

Achill-Link

AICLA



Participants at the Teaching Culture! Project

Front Row L-R: Jens Andreas Faulstich (Germany). Dr Laurent Borgmann (Germany).

Middle Row L-R: Pat Shrimpton (Sweden), Alexandra Haas (Germany), Lili Wilson (Great Britain), Simone Schlüter (Germany),. **Back Row L-R:** Veronica Colwell (Spain), Andrea Pohlmann-Jochheim (Germany), Thomas Berger (Germany) indre Cesnakauskaitė (Lithuania), Dorothy Aström (Sweden), Anne Fox (Denmark). Sean Cannon (Ireland).

Achill Island organisation, AICLA, is a key partner in an innovative EU project to foster inter-cultural understanding. During a week of beautiful weather, 9-13 February, Achill Island played host to an international meeting planning the first steps towards helping adult education teachers in the EU to include an element of inter-cultural understanding in their courses.

The Teaching Culture! Project will train teachers working in adult education, who don't normally have as many training opportunities as their school colleagues, to incorporate inter-cultural understanding in their work. This would help in dealing with the increasing mixture of nationalities and cultures found in the classroom itself as well as learning how to include this cross-cultural understanding in their lessons.

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The Teaching Culture! project has `grown out of the many years of tradition built tip by some of

the project partners in bringing multi-national groups of university students to Achill in early spring where they both learn about the community and tip' to bring something to the islanders too. These projects were facilitated at the Achill end by Sean Cannon of AICLA who is also a partner in this new project. Teaching Culture! will build on these past experiences as well as experimenting with new features such as using video in the teaching materials so that participant

teachers get a chance to really examine what is going on in an encounter between people of different cultures and can see where misunderstandings might occur.

While they were on Achill, the project team got the opportunity to try out some of their teaching ideas in a series of demonstration lectures which included miming, drawing and discussions as well as an opportunity to air the tired stereotypes we have of various nationalities and asking themselves where these ideas come from. Although the work schedule was intensive, often going on late into the night, there were also plentiful opportunities to enjoy the magnificent landscape with guided walks into the surrounding area led by Pen Buchel and many chances to meet with the locals including a memorable Karaoke and pub quiz evening at the Achill Head Hotel.

"Working on Achill has been extremely productive and we couldn't have hoped for better weather." said Alexandra Haas, the project leader.

Author: Anne Fox.



Currane N.S. Band on St. Patrick's Day