



Ability is co-financed by the Irish Government and the European Social Fund as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020.



Pobal announced the launch of a new Programme called “Ability”, a pre-activation Programme for young people with disabilities.

Launched by the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Regina Doherty, T.D., together with the Minister of State with special responsibility for Disabilities, Finian McGrath, T.D., on the 1st of June 2018, funding of €16 million for 27 projects was announced.

The focus of the Programme is on projects aimed at young people with disabilities and is designed to assist in their transition from school to further education, training and employment. The Programme will promote employment prospects and meaningful social roles for young people with disabilities and in particular, young people who are distant from the labour market, using a range of person-centered supports.

The CRC was one of 27 organisations that received funding of €695,000 to deliver on a really exciting project which will support young people and adults between the ages of 16 and 29 by preparing them through education to be ready for employment and provide all the necessary supports that they need.

Our project aims are to develop pathways through education, which will inspire young people with disabilities to dream about their potential, have expectations, to understand that they have a place in the world of work and equip students with the necessary skills and academic qualifications to be attractive to employers.

The project has 2 parts:-

- a) Impactful, thought provoking Education in our CRC School provided for 16 to 19 year olds, 90 students over 3 years, with physical and sensory disabilities, intellectual disabilities and autism, which will encourage students from a young age to dream about their potential and challenge the status quo in society – in line with the Comprehensive Employment Strategy.
- b) Develop a Progression route for 18 to 29 year old students in Mainstream Education, targeting 50 students over the 3 years, aiming to equip them with the necessary skills, appropriate qualifications, in order to progress to employment or further education.