Learning from an Irish multidisciplinary collaborative project where students are the community

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Outline

• Introduction to collaboration
• Mentoring structures
• Challenges
• Evaluation
• Future potential
• Conclusion
Road Safety Unit

An Garda Síochána

"NEVER EVER DRINK & DRIVE!"

"Penalty Points... 36 ways to lose your licence!"

"Keep your distance... only a fool brave"

"You must be able to stop in the distance you can see to be clear"

"Take heed of your speed!"

"Speed limits are not targets... drive accordingly!"

"Be wary of being weary!"

"Seatbelts front and back will save lives!"

"BikeSafe... "motorcycle"

"..."
Road Safety Authority Education Resources.

**Primary Level**: Be Safe (5 to 12 yr olds)
Seatbelt Sheriff & Hi Glo Silver (7 to 9 yr olds)

**Secondary Level**: Streetwise (12 to 15 yr olds)
“Your Road to Safety” (16 to 18 yr olds)

**Third Level**: Safegrads – 3rd Level road safety guidelines (17 to 24 yr olds)
C.A.R.S. Initiative began 2008

Brief: Seek New and Innovative ways to promote Road Safety among 17 to 24 year olds particularly Males.

Current Models not Having Sufficient Impact.
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<th>Total</th>
<th>16 to 30</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>16 to 25</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Overall % Female</th>
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<td>Fatalities</td>
<td>279</td>
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<td>Drivers</td>
<td>133</td>
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<td>Passengers</td>
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<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>42</td>
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<td>Passengers</td>
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<td>36</td>
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Garda perspective:

- Third level not as well served as others
- 2008 started CARS, addressed lecturers
- Research/initiatives on road safety communication to peers by students from own discipline’s perspective – lecturers used appropriate modules
- RSU mentoring
- Showcase/awards
DIT Programme for Students
Learning With Communities,
Community Links Programme,
Dublin Institute of Technology
DIT Perspective:

Garda Road Safety Unit as mentoring partner

Wide open brief

All disciplines and levels

Student opportunity to change behaviour, save lives

Students as the community

Delivered through existing modules

Technical/creative/research projects

Annual awards offer recognition

100+ students, 9+programmes
CARS Projects

**BSc in Marketing:** 1st and 2nd year Marketing Students design posters and viral you-tube videos on road safety targeting 18-25 yr. old males

**MA in Professional Design Practice:** Major project on redesigning ‘It won’t happen to me’ second level presentation by RSU
CARS Projects

4th year BSc in Environmental Health student researched bus driver attitudes to safety

B Eng Civil Engineering students studying Highways Design re-designed a junction near DIT, taking into account vulnerable users – pedestrians and cyclists
CARS Projects

• **BSc in Tourism Management and BSc in Tourism Marketing**: 4th year students taking transport management module carried out research on aspects of road safety: Drunk Pedestrians; Urban versus Rural; Attitudes and Habits

• **4th year Chemistry** student researched breath and urine testing for alcohol next morning
CARS Projects

1st year Product Design communication students produced product concepts addressing road safety

MSc in Computing student researched intelligent traffic management systems to prioritise road safety among cyclists and pedestrians
Mentoring structures:

• 3+ lunchtime meetings a year
• Agree end of year showcase
  – Format and criteria
• RSU brief classes of students
• RSU offer practical assistance
• RSU suggest specific topics
Challenges:

• Sustainability of CARS projects in non-CBL modules
• Trust needed with mentoring
• Recession – cutbacks
  – Creative solutions: showcase
Evaluation:

- CARS = credits, students enthusiastic
- Sustained engagement by students with topic over semester
- Own research increases analysis and retention of data (vs talk on road safety)
- Possibility of students developing innovative ideas to be adopted by RSU and RSA for mainstream promotion
Future Potential:

- Interdisciplinary work, deepening learning
- Identify local Road Safety issues for students to work on with local communities.
- Research into impact of CARS
- Extend CARS across HEIs nationally
  - National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030 advocating CBL
  - New Irish network for CBL and CBR
Thanks:

• To all participating lecturers and students
• To both our programme funders – DIT + EU FP7 through PERARES Project
An Garda Síochána/Dept of Justice and Equality