

SMARTLAB SKELLIG TEAM MAPPING OUR FUTURES

Report by Willie Joe Mc Clure

Eleanor Turner, is one of the Marine Biologists on the Smartlab Skellig Team. Born and raised in Caherdaniel Eleanor is registered with Smartlab at UCD to research for a PhD based in Cahersiveen in the area of community engagement in environmental management.

She also works as a research assistant on an EPA funded project based in Cahersiveen working to raise awareness of the Sustainable development goals (SDG's) and how actions on a community



scale can have a global impact. The project has chosen four of the 17 SDG's to focus on, Quality Education - Sustainable cities and communities - Life below water and - Life on Land.

The sustainable development goals were created by the UN as a global roadmap for countries to move towards integrating substantiality in policies and implementing measures to create a better future for our planet. "That all sounds pretty serious and high minded but Eleanor told us, "Actually what the sustainable development goals set out to achieve are targets that you and I contribute to everyday. Take SDG 14, 'Life Below Water' for example. Here the targets talk about reducing ocean pollution, protecting marine and coastal ecosystems and ending overfishing. Do you buy your fish from a local reliable source? Have you ever helped out your local tidy towns or clean coasts group with a beach clean-up? Maybe you volunteered some time to the National spring clean? There you go, you've already worked to meet Un targets for a sustainable future." Eleanor explained.

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