

VC

VIATORES CHRISTI

VENTURE TRAINING

COURSE OUTLINE
& INFORMATION
- *Viatores Christi*



UpSkills
DEVELOPMENT TRAINING



VENTURE
ONLINE DEVELOPMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME



Erasmus+



www.vcvolunteers.ie



Venture trainee Kevin, BMCTI Uganda

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Introducing

VIATOIRES CHRISTI (VC)

VC is an international sustainable development and humanitarian organisation headquartered in Dublin, Ireland, with regional offices in Kampala Uganda. We bring about positive change by improving access to healthcare, education and opportunities in the marginalised communities in which we work.

VC is a leading provider of training and experienced personnel to the faith-based and missionary sector for over 63 years. Its programmes are supported by Irish Aid and the leading Irish funding agency Misesan Cara and the organisation has an EU Quality Label in the field of humanitarian aid assistance.

WELCOME

VC's Theory of Change seeks to improve health and education outcomes as well as improve livelihoods. It recognises VC's partners' need for greater resources and capacity to deliver relevant services. Training in areas relevant to sustainability and good practice is a vital element in achieving this goal.

To this end Venture Online has developed to be a truly international training programme. As well as being of interest to those looking to volunteer or work within the faith based sector, the training also provides a very useful capacity building focus for those currently working within development projects in various countries in Africa Asia Americas and the Caribbean



The online course which is run over three weekends using a live interactive format on the Zoom platform will cover key topics which will aim to provide participants with a good sound knowledge of development practice and the interrelationship with the faith based/ missionary sector.

Enjoy!

Shane Halpin

CEO

On behalf of all in Viatores Christi.



WHAT WE DO

Viatores Christi's (VC) work is focused on communities where people are in greatest need. We work principally on sustainable development projects that are measurable. Key problems which we seek to address are poor access to health services, education and livelihood opportunities and our partners' need for greater resources and capacity to deliver relevant services.

MAIN TARGET GROUPS

- › Vulnerable people living in rural or urban settlements
- › Orphans and vulnerable children
- › People living with disabilities
- › Internally displaced people
- › People in post-conflict areas

VC currently works in Africa, Asia, Caribbean and the Americas.

OUR VISION AND MISSION

Vision: A world of freedom, peace and justice, where people in vulnerable communities have greater opportunities to achieve their goals and contribute to society.

Mission: We work in solidarity with our partner organisations, to improve the lives of local people, by improving access to basic services.

Values:

Viatores Christi is Reliable

We believe in commitment, openness, and accountability. The people we try to reach are our main priority and they should be able to rely on us.

Viatores Christi is Effective

At the heart of Viatores Christi is the determination to make a difference. We do this through excellence and professionalism in all we do.

Viatores Christi is Inclusive

We have a faith-based background and we warmly welcome and work with everyone, regardless of faith, beliefs, gender, sexual orientation, disability, race, nationality or ethnicity. We believe in a participatory, positive approach.

The Venture **TRAINING COURSE**

Viatores Christi has extensive experience in training volunteers and individuals to take on new roles in development and humanitarian work. Our experience has taught us that people want to gain the technical skills that will help them in their roles, and also need wider support in taking on and adapting to roles in different international, cultural and faith contexts.

For decades, our Venture Training Programme has provided a broad range of learning to meet the needs of development volunteers and professionals. Since 2020 we have expanded our training to reach a global audience by offering the Venture Training Programme online. The programme includes live workshops and masterclasses with experienced specialists and professionals, and on-line self-study modules that participants can complete at their own pace.

Each day of online workshops will start with a short introduction session, followed by either one or two workshops on key areas in development management. The introduction session will present what the training day will entail, any practical elements and the format of the workshop. There are two 15 minute breaks and one hour long break for lunch each day.

At the end of the online workshops there is a 30 minute round-up session which will include instructions on how to provide feedback on each workshop.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING

The main aims of Venture 2024 are:

- ▶ To provide high quality training to those who are working in development settings, and with communities around the world and to those interested in working in these settings as a development worker.
- ▶ To support learners to develop their knowledge, skills and competencies in key areas of development and community work.

What you will learn:

- ▶ About VC as an organisation and to be able to identify with its aims and objectives
- ▶ How to understand power relationships in the development context and our role in these dynamics
- ▶ Technical skills involved in planning, managing, evaluating and reporting on projects and programmes
- ▶ Management and communication skills to work with local partners running projects and programmes effectively
- ▶ How to support capacity development of the communities and organisations where you work

- How to work effectively as a community development worker using interactive and people-centred approaches
- The complexities of child & vulnerable adult safeguarding, and inclusive practices
- Learn about Viatores Christi and its work in the area of overseas development and skilled volunteer services.

ONLINE WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING SESSIONS

The course involves 3 weekends (Saturday and Sunday) of online workshops which are facilitated by experts in their fields. These online workshops are run on Zoom, and each session is supported by a facilitator, a VC representative and a technical support person. The online workshops are:

- Global Awareness
- Exploring Mission & Development
- Climate Justice
- Active Global Citizenship
- Conflict Resolution
- Community Development
- Accessibility and Inclusivity in Project Cycle Management
- Research Methods

ONLINE SELF-DIRECTED COURSES

As well as the three weekends of online workshops candidates must complete self-directed modules which feed into the face to face training. These are a compulsory part of the course and can be accessed via the Upskills website from your computer, with a user login provided for each trainee. This will be explained in Week 1 and the VC training team will be there to support you with any questions you might have on this. The courses are as follows:

- Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding
- Technical Writing: Project Reports
- Disability and Climate Change
- Project Cycle Management
- Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Our Live Workshop

FACILITATORS

Dr. David Nyaluke is a highly accomplished scholar and educator with a focus on African political and economic development. He earned his PhD at Dublin City University, where he explored the basis of African democracy and regime legitimacy, with a specific focus on Tanzania. Dr. Nyaluke currently serves as the UCD-Proudly Made in Africa Fellow in Business and Development. His research interests centre on the political and economic development of African states, examining their connections to global economic and political systems. In addition to his scholarly work, he is the vice-chairperson of the African Scholars Association of Ireland, Co-Coordinator of the African Students Association of Ireland and co-chair of the Steering Committee for the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024 (UNIDPAD) in Ireland. He also serves on the advisory board of HerGenuity Afrika, a network of leading women entrepreneurs of African descent.



David Nyaluke
(Global Awareness)

Miriam Hockey is a Development Education specialist. She has a strong background in education, training and research, with a particular focus on Global Citizenship and the humanitarian sector. With an MA in Education for Sustainable Development, her career path has been marked by pivotal roles such as Head of Education for the Global Citizenship online project The Global Academy (TGA) and Development Education Programme Manager for Plan UK. As a Consultant, Miriam specialises in collaborating with agencies to assess sector learning needs and develop responsive training programmes. She has most recently collaborated with Viatores Christi in the development of a Disability and Climate Change Global Citizenship Education online adult learning module.



Miriam Hockey
(Active Global Citizenship)

Alex Whyatt is a Global Citizenship Education Specialist. He holds a master's in International and Comparative Education from Stockholm University. Within his current capacity as Global Citizenship Education (GCE) Programme Coordinator at Global Action Plan, he works with schools and community groups to support climate action and empower individuals to live more planet-friendly lives. Alex has 12 years' experience working in education in both formal and non-formal education, in Ireland, Lebanon, and South Korea. His background in English language teaching and education in emergencies helps him to craft engaging climate education experiences.



Alex Whyatt
(Climate Justice)

Rory Halpin is the Executive Director of Spirasi (Spiritan Asylum Services Initiative). Spirasi is the national centre for the rehabilitation of victims of torture in Ireland, particularly people who have fled war or political upheaval and entered Ireland seeking asylum. Rory began his journey with Spirasi in 2009 as an outreach psychosocial worker in Mosney Accommodation Centre, and has remained with the organisation since, working to meet the needs of refugees and asylum seekers in Ireland. Rory, with a background in theology, is also a trained spiritual director and is a well-known facilitator and retreat giver in the area of spiritual growth and discernment. Due to his outstanding humanitarian efforts, Rory was nominated as a finalist for the Humanitarian of the Year award in 2021, which is conferred by the Irish Red Cross.



Rory Halpin
(Exploring Mission and Development)

Mark Cumming began his journey in the development space some 30 years ago when he travelled to Kenya as a volunteer youth and community worker. Engaged in programmes inspired by African Liberation movements, he was involved in facilitating young people to analyse their condition and act collectively to transform their realities. Since then, Mark has worked with a range of development agencies, both state, secular and faith-based. For the last 8 years he has led the strategic development of Comhlámh; prior to that he was the Governance and Human Rights advisor to Trócaire where he led a successful campaign to change the investment policies of the National Pensions Reserve Fund. He is currently working part-time as the Development Coordinator of the Sisters of St Louis and engaging in freelance consulting offering support in training, mentoring, facilitation, C.V. & interview skills, management advice and support on human resources and governance.



Mark Cumming
(Community Development)

Patty Abozaglo is an accomplished international development professional with over 20 years of experience in Ireland and abroad. Patty has conducted extensive research on Collective Trauma at Maynooth University's Kennedy Institute for Conflict Intervention, where she also served as a lecturer and was a founding member of the Institute's Peacebuilding Group. Patty is a Certified Mediator, a CINERGY Conflict Management Coach, and an active contributor to Capacitar International and Capacitar Ireland, specialising in trauma healing and multicultural wellness education. As a consultant and facilitator, Patty has worked with various Irish charities, leading numerous workshops focused on empowerment in complex, culturally diverse environments.



Patty Abozaglo
(Conflict Resolution)

Aidan Leavy is an experienced Inclusion Specialist, formerly with Plan International. Since 2014, Aidan has been a driving force behind Plan's efforts to promote inclusion and non-discrimination within the organisations' work. He is recognised as a founding member of Plan International's Disability Inclusion Working Group and has contributed significantly to research and advocacy work in Ireland and globally. With a rich background in local and international development, including work with grassroots organizations and indigenous communities, Aidan now applies his expertise as an independent consultant, continuing to drive inclusive and equitable change.



Aidan Leavy
(Accessibility and Inclusivity
in Project Cycle Management)

Kevin McParland is a lecturer in the Department of Humanities at Dundalk Institute of Technology, Ireland. Before entering formal education, Kevin worked in Global Citizenship Education through a Link schools programme involving schools in Uganda, South Africa and Ireland. He has worked on community and adult education programmes in Sri Lanka focusing on reducing domestic and gender-based violence, sustainable livelihoods and inclusive learning. Since 2017, Kevin has also worked on healthy relationship programmes with young people around Ireland, engaging young people in a dialogue focused on attitudes, awareness, critical thinking and skills relevant to domestic and gender-based violence prevention. Kevin is currently engaged in the development of a healthy relationships programme with the Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre for use within the Traveller ethnic group in Ireland.



Kevin McParland
(Research Methods)

Our Upskills Modules

FACILITATORS

Ronan White has over 20 years of experience as a practitioner, trainer, and lecturer in the field of international development. He spent over ten years living and working in Africa, specifically South Africa and Mozambique. Since 2013, Ronan has worked with Sisters of St Louis, initially as Global Development Programme Coordinator where he worked with the marginalised and most vulnerable to identify their needs and priorities. He now serves as Executive Director of the organisation since 2021. As an international development consultant, Ronan specialises in Project Cycle Management, Results Focused Planning, and Monitoring and Evaluation.



Ronan White

(Project Cycle Management;
Monitoring and Evaluation)

Rachel Ryan currently serves as the Programme Administration Officer at Vita Ireland, a development partner supporting communities in Africa to facilitate rural climate-smart economies. Rachel has a master's degree in Peace and Development Studies and is an experienced researcher in the area of human rights. She served on the projects team at Viatores Christi for 5 years, in Kenya and in Ireland as Projects Manager, overseeing the management of Misesan Cara funded projects. Her current interest lies in climate resilience, ecology and nature-based solutions as part of sustainable, participative development approaches.



Rachel Ryan

(Child and Vulnerable
Adult Safeguarding)

Lucy Monari is a development and project management practitioner with over 10 years of experience in the field. With a master's degree in International Development, Lucy's areas of expertise include community mobilisation and capacity building, with a focus on participatory approaches to development, as well as monitoring, evaluation and learning. Lucy is a specialist in safeguarding and the protection of children and vulnerable adults, having spent several years working in different areas of the faith-based development sector as Safeguarding Officer and Manager. Lucy currently serves as Project Development Manager at Congregation of the Mission in Nairobi, Kenya.



Lucy Monari
(Child and Vulnerable
Adult Safeguarding)



Workshop Timetable

JANUARY - MARCH 2024

Session	Date	UK Time	Uganda Time	Content
Weekend 1 Live online sessions	Jan 27	8am 8.30am – 9.30am Lunch break 10.30am – 11.30pm 11.45am – 12.45pm 1pm – 1.30pm	11am 11.30am – 12.30pm Lunch break 1.30pm – 2.30pm 2.45pm – 3.45pm 4pm – 4.30pm	Introduction to Venture Global Awareness Workshop Global Awareness Workshop Global Awareness Workshop Round-up Session Next Steps
	Jan 28	8am 8.30am – 9.30am Lunch break 10.30am – 11.30pm 11.45am – 12.45pm 1pm – 1.30pm	11am 11.30am – 12.30pm Lunch break 1.30pm – 2.30pm 2.45pm – 3.45pm 4pm – 4.30pm	Introduction Session Active Global Citizenship Workshop Climate Justice Workshop Climate Justice Workshop Round-up Session Next Steps
Online self-directed courses				Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Monitoring & Evaluation Technical Writing
Weekend 2 Live online sessions	Feb 24	8am 8.30am – 9.30am Lunch break 10.30am – 11.30pm 11.45am – 12.45pm 1pm – 1.30pm	11am 11.30am – 12.30pm Lunch break 1.30pm – 2.30pm 2.45pm – 3.45pm 4pm – 4.30pm	Introduction Session Exploring Mission & Development Workshop Community Development Workshop Community Development Workshop Round-up Session Next Steps
	Feb 25	8am 8.30am – 9.30am Lunch break 10.30am – 11.30pm 11.45am – 12.45pm 1pm – 1.30pm	11am 11.30am – 12.30pm Lunch break 1.30pm – 2.30pm 2.45pm – 3.45pm 4pm – 4.30pm	Introduction Session Field Case Study Workshop Conflict Resolution Workshop Conflict Resolution Workshop Round-up Session Next Steps
Online self-directed courses				Project Cycle Management Disability and Climate Change Research methods
Weekend 3 Live online sessions	Mar 30	8am 8.30am – 9.30am Lunch break 10.30am – 11.30pm 11.45am – 12.45pm 1pm – 1.30pm	11am 11.30am – 12.30pm Lunch break 1.30pm – 2.30pm 2.45pm – 3.45pm 4pm – 4.30pm	Introduction Session Accessibility and Inclusivity in PCM Workshop Accessibility and Inclusivity in PCM Workshop Accessibility and Inclusivity in PCM Workshop Round-up Session Next Steps
	Mar 31	8am 8.30am – 9.30am Lunch break 10.30am – 11.30pm 11.45am – 12.45pm 1pm – 1.30pm	11am 11.30am – 12.30pm Lunch break 1.30pm – 2.30pm 2.45pm – 3.45pm 4pm – 4.30pm	Introduction Session Research Methods Workshop Research Methods Workshop Research Methods Workshop Round-up Session Next Steps

Course

PROGRAMME

ONLINE LIVE WORKSHOPS

Workshop 1 - Global Awareness

In this workshop we will explore some of the causes and impacts of global inequality. We will examine structures of power and inequality around the world, the root causes of poverty. We will look at trade processes as an example of how global decision-making systems work, and the positive and negative effects of such systems. We will also start to consider how choices in our lives impact others, and consider what types of action are needed to bring about change for a fairer and more just world.

Session objectives:

- ▶ To initiate a process whereby participants progressively increase their awareness of how their life is connected to people throughout the world
- ▶ To introduce the concept of a global citizen (and related concepts)
- ▶ To support understanding of critical thinking and related skills
- ▶ Develop skills to analyse the dynamics of power and wealth in those relationships
- ▶ Apply those skills to analysis of the structures and processes that shape life for the poor
- ▶ Identify opportunities to take actions of solidarity with the poor and to achieve change for a more just world – a process that shall continue beyond the duration of the course and be informed by their experience in development.

Workshop 2 - Active Global Citizenship

Every person in the world can become a Global Citizen. This workshop looks at what this means – what is a Global Citizen, how can I become a Global Citizen, what actions or changes do Global Citizens make and why? As we explore what it means to be a Global Citizen, we will also examine why action and change is important, and what types of action and change we can all take part in.

Session objectives:

- ▶ To define Global Citizenship and understand what it means on an individual level
- ▶ To look at the knowledge, understanding and skills a Global Citizen needs
- ▶ To understand the role of personal action in Global Citizenship
- ▶ To explore different types of action possible to support positive global change

Workshop 3 – Climate Justice

In this session we will seek to understand the ethical issues posed by climate change and discuss how we can act and advocate for inclusive, equitable climate action

Session objectives:

- To better understand principles of climate justice and how they interact with our lives
- To prompt action and advocacy for climate justice, motivated by solidarity with the marginalised and oppressed

Workshop 4 - Exploring Mission & Development

In this workshop we will examine at the concepts involved in, and history of Christian mission and development and explore practical manifestations of faith in mission and development. We will also look at concrete examples of how values and faith are implemented in missionary development.

Session objectives:

- To briefly discuss the Catholic Church's historical approach to mission
- To explore ideas of development, social justice, liberation theology and reconciliation.

Workshop 5 - Community Development

In this workshop, we will explore our understanding of community development and the basic principles and approaches involved. We will examine different leadership styles and how they work in community development, become more aware of our own attitudes and styles of engagement in community development practice, and some of the opportunities and challenges in community development.

Session objectives:

- To develop their own understanding of community development principles and approaches
- Challenging assumptions by engaging with multiple and diverse perspectives (including those of participants)
- To consider different leadership styles in community development
- To explore some of the skills a community development worker will use as a leader in a community
- To practice using critical thinking in a Community Development process
- To reflect on some of the challenges of team building in a community setting

Workshop 6 - Challenge and Conflict Resolution

We all experience moments of conflict in our day-to-day living and working situations, whether they are large or small. This workshop will help us explore the causes of conflict and gain an insight into their personal responses to conflict. We will also learn some practical skills for dealing with conflict situations.

Session objectives:

- ▶ Participants should have more insight into their personal response to conflict situations and a better understanding of how best to approach such situations.
- ▶ They will have had an opportunity to explore the causes of conflicts that occur in workplace and social settings and an opportunity to understand the importance of separating the issue from the emotion in conflict situations.
- ▶ They will have had an opportunity to work on different conflict scenarios, analysing causes and putting forward suggestions for resolving them

Workshop 7 – Accessibility and Inclusivity in Project Cycle Management

This workshop will underscore accessibility as pre-requisite to inclusive development and humanitarian action putting special emphasis in the context of Global South. The participants will engage in an in-depth conversation on the relevance of inclusive development and humanitarian programming and explore how accessibility applies throughout the project cycle. Key concepts, schools of thought of disability, inclusion and accessibility will be discussed. Application of human rights paradigm, participation of persons with disabilities and the organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in promoting accessibility in PCM will be explored.

Session objectives:

- ▶ To learn global approaches and perspectives to disability in development projects
- ▶ To strengthen our understanding on inclusive development, humanitarian and climate action
- ▶ To explore disability, gender and intersectionality perspective in projects
- ▶ To understand how to tackle ableism in development projects cycle
- ▶ To examine the value of participation of persons with disabilities and their organisations (OPDs) in projects cycle
- ▶ To learn barrier analysis and practical actions to remove disabling barriers in PCM

Workshop 8 - Research Methods

Research is often an important element of development and community work. In this workshop we will look at the principles of research methodologies, how and when research is useful, different research methods and participatory approaches, and some of the challenges or difficulties there might be in carrying out research.

Session objectives:

- ▶ Think critically about different approaches to research
- ▶ Have a basic knowledge of how to design, conduct and report on a variety of research methods
- ▶ Have a basic knowledge of different approaches to participatory research
- ▶ Have an introduction to the difficulties and challenges of conducting research

ONLINE SELF-DIRECTED MODULES

The following elements of the Venture Training Programme are self-directed, online courses that you will complete in your own time on the Upskills website. You will be given details of the courses you need to complete after each weekend session:

Module 1 - Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding

Safeguarding is crucially important for all organisations working with and for children, young people, and vulnerable adults. This course provides learners with an understanding of the causes of harm, abuse, and exploitation, and equips them with the knowledge of how to strengthen organisational approaches to safeguarding.

Module 2 - Technical Writing: Project Reports

This course works to sharpen important practical skills for working in the development space. Report writing is a key part of project planning, implementation, and evaluation. The course takes learners through writing a report, using a Misesan Cara report template as a working example.

Module 3 - Disability and Climate Change

This Global Citizenship Education (GCE) course examines the impact of climate change on persons with disabilities. Climate change affects us all, yet we experience these effects in different ways. Those who are already vulnerable on account of the barriers they face, become more vulnerable when facing climate change challenges. This course teaches the importance of recognising diverse vulnerabilities and actively working to increase inclusivity in development practice.

Module 4 - Project Cycle Management

Results focused planning is the key to successful Project Cycle Management. This course delves into the practices and tools that aid planning for effective management of a development project. Learners will become familiar with participatory approaches to development, working with local stakeholders to identify a need within a community and working collaboratively to sustainably meet those needs, as well as reporting on the implementation and outcomes of the project.

Module 5 - Monitoring and Evaluation

A core practice within development, Monitoring and Evaluation is used to assess the performance of projects, programmes and institutions set up by international organisations, governments, and NGOs. This course familiarises the learner with the principles of M&E, the different processes by and tools with which it can take place and looks at how to practically implement M&E within a project.

VC and Disability

INCLUSION

As a result of extensive participation under a number of ground-breaking projects supported by the EU Aid and EU Erasmus as well as Irish Aid, VC has been positioned as a champion of accessibility and disability inclusive development within a global citizenship framework.

The organisation, has begun the journey to make its suite of training become more accessible and has developed a number of modules specifically addressing disability inclusion to meet this goal. 15% of the world's population has a disability either acquired or from birth and this group is overlooked in terms of accessible training, relevant training modules and reasonable accommodation.

Through efforts to include subjects that are particularly relevant to the varied needs of this group and by making the training content more accessible, VC's training programme is leading the way in this area within Irish international development circles.

Registration and PAYMENT

INFORMATION

Venture 2024 will take place over three weekends - January 27th and 28th, February 24th and 25th, and March 30th and 31st.

The Venture registration form can be found at <https://vcvolunteers.ie/apply/>. If there are any issues with this, please contact sorcha@viatoreschristi.com to register.

Accessing **THE COURSE**

The Zoom links for the weekend online workshops will be sent out to participants the day before the workshop.

The online courses produced by VC will be accessed on our training programme platform. Each participant will receive log-in details and instructions for the courses at the end of each weekend session. These are for the named individual only.

Participants will receive details of how to access any additional courses provided by other organisations after the weekend workshops.

Where to find **HELP AND SUPPORT**

If you have any queries or questions before or during the course, please contact sorcha@viatoreschristi.com.





Venture training has helped me recognise that we need to empower our vulnerable groups to realise their own potential and grow our project together. It has been a great experience

- Kekisibo, Kevin, Uganda

*Viatores Christi Limited is a registered charity in the Republic of Ireland.
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