

Donegal County Concil Presents:



YOUNG PEOPLE AS FUTURE LEADERS AND INNOVATORS



YOUTHOPIA EVENT IN DONEGAL (IE)

Over 150 young people from across Donegal and the northwest attended the Youthopia Future Fair in Oakfield Park in Raphoe on **27th April**. The YOUTHopia Future Fair event was held in partnership with the **North West Tertiary Education Cluster** comprised of

the ATU, Donegal ETB, the North West Regional College and Ulster University. JoAnne Kilmartin from the NWTEC said “with 2023 being the EU Year of Skills, **the North West Tertiary Education cluster** was delighted to co-host the YOUTHopia

event providing an opportunity for young people in the region to **learn first-hand about the future of work and skills and the pathways available** from all four educational providers in the North West City Region, as well as from regional entrepreneurs and innovators”.

"While, for the EU's recovery plan, NextGenerationEU, it is important to put young people at the core of **European solutions to key challenges**, such as climate change and digital transformation, cohesion policy is perfectly placed to support young Europeans and it will continue to do so through to 2027 and beyond (...)"

"A long-term, lifelong vision is imperative to ensuring that young people are equipped with the pertinent skills and possess access to an opportune environment to develop their career path and personal growth. This **professional and personal development begins with education (...)**."



Micheal O'Heanaigh, AER Vice President for Youth, Culture & Tourism



YOUTHopia

Co-funded by
the European Union

Sab Medlar
founder of
Donegal based
sustainable
streetwear brand
SourcedBySab

YOUTHopia EU Future Fair
Oakfield Park, Raphoe, County Donegal

27th April 2023

Register Now on Donegal.ie/youthopia

#YOUTHopia

 Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council
  **DONEGAL**
IRELAND'S DNA
  **AER**
Assembly of European Regions
  North West
Tertiary Education
Cluster

EUROPEAN UNION ON THE GROUND

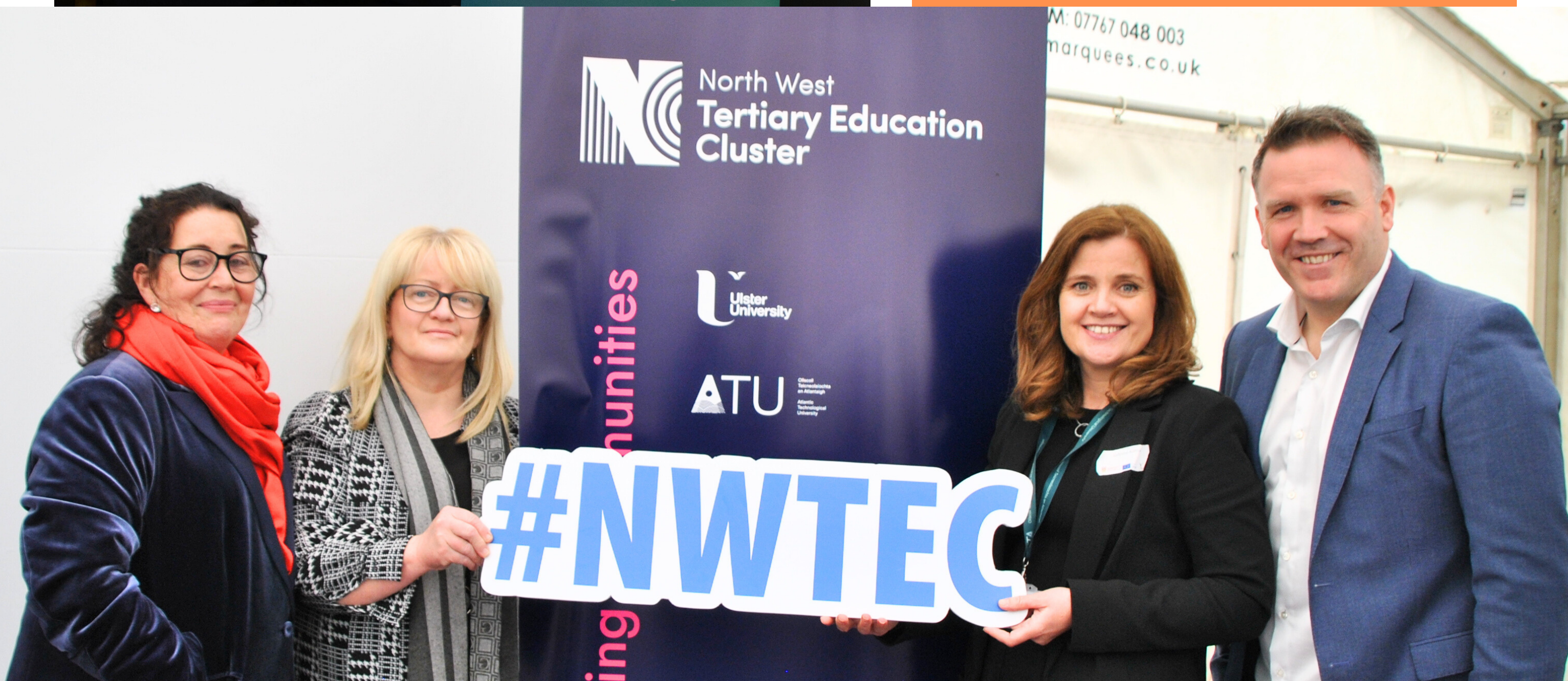
On the ground, several EU-funded projects have demonstrated the value of Cohesion Policy and regional funding for young Irish. Especially through the European Social Fund (some **€545 million spent in Ireland in 2014-2020**).

The new **European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)** is the main EU instrument for investing in people – building social protection and developing a skilled and resilient workforce ready for the transition to a green and digital economy.



In Ireland, together with the government, the European Social Fund co-funds the **Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020.**

The key areas chosen for investment under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020 revolve around helping people get back into education, training or work, helping those at risk of being excluded socially or from the job market, and encouraging youth employment and **improving access to education.**



ATU (Atlantic Technological University) is one of nine universities from across Europe to participate in the multi-million-euro programme funded by Erasmus+, called "**EUGreen, European University Alliance**", which aims to strengthen strategic alliances between universities in the European Union and increase international competitiveness within the European Higher Education Area.

COHESION FUNDED PROJECTS AT YOUTHOPIA EVENT



YOUTHREACH PROGRAMME

The Youthreach programme, co-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) since its launch in 1988, currently operates 110 centres across the country. Each centre gives early school leavers opportunities for education, personal development, vocational training and work experience, in a safe and supportive environment. Youthreach is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union.

COHESION FUNDED PROJECTS AT YOUTH OPIA EVENT



The **AMPLIFY** project under the Cohesion policy **PEACE IV Programme** aims to deliver a youth-led initiative that targeted areas of deprivation, polarised urban and rural communities. It engaged and connected with **960 marginalised and vulnerable young people** across 11 Northern Ireland Council areas and in the 6 Border Regions of Ireland.



It provided a "key" to unlock self-belief in which young people felt a **sense of belonging** and active contribution towards **personal and societal change**.



Dialoguing with youth representative Erin Gallagher, it emerged the importance for the development of both **socio-economic opportunities** and **participative mechanisms** to include specific strategies targeting diverse groups of young people (particularly disadvantaged and **vulnerable youth**, and youth suffering from mental illnesses), to **foster equal opportunities for all and to create an equitable transition.**



Cllr. Liam Blaney, Cathaoirleach,
Donegal County Council

The Future Fair Event was organised by the Donegal County Council under the framework of the YOUTHopia Project, a pan European campaign led by the Assembly of European Regions to shed lights on the benefits of Cohesion Policy for young people in Europe's Regions.

