


Limerick Institute of Technology

Name of the organisation :	Limerick Institute of Technology	 <p style="font-size: small;">LIMERICK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA LIMNIGH</p>
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Type of organisation:

SME School University Public Authority
 Training No Profit NGO

Other (Specify)

Fields of action :

SMEs Youth Universities Public Authorities
 Equal opportunities Schools Unemployed

Other (Specify)

Description of the organisation

Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT) is an institute of higher education in Limerick, a modern urban city in the Mid-West region of Ireland and is one of 13 institutes that are members of the Institutes of Technology, Ireland (IOTI). LIT is the fourth largest IOT in Ireland, with more than 6000 full time and part time students and 500 staff.

The Institute has five campuses and a learning centre across Limerick city, Tipperary and Clare. The main campus is located at Moylish Park, with two city centre campuses in Clare Street and Georges Quay in Limerick city. LIT in Tipperary is based in two campuses -Thurles and Clonmel. The LIT Ennis Learning Centre is based in the museum in Ennis town centre.

LIT offers courses at Level 6 (certificate) through to Level 10 (PhD) whilst also catering for craft apprentices and adult and continuing education. LIT was awarded the Sunday Times Institute of Technology of the Year in 2008 and 2013 by the Sunday Times University Guide. The guide is the definitive guide to higher education in Ireland and the UK.

LIT has a distinctive approach to Teaching and Learning known as the Active Learning Philosophy. Whatever discipline area is offered the core methodology is active and practical; lab work, studio work, case studies, field visits, group assignments and more.

This approach to teaching and learning is embedded in assessment strategies and campus development so that the learning environment reflects the identity of LIT. It is also underpinned by staff developments, e.g. workshops and an online repository of active learning strategies.

More details of the Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategy and the Quality Assurance procedures can be found through this link.

The genesis of LIT was the Limerick School of Ornamental Art set up in 1852 when the Athenaeum Society started a School of Arts and Fine Crafts in Limerick. In 1963 a series of technical colleges, to be known as Regional Technical Colleges (RTCs) was announced by the then Minister for Education, Patrick Hillery and the first of the RTCs were opened in Athlone, Carlow, Dundalk, Sligo and Waterford in 1970.

A regional technical college for Limerick followed in 1974, initially under the name Limerick College of Art, Commerce and Technology (CoACT). CoACT was upgraded to Institute of Technology status in 1997, along with the rest of the RTCs. In 1999 LIT was awarded delegated authority by the Higher Education and Training Awards Council, which allows the institute to award its own bachelors, masters and doctorates degrees.

In 2011, following a government decision, the former Tipperary Institute was integrated into LIT, significantly enhancing and enlarging the education provision of the institute.

LIT is a third-level Institute the principal function of which is the development, teaching and support of undergraduate and post-graduate students. As such it is constantly reviewing issue of student retention, teaching and learning methodologies and approaches to enhancing the student experience. It uses a mixture of traditional and innovative methods of teaching including problem-based learning, student placements and a VLE called Moodle. It also uses systems of student mentoring to facilitate retention. It recognizes that retention is intimately linked with recruitment and that the whole student progression from early stages to final graduation has to be considered in this context.

LIT maintains close contacts with second level schools in the region, actively supporting subject associations like the Irish Science Teachers' Association. It also supports teaching and learning at second level through workshops, talks, conferences and seminars among other activities.

LIT has state of the art science laboratories and an extensive computer centre. It has the space and facilities to facilitate the work proposed in the project. It also has a number of staff with research, science education and industrial backgrounds. These have maintained links and associations that would facilitate development of the project. In addition there are a number of second level schools in the area which would also be accessible for the project activities.

Experience of the organization in previous European projects

1. LIT also has significant experience in collaborative processes and in EU-funded projects as laid out below.

Program	Years	Ref Number	Applicant Org	Project Name
FP6	2007-2013	TREN07/FP6EN/S.07.71106 /038382	Tipperary Institute	SERVE
IEE	2011-2013	IEE/11/BWI/460	LIT	BUSI
IEE	2011-2015	IEE-11-847	Regea	Sustainco
FP7	2013-2017	NMP2-SE-2013-609060	Technalia	A2PBeer
IEE	2012-2016	IEE/12/BW1/339/S12. 659728	LIT	Buildup Skills Qualibuild
IEE	2012-2016	IEE/12/698/SI"/644741	EPOMM	Endurance
Interreg	2013-2015	2013-1/264	Action Renewables	Repute
Comenius	2011-2014	518300-LLP-2011-IT-COMENIUS-CNW	Università di Genova	Chemistry is all around
Tempus IV	2010-2013	Tempus – 1 -2012 – 1 - GE – Tempus - JPHES	LIT	Information literacy in Western Balkan countries
Leonardo	2013-2014	LLP-LDV-PLM-2013-Ireland-1025	LIT	REMSOB
Leonardo	2013-2015	LLP-LDV-PLM-2013-Ireland-1024	LIT	HeatPlus III
Leonardo	2013-2015	LLP-LDV-PLM-2013-Ireland-1023	LIT	CESBEM V
FP7	2011-2014	FP7-KBBE 97837	LIT	BAMMBO

Experience and Expertise of the organization in the project's subject area

Partnership in the Comenius-funded Chemistry is all around us network project that aimed to promote lifelong learning in chemistry/science. <http://chemistrynetwork.pixel-online.org/>

Hosting of annual ChemEd conference for Irish science teachers in October 2013. Papers published in *Chemistry in Action!* Summer 2014

Interaction with science teachers and students through a number of activities. Participation in and promotion of science through Science Week Ireland events held annually in November. Participation and hosting of SciFest Science Fairs annually.

Associated partnership with EPI*STEM, the National Centre for Excellence in Maths and Science Teaching and Learning.

Participation in planning for hosting of Irish Science Teachers Association Annual conference to be held in Limerick Institute of Technology in April 2016. Hosting of Limerick-Clare branch Irish Science Teachers Association events for teachers and students.

Contributions that can be provided to the project

LIT can provide facilitation for the project activities, through its ability to engage and interact with educators at all levels in the locality. Geographically it will provide opportunities for exploring different environments. Its technical infrastructure will be available to participants on a local and international basis.

Reasons of involvement in the project

LIT is a third-level Institute the principal function of which is the development, teaching and support of undergraduate and post-graduate students. It uses a mixture of traditional and innovative methods of teaching including problem-based learning, student placements and a VLE called Moodle.

The college promotes active leadership in education, enterprise and development. It maintains close links with schools and other educational organisations in the region and nationally and engages with teachers across a number of disciplines including science.

In addition to its work as a provider of education LIT is actively involved in research and development both in Ireland and abroad. Our mission in the development function of LIT is to actively engage with organisations which need our support and to provide these organisations with opportunities to enhance our active learning, teaching, research, enterprise and engagement programs.

LIT also maintains close links with other education sectors and with industry and has networks of contacts in both realms. These would have a vested interest in participation in the proposed project, given its relevance to the skills-needs of national and international STEM-based industries.

LIT is a regular participant in EU programs both as project co-ordinator and project partner. It has participated in Erasmus and Leonardo as well as FP7 and IEE projects and its International Office promotes the Institute globally and welcomes students of many diverse nationalities.

Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

The key contact person is Marie Walsh. Marie Walsh graduated with a BSc from the University of Glasgow, then a postgraduate teaching qualification in chemistry and biology from the Queen's University of Belfast. She also has a Master's degree in Communicating Science. She currently teaches theory and practical aspects of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences. As well as teaching, she has worked as a research assistant in chemical education. This has included collecting, collating and disseminating information for use by chemistry teachers, e.g. The Directory of Irish Chemical Industry (1990) and Directory of Resources for Chemistry Teachers (1992) as well as writing for and helping with distribution of Chemistry in Action! - a magazine for chemistry teachers.

Marie Walsh has also been involved for over 25 years with the ChemEd-Ireland annual conferences for chemistry teachers, and for some time with Discover Primary Science and the Irish Science Teachers Association, as a committee member in the Limerick-Clare branch. She is also a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry Education Division Ireland Sub-committee and an associate partner of the former National Centre for Excellence in Maths and Science Teaching and Learning, which is now called EPI-STEM. She developed and taught a programme of science for non-scientists and has considerable experience of working with mature students and second-chance learners. She works as an Advising Examiner for Junior Certificate Science. Most recently she has developed workshops in support of the second level organic chemistry curriculum and produced a Chemistry and Space Science Magic Show in association with postgraduate researchers in the Institute. This is part of the college's outreach activities. She is also the LIT co-ordinator for SciFest, a national second level project to promote inquiry-based learning. Marie was the Irish partner in Chemistry Is All Around Us network project and has been working on a new collaborative project in Ireland, SwitchonSTEM, sponsored by Science Foundation Ireland. She is co-ordinating LIT's participation in CanSat, which is promoted by ESERO.

She is a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry Education Division Ireland Committee and is the South-West representative on Council of the Institute of Chemistry of Ireland.