



THEME:

Research and Innovation

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MATCH FUNDERS:

Department for the
Economy Northern Ireland,
the Department of Business,
Enterprise and Innovation,
Ireland and the University of
the West of Scotland

LEAD PARTNER:


Dundalk Institute of
Technology

PROJECT PARTNERS:

University of the West of
Scotland, Queen's
University Belfast

Start Date: 01/01/2017

End Date: 30/06/2022

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SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: BREATH (Border and Regions Airways Training Hub) - Educational Visits

BREATH (Border and Regions Airways Training Hub) is a unique, world class, cross-border cluster of researchers that will help address the causes, treatment and prevention of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). COPD is an incurable and slowly progressive condition that causes breathing difficulties and irreversible lung damage.

An important part of the BREATH 'Public Engagement Mission' is outreach to schools within the Partner regions. This involves explaining lung health and disease in the context of biomedical science, and increasing awareness of COPD (including presentations on smoking as a preventable major risk factor).

School outreach extends across all three partners. Below is an example of the ongoing BREATH drive in Dumfries & Galloway.

University of the West of Scotland (UWS) staff and PhD students have been visiting schools in Dumfries & Galloway to raise awareness amongst both secondary and primary children of COPD, which is particularly prevalent in the area.

Beginning in September 2018, UWS BREATH experts have educated more than 4,500 young people across Dumfries & Galloway about lung physiology. Such work saw school children build their own simple lung model and conduct a range of experiments to assess lung function. For a full list of participating schools visit: <https://www.breath-copd.org/breath-concerted-public-engagement-drive-dumfries-galloway/>

The aim is for BREATH academics to share their skills with the next generation of young scientists and inspire them to help in the work to find new and better treatments for COPD.

"We want children to engage with us on our research journey, and have been teaching them about the scientific skills needed for researching the deadly disease while at the same time improving their understanding of lung health and well-being. Our programme has included patients participating in interview sessions with the pupils, with both patients and pupils enthusiastically engaging in the experience."

Professor John Lockhart, UWS



Belmont Primary pupils and their teacher