



# TOOLS FOR SOLIDARITY

## IN THIS ISSUE



## Welcome to our readers!

Hello dear readers, we are back with so many news and stories to tell! Starting with a wee recap: on the 15th of April John and Sofia left Belfast for a 3-months Field Trip to Tanzania. The main goal of the trip was the establishment of a new Artisan support Centre in the Iringa region, in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania. This has also been the occasion to visit the other centers NASTC and MSTC to monitor their activities and offer new training.

The end of April was also remarkable as we ran the Belfast Marathon.

Go Tools! was our team's name, and it was so much fun but also hard work for our volunteers. This is a perfect moment to highlight the enthusiasm and motivation of Christian, our German runner, who kept running after finishing the whole circuit by himself. Special thank you to Chris and John from Tools for Solidarity Downpatrick, for running with us; and to all the people that donated to support our project. We raised some money that will go towards the maintenance of the workshop and, hopefully, our new kitchen door.

The new chapter of our Education for Sustainable Development Programme; we are sadly saying goodbye to our dear Róisín. She has been our Education Officer for 4 years now, yet it's time for her to leave and pursue her project, which she has been working hard to accomplish during the recent years. However, Róisín, Aurelia, and the other volunteers have done an incredible job, and the ESD Programme is running even better than expected; now it's time for it to continue growing along with our new Education Officer. Catherine, who took on the ESD Programme with enthusiasm at the middle of August, has sadly had to leave, so we are still looking for the indicated person with the motivation and charisma to continue this beautiful Programme full of challenges and opportunities.

By the by, the summer ended and with it, Ruben, Judith, Aurelia, Christian, Solène, and Loïs finished their volunteering. September was also time to say our goodbyes to Astrid, can you imagine? Indeed, we have no more tears left. It is sad news, not going to lie, and we miss them in the workshop, but it's time for them to start their new journey after this year of learning and developing new skills. From Tools, we know that they will find their passion and enjoy every step of their next adventures. Ich mochte mich recht herzlich bedanken, and nous vous verrai bientôt.

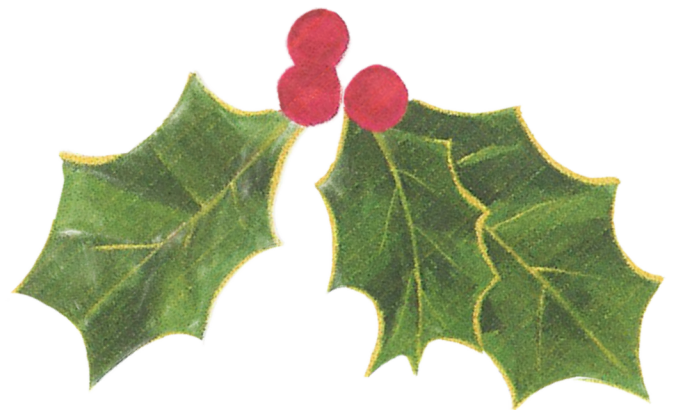




On the other hand, we have already spent some months with the new volunteers! They come from different parts of France: Clamecy, Lyon, Brittany; and Germany: Stuttgart, Hannover, and Schleswig-Holstein. Their names are Syd, Karina, Nora, Mélie, Zoé, and Paul, and they are full of energy and good vibes.

What else has happened? We are selling the wool! Last March we received a very generous donation from a family sock-making factory in Kilkeel, Co Down. The owner, who has since sadly passed away, donated the remaining stock to our charity and, since then, we have been storing it in Mourne Grange, and bringing it little by little to our workshop to sell it on eBay. It is going quite well and we are really happy with the project.

And that's all wrapped! Welcome December and almost welcome 2024. We are super excited to be participating in the Northern Lights Christmas Market on the 16th of December. We will be selling beautiful art pieces that were also donated by a generous local artist friend of TFS.



**We wish you a warm and sustainable Christmas and a very happy start to the year, thank you for being part of Tools for Solidarity one more year! Asante Sana!**





## IASC is now live

TFS works in Tanzania in partnership with a local governmental organisation called SIDO (Small Industries Development Organisation). In 2022 the SIDO office in the Iringa Region expressed the wish of having a centre similar to the one TFS had opened 2 years before in Njombe. This was the starting point of the Iringa Artisan Support and Training Centre (IASC), officially inaugurated at the beginning of May 2023 during TFS last Field Trip.

The focus of the newly established centre is to supply tools, sewing machines and machinery to artisans, providing also technical and sewing training and back up service supports. The specific targets are:

- To allocate 134 sewing machines, of whom approximatively 100 will go to individual tailors (75 to women) and the rest to Vocational Training Centres or NGOs.
- To sell 3 industrial machines, 1 domestic overlock, 3 computerized sewing machines and 6 knitting machines.
- To sell 2720 hand tools, 44 electrical tools/items, 4 pieces of machinery,



*John and Catherine (IASC new workshop coordinator) during the tool training.*



*Meeting between TFS and SIDO Iringa staff.*

and 11 tool starter kits (carpentry, building, auto mechanic).

- To train approximately 80 tailors in sewing, dress design, embroidery, business skills, and sewing machine maintenance and operation.





## Thoughts on the Field Trip 2023

### **IASTC (Iringa centre)**

The centre made a really good start! John and Sofia along with the new staff worked hard to set up the workshop and check the sewing machines and tools received from TFS. Most of the time spent in Iringa was devoted to train Catherine (workshop coordinator) and Mohamed (workshop mechanic) in tool and sewing machine refurbishment. They were very motivated and reached a remarkable level in a short period of time! In August 2023, only a month after the field trip, they organized the first training of tailors in dress design, business and maintenance&operation of their new sewing machines.

### **NASTC (Njombe centre)**

The Njombe centre is almost 3 years old now! During this year's Field Trip Sofia and John visited NASTC on 3 different occasions to supervise the tailor's training, check the finances, visit the beneficiary artisans, and do a stocktake with Janeth and Michael, the staff of the centre. The visits were very positive. The training was successful and TFS could gather some feedback from the tailors who had received sewing machines in the past years. NASTC has a very high demand for sewing machines and the demand for tools is also increasing significantly among artisans and Vocational Training Centers (VTC).

### **MSTC (Mwanza centre)**

At the end of the Field Trip John and Sofia visited MSTC which is the oldest of the TFS centres in Tanzania. MSTC does a remarkable job in terms of training for tailors. In one year the centre ran 9 training sessions and allocated 315 sewing machines. By now it has become a reference for artisans in Mwanza and in the neighbouring regions. TFS staff visited some beneficiary tailors included people with disabilities who had received sewing machines and training free of charge. MSTC has also been supporting 2 young people with disabilities each year in attending a one-year sewing course at a VTC called Rosemiriam Dagg Centre. Sofia and John visited it and talked with the coordinators about the progress of the programme.

Overall the Field Trip this year was a success and is helping TFS to orient its activities for the next few years..



**Working towards**



**a more just**

**and sustainable world**







## New era for our ESD Programme

by **Róisín Sloan**

It's hard to believe I started the Education Officer post in 2019 and that I will soon be leaving Tools For Solidarity (TFS). I am going to try and pursue a career in languages, something I have been working towards in recent years. While I look forward to other adventures ahead, it has been an honour to work for an organisation that is really true to its values and is always striving to do better.

**<< The Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) group has achieved a lot throughout the past 4 academic years, even in times that were fraught with uncertainty >>**

The programme which was started by the previous Education Officer, Laura Ríó Fernández, has continued to go from strength to strength thanks to the highly committed volunteers in the ESD Group as well as all those schools and organisations who have collaborated with us and shown their enthusiasm for learning about sustainable development issues.

I would like to thank all the teachers, youth leaders and community group coordinators who welcomed us into their classrooms and centres.

Furthermore, I wish to acknowledge all the pupils and participants who opened their minds to learning about global challenges. I was always inspired by the sense of empathy, solidarity and willingness to seek new solutions and to question current systems.

None of the work would have been possible without the ideas, creativity and diligence of TFS's ESD volunteers who brought their own vision, personalities and outlook to the education programme.

Thank you to **Manon, Antoine, Jennifer, Daria, Paul, Rahel, Zeinab, Astrid, Joel, Elif, Rafaela, Sofia, Léna, Solène, Christian, Ruben, Judith** and **Jud!**

A special thanks to **Aurelia**, who was our first European volunteer dedicated solely to ESD (2022-23) and proved to be a pioneering force!

A big thanks to **Sam** and **Noel**, 2 of our Lead Volunteers who have now being delivering ESD sessions for over 3 years and showed unwavering passion for the programme.

I think it also important to highlight that **without the support of the wider members and volunteers of TFS, the ESD group would not be able to function effectively.** I have to single out **Stephen, John, Ken, Geoff** and **Laura**, who were always ready to listen and give advice. TFS would not have been able to implement the programme without the contributions of **Roger Waters, Irish Aid** and the **Ultach Fund** and **Community Foundation**. We are extremely grateful to all our funders.

It's hard to summarise everything the ESD group has done, but I would like to include a few of my highlights:

**Delivering the ESD workshops to schools and other groups (always fun and inspiring!)**

**Development of online resources such as the 'TFS Activity Pack' to support our schools programme**

**Expansion of the programme (2 new sessions on climate change and ESD for groups of adults)**

**Creation of new board game: Climate Changers  
Translation of workshops and materials into Irish**

**Volunteer training, including creation of new role of Lead Volunteer**



# Aurelia's letter to the ESD Programme



With Tools for Solidarity I had the opportunity to learn more about Development Education. I went to several workshops where I learned new skills to use in the ESD workshops and got a better understanding of the aim of Development Education. I am very glad to have had this opportunity and would like to share my experience of the seminars with you.

## Exploring global justice through games-based learning

While we were working on the new Climate Changers Board Game Roisin and I went to the seminar Exploring global justice through games-based learning which was a good opportunity to reflect about our game and get to know other game projects. The speaker was explaining his experiences of a project where children create games about global justice themselves. He pointed out that the testing of the game is really important to improve the game after getting feedback. Furthermore, it is important that the games create empathy and understanding about a global issue and how local actions are connected to it. I found his tips very helpful, as I didn't have any experience yet of creating board games and was happy to get advice.

## The A-Z of GCE

Our work on the Education for Sustainable Development programme ties in with Global Citizenship Education. Working for Tools for Solidarity and the Centre for Global Education I have been part of the Development Education sector. Through this seminar I understood what being part of this network meant. There are a lot of organisations who are educating people about global issues and working towards a just world. At the A-Z of GCE seminar I had the chance to meet those people who are part of the network and get to know more about the topics and teaching methods involved in Global Citizenship Education. In the seminar we did a lot of group work and discussed global justice and interconnectedness. This gave a good overview of the topic we try to cover in the ESD workshops, where we usually look at one topic of global justice in a more detailed way. I came home from the workshop with a better understanding of the Development Education network and learned new teaching methods.

**The seminar was a great opportunity to build a network among different Development Education organisations in Ireland and to think about what is most important in Development Education – to teach people about global issues and enable them to take action.**

## **IDEA's Annual Conference**

In June Roisin and I attended the Annual Conference of the ESD network organisation IDEA. The topic of this year's conference was Innovation in Global Citizenship Education. At the beginning of the day I was a bit nervous because I thought people might not take me seriously as I was the youngest and only one of a few non-native speakers. But in the first icebreaker activity I had a really good chat with the women next to me and the nervousness disappeared. Later on I gave my opinion on what the Development Education sector should keep on doing and was proud that I was able to say something in front of everybody with vocabulary I would not have used before living in Belfast for nearly a year.

Overall, I would call the annual conference a success, as the speakers presented inspiring innovative projects and we had the opportunity to get to know other people working in the network. I felt like everybody in the room was motivated to start new projects and had a lot of new ideas. Therefore, it can be said that the conference definitely lived up to its innovative mission statement.

Overall, I am happy to have had the opportunity to go to these workshops. It definitely improved some of my skills and the understanding of the network. I am pleased that Roisin and I could represent Tools for Solidarity at the annual conference and I am happy to see that we could implement the advice we were given at the first workshop we attended.

**by Aurelia Bonn**







# Field Trip

2023



















# Best wishes and a warm hug





**Tools for**

**Solidarity**



**NEWSLETTERS**

**YEAR**

**2023**