

## Eastern Europe Aid & Development Network Steering Group Members – 2010



### **Fiona Dowling, Executive Director, Comber – Chairperson of EEADN**

Fiona trained as a paediatric physiotherapist and volunteered in Romania in the 1990s. Fiona began working in management and international development on a full time basis after completing an MBA and working in Irish disability services for a number of years. Fiona has been Comber's Executive Director since 2006.

### **Ronan Ryan, GENESIS Association– Secretary of EEADN**

Ronan has been working in Central & Eastern Europe since 1988. Initially working in commercial real estate, he has spent the last 15 years working professionally in economic development issues, especially microfinance, SME and rural development, education and training and has experience in rural and not-for-profit healthcare. He is most familiar with the Caucasus region, especially Georgia and Azerbaijan, where he lived and worked for many years.



### **John Mulligan, Founder, Focus on Romania**

John became involved in Eastern Europe in 1991 and following years as a voluntary construction project manager for Trade Aid in Romania and Russia. In the late 1990s, along with Eugene Garrihy, he established Focus on Romania. Focus on Romania succeeded in helping to establish a dedicated unit within ANPH – the Romanian government department dealing with disability – to set up policies and standards for reform of the disability sector.

### **Joanna Fortune, CEO, To Russia With Love Ireland**

Joanna holds a degree in Psychoanalysis, a Masters in Clinical Psychotherapy and a post Grad in both Practice Based Play Therapy and Business Management. Joanna has worked with a variety of Irish charities over a ten year period in areas such as Child Protection and Violence Against Women and for two years with To Russia With Love. Joanna sits on the Boards of Management of Women's Aid and the Women's Therapy Centre in Ireland as well as Детям с Любовью - To Children With Love in Moscow.



### **Mairie Cregan, Founder, Aurelia Trust**

Mairie is a professionally qualified social worker currently working in the area of adult mental health specifically suicide intervention, and within the regional adoption service in the South. She also lectures in University College Cork where she is completing a Phd related to Attachment In Foster Care/Adoption. An experienced foster carer and adoptive parent herself, Mairie has been instrumental in the establishment of a number of foster care projects in Eastern Europe, primarily Romania since 1990. She founded the Aurelia Trust in 1994 to promote fostering in Eastern Europe as an alternative to the endemic institutional care.

Mairie is also on the parent advisory board of the International Stillbirth Organisation.

### **Sile Byrne, Consultant**

Sheila Byrne (BSc, HDip, MBA), has spent over 18 years working in the training and education industry in both the public and private sector. With a primary degree in Computer Science and Psychology and a Diploma in Guidance and Counseling, Sheila has worked on IT and HR projects with financial services, health services, pharmaceutical industries and non-profit organisations. Sile worked as the Executive Manager of Chernobyl Children's Project International from 2004-2006.



### **Helen Walmsley, Voluntary Service International**

Holding a BA in Women's Studies/English and MA in Gender and Development, Helen has worked and volunteered in the NGO sector for several years, including one year managing 'Fundatia Pentru o Viata mai Buna' in Romania (through Health Action Overseas), working on raising awareness of the rights of people with disabilities to access services and lead fulfilling lives. Currently Helen works with VSI organising volunteer projects in Ireland and sending volunteers abroad to work with community and voluntary organisations, including many in Eastern Europe.

### **Stephen Wilson, ADRA Ireland**

Stephen Wilson trained as a minister and completed an MA in Pastoral Studies in the UK before serving as a missionary for two year in Albania from 2001. Since then Stephen has been involved in school and clinic rehabilitation in rural Albania each summer before getting involved in ADRA in Ireland. Stephen has been the Director of ADRA Ireland since 2008 and has continued working in Albania and in former Yugoslavia.



## Network Co-ordinator – 2010



### **Frances Haworth, EEAD Network Co-ordinator**

Frances is employed on a part-time basis (one day a week) in 2010 to administer the EEAD Network and co-ordinate activities. Frances has an MSc in Applied Social Research and Dip. in Project Management. She has worked in research and operations for various not-for-profit organisations in Ireland on issues including homelessness, migration and integration and youth civic engagement. She established Moldova Vision in 2006, a voluntary group supporting community development in rural areas in Moldova. She also works on a part-time basis for Comber.