

Limerick Institute of Technology

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Type of organisation:

SME School University Public Authority
 Training No Profit NGO

Other (Specify)

Fields of action :

SMEs Youth Universities Public Authorities
 Equal opportunities Schools Unemployed

Other (Specify)

Description of the organisation

Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT) is an institution of higher education in Limerick, Ireland and is one of 14 member institutions of the Technological Higher Education Association (THEA). The Institute has campuses in Limerick city, one in both Thurles and Clonmel in County Tipperary and a regional learning centre in Ennis, County Clare. The main campus is located at Moylish Park adjacent to Thomond Park and houses the Faculty of Applied Science, Engineering and Technology and the School of Business and Humanities. The School of Art & Design is located at the Clare Street and Clonmel campuses.

LIT offers courses at Level 6 (certificate) through Level 10 (PhD) whilst also catering for craft apprentices and adult and continuing education. The Institute has twice been named as The Sunday Times Institute of Technology of the Year in The Sunday Times University Guide, firstly in 2008 and again in 2013.

LIT is to the forefront in ensuring that the region's economy continues to have the requisite array of leading-edge skills demanded by our knowledge-based industries. In 2017, LIT was granted permission to develop a new campus at Coonagh in Limerick, to be focused on teaching and research in engineering.

LIT has a distinctive approach to Teaching and Learning known as the Active Learning Philosophy. Whatever discipline area is offered the core methodology is active and practical; lab work, studio work, case studies, field visits, group assignments and more.

This approach to teaching and learning is embedded in assessment strategies and campus development so that the learning environment reflects the identity of LIT. It is also underpinned by staff developments, e.g. workshops and an online repository of active learning strategies.

Experience of the organization in previous European projects

LIT is also actively involved in research and enterprise development and is a regular participant in EU programmes both as project co-ordinator and project partner.

It has participated in Comenius, Erasmus and Leonardo as well as FP7 and IEE projects and its International Office promotes the Institute globally and welcomes students of many diverse nationalities.

Experience and Expertise of the organization in the project's subject area

Limerick Institute of Technology is a third level institution offering courses in a wide variety of disciplines, many of which require competency in mathematics. The organization has a cohort of lecturers who have contributed to curriculum development initiatives to enhance the learning experience of students and to improve their competencies in mathematics.

Contributions that can be provided to the project

Limerick Institute of Technology will draw on its own expertise as well as its links with local secondary school teachers and representative organisations for mathematics teaching and learning.

It will undertake to promote the outputs of the project both locally and nationally.

LIT has experience in a variety of student interaction models. In addition to the standard classroom-based models, LIT also provides an interactive learning space for all learners. Moreover, the Problem Based Learning approach has been used on a number of programmes of study. LIT provides personal development and communication skills modules for many of its students. In addition, some staff in LIT have a particular interest in teaching and learning approaches and have carried out research and engage in networks and organisations which address these issues.

Reasons of involvement in the project

To work to enhance methods of teaching and learning in basic mathematics.

The networks with which LIT is an associate include EPI*STEM, the National Centre for Excellence in Science and Maths Teaching and Learning. Mathematics is an important component in the STEM

programmes which make up the majority of the LIT courses in the proposed project. LIT lecturers have worked on initiatives to enhance the teaching and learning of mathematics, both at programme level and in association with the dedicated Learning Support Unit which operates a number of strategies to aid students who have difficulties with core subjects like mathematics.

Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

Marie Walsh has been a lecturer in science in the Department of Applied Science in LIT since 1990. She has a particular interest in methods to promote the teaching and learning of STEM subjects. She is a Member of the Irish Science Teachers Association, a Member of the Royal Society of Chemistry Education Division Ireland committee, Mid-western regional representative on Council of Institute of Chemistry of Ireland, the LIT co-ordinator of SciFest, CanSAT, Space Week and Science Week, and a ChemEd-Ireland conference committee member. She is also an Associate member of EPI*STEM, the National Centre for Excellence in Maths & Science Teaching and Learning. She was the project manager for the Chemistry is all Around Us Network, funded in the framework of the Lifelong Learning Programme – Comenius sub programme – Networks Action which aimed at stimulating the interest of students in the study of Chemistry. She was also project manager of E-learning from Nature, an Erasmus+ KA2 project, which looked at the use of digital and other media to promote alternative methods of teaching and learning science.