

Environmental
and Social
Impact



Impact Story

International Health Promoting Campuses Conference 2025

Inspiring and Catalysing Health Promotion
in Higher Education Across the Globe

University of Limerick campus



CONFERENCE DETAILS

WHEN
June 2025

DELEGATES
402

WHERE
University of Limerick

ECONOMIC IMPACT
€660K

The International Health Promoting Campuses Conference 2025 was aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goals

3 **GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING**



4 **QUALITY
EDUCATION**



10 **REDUCED
INEQUALITIES**



IHPCN | INTERNATIONAL
HEALTH PROMOTING
CAMPUSES NETWORK

IHPCN is the International Health Promoting Campuses Network, established to advance the principles of the Okanagan Charter, inspiring and catalysing health promotion in higher education across the globe.

Through building international and regional networks, facilitating conferences and creating initiatives, the IHPCN seeks to embed health into campus culture.



Hosted at the University of Limerick, the International Health Promoting Campuses Conference 2025 marked the 10 year anniversary of the Okanagan Charter, an international charter for health promoting universities and colleges.

The conference brought together delegates representing higher education, public health, government agencies, student organisations and broader society, to foster collaboration, innovation and action and plan next steps in global health.

The vision of the conference was to embed health and wellbeing into the core of campus culture, leadership and systems – creating inclusive, sustainable environments where students and staff can thrive. Contributing towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals of Good Health and Wellbeing, Quality Education, and Reduced Inequalities, the conference promoted international dialogue

and policy development, launching the Limerick Framework for Action – a strategic roadmap for integrating health and wellbeing into global education, planning and public services.

The conference was supported by the University of Limerick Conference and Events team, Shannon Region Convention and Sports Bureau, and Fáilte Ireland. It was also supported by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and Health Services Executive (HSE) as a milestone in advancing health and wellbeing across higher education.

The gathering facilitated global collaboration, welcoming over 400 delegates from more than 24 countries, including representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE).

The International Health Promoting Campuses Conference 2025 has had a lasting impact on the host destination, and internationally. Some of the key highlights and outcomes are:

Social Impact:

- Demonstrated strong alignment with Ireland's National Healthy Campus Framework, positioning the initiative as a model of best practice in fostering health-promoting environments and serving as a national exemplar.
- Influenced national policy and practice through the publication of the "Limerick Framework for Action", while also marking a significant milestone by celebrating the 10th anniversary of the "Okanagan Charter."
- Enhanced the profile of Limerick and Ireland as leaders in health promotion, contributing meaningfully to regional development. The University of Limerick's leadership was formally recognised through the "Healthy UL" programme.
- Extended impact beyond the campus via a dynamic public awareness campaign, establishing the conference as a landmark event for public engagement, sector innovation, and community collaboration.

Environmental Impact

- Championed Sustainable Campus Practices by actively encouraging delegates to engage with the University of Limerick's Green Campus Initiative, promoting a culture of environmental responsibility.
- Explored the themes of sustainability and equity in higher education, highlighting the importance of inclusive, whole system approaches to building greener universities.
- Delivered a programme which featured a range of eco-conscious activities, including guided walking tours, the use of sustainable transport options, and low-waste catering—demonstrating practical steps toward a more sustainable campus experience.



Sarah Kennedy (UL), Dr Patricia Machawira (UNESCO), Professor Audrey Tierney (UL), Kathleen McNally (UL), Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, John Moran, Stephen Oyadeji (UL), Professor Catherine Woods (UL), Dr Faten Ben Abdelaziz (WHO), Aoife Noonan (UL), Dr Catherine Norton (UL)

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From the initial vision to the final applause, this journey has been a testament to the power of collaboration, shared purpose, and the unwavering commitment to health and wellbeing in higher education.

Together, we created a space for meaningful dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collective action.... The legacy of this event will continue to shape policy, practice, and partnerships across Ireland and beyond... It was a privilege to welcome delegates from around the world to Limerick, and I am optimistic about the lasting impact this conference will have on our institutions, communities, and future generations.

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Professor Catherine Norton, Conference Ambassador, IHPC 2025

