



**The award-winning newsletter of
students and staff of UCC's Department
of Government and Politics**

Issue 85, Monday 22 September 2025

GOVERNMENT TIMES

**DEPARTMENT HOSTS RESEARCH CONFERENCE TO MARK 25
YEARS OF THE BSc GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL SCIENCE**



At the Department of Government and Politics Research Conference, from left to right: Dr. Fiona Buckley, Professor David Farrell, Dr. Liam Weeks and Professor Andrew Cottey.

COVER STORY: SEE PAGES 4 & 5.



Page 1 -	Cover Page: Departmental Research Conference
Page 2 -	Table of contents
Page 3 -	Editorial
Page 4 -	Cover Story: Departmental Research Conference Report
Page 5 -	Cover Story: Departmental Research Conference Report
Page 6 -	Appointments and Promotions – Theresa Reidy and Irene Halpin
Page 7 -	Doctoral Delight for Juan Carlos Ladines Azalia
Page 8 -	CLRG: New Book Celebrates Inspirational Women
Page 9 -	CLRG: New Book Celebrates Inspirational Women
Page 10 -	CLRG: <i>Leading the Way</i> Exhibition in O’Rahilly Building
Page 11 -	CLRG: Public Talks and Minister to Speak at CLRG25
Page 12 -	World Congress of Political Science in Seoul
Page 13 -	Theresa Reidy: High Court Proceedings and <i>How Ireland Voted 2024</i>
Page 14 -	Philadelphia Story: Hub in Active European Citizenship
Page 15 -	Communicating Europe: Hub in Active European Citizenship
Page 16 -	Jean Monnet Teaching Grant: Hub in Active European Citizenship
Page 17 -	From Offaly to Brussels: Hub in Active European Citizenship
Page 18 -	Cian Walsh Responds to the State of the European Union Address
Page 19 -	BSc Graduate Profiles: Mary Dalton and Seán O’Leary
Page 20 -	BSc Graduate Profiles: Elizabeth Sheeran and Matt Ryan
Page 21 -	Five Students Represent Ireland in Slovenia
Page 22 -	Five Students Represent Ireland in Slovenia
Page 23 -	Media Watch: <i>The Irish Times</i> , <i>Irish Examiner</i> , <i>Echo</i> and Malaysian TV!
Page 24 -	Final Word: No Presidential Nomination from Cork City Council



EDITORIAL

MUCH TO CELEBRATE, INCLUDING 25 YEARS OF THE BSc AND A JUMP IN CAO POINTS

It is brilliant to see the beautiful UCC campus buzzing with life and activity after the summer break and I am delighted to bring you Issue 85 of *Government Times*, the newsletter produced by students and staff of the Department of Government and Politics. Marking 25 years of the BSc Government and Political Science (not to mention an impressive rise of 88 CAO points this year) we hosted a major departmental conference last Wednesday. The opening remarks were delivered by the President of UCC, Professor John O'Halloran, and the keynote address came from Professor David Farrell of the School of Politics and International Relations at University College Dublin. See pages 4 and 5 for a conference report.



President of UCC,
Professor John
O'Halloran, opened the
departmental research
conference last
Wednesday in the
Mardyke Pavilion.

Two units within the Department of Government and Politics – Centre for Local and Regional Governance and Hub in Active European Citizenship – feature heavily in this issue and we also rejoice in recent appointments and promotions for Theresa Reidy and Irene Halpin (see page 6). In addition, we celebrate the achievements of our students, including Cian Walsh (see page 18) and the quintet of students who represented us in Slovenia this summer (see pages 21 and 22).

Enjoy Issue 85!

Dr. Aodh Quinlivan

Editor, *Government Times*

a.quinlivan@ucc.ie

COVER STORY

The Department of Government and Politics hosted a major research conference on Wednesday 17 September in the Mardyke Pavilion. The proceedings were opened by the President of UCC, **Professor John O'Halloran** who praised the department for its work over the past 25 years. He also stressed that studying politics has never been more vital. The Head of the Department of Government and Politics, **Dr. Liam Weeks**, next introduced **Professor David Farrell** (School of Politics and International Relations, UCD) and invited him to deliver the keynote address. Before a full house, Professor Farrell spoke engagingly on the topic of 'Re-imagining Deliberative Democracy in Ireland'. Arguing that deliberative democracy was dead in Ireland 'for now', Professor Farrell continued by suggesting possible reforms and solutions.



A large crowd listened attentively to the keynote address by Professor David Farrell and then engaged him in a lively questions and answers session.

Dr. Fiona Buckley commenced the first panel, and she gave a thought-provoking gender analysis of the 2024 General Election, based on research conducted with **Professor Yvonne Galligan** of Technological University, Dublin (and former colleague at UCC). Fiona was followed by **Dr. Liam Weeks** who sought to explain legislative activity in a weak parliament with a focus on Private Member Bills. The panel concluded with a presentation by **Dr. Aodh Quinlivan** about 12 inspiration women who have shaped local government in Cork city. Aodh's contribution was based on a forthcoming book, co-written with **John Ger O'Riordan** and **Anne Twomey**, entitled *Leading the Way* (see pages 8-10).

After lunch, the focus turned to international relations. **Dr. Niall Duggan** addressed the topic of Sino-Irish relations and the differences between Securitisation and Riskification. Next, **Professor Andrew Cottey** (the organiser of the conference) assessed the Russia-Ukraine War and asked if we were moving towards 'Great Power Peace' or World War Three.

A much-warranted coffee break followed, and the final two papers were then delivered by **Dr. Clodagh Harris** and **Dr. Clodagh Harrington**. Dr. Harris offered a stimulating analysis of institutional engagement with Ireland's Children and Young Persons' Assembly on biodiversity loss, while Dr. Harrington gave a fresh perspective on the American Presidency, in light of an upcoming book comparing the Biden and Trump administrations.

The conference was closed by **Dr. Liam Weeks** (Head of Department) who thanked everyone for attending and offered special praise to **Professor Andrew Cottey** and **Irene Halpin** for their organisational work.



CONFERENCE PICTURES!

- Top left: - Dr. Clodagh Harrington and Dr. Clodagh Harrington delivered two excellent papers in Panel 3.
- Top right: - Dr. Aodh Quinlivan spoke about local government heroines of history.
- Bottom left: - Dr. Liam Weeks, as well as presenting a paper on Private Member Bills, gave the closing remarks.



APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS!



Congratulations to **Theresa Reidy** who was promoted to the position of Professor in April, a long overdue and richly deserved recognition.

More recently, there was further cause for celebration when Theresa was appointed as the Head of the School of Society, Politics and Ethics. The school is the largest in the College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences and includes four departments: Government and Politics, Philosophy, Sociology and Criminology, and Study of Religions. These departments are among the top ranked units in the university and have a significant record of research achievement and research activity while housing large, well established degree programmes.

Congratulations to **Irene Halpin** who has been promoted to the role of Senior Executive Assistant in the department. A highly valued member of our team, Irene deals with a wide-range of administrative matters with enormous efficiency, grace, calmness and humour.





WELL DONE, DR. AZALIA



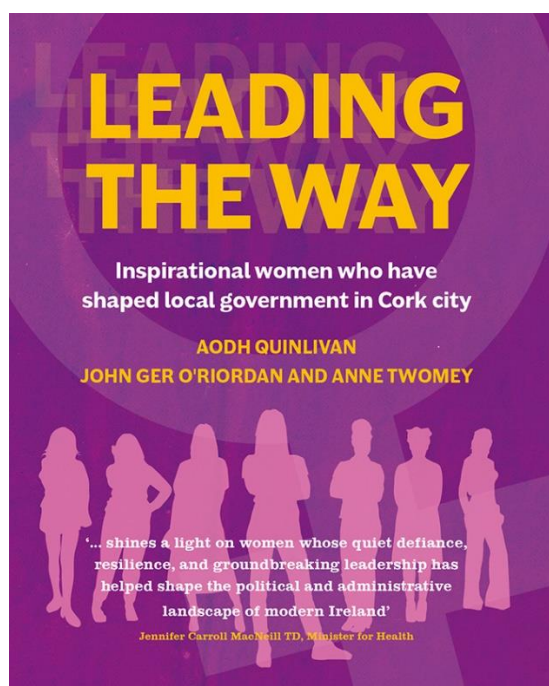
It is always a massive moment when a PhD candidate successfully completes the journey! Well done to **Dr. Juan Carlos Ladines Azalia** who recently came through his Viva examination with flying colours. Juan Carlos produced a top-class piece of research on foreign direct investment in Latin America. He was supervised by Dr. Niall Duggan and Professor Theresa Reidy and examined by Professor Luís Mah (University of Lisbon) and Dr. Aodh Quinlivan (UCC). Dr. David Fitzgerald (UCC) was the independent chair for the Viva.

An investigation of the
processes of outward
foreign direct investment
in Latin America

Juan Carlos Ladines Azalia



NEW BOOK FROM CLRG



A new book – titled *Leading the Way* – is due to be published later this year by Cork City Libraries. With the support of the Cork City Council Women's Caucus, the book profiles 12 inspirational women who have made significant contributions to local government in Cork city. The three authors are Aodh Quinlivan (Senior Lecturer, University College Cork), John Ger O'Riordan (retired local government official) and Anne Twomey (Adult Educator with the Cork Education and Training Board). They hope that the book will have a general audience as well as being particularly relevant to school students.

The book begins with profiles of three women who did not serve on Cork Corporation/City Council but who paved the way for others. **Anna Haslam** was a campaigner for women's rights and a leading figure in the suffragette movement. Largely due to her persistent lobbying, women were included in key local government legislation in 1896, 1898 and 1911. This set the scene for **Susanne Rouviere Day** - an Irish feminist, novelist, and playwright – to emerge as the first woman to contest an election for Cork Corporation in 1914; alas she missed out on a seat by a mere five votes. **Mary MacSwiney** was a famous figure in local and national politics, whose achievements have tended to be overshadowed by what happened to her famous younger brother, Terence. Elected to the Dáil in May 1921, she was a major influence on local politics in the city.

The first woman to win election to Cork Corporation was **Anne Sutton** in January 1920. Noted for her diligence and hard work, she served until June 1924 when she resigned her seat. Two months later, a public inquiry into the workings of the Corporation led to its dissolution until 1929. **Jenny Dowdall** has the distinction of being Cork's first woman Lord Mayor. Elected as First Citizen in 1959, she was particularly active in the promotion of the cultural life of Cork. **Chrissie Aherne** bridged a gap of 30 years in becoming the first woman since Jenny Dowdall to be elected Lord Mayor of Cork, in July 1989. The first grandmother to hold the office, her primary concerns during her term were unemployment and the lack of opportunities for Cork's youth.

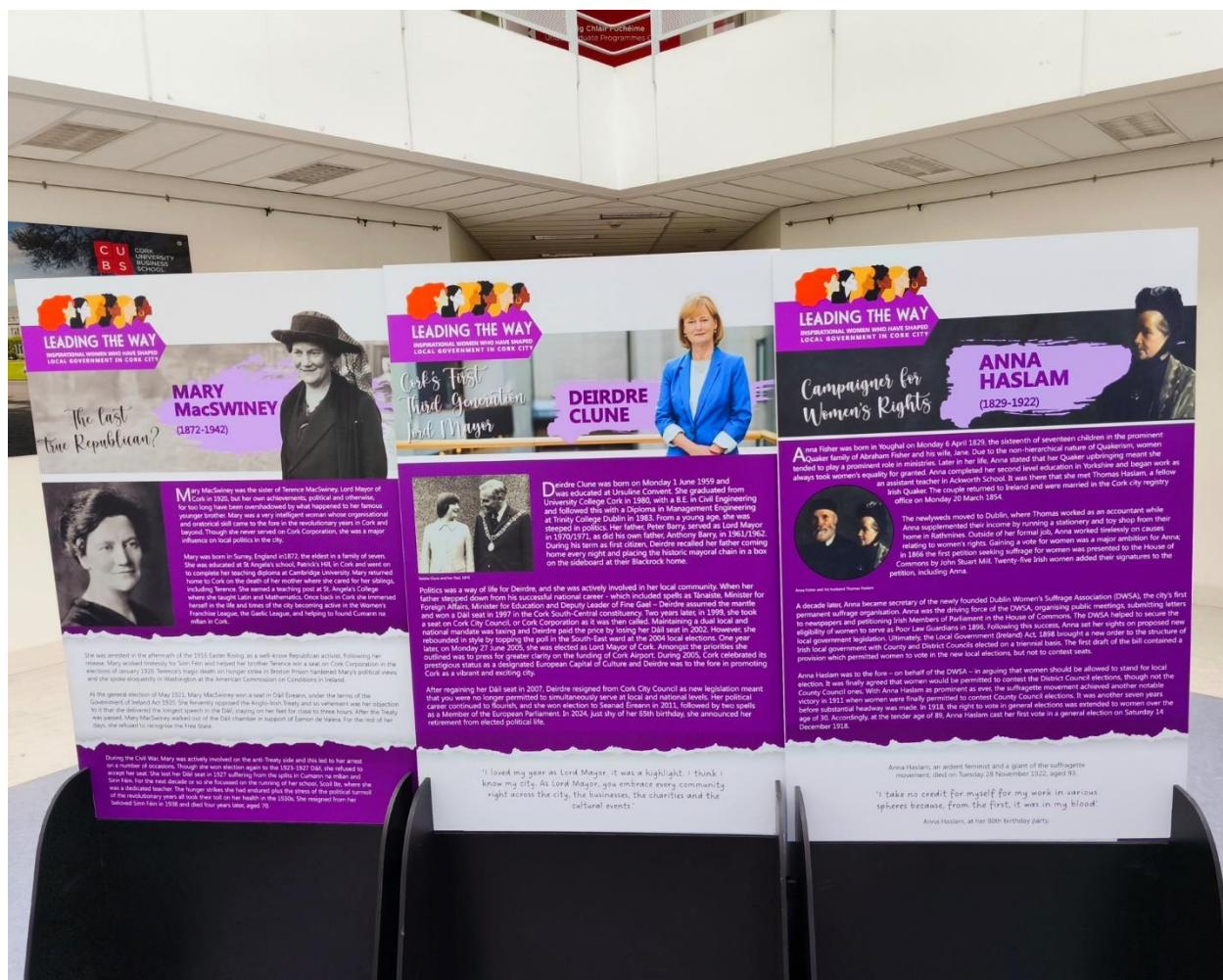
Deirdre Clune was elected Lord Mayor in 2005. During that year, Cork celebrated its prestigious status as a designated European Capital of Culture and Deirdre was to the fore in promoting Cork as a vibrant and exciting city. The first Labour Party woman to serve as Cork's Lord Mayor was **Catherine Clancy** in 2013/2014. During her term in office, Catherine enjoyed great support from party colleague, Councillor Lorraine Kingston, who was elected as Deputy Lord Mayor. This was the first occasion in Cork city that the positions of Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor were both held by women. The following June, Catherine presented the Mayoral chain to **Mary Shields**. Mary's ambition for her year in office was to give total service to the people of Cork. She was committed to working to ensure less partisan party politics in the Council Chamber to create a strong united approach on important Cork issues. The latest woman to serve as Lord Mayor was **Deirdre Forde**, elected in 2022. In her Mayoral speech Deirdre Forde said that her priorities for the year included driving the sustainability agenda, creating a 'city for people', the promotion of the arts and furthering female participation in politics through the Cork City Council's Women's Caucus.

In 2014, **Ann Doherty** became the first woman appointed as Chief Executive to Cork City Council. She entered City Hall with little or no local government background, but she learned quickly, and her subsequent tenure was marked by innovation, a calm authority, honesty and humour. Ann earned the respect of the elected members and worked closely with them over the following 10 years. In November 2024, the Port of Cork Company announced the appointment of Ann as its new Chief Executive Officer. A career public servant, **Valerie O'Sullivan** was appointed as Chief Executive of Cork City Council in October 2024. Prior to that she held various senior management positions in Cork City Council, the Health Service Executive (HSE) and Cork County Council. Valerie is driven by a desire to 'get things done' and 'leave a place better than I found it.'



The latest woman to serve as Lord Mayor of Cork was Deirdre Forde, elected in 2022.

LEADING THE WAY EXHIBITION IN O'RAHILLY BUILDING



Supporting the *Leading the Way* book, a display board exhibition of the 12 women profiled has been running in the O'Rahilly Building, outside the Department of Government and Politics. The exhibition was launched in Cork City Library (Grand Parade) for **International Women's Day** on Saturday 8 March. It has since been moving between different libraries across the city and shortly will be on display in schools throughout the city, commencing with At. Aloysius School on Sharman Crawford Street.



Mary MacSwiney and Chrissie Aherne are two of the women who feature in the *Leading the Way* exhibition.

PUBLIC TALKS AND CLRG25



Director of the CLRG, **Dr. Aodh Quinlivan**, has spoken at various events in recent months, including the annual conference of the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) in Limerick. Aodh was joined on his panel by Councillor Declan Bree (Sligo County Council), John Moran (Mayor of Limerick) and Heather Humphreys (Presidential candidate). The session was chaired by journalist, Alison O'Connor. As part of the CLRG's community engagement efforts, Aodh also spoke to the Ballyphehane/Togher CDP about the importance of local democracy and citizen participation. In October, Aodh is due to address a seminar in Dungarvan, marking the centenary of the Local Government Act, 1925. The CLRG's 10th annual public lecture series takes place in UCC on the night of Thursday 6 November. The programme is being finalised, but the keynote address will be delivered by John Cummins TD, Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government. More details to follow!



WORLD CONGRESS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE



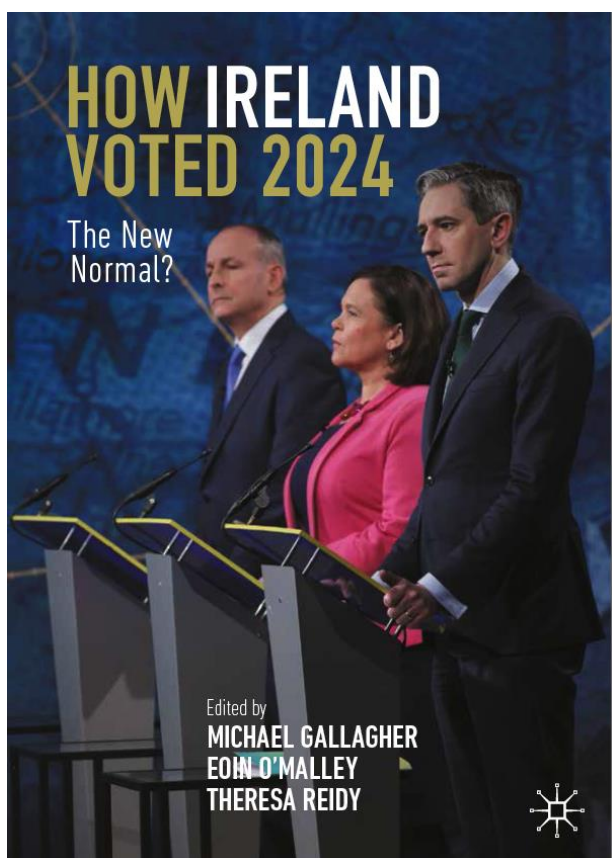
Professor Theresa Reidy delivered research papers on voting behaviour at elections and referendums at the world congress of political science in July in Seoul, South Korea. Theresa was also re-elected as co-chair of Research Committee 23 - Elections, Citizens and Parties at the world congress, and the research committee hosted a dozen panels throughout the congress. At co-scheduled events, she delivered a seminar paper on direct and deliberative democracy at Seoul National University, and she was an invited speaker at the 2025 Seoul International Forum on Elections. The forum is an annual event and hosted by the South Korean Electoral Commission.





On 18 July, **Professor Theresa Reidy** was an expert witness in the petition case taken by Angela Feeney to the High Court seeking a recount on the Agricultural Panel at the Seanad Election in January. Theresa was an expert witness for the Seanad. Councillor Angela Feeney was a Labour Party candidate at the election and she was eliminated on the 23rd count by a margin of 0.116 of a ballot. This was an exceptionally narrow margin, even by the standards of Seanad elections where narrow margins are commonplace. A verdict is expected in the petition in September.

PUBLICATION OF *HOW IRELAND VOTED 2024*

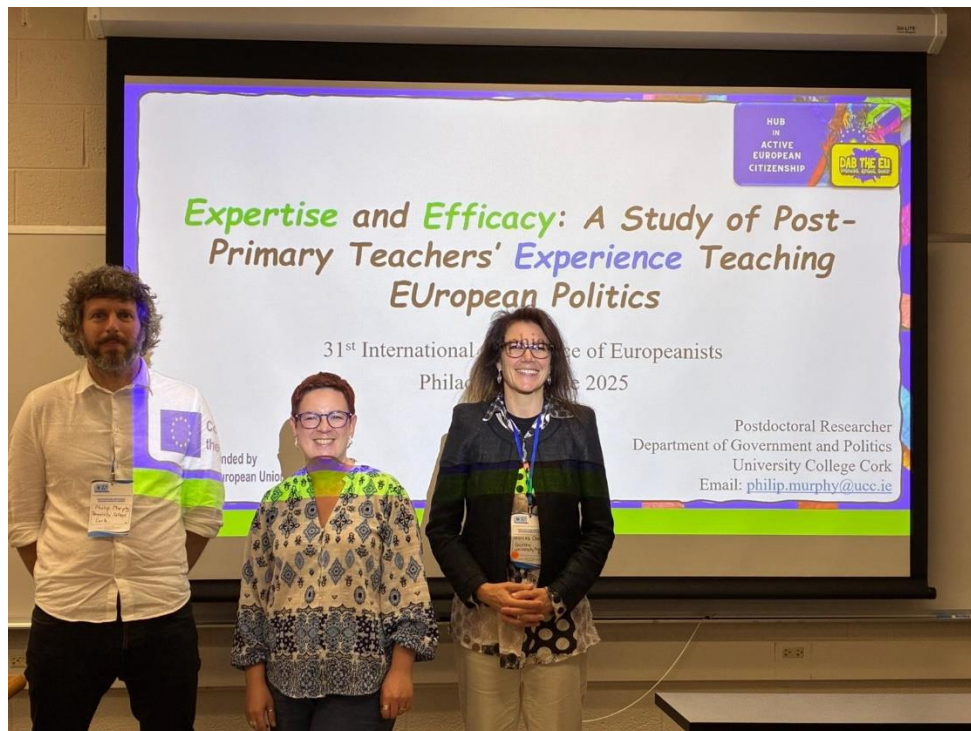


How Ireland Voted 2024: The New Normal was published at the end of August, 2025. The book is co-edited by Michael Gallagher, Eoin O'Malley and Theresa Reidy. The 2024 volume is the tenth in the long running series of election books which provide detailed analyses of each general election since 1987. The book features contributions by distinguished scholars analysing the election and practising politicians sharing their experiences of the campaign.



<https://www.ucc.ie/en/hub-in-active-european-citizenship/>

PHILADELPHIA STORY



Dr. Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan and Dr. Philip Murphy presented at the Conference on European Studies which was held in Philadelphia from 25 to 28 June 2025. Their panel was entitled **Educating youth to make sense of Europe: empirical case studies on teaching and learning about the EU**. Emmanuelle's paper 'Powerful knowledge, procedural knowledge and active citizenship: an ethnographic account of European citizenship education in Ireland at primary level' used personal observations of piloting a teaching and learning programme on Ireland and the EU in 6 primary classrooms in 2018 and 2019, students' questionnaires and teachers' feedback to deliver an empirical inquiry into what active European citizenship education constitutes in Ireland if co-constructed with teachers and pupils.

Philip presented a paper on post-primary teacher's expertise and efficacy in teaching European politics. Based on a survey of CSPE and Politics & Society teachers it explores their political efficacy, political knowledge, teaching efficacy and the perceived relevance of European politics at post-primary level. The results reaffirm the perceived complexity as a challenge to undertaking and delivering teaching of European politics, which chimed with Monika Oberle's other panel presentation. His study also found interesting differences in teaching efficacy across the two political subjects and across teacher gender.



Cork City Council was recently awarded a Communicating Europe Initiative grant of €7,500 and has asked the Hub in Active European Citizenship to deliver an engaging event for primary and secondary schools to prepare for the upcoming Irish presidency of the Council of the EU from 1 July to 31 December 2026.

On 24 November 2025, the Hub will run two EU-themed quizzes in Devere Hall for 200 students. The Lord Mayor of Cork and an MEP will be in attendance, getting challenged on their EU knowledge!



EU-themed quizzes in Devere Hall
Monday 24 November 2025



Erasmus+

Jean Monnet
Programme



HUB RECEIVES €300,000 TEACHER TRAINING GRANT FOR 2025-2028

The Hub in Active European Citizenship is delighted to announce that it was awarded one of only 13 EU-wide Jean Monnet Teacher Training grants for 2025-2028 worth €300,000. It is entirely focused on the post-primary level and has two priorities:

1. Design and deliver training courses on EU citizenship and policies:

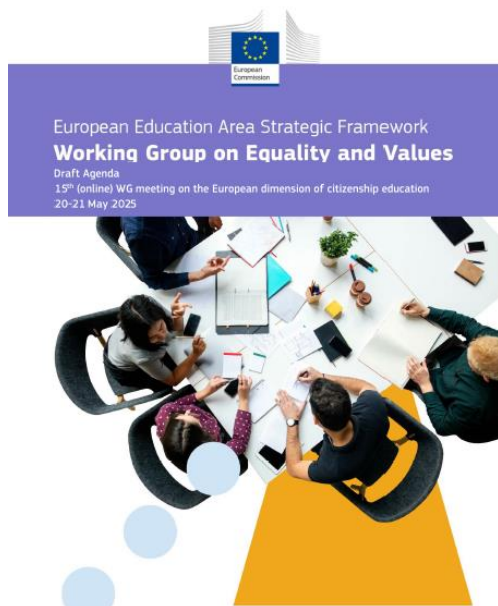
- a.** 9 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training courses for post-primary teachers, face-to-face and online, accredited by UCC
- b.** 9 CPD training courses for Vocational Education and Training (VET) educators, face to face and online, accredited by UCC
- c.** 2 transnational training courses for 12 Irish teachers, delivered in Brussels with hands-on institutional and cultural visits, accredited by a UCC digital badge.

2. Develop and disseminate digital training and teaching material: **a.** To integrate EU citizenship and policy matters in existing curricular and non-curricular research projects at post-primary and VET level (rEUsearch Projects) **b.** To support an EU-themed scavenger hunt for active learning of EU citizenship and policy impacts in daily life and at local level (scavEnger hUnts) **c.** To promote a framework for agnostic deliberation, through which students can engage on salient and politicised matters with peers, local stakeholders, and political representatives (Make Europe Personal (MEP) Moments) This project will develop, deliver, and disseminate training courses and teaching resources, using ICT for collaborative learning, to support active learning through research, gameplay, and deliberative methodologies. It will support teachers to empower young people's EU civic literacy and awareness of policy impacts at local level. It will reach 720 teachers and over 13,000 students aged 12-20.



From 11 to 15 July, the Hub in Active European Citizenship delivered its annual Drumcondra accredited CPD course on active European citizenship to 11 primary school teachers in Crinkill NS, county Offaly. It was a week of great engagement and enriching discussions which form part of their Jean Monnet Learning at school Initiative award.

PRESENTATION TO EUROPEAN COMMISSION WORKING GROUP



Day 2

Wednesday, 21 May 2025

09:30 – 12:45

09:00 – 09:30	Connecting Online https://ecconf.webex.com/ecconf/j.php?MTID=ma1366be3e6e42a3f7284e84750ef0d34
09:30 – 09:45	Introduction
09:45 – 10:10	<i>Main results of the ICCS European Report 2022 – Young Citizens' Views and Engagement in a Changing Europe</i> - presentation Daniele Vidoni, European Commission, EAC A4 Maria Magdalena Isac, International director of ICCS 2027 Q&A
10:10 – 10:35	<i>Jean Monnet Actions</i> - presentation Rossella Cravetto, European Commission, EAC A1 Q&A
10:35 – 11:15	EU-funded projects: building the European dimension in citizenship education (part 1) <i>Knowing me – Knowing EU</i> Emmanuelle Schon-Quinlivan, Senior Lecturer, University College Cork <i>BEAT – Be an Active EU Teacher: Enhancing the Teaching of the EU through Teacher Trainings</i> Marinko Banjac, Associate Professor, University of Ljubljana

In May, the Hub in Active European Citizenship was asked to present the results of its project entitled Knowing Me Knowing EU (KMKEU) to the European Commission's Working Group on Equality and Values in Education and Training. This Working Group comprises representatives from national educational authorities and stakeholders from various European and international organizations dedicated to education and training. KMKEU was selected as an example of good practice to be shared with professionals, institutions and academics in the field. It led to a lively discussion on what is required at a national level to embed European active citizenship education in curricula.

Government and Political Science Third Year Student on Panel Discussing Ursula von der Leyen's 2025 State of the Union Address



‘It is a vital moment to reflect on how the choices made today will shape the future of young people across Europe and to ensure that their voices are actively included in the dialogue’ – Cian Walsh.

Cian Walsh, Government and Political Science BSc student and Quercus Active Citizenship Scholar, joined a distinguished panel assessing European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's 2025 State of the Union Address on 10 September. The discussion, chaired by journalist and former *Irish Times* Europe Editor Paddy Smyth, explored the key themes of President von der Leyen's address and her outlook and priorities for 2026.

The panel featured:

- Frances Fitzgerald MEP, Former Tánaiste
- Tom Hanney, Former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ireland to the EU
- Brigid Laffan, Professor Emeritus, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute

Cian said: ‘Contributing to the conversation on the State of the European Union is a meaningful opportunity for me as a student, particularly in a time marked by uncertainty and the complex challenges facing Europe. It is a vital moment to reflect on how the choices made today will shape the future of young people across Europe and to ensure that their voices are actively included in the dialogue.’

From Bandon, Co. Cork, Cian's work has ranged from advancing equitable agricultural policies to contributing to national debates on sustainability. In his second year studying Government and Political Science at UCC, he was selected to represent the university as part of its delegation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's Conference of the Parties (COP), underlining his commitment to active citizenship and in international discussions on climate and policy. In addition to his studies, Cian is also Secretary of the UCC Government and Politics Society. The annual State of the Union Address sets out the European Commission President's vision and priorities for the year ahead. The theme of the address will most likely be developing responses to the current geopolitical challenges, drawing on the priorities set out in the President's political guidelines for the 2024-2029 European Commission, and the measures detailed in the Commission's 2025 work programme



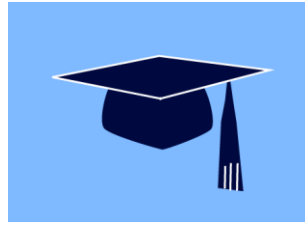
GRADUATE PROFILES



Mary Dalton graduated with a BSc Government and Public Policy degree in 2004. Mary's third year work placement was in the Spatial Policy section of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. After her degree, Mary worked as a tutor in the Department of Government and Politics, UCC, and then as a visiting lecturer in the College of St. Rose, New York. She then spent six years in Forfás before moving to the Department of Finance. At present, Mary is an Assistant Principal Officer in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.



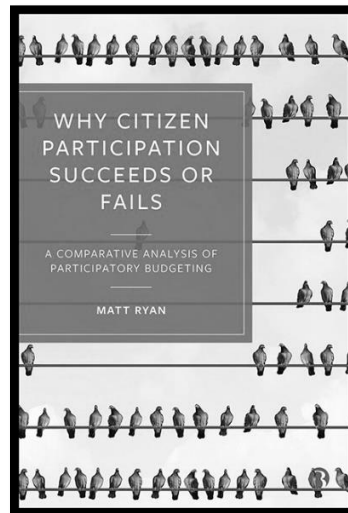
Seán O'Leary graduated with a BSc Government and Public Policy degree in 2006 and then completed a Masters in Planning and Sustainable Development, also at UCC. He worked for two years as a Policy and Research Executive at the Cork Chamber of Commerce, before spending five years as an Executive Director of the Irish Planning Institute. This was followed by spells as an Assistant Principal Officer (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment), as a lecturer at TU Dublin and as a Science and Policy Advisor to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Presently, Seán works as a Senior Planner at the Irish Planning Institute. He is responsible for policy and research and developing and coordinating education and training services for members.



GRADUATE PROFILES



Elizabeth Sheeran graduated with a BSc Government and Public Policy degree in 2006 and then completed an MSc in Conflict and Security at the University of Bristol. After nearly seven years as a Management Consultant at Accenture in London, she moved to ACNE (London and Stockholm) as Chief Operating Officer. Ten years followed as a Director and Senior Manager with Deloitte UK. In September 2022, she opened ‘The Dawn Seal’ restaurant and ‘Liten Coffee’, both in London.



After completing his BSc Government degree, **Matt Ryan** remained in academia and obtained his PhD from the University of Southampton in 2015. He is now Associate Professor of Governance and Public Policy at the University of Southampton. Matt’s research focuses on democratic innovation, participation in politics and policymaking, as well as improving social research methods. He is PI of the Rebooting Democracy project, supporting design and testing of interventions to sustain democracy. The project aims to take advantage of analytic potential of data science to understand what interventions achieve greater inclusion, learning, deliberation, and popular support for institutions. Matt is founding co-director of the Centre for Democratic Futures, Policy Director at the Web Science Institute, and holds a UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship. His book, *Why Citizen Participation Succeeds or Fails* was published by Bristol University Press in 2021.

Government and Political Science Students Represent Ireland in Slovenia

- Abigail O'Sullivan, Ben McSweeney, Harry McGuire, Keira Geaney, and Linka Pentek
(BSc Government and Political Science II students)

On the 22 June, we had the amazing opportunity to travel to Slovenia as the Irish Representatives of the CitiGenZ. This event allowed young people from several EU Member States/surrounding States to discuss how young people viewed their European identity, analyse how the EU supports the youth, and create plans to promote youth participation. Team Ireland had a close focus on the encouragement of education to young people to in turn improve voter turnout across the EU. Having the opportunity to develop a project plan, define funding goals, work together as a team whilst also collaborating with our peers around the continent in a beautiful country was an opportunity we will never forget, and we are so grateful for.

WHAT WE DID DAY-TO-DAY:

Although this trip allowed us to socialise, and travel around the beautiful town of Koper, we attended classes Monday to Thursday in the PINA Youth Centre. We began our mornings walking to our building and doing energisers to start our day. Although the first day was spent doing ice breakers and introductions, we all became extremely close, which allowed the rest of the week to run so smoothly. We would dedicate the first half of our day to investigating EU policies, discussing conflicts, stereotypes, and the history of our own states. Then, for the latter part of the day, we went into our groups to work on our project proposals. In this time, we brainstormed, researched, budgeted and much more. It gave us such an outlook on a career of working on policy and is an experience that we could not disregard in our future.



OUTSIDE PINA KOPER:

Time spent outside of the CitiGenZ event was equally as enjoyable as the work we did, including the first night, when the wonderful people at HEKA took us for an introduction dinner at Pizza 33. In our own time, we explored Koper, including the extraordinary beaches, restaurants, and tourist attractions available to us. Nights were often spent enjoying the aforementioned beaches and the amenities within our hotel, culminating in an enjoyable and fun time both inside PINA Koper and outside.

PROJECT IDEAS:

In the event itself, we worked on project ideas for getting the youth involved in the EU through education, our idea, EU Month, incorporated the use of school-based workshops to educate and using said education to encourage students in secondary schools to get involved in EU based competitions, and games online to win prizes, pushing for a more fun, laissez-faire approach to learning about the EU. As part of the event we created project ideas, working together as a group we compiled one, using info such as our plans relevance, objectives for our plan, indicators for success, target groups, work packages & activities and finally our financial plan for the project, for which to present and discuss our ideas for advice on how to improve upon our ideas and how to go about putting them into action through the use of grants and support services. Working together and with the help of the people in PINA Koper, we were able to not only create an idea to act upon but have learned how to go about pursuing such actions in the future should we choose to.

CONCLUSION:

All in all, the CitiGenZ trip to Koper, Slovenia, was both helpful towards our general skills for future endeavours, as well as an enjoyable experience that we shall all cherish for the rest of our lives. Thanks to **Dr. Emmanuelle Schon-Quinlivan** and her communication with the organisers of the event for helping us by providing all information and helping us wherever possible, and to the Government and Politics Department for helping the whole process as well.



MEDIA WATCH

Yes, the presidential election process is restrictive. That's as it should be

This is not the election for newbies to test their views on the electorate - that is what local elections are for

Expand



Professor Theresa Reidy had a timely article in *The Irish Times* on Saturday 13 September in which she argued that the Presidential election process is restrictive, but appropriately so! The opinion piece by Dr. Aodh Quinlivan in the *Echo* on Friday 25 July called for the restoration of Town Councils.

AWANI
INTERNATIONAL



On Monday 22 September 2025, **Dr. Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan** did an interview with Malaysian Television. She analysed the recent challenges in French and European politics as part of the *Awani International* programme. The interview aired that night on the 9:45 bulletin.

Emmanuelle also has an opinion piece in the *Irish Examiner* which will be running this week. The article examines government instability in France, as well as rising polarisation and intensifying pressure on institutions. Keep an eye out for it!

CORK CITY COUNCILLORS DECIDE AGAINST NOMINATING A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE



Professor Theresa Reidy and Drs. Aodh Quinlivan, Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan and Philip Murphy attended the Special Meeting of Cork City Council on Monday 15 September. At the meeting, the elected members voted not to nominate a candidate for the upcoming Presidential election. The vote was 15-10 against a nomination. Labour, Social Democrats, Green Party, Independent Ireland, Worker's Party, and Independent councillors voted in favour of nominating a candidate, while Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, and Sinn Féin voted against. Lord Mayor Fergal Dennehy and People Before Profit–Solidarity's Brian McCarthy abstained.

***Government Times* is a joint collaboration between students and staff. Therefore we encourage students of the Department of Government and Politics to get actively involved.**

If you would like to become a student editor of the newsletter, please e-mail a.quinlivan@ucc.ie with any ideas you might have.

Issue 86 of *Government Times* will be published in November 2025.