



# The HSE Community Games, Education and Training Opportunities for Volunteers

24<sup>th</sup> September 2011

EuroVolNet Seminar, Riga, Latvia

*A Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body*

*[www.communitygames.ie](http://www.communitygames.ie)*



# A brief overview of Community Games...

- Established in 1967 in Dublin by a group of local volunteers
- Motto 'A Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body'
- Organised at Area (local community), County, Provincial and National level
- Over 200,000 children from ages 6 to 16 participate annually in Community Games activities
- List of events includes over 50 sporting and cultural activities
- There are approximately 10,000 volunteers involved in running the regular activity and competition provided at Area (community), County, Provincial and National level
- Community Games is active in 31 out of 32 counties in the island of Ireland (includes north and south)

*A Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body*

*[www.communitygames.ie](http://www.communitygames.ie)*



# Education and Training Opportunities provided through the organisation

- **Foundation Leader Course**

*Provides candidates with the basic skills to plan and lead safe, enjoyable and health enhancing activities.*

*Coaching Ireland accredited and nationally recognised*

- **Tutor Development Course**

*For more experienced foundation leaders/volunteers to become a certified tutor to deliver the Foundation Leader Course.*

*Coaching Ireland accredited and nationally recognised*



# Education and Training Opportunities provided through the organisation

- **Code of Ethics and Child Protection**

*Nationally recognised and accredited certificate*

- **Intercultural and Anti-Racism Awareness  
Training**

*Delivered by Integration Development Officer and  
available to all volunteers throughout the country*



# Education and Training Opportunities

Nationally we have:

- 23 volunteers trained to deliver the Foundation Leader Course
- 3 volunteers trained to deliver the Code of Ethics and Child Protection Course
- 2 members of staff to deliver Intercultural and Anti-Racism Awareness Training



# Advantages and Challenges

## Advantages

- Low cost- do not have to pay for expensive tutors
- Volunteers given the opportunity to grow and learn
- Drawing on own human resources, ie volunteers
- Volunteers have more understanding of how Community Games operates at the basic Area level than either staff or external tutors
- Positive networking opportunity for participants
- Opportunity for social interaction

## Challenges

- Finding suitable candidates with the skills to deliver training
- Time commitment required by volunteers to complete initial training
- Time to deliver training once qualified
- Cost of training volunteers and travel expenses for voluntary tutors
- No legal requirement for volunteers to attend training
- To date, within the organisation, training is not compulsory for volunteers



# New Venture for Community Games

Under the new Strategic Plan 2011-2016, direction has been placed on preparing a Volunteering Policy to emphasise training for volunteers, this will start with the inaugural:

## Community Games National Training Day

- Due to take place in January 2012
- Envisaged that 120 volunteers from across Ireland will take part
- All counties will be asked to send 4 volunteers
- Not compulsory at this stage
- Future plan- To make it an annual event



# Community Games National Training Day Modules

## Compulsory

- Policies overview and Strategic Plan
- Code of Ethics Implementation and Garda Vetting (police check)
- Intercultural and Inclusion awareness workshop
- Appeals- procedures
- Complaints and Disciplinary
- Volunteer recruitment and retention

## Optional

- Officers roles and responsibilities (eg, chairperson, secretary, development officer, etc)
- Sports specific coaching- GAA, athletics, volleyball, hockey, futsal
- Introduction to chess, multi sport fundamentals, introduction to arts and projects
- Health Promotion- physical activity, mental health, substance misuse, healthy eating





# External Training Opportunities

- Local Sports Partnerships- deliver training in Code of Ethics and Child Protection, and First Aid at a minimal cost
- Most National Governing Bodies of sports (such as rounders, volleyball, badminton, athletics) have provided training for coaches, free of charge or at a minimal cost
- Other organisations, such as Chess Ireland, will provide training at no cost in order to increase participation with a view to enhancing chances of state funding or gaining recognition as a Governing Body
- Counties and Areas are encouraged to allocate funding for volunteers to take part in sport specific training, child protection and first aid



# Thank you for listening

*A Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body*

*[www.communitygames.ie](http://www.communitygames.ie)*