

ANTHONY BURROWES

Trainer



Country: Ireland

Contact information: tonysocialpolicy@gmail.com

Education: Masters in Youth and Community work

Fields/topics you work in:

Youth Work

-Sustainable Development

-Climate Change

-Youth Policy

-Mental Health

-LGBTQ*

-Peer Education

-Campaigning

Experience as a trainer:

As a youth worker in Ireland my role is to facilitate and lead training for young people, youth workers and adults who are concerned for young people. The NGOs that I have worked with are:
ECO UNESCO

Facilitated a group called 'youth for sustainable development'; Provided training to youth workers on the Sustainable Development Goals; Provided accredited training in Peer Education and Sustainable Development; Provided accredited training in Community Development
UNICEF

Facilitated workshops on Climate Change and Sustainable Development

BeLong To

Training on LGBTQ* mental health; Facilitated workshops on Trans* young people in Ireland;

Provided training on the topic of peer education

Union of Students of Ireland

Training on LGBTQ* mental health

JIGSAW

Training on the topic of youth mental health

WHY DID YOU BECOME A TRAINER?

While I was growing up I saw that there wasn't much of a young person's voice in decision making. They were not asked about their opinion on topics that would concern or relate to them. At this point adults were seen to know what would benefit young people with consulting them. This is changing and after doing a degree in social policy I realised that I wanted to work with young people so that they were empowered to take action on topics that concerned and interested them. I completed my degree in social policy and was successful enough to do a master in youth and community work. The masters supported me in developing my skill in facilitation and workshop development.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PART ABOUT BEING A TRAINER?

There are so many aspects of training that I enjoy as there are so many different types of training, depending on the group, topic and task that I am working with.

One of the most rewarding part of training for me, is when a person that you have been working with for a while, who has not fully engaged in the discussion (for a number of reasons) builds up the confidence to involve themselves in the conversation as they see it as a safe space.

Another great part of being a trainer is when a group that you have been working with on a task where there has been differing opinions, works together to come to a consensus that suits everyone.



DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF AN ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY TRAINER?

Yes I would consider myself an environmentally friendly trainer.

-On a functional level I would make use of all of the equipment that I have at my disposal. Part of being a trainer is to create with the tools that you are provided.

-For the past number of years I have worked with ECO UNESCO - Ireland's environmental youth organisation. In this role I have developed and facilitated trainings on a number of different environmental topics. I have empowered and supported young people to take action on issues that affect climate change. I have raised awareness of the topic of sustainability and climate change for young people in Ireland.

-I have sat on a working group with the European Youth Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals, to make sure there was a youth voice in the decision making process on the SDG's.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES OF BEING A TRAINER?

The biggest challenge as a trainer is believing that you are a trainer. You may have completed a number of training courses to develop your skills but it is not until you have the belief in yourself that you can truly call yourself a trainer.

DO YOU HAVE SOME TIPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BECOME TRAINERS?



As a trainer you don't have to be the most confident person in the room and you don't necessarily have to know the topic very well. What you have to be is open minded and have the skill to bring everyone involved into the conversation.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU IN YOUR WORK AS A TRAINER?

Since I was 8 years of age I have been involved in the Scout Movement. I have ground up in the NGO sector, either as a participant, volunteer or paid trainer. I began participating in the NGO sector because I wanted to make friends, now I want to make a positive change in the society that I live in. For many years I have been a youth worker in Ireland and a political activist on a European level.

It is very important to raise awareness on topics and themes, but without actions there is no change.

'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world'
Nelson Mandela

The project **"Meet your Trainer"** was created by Youth and Environment Europe for young people who would like to become trainers in non-formal educational field.



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Funders:

