FOINSE RESEARCH

FOINSE means SOURCE. FOINSE RESEARCH is a low-profit limited liability corporation supporting research & place-based education across boundaries

Further information from:
Robert Foulkes
PO Box 115
Suttons Bay, MI 49682
231 256 9351
rwotf@icloud.com

http://foinseresearch.com
https://www.facebook.com/foinseireland
The plan is to establish a scientific research station in the cross-border area of Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, and Cavan & Leitrim, in the Republic of Ireland. A place where students learn, experientially - through observation and by hands-on data collection and analysis. A “university of the wilderness,” as John Muir might say.

The Plan

THE PLACE
Ireland is rich in material for research: air- and water quality, trees, plants, bogs, caves, rocks, dolmens; birds, animals, fish and insects. This area includes that of the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark, Cuilcagh Mountain and Lough Erne. A rural landscape with waterways, forests, fields and ancient structures made by humans.

SIMPLE - AND COMPLEX
It’s a simple concept, but it is an enterprise involving three countries: Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, and the U.S.A. While researchers could come from anywhere in the world, it is likely that most of them will be from the USA. FOINSE RESEARCH is incorporated in the state of Michigan, and work is in progress for it to be registered in Northern Ireland and the Republic.

A LIGHT FOOTPRINT
FOINSE makes good use of what already exists. It does not involve the construction of new buildings, as there are facilities that can be used by visiting groups. It can generate employment and activity in a rural area without damage to landscape and ecology. Tourism is seasonal. Research can be carried out at different times of the year. Higher education has a ‘multiplier’ effect. Each student creates a need for accommodation, food and transport and spends money locally.

WORKING TOGETHER
Public bodies on both sides of the border support the ideas behind FOINSE. It’s an opportunity for Waterways Ireland, the Northern Ireland Forest Service, Coillte, the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark and economic development offices to cooperate - for lasting peace and sustainable development. Researchers and students from different countries will meet their counterparts. Local people will meet visitors and learn more about their research interests.

“In a session focusing on sustainability and respecting the Earth, we heard about a concern of a Cork Friend to develop the cross-border biological, ecological and geological Foinse Project, to which we agreed to give our support.”

(Epistle of Ireland Yearly Meeting, 2015)

NEXT STEPS
This is a Quaker educational and research enterprise, spanning three countries. FOINSE will design a program, including accommodation and transportation, to meet the needs of researchers and students. A university in the USA has begun feasibility studies into archeological research in the area. Universities and colleges pay to use the facilities, but there is a need for start-up capital.

FOINSE NEEDS SUPPORT
FOINSE needs support from people with business and academic skills - especially those who are able to make a financial investment. FOINSE RESEARCH is an L3C corporation, based in Michigan. Its core purpose is education, not profit. Individuals and foundations may be stockholders (minimum investment $1,000.)