

ACH Tenant part of Netplants trip to Ireland



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Netplants is a European multi-partner project that will run over two years and aims to reconnect and re-engage people with the environment at its source. The project will demonstrate how plants and vegetables can improve our lives in a variety of ways.

Centred around four topics; cooking with no means, gardening on a shoestring, beauty with plants, and wild food, the project seeks to showcase workshops from its partners in order to train trainers in delivering these sessions, whilst teaching unemployed learners new skills and insights in order to improve their all-round wellbeing.



By 2017, it is hoped the project will have enabled many people facing economic or social issues across Europe to be more proficient in valuable skills including cooking, growing and natural crafts – all of which will improve people’s lives in a variety of ways.

Ashley Community Housing was lucky enough to be approached by Superact (the Netplants UK partner) in September 2015 and invited ACH learners to be involved in the project as trainees. So far we have been able to send individuals to France, Somerset and Ireland.

This month we invited Mohammed Ibrahim (tenant and learner) and Fathi Mehdi (previous learner), both originally from Sudan, to join the project in Ireland. Here’s what they had to say about the trip:

“I have many things to say about this trip. I learnt many things – history, farming, cooking, seaweed and about other countries! First we learnt about farming from 100 years ago and how they grew things and prepared food. I learnt about how things had developed from 100 years ago, from manual labour to using machines. My favourite thing was learning about seaweed and learning about what you can do with it. You can use it for many things – including toothpaste! It has 50 different things you can do with seaweed – it’s amazing! There were four different countries that joined us and I made good friends and was always laughing and happy. I hope to meet them all again in the future. Thank you!”

Mohammed Ibrahim, Tenant

“Thank you for the most amazing trip I have ever had. I have known people from many countries, like France, Spain and Romania. I had a great time with them and I wish if we could meet again. In the future I am going to know more about farming and seaweed and share my experience with people who interested in farming or seaweed.”

Fathi Mehdi, Learner

Learners from previous workshop weeks:

“The week was an amazing opportunity for me. It was more than I could ever have expected. Everyone were really great people. Before I went on Netplants I had no idea how to make anything by hand. But in the farm I learned many things. I learnt how to make a willow basket and how to make a wool snood. I had no idea about gardening, but now I do! In 20 years’ time I’ll be telling my children about this week. Thank you.”

Rodwan Arban, ACH Tenant and learner

“Thank you for the opportunity. It made me so happy, everyone was happy! I learnt so much and made new friends. It has really broadened my knowledge and outlook.”

Mustafa Nahar, ACH tenant