

Transition Year Subject Descriptor

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1: Title of module: Young Social Innovators – Social Innovation Action Programme, Senior Cycle

2: Area of study: Social Innovation Education, Society and Community, Social Issues, Social Justice, Sustainable Development Goals

3: Overview:

Working in teams of 5-25, students identify a social issue of concern that they are interested in. The students explore the issue and come up with real actions and responses. Young Social Innovators encourages, motivates and creates new opportunities for students to actively participate in the world around them. It seeks to engage young people in school and prepare them to fully take part in civic action.

Working together, the students collaborate and communicate as a team and with their wider community. Each social innovation team engages in the Pathway of Change which allows young people to explore issues they care about; co-create solutions around these; test and adapt these and then roll out their action. They then engage in reflective practice on their learning and the impact of their social innovation.

As part of their experience, students will develop and present a ‘speak out’ on their social issue and innovation and present this to others as part of the YSI Speak Out Tour. They will also have an opportunity to compete for the Young Social Innovators of the Year Title and Challenge Awards.

Important 21st century skills such as creativity and innovation, critical thinking, teamwork, problem solving, collaboration and empathy are developed. The team will submit a report, receive feedback on their work and certification from YSI.

4: Related learning/Cross-curricular links:

English, Business, Information Technology, Drama, Art. This will vary depending on topic chosen by the students.

5: Summary outline of the unit:

- Students will be introduced to the module, the values, processes and stages of social innovation (Explore & Create, Test & Adapt, Act & Reflect).
- Students will direct their own learning and choose and explore social issues of interest.
- Students will recognise and use their individual talents and skills in the composition and delivery of their YSI Project.
- YSI resources will be used throughout the programme. These are available through the YSI website: <https://www.youngsocialinnovators.ie/>.
- The YSI team will brainstorm, ideate, problem solve, collaborate and think of ideas and ways to work on their project.

- Project work is continued throughout the year. Students will keep a YSI journal/log book to update weekly progress of project and take opportunities to communicate their work throughout the year.
- Preparation to pitch their work for support to the YSI Den (optional) .
- Development and delivery of a Speak Out* presentation – using creative communication techniques such as public speaking, role play, drama, props etc.
- The YSI online report will be co-written by team members who will work on different parts of the report submitted to YSI.

**A two minute presentation by the team which outlines their chosen social issue; why it is important to them and what their innovative idea and action is.*

6: Breakdown of the unit:

Three classes each week for one school year.

7: Aims for module:

Develop key skills for life and work; ability to work in groups and as part of a team; 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 become agents for change.

Wellbeing

Wellbeing indicator	How YSI allows us to achieve this?
Active	<p>YSI builds confidence and enables young people to participate in a wide range of different activities related to the action they are taking in response to a social issue they have identified. Students will be encouraged to be active by taking action to protect and promote their wellbeing and that of others. They will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the YSI Pathway of Change • Take the Lead and choose their own issue and innovative response • Work together and use all team members talents and insights to increase impact • Tell the story of their project and communicate their idea for social change • Take action to create new solutions and a positive social impact • Reflect on their practice and learning by reporting, communicating and understanding the distance they have travelled.
Responsible	<p>Young people take responsibility for their own learning, the social issues they choose to focus on and the innovative actions they implement to tackle social issues in their communities. Through participation, students engage in social innovation to develop solutions which improve the wellbeing of people and the environment.</p>
Connected	<p>Every team involved with YSI must show how they work as part of a team, cooperate with others within and beyond their school. This creates a sense of connectedness to their community and a recognition that they have an important role to play in the wellbeing of others. The students will feel connected to their school, their friends and community. An understanding will also be fostered of how their actions and interactions impact on their own wellbeing and that of others, in local and global contexts.</p>

Resilient

The pathway followed by every YSI team, whereby they must test and adapt their social innovations, enables the young people to recognise that they must be persistent, resilient, and constantly innovating to produce meaningful social change. Confidence will be encouraged in the students themselves and a knowledge that they will have the coping skills to deal with life's challenges by:

- knowing where they can go for help
- believing that, with effort, they can problem solve
- acquiring techniques which help them to problem solve, network and collaborate to address challenges

Respected

An important aspect of YSI is that every young person receives recognition for the work they have done. YSI organises regional events to which students are invited to present a Speak Out on their project; a panel of experts attend and give feedback; an audience of hundreds of peers and local community members attend and listen to their presentations. In this way, their voice and ideas are respected. YSI further amplifies their projects through various media channels. Through their YSI action project, students will demonstrate care and respect for others, have positive relationships with friends, peers, and teachers, and feel listened to and valued through this student-led programme.

Aware

By choosing social issues, researching them, and developing innovative actions, all young people involved with YSI become more self-aware and come to recognise how their values impact on themselves and the lives of others. They also learn to challenge themselves and reach mature decisions by reflecting on their actions. The students become aware of themselves, aware of their thoughts, feelings and behaviours and be able to make sense of them. The students become aware of their personal values and ability to think through their decisions.

8: Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge, skill, value-based learning outcomes: Critical and Creative Thinking; Communication and Advocacy, Design thinking and Planning, Literacy and Numeracy, Teamwork, confidence building, social skills, creativity, independent learning, research skills and information processing, innovation, personal development, working with others, advocacy, social innovation and Sustainable Development Goals awareness.

Experiential-based learning outcomes: Explore & Create, Test & Adapt, Act & Reflect

Longer term developmental outcomes: Empathy; Self Efficacy; Empowerment and Connection to Community.

9: Teaching and Learning Strategies:

This unit aims to enable students to take charge of their own learning. The teacher will act as a mentor and guide and create a safe and supportive environment for students to undertake their work. A wide variety of innovative and entrepreneurial tools and methodologies from YSI will be available online and used for this module including value-based learning, ideation, design thinking, human experience mapping, creative communications and so on.

ICT will be used as a teaching and learning tool to research and present information. Students are encouraged to carry out their own research by use of surveys, questionnaires, or interviews. Goals will be set to meet deadlines and plans created and reviewed. A class learning log will rotate each class as all students will write down

what was done in class, to log work. This will be kept by the teacher for students to review their learning and this will be used as a tool for the project report. The teacher will act as a point of information as he/she will give formal input and information about YSI, guidance and support. The teacher will observe teamwork and project work.

10:Assessment Approaches:

- Goal setting to see how effectively students reach their targets.
- Performance and commitment to project (Speak Out).
- Diary/journal log.
- Reports on experience of YSI and Speak Out experience (end of year).

11 :Evaluation:

- Review of programme at end of school year.
- Report from YSI.
- Certificates will be awarded to students upon completion.

12: Resources:

Resources will vary depending on project chosen:

- Teacher (mentor and guide)
- YSI bespoke online programme resources (activities, lesson plans and worksheets to support students through each part of their action project)
- Whiteboard
- PowerPoint
- Computers and Internet
- YSI website – www.youngsocialinnovators.ie and the YSI teacher dashboard
- Poster material (This will depend on theme/issue chosen for project)
- Certification through the Young Social Innovators programme