

## NPP/NEED for developing local skills and support in environmental education; how local people can use NEED study modules and learning environments

### International Conference in the Burren, Co. Clare, Ireland

An international conference with participants from educational institutions, schools and tourism businesses presenting and exchanging experiences of developing and promoting educational tourism in peripheral regions. Conference delegates will visit educational businesses in the Burren aspirant Geopark, Co. Clare, Ireland to see how the study modules and learning environments developed in NEED are being used in this region. Delegates will have the opportunity to exchange experiences and develop networks during visits and workshop sessions. The trans-national NEED web-site '*GeoNEED.org*' promoting the modules and environments will be launched during the conference.

October 11th  
to 16th 2010

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Oct: Arrival at Shannon Airport on Monday 11th of Oct. Bus to Hotel Doolin.

TIME	Where	Tuesday 12th
9.00 - 9.15	<i>Hotel Doolin</i>	Welcome: Dr. Pat O'Connor, Geological Survey of Ireland
9.15 - 9.45		Introduction to the Burren and NEED's role: Dr. Ronan Hennessy, Geopark Geologist
9.45 - 10.45		Summary of WP 4 (Norway: Asbjörn Hagen) and Introduction to WP5 (Ireland: Carol Gleeson): Chaired by Tuula Keinonen
10.45 - 11.15		Website Presentation: Edel Hayes and Michael Byrne (ActonBV)
11.15 - 11.30		Discussion
11.30		<b>Coffee Break</b>

12.00 - 15.00	<i>Walk to Doolin Point</i>	Guided walk of Doolin heritage & environment led by Ronan Hennessy & Mattie Shannon (local guide and hostel owner). Mattie has attended the NEED evening class and is using NEED educational materials. Doolin Point is a Geopark site and learning environment. (Will need walking shoes and water proof clothing)
12.00 - 13.00	<i>Hotel Doolin</i>	Web site management training for nominated web site managers from each country.
13.00 15.00		<b><i>Lunch in O'Connor's Pub, Doolin</i></b> Cliffs of Moher Boat Trip; Viewing the Cliffs from the sea; led by Cormac McGinley, Cliffs of Moher Education Officer. The Cliffs of Moher is the largest natural attraction on the West of Ireland, attracting approximately 900,000 visitors per year. The Cliffs Visitor Experience is a local partner, the centre is a learning environment and is also the focus of a study module.
		<b><u>Wet Weather Alternative: Doolin Cave</u></b>
16.30	<i>Return to Hotel Doolin</i>	
17.30	<i>Bus to Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience</i>	NEED partner site visit
18.00		Guided Tour of Atlantic Edge Exhibition and/or Cliffs guided walk led by Katherine Webster & Cormac McGinley
19.00		Official Launch of NEED web site promoting the study modules and learning environments
20.00		<b><i>Conference Dinner</i></b>
22.00	<i>Return to Hotel Doolin</i>	

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**Wednesday 13th**

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9.00 - 11.00	<i>Hotel Doolin</i>	Actions 20 & 25: Presentations on schools and entrepreneurs surveys; analysis of results and discussion on development of user audience and markets.
11.00		<b><i>Coffee Break</i></b>
11.20	<i>Bus to Burren National Park</i>	NEED partner site visit
12.00 - 15.00	<i>Burren National Park</i>	Mullaghmore Nature Trail and learning environment led by Emma Glanville. The National Park is a local partner and has recently developed a series of nature trails. The walk will show how NEED has assisted in the interpretation of these trails.- (including packed lunch picnic. Will need walking shoes and water proof clothing.)

**Wet Weather Alternative: Dromore Woods**

15.20	<i>Bus to Kilinaboy</i>	Visit to XPO Community Space and Kilinaboy Medieval Church led by XPO Community Group. Viewing a potential learning environment managed by a not for profit community group specializing in recording the local landscape and interpreting it through art.
16.30	<i>Return to Hotel Doolin</i>	
18.00	<i>Bus to Ballyvaughan</i>	Cultural Workshop
19.45		<b>Dinner in Gregan's Castle Hotel</b>
22.00	<i>Return to Hotel Doolin</i>	

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**Thursday 14th**

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9.00 - 10.15	<i>Hotel Doolin</i>	WP5 in Finland
10.15 - 11.30		WP5 in Iceland
11.30		<b>Coffee Break</b>
12.00	<i>Bus to Caherconnell</i>	
12.45 - 13.50		Visit to Caherconnell Stone Fort Centre. The centre was set up by a local farmer and business man who used the heritage value of his land to develop a viable and innovative business. His innovations include developing his site as a centre for archaeological research in the Burren and developing mobile information technology to interpret the site. His innovations are helping inform developments in learning environments in NEED.
		<b>'Déjà vu'</b> : Short talk by Christine Grant from the National Monuments Service on 'Vikings in Ireland' followed by a short discussion on the potential for future collaboration on this theme.
13.50	<i>Bus to Carran</i>	
14.00		<b>Lunch in Cassidy's Bar, Carran</b>
14.45 - 15.15		Presentation on Burrenbeo Trust by Brigid Barry. Burrenbeo Trust is a local partner specialising in information provision and environment/heritage and cultural educational programmes for national schools and adult groups on the Burren and will use the study modules to enhance their existing educational programmes.

15.30 Introduction to Farm Heritage Tours Co-Op by Frank O Grady & Farm Walk led by Robert Cassidy. Robert is one of nine farmers who have recently set up a co-op which offers guided tours of their farms. The NEED project provides study modules, information leaflets and an evening class to the farmers to help them interpret the geology of the region and the particular features seen on their farms. The co-op is one of the NEED local partners.

**Wet Weather Alternative: This talk will take place indoors!**

18.00 *Bus to  
Kilfenora*

18.30 Tour of Burren Centre led by Frances Connole. The Burren Centre is the oldest established interpretative centre in the Burren. It is a co-op, run by local people to interpret the Burren landscape. It provides a range of services and acts as a hub or contact point for a number of eco-tourism businesses in the area. It is a NEED learning environment.

19.30 ***Dinner at the Burren Centre***

21.00 Cultural Workshop

22.30 *Return to Hotel  
Doolin*

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**Friday 15th**

9.00 - *Hotel Doolin* WP5 in Norway

10.30

10.30 - Discussion and workshop on planning for the future of NEED

11.30

11.30 ***Coffee Break***

12.00 *Bus to  
Blackhead*

12.30 - Blackhead Outdoor Educational Programme led by Colin Bunce. Colin works for the Burren Outdoor Education Centre, a NEED local partner and will show how NEED study modules can be used in outdoor learning environments with secondary school groups.

13.45

**Wet Weather Alternative: This talk will take place indoors at the Outdoor Education Centre.**

13.45 *Bus to Fanore*

14.00 - ***Lunch in O Donohue's Bar, Fanore***

14.45

15.00 - Fanore Dunes Conservation Programme & Fanore National School Education Programme led by Carol Gleeson  
16.00 and John Murphy (Birdwatch Ireland). This visit will show how the conservation, monitoring and interpretation of an important ecological site and popular amenity attraction can be helped by the involvement of local school children.

**Wet Weather Alternative: This talk will take place indoors!**

16.00 *Bus to*  
*Ennistymon* Cultural Workshop

16.20 - Visit Ennistymon Town. Time to shop and taste small village life in the west of Ireland.  
18.00

18.00 *Bus to Hotel*  
*Doolin* ISG Meeting of managers of NEED project in Finland, Norway, Iceland and Ireland.

19.30 ***Dinner at Hotel Doolin***

21.00 O'Connor's Pub for one last drink and song together.

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**Saturday 16th**

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**Bus depart for Shannon  
Airport**