



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: Strives Year in Review 2020

THEME:

Children & Young People

FUNDING (ERDF + Match):

€3,979,785.60

MATCH FUNDERS:

Department for Economy (Northern Ireland),
Department of Children and Youth Affairs (Republic of Ireland)

LEAD PARTNER:

Include Youth

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Youth Initiatives NI,
Newstart Education Centre, Northern Ireland
Alternatives, Lifford
Conleigh Resource Centre.

Start Date: 01/08/2017

End Date: 31/12/2021



www.includeyouth.org/projects/strive



@StriveProgramme

Strive is a partnership programme aimed at bringing disadvantaged young people from diverse community backgrounds together to promote change in themselves and their local communities.

Young people from both sides of the border work together to set their own learning agenda around the themes of citizenship, personal development and good relations.

In March 2020, the project went online, with Facebook posts reaching over 18,000 and 9,000 engaged with online media content. The 'Expert by Experience' volunteers and young people helped support participants. These 'experts' are young people who volunteered their time to help assist those taking part in Strive, having previously benefitted from engaging with programmes in the partnership organisations.

In May, young participants presented the 'Strive Showcase', a series of videos featuring dancing, singing, playing musical instruments and baking. TV Presenter, comedian and science commentator, Emer Maguire, developed a special song for the project as well undertaking the role as a guest judge for the showcase event.





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In June, the young participants took part in 'I'm A Striver, Get Me Out Of Lockdown', completing numerous challenges across the projects social media sites. Ulster Rugby star and Include Youth patron, Eric O'Sullivan, helped host the event.

One of the young participants also took part on a live debate on UTV's 'Live from Stormont', discussing young people's mental health and COVID-19.

In July and August, Youth Initiatives rolled out the 'Creating Spaces' summer scheme. Following strict social distancing measures the young participants took part in a range of activities, with a number choosing to volunteer their time to help assist delivering the summer scheme.

Participants also took part on an environmental campaign called 'Leave No Trace', as part of Environment Week, where they were able to get outdoors and take on a number of walking challenges.

At the end of the summer Strive also hosted Personal Development week, where young participants selected topics to discuss such as resilience, money management, body image and mental health.

In September, with a return to school, Strive youth workers were able to facilitate meetings with school groups including:

- Northern Ireland Alternatives in Hazelwood College;
- Newstart Education Centre in St Gerard's and Park School;
- The Youth Initiatives West Belfast in De La Salle Collage;
- Youth Initiatives Downpatrick in Blackwater Integrated College;
- Include Youth Donegal in Loreto College Milford;
- Deelee College in Raphoe.

As the year drew to a close, Strive's young participants and the 'Expert By Experience' volunteers worked together to deliver a virtual Strive Christmas Concert. Strive's project delivery staff also took part in the concert, with a Lockdown version of the 12 days of Christmas.

