

EPA Green Enterprise

Project: All Heads Together

Organisation: ReCreate Ireland with partner Arts Education Research Group (AERG) of Trinity College Dublin. Reference: 2015-ET-CP-76

Project Objective: To research, develop and pilot a resource for fostering creativity through reuse.

Amount Of Grant Aid Awarded: €60,000



Background:

ReCreate Ireland is a social enterprise in South Dublin which collects unused and unwanted materials from over 300 businesses around Ireland and distributes them for reuse to member groups such as schools, colleges, creches, community groups, collectives, and professional artists. ReCreate Ireland aims to foster creativity through a concept known as 'Creative Reuse', the repurposing of unused or unwanted materials in creative ways.



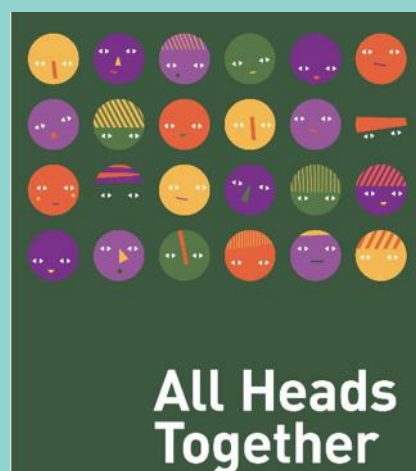
Reuse is one of the cornerstones of the circular economy and a key activity to end the current culture of disposability in society. Behavioural change and an awareness of this problem – especially in young people – is vital to achieve resource circularity and this project used creativity for this outcome.

Project activities:

All Heads Together is a resource for artists, facilitators and teachers to develop creativity in inclusive educational settings with reuse materials.

In All Heads Together, ReCreate Ireland and the Arts Education Research Group (AERG) of Trinity College Dublin facilitated Continued Professional Development courses for early years practitioners, primary school teachers, special needs assistants, and artists working in inclusive classrooms. This project follows on from needs identified in the **Heads Up** research study, where the same partnership worked with artists in settings from pre-school to adult educational groups using ReCreate's materials for reuse.

In All Heads Together six preschools and six primary schools partnered with an artist who worked with them and their students over a two-month period. Evaluation of this partnership, and the findings and feedback of all involved resulted in the All Heads Together [guidebook](#), outlining best practice educational guidelines for artists and teachers working with reuse materials. It includes lesson plans and models of assessment and evaluation.



THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY PROGRAMME
The Driving Force for Ireland's Move to a Circular Economy



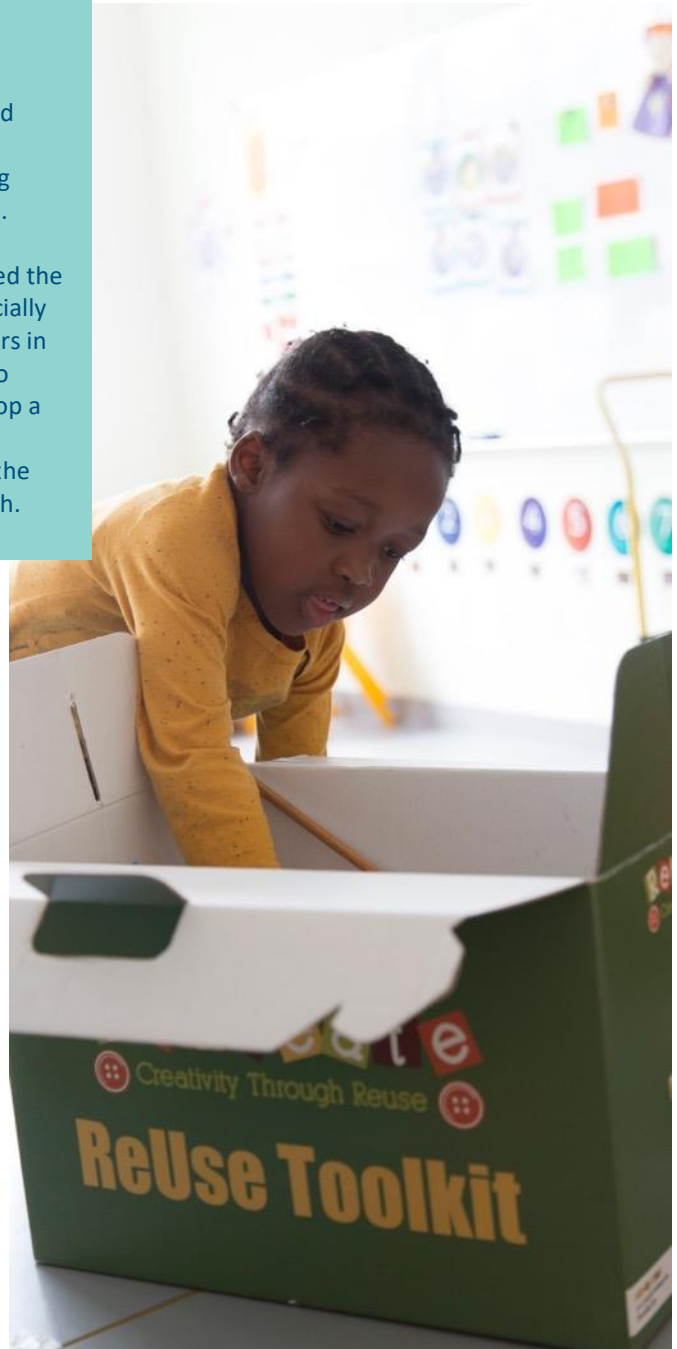
Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Project Outcomes:

The project has shown the benefits of reuse as a means of developing creativity and thus increasing the well-being of people. The project also proved conclusively that arts-based approaches in such settings also improved motor skills and cognitive abilities. The validity and benefits of incorporating reuse materials into the classroom has been demonstrated.

Having a how-to guide for artists and teachers has facilitated the teaching of creativity through reuse. The project was especially beneficial in facilitating more in-depth sessions with learners in developing their curiosity, self-esteem and creativity. It also allowed ReCreate Ireland's inhouse creative team to develop a methodology and practice for its creative reuse work. The project has resulted in engagement with new groups, and the 'training the trainers' element has enabled greater outreach.

**Next steps needed:**

ReCreate Ireland has been expanding its operations and outreach since the project, interacting with more than 1,000 active member groups (over twice the number compared to during the project) and moving to a larger premises. ReCreate Ireland continues to disseminate the guidebook and gives printed copies to partner schools and teachers. The guidebook is also the basis of the train-the-trainers courses that ReCreate Ireland provides.

For more on the EPA's Green Enterprise programme visit [here](#)

For outputs see: recreate.ie/all-heads-together/ or contact Aisling Folan Creative Director ReCreate Ireland



THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY PROGRAMME
The Driving Force for Ireland's Move to a Circular Economy



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

