

Center for Disability Law & Policy

www.nuigalway.ie/cdlp

Part of of the NUI Galway

Lifecycle Research

Alliance



Vision

"To empower persons with disabilities,

and inform innovative policy development & innovation

in order to achieve full equality and autonomy for all persons with disabilities

through independent comparative research and education"

1. Rationale.

2. Staff.

3. Core Research.

4. Ancillary Research & New Research.

5. Educational Programmes

6. Partnerships.

7. Challenges & Opportunities.

1. Rationale.

Context

- National Disability Strategy & new process of reform
- UN Convention, new moral & legal compass for reform.
- European Law Reform, increasingly important parameter.

Therefore: Unique Opportunity to generate research insights that facilitate the process of reform

HOW?

Research – identifying solutions. Giving sharper edge to Advocacy.

Education – preparing the next generation. Sustaining change.

Outreach – democratising knowledge and skill.

Positioning – emerge as leading Centre in 3-5 years

2. Staff

Director: Professor Gerard Quinn.

Administrators:

Research Project manager: Rachel Stevens

Part Time Admin assistant: Mary McQuinn.

Full-time Researchers.

Dr Andrew Power.

Dr Eilionoir Flynn.

Researchers:

Usually 3-4 on short term research contracts.

Legal Interns:

About 6 per year from the US & Ireland.

Visiting Fellow:

Prof Michael Bach (Summer 2009 – Working on legal capacity issues).

Fulbright due 2010

3. Core Research.

Baseline Study on Irish Disability Law & Policy.

Part of Core Funding.

Due to end 2010.

Dr Eilionoir Flynn in charge.

Tracking National Disability Strategy.

Scoping of Project done by
Dr Caroline Gooding
Prof Jerome Bickenbach

Modernisation of Service Delivery

Part of Core Funding

Due to end 2010.

Dr Andrew Power in
Charge.

Focus on comparative
Laws & policies &
Innovation

Commenced Sept
2008

4. Ancillary Research & New Research.

European Yearbook On Disability Law

With U Maastricht

Due 2009

Major Annual Round up of
European level
Developments.

First in Europe

Bids Won in 2008

European Commission

eAccessibility Laws
German Group & BBI
Done

European Commission

ANED Leeds U
Ongoing

European Commission

Mapping UN Convention
Onto EU Law
to be done in
2009

Macedonia Government
Advice on National Strategy

Legacy Work:

UN Convention

Book of Legal Essays.
Brill Publishers,
Jan 09 Done

UN Convention

Textbook
Cambridge U Press
Due end 2009.

Digital Freedom

Norwegian Research
Council
Due to end 09

UNESCO & Disability

Lead Chapter on Disability
Done.

WHO Disability

Lead chapter on Disability.
Done.

Eur Court of Human Rights

Amicus Brief on Legal Capacity
Ongoing work
With Human
Rights Commissions

5. Educational Programmes.

PhD. Funded Programme: 2008 –

8 recruited – working to steady state of 14
Legal capacity, education, development aid, employment, eAccessibility

Regular Monthly Joint Sessions.

Next Generation. New Kind of Graduate – policy entrepreneurs.

Planned Masters Programme – 2010...

International & Comparative Disability Law.
Vantage Points on Ireland.

Exploring Distance Ed options.

Summer School

To Re-commence June 2010.

Spreading Knowledge & Skills.

Giving an International and European Vantage Point on Ireland

6. Partners

Domestic:

NUI Galway.

NUI Galway Life Cycle Research Alliance.

Centre for Family & Child Support, Irish centre for Social Gerontology

National.

TCD/UCD/U Ulster. New embryonic All-Ireland Academic Platform.

Person-Centered Project.

International

Global:

Burton Blatt Institute (U Syracuse) – Prof Blanck & team.

Harvard Project on Disability – Professors Stein & Alford.

Renmin Law School (China)/ China Federation.

Global Partnership on Development and Disability (GPDD).

European:

Maastricht University – Prof Waddington.

NOVA Institute (Norway) – Prof Bjorn Hvinden.

U Bochum – Prof Theresa Degener.

U Haifa (Prof Rimmerman).

U Reykjavik Prof Arnardottir)

7. Challenges....

- Social Science insights are not developed sufficiently to support policy work.
- Policy **entrepreneurship** in its infancy – no real infrastructure to assist.
- Covert/Overt pushback against normative approaches (rights, equality, law).
- Inward/defensive posture of public service.

7. Opportunities

- The Market is for Solutions.
- UN CRPD – can't get away from normative perspective
- EU Factor – big & getting bigger.
- Review of Nat Disability Strategy due 2010.
- Vital necessity for public sector reform & social innovation.

