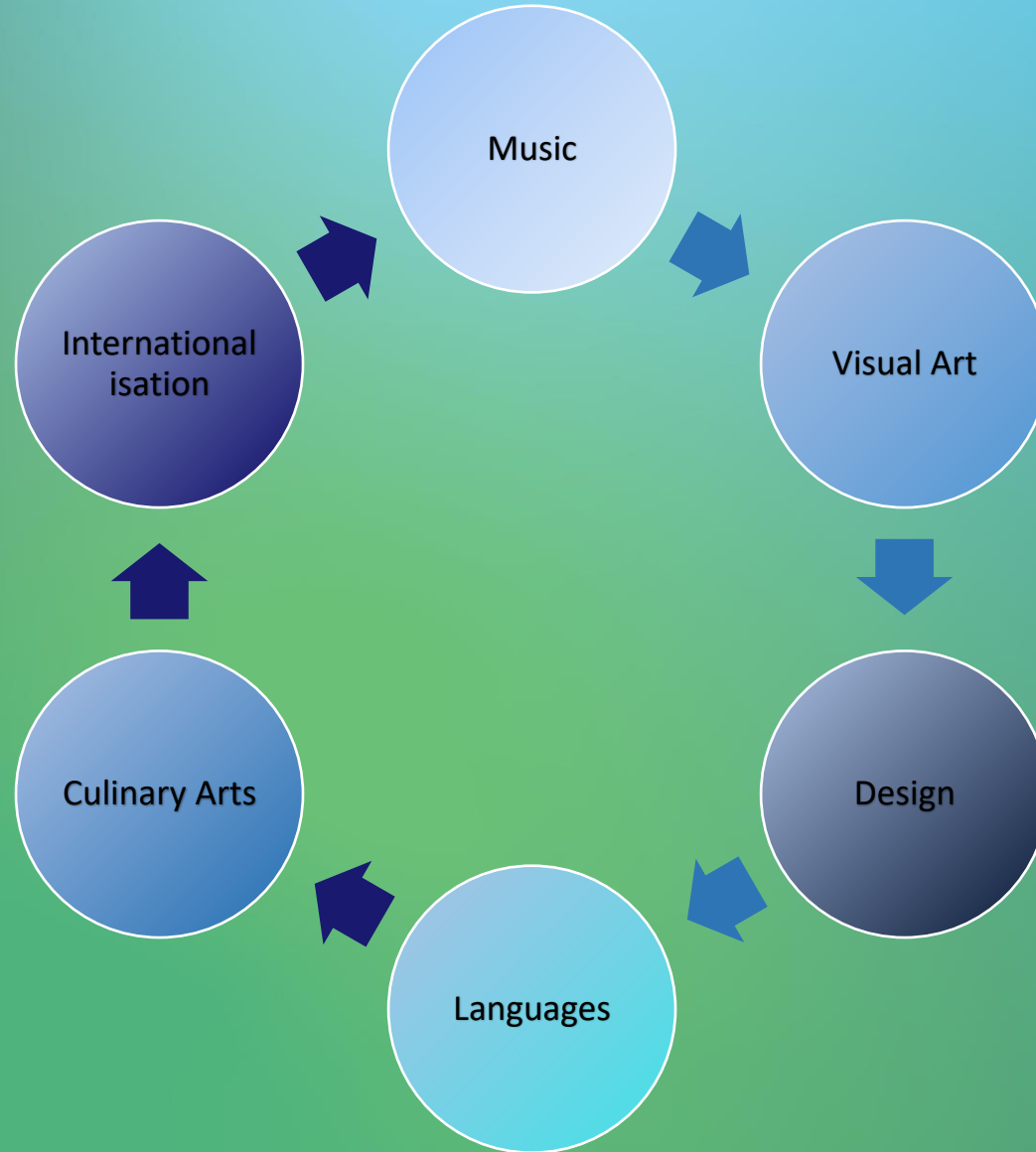
Visual  
Arts

Design

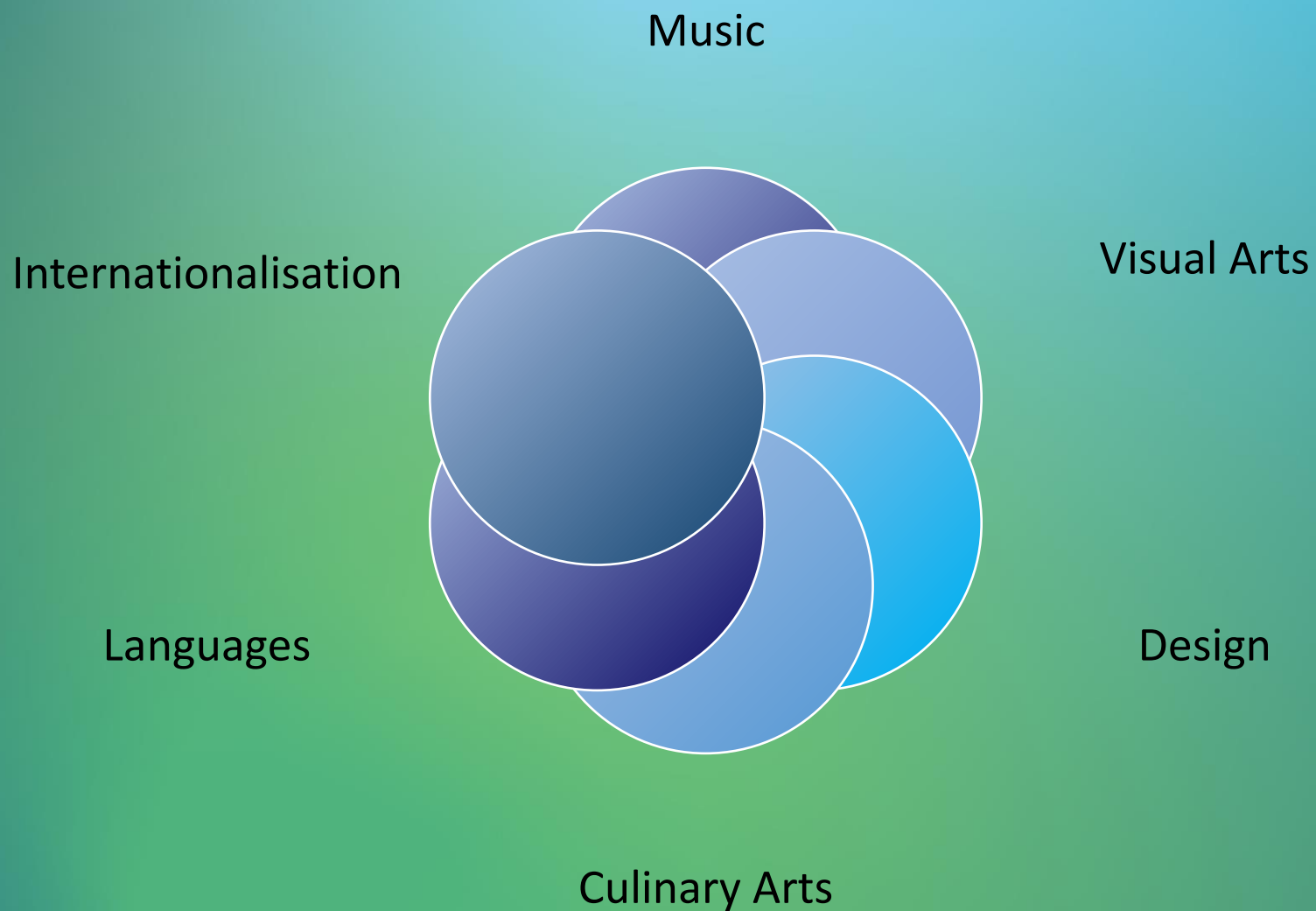
Internationalisation

Languages

# Multi-disciplinary Mindset



# Inter-disciplinary Mindset



# Transdisciplinary Mindset

## SUSTAINABILITY IN THE ARTS FESTIVAL

10th - 11th April 2024



**SE  
TU**

Ollscoil  
Teicneolaíochta  
an Oirdheiscirt

South East  
Technological  
University





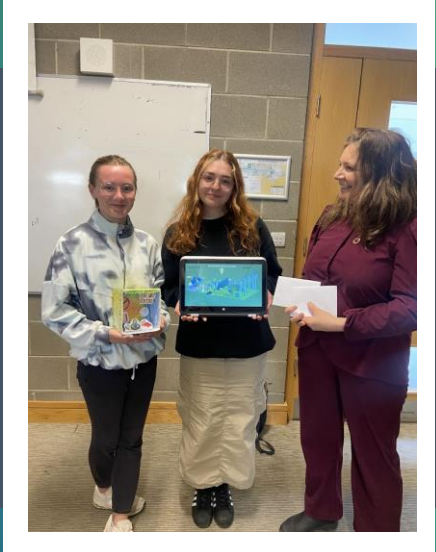
# Sustainability in the Arts Festival







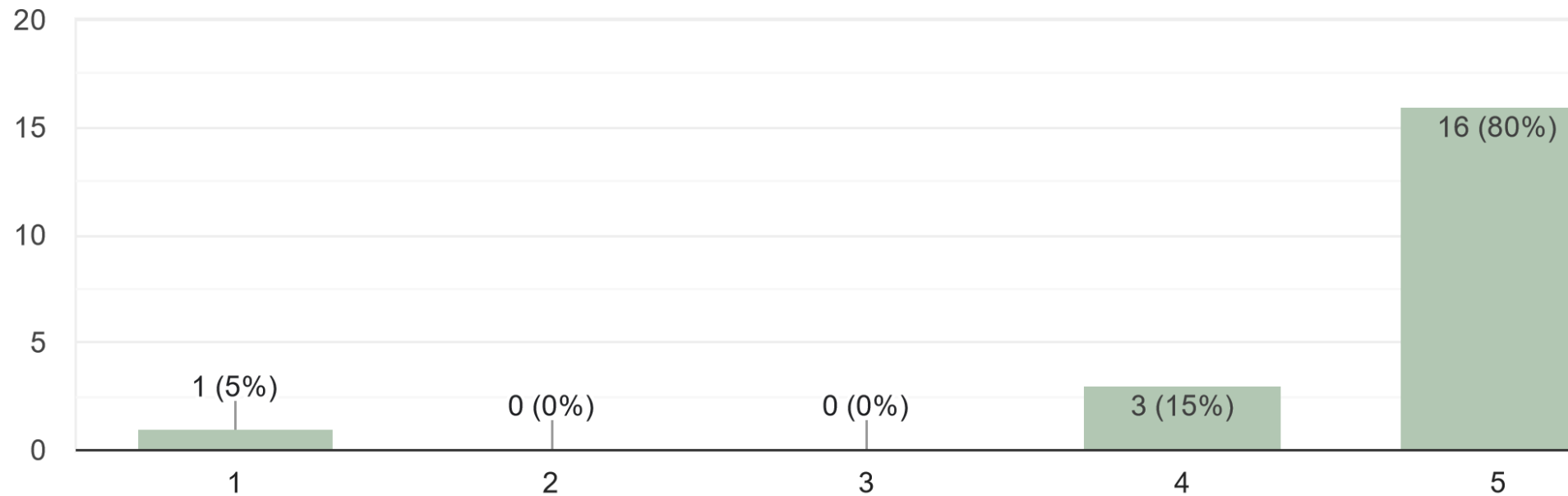
Embedding SDG Awareness in the Festival  
Diorama Competition and SDG Quiz with SETU Language Students  
Outreach programme to Post Primary Schools



# Feedback from Students and Staff

Rate on a scale from 1-5 how relevant you think sustainability is for our university and wider community.

20 responses

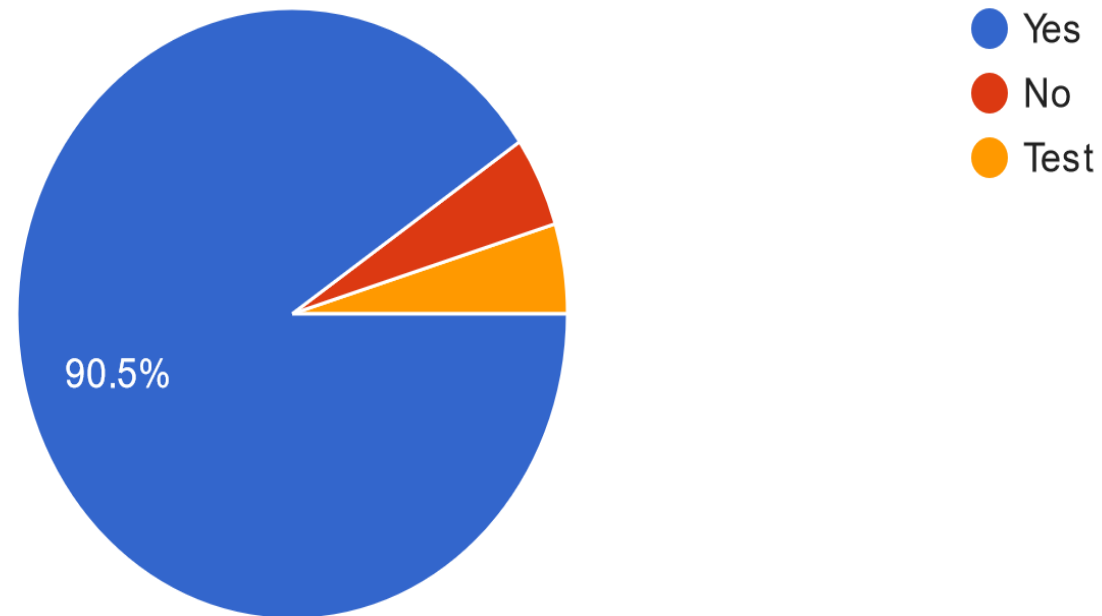




# Feedback from Students and Staff

Did the festival enhance your understanding of the Global Sustainable Development Goals?

21 responses







# 2024 FESTIVAL





“What a wonderful experience! There was a buzz throughout the university with lots of creative displays and so much positive activity. I thoroughly enjoyed the stimulating conversations on the SDGs and sustainability in education.”

- Staff member

# Connecting for Impact

## SETU Strategic Plan

### 2023-2028

“It has broadened my vision on sustainability, it’s not only about recycling and carbon footprint, I’ve learned that things that I do everyday has an effect and I can change how I operate my life compared to huge world goals that I have little to no control over. It’s the small steps”

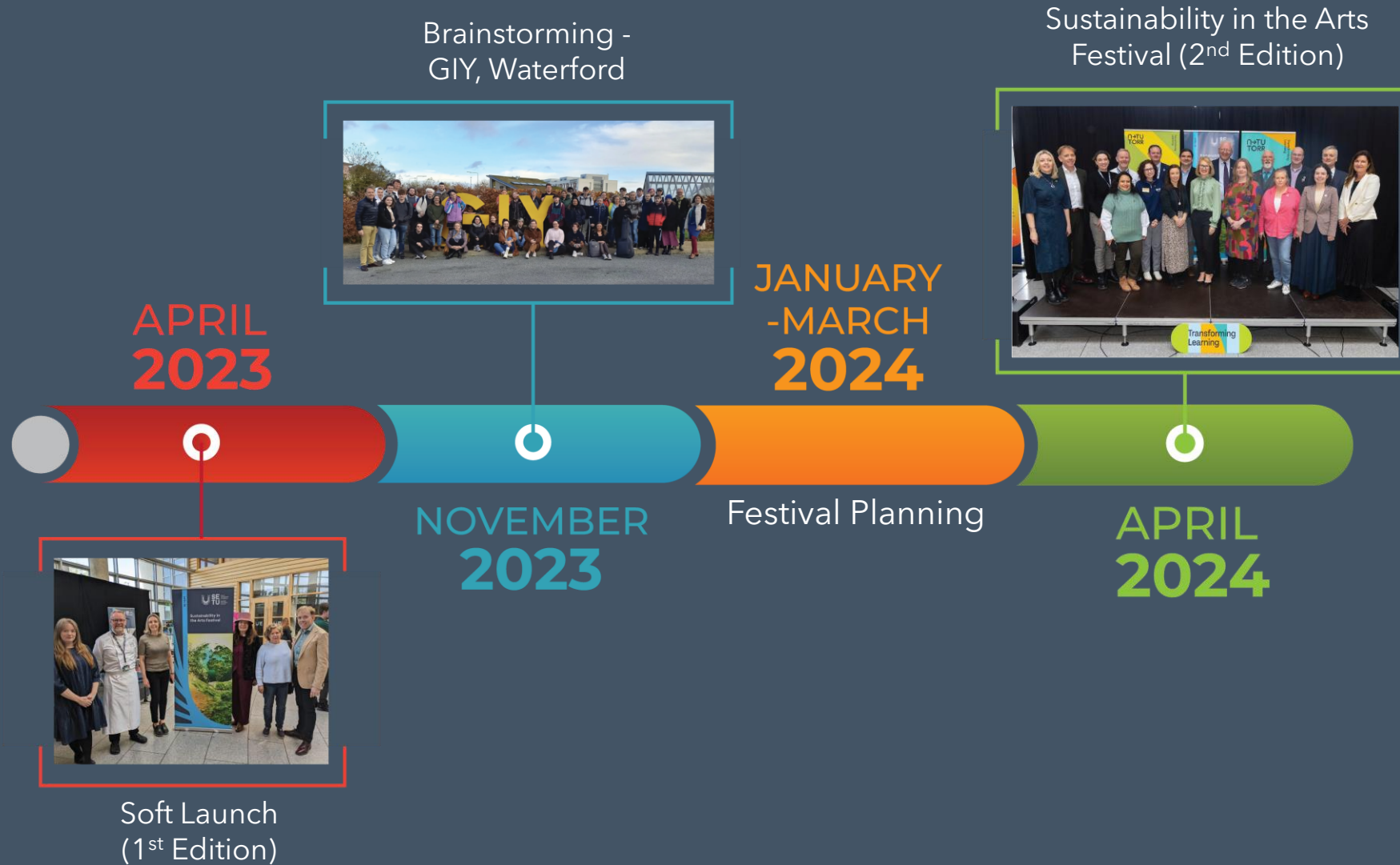
- Student A

“It was a great experience to work with students from other disciplines and countries. It has opened my eyes to all the different Sustainable Development Goals, not just environmental issues.”

- Student B



# Our Journey



# Our Experience



**APRIL 2023**  
First Edition of the Festival



**APRIL 2023**  
Sustainability Shots



**APRIL 2023**  
Sustainability Shots

# Our Experience



**NOVEMBER 2023**  
Brainstorming at GIY



**NOVEMBER 2023**  
Brainstorming at GIY



**SAF'24**  
Organising Committee



# Our Experience



**APRIL 2024**  
Sustainability Shots



**APRIL 2024**  
Sustainability Shots



**APRIL 2024**  
Poster Presentations

# Our Experience



Networking



Networking



Networking

Research by Denise McAllister Wyl

# Inclusive Internationalisation in Higher Education

## Internationalisation:

The intentional process of integrating an international, intercultural or global dimension into the purpose, functions and delivery of post-secondary education, in order to enhance the quality of education and research for all students and staff and to make a meaningful contribution to society .

(de Wit et al., 2015, p. 29)

**WE WELCOME**

ALL RACES AND ETHNICITIES  
ALL RELIGIONS  
ALL COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN  
ALL GENDER IDENTITIES  
ALL SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS  
ALL ABILITIES AND DISABILITIES  
ALL SPOKEN LANGUAGES  
ALL AGES  
EVERYONE.

**WE STAND HERE WITH YOU  
YOU ARE SAFE HERE**

\* Content adapted from the original "We Welcome" sign created by IPRC members Lisa Mangum and Jason Leviath





# Internationalisati on activities



# How does Inclusive Internationalisation tie in with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals?





## Internationalisation at Home(IaH)

'The purposeful integration of international and intercultural dimensions into the formal and informal curriculum for all students within domestic learning environments'  
(Beelen and Jones, 2015, p.69)



# Linking IaH with UN's Sustainable Development Goals



# Meitheal and UN SDGs

Virtual exchanges,  
Collaborative Online  
International Learning,  
and an  
internationalised  
curriculum.

**4** QUALITY  
EDUCATION



A conducive  
environment that  
develops female  
leaders from different  
cultural backgrounds

**5** GENDER  
EQUALITY



Inclusive  
internationalisation  
experiences  
accessible  
to 'all students'.

**10** REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



Contribute to Climate  
Action Network for  
International Educators  
(CANIE) and European  
Association for  
International Education  
(EAIE) thematic  
committees on UN's  
SDGs, Climate change  
and environmental  
sustainability.

**13** CLIMATE  
ACTION



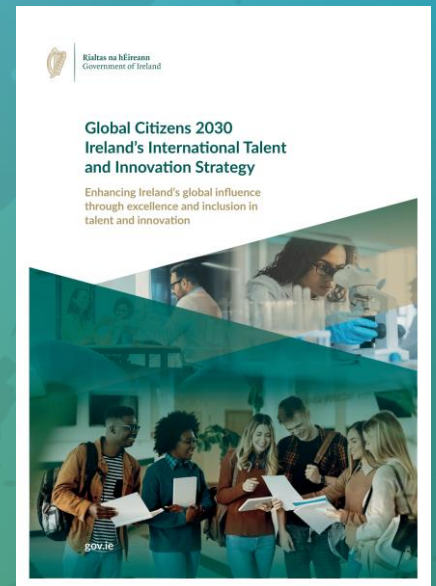
Raising awareness of  
inequalities and  
advocating for  
equitable solutions that  
prioritise the needs of  
marginalised  
populations.

**16** PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS



Partnerships with  
international  
institutions,  
governments, and non-  
governmental  
organisations across  
developed and  
developing countries.

**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



Internationalisation at Home (IaH)



You are invited to view our posters



**Sustainable Development through Internationalisation at Home (IaH) in Irish Higher Education Institutions**

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**What is Internationalisation at Home (IaH)?**  
IaH is 'the purposeful integration of international and intercultural dimensions into the formal and informal curriculum for all students within domestic learning environments' (Beelen & Jones, 2015).  
IaH strives to provide international and intercultural learning to all students in the home institutions, including those who cannot participate in mobility programs abroad due to various circumstances.

**SOUTH EAST TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY IRELAND**

**Key UN Sustainable Development Goals that are aligned with IaH**

**SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals**  
Partnerships with international institutions, governments, and non-governmental organisations across developed and developing countries.  
Share best practices, resources, and expertise in sustainable development between the Global North and South.  
Global competencies and transversal skills.  
Entrepreneurship and innovation.

**SDG 4: Quality Education**  
International experience and exposure without leaving your country.  
Virtual exchanges, Collaborative Online International Learning and an internationalised curriculum.  
Global competencies and transversal skills.

**SDG 5: Gender Equality**  
Gender perspectives across cultures in various academic disciplines.  
A conducive environment that develops female leaders from different cultural backgrounds.  
Research on gender issues such as gender-based violence, women's rights, and gender disparities in education and employment.

**SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities**  
Quality, diversity and inclusion (QDI) and University of Secondary Inclusion.  
Mutual respect, understanding and appreciation of different cultures, religions, and beliefs.  
Include internationalisation experiences accessible to all students.

**SDG 13: Climate Action**  
Create sustainability and climate action into the curricula.  
Contributes to research and practice in international higher education such as the Climate Action Network for International Educators (CANIE) and European Association for International Education (EAIE) thematic committees on UN's SDGs, Climate change and environmental sustainability.  
Reduce carbon footprint by living an travel.

**Accelerating UN Sustainable Development Goals through IaH at Irish Higher Education Institutions**

Reduce greenhouse gases emissions  
Less waste generation through mobility experiences  
Carbon-neutral forms of exchange  
Celebrating international festivals, cultural holidays and traditions  
Conferences that use sustainable materials  
Integrating sustainability into the curricula  
Student sustainability champions  
Renting a bicycle to travel locally  
Green guides or handbooks  
Carbon footprint calculator

**'Is Teaghlach Amháin é an Domhan' - The World is One Family**

CONNECT ON

**IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL**  
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

Nidhi Piplani Kapur  
Irish Research Council PhD Scholar

**International Opportunities for All through 'Inclusive Internationalisation'**

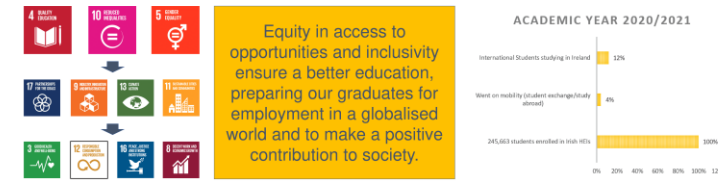


Denise McAllister Wylie  
PhD Researcher

**Introduction:**

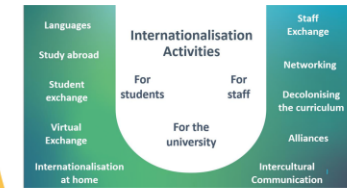
Inclusive internationalisation in HE recognises the importance of equality, diversity and social inclusion in access to internationalisation activities in higher education.

Making internationalisation activities more inclusive has multifaceted benefits and contributes to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.



**Aims**

- Understand how internationalisation and inclusion are interpreted in Irish higher education
- Provide a picture of how national and institutional policy documents are understood and implemented.



**Methods**

- Interviews and focus groups with academic staff and management, students, and other stakeholders
- Collation and analysis of national and university policy documents

**Desired Impact**

- Provide a new model for positioning 'inclusive internationalisation' at the heart of SETU
- Influence institutional and national strategy, and national policy
- Focus on inclusive approach to engaging with students and staff in relation to teaching, learning and support

setu.ie

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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