



the role of ICT in bridge-building and social inclusion

10-13 September 2006

Advance notice of an international conference in Northern Ireland on the role of ICT in Bridgebuilding and social inclusion

University of Ulster, Coleraine, Northern Ireland

This international conference will bring together academics, practitioners and policy makers to examine the theory, practice and policy implications of using Information Communications Technology to bring students together for joint work. It will include contributions from the Dissolving Boundaries Programme which is currently linking 160 schools on the island of Ireland, and work being carried out in the Middle East. Presentations are expected from other parts of Europe, Africa, America and Asia.

This conference will be of particular interest to those involved in the European Commission's ETwinning programme.

The dissolving boundaries programme

The programme is managed jointly by the education departments in University of Ulster and NUI Maynooth

The experience of the Dissolving Boundaries programme, linking schools by ICT in Northern Ireland to schools in the Republic of Ireland, has shown that well managed partnerships not only enable teachers to embed ICT in the classroom but have an effect on the attitudes of both teachers and pupils towards 'others'. The use of video-conferencing and computer mediated conferencing has given young people the chance to work together on a range of curriculum topics in ways that have engendered respect for difference and encouraged tolerance of diversity. This evidence has been found in primary schools with children as young as nine years of age, in special schools and in secondary schools.

In preparation for the planned international conference described above, academics, teachers and policy makers are invited to submit expressions of interest on current and planned work for this conference.

**Further enquiries should be directed to
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