



NEW COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2017

**53 Dorset Street Upper, Dublin 1
+ 353 (01) 8727842**

**info@newcommunities.ie
www.newcommunities.ie**



Intercultural Family Day



NCP Staff and members at the St. Patrick's Day Parade



Volunteers and students in Homework Club celebrating Christmas

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Foreword

2017 continued to be a productive, busy, and fruitful year for New Communities Partnership (NCP) as we continued our mission to empower ethnic minority-led groups to effect change, on their own terms and in ways that suited their individual needs.

Throughout all areas of our activities, NCP saw high interactions rates, culminating in more than 17,000 drop-ins and phone calls combined in 2017. That number is a substantial number for a team of just 15 staff, 21 interns, and 11 CE/Tus workers. Our ability to provide services and support was greatly enhanced by the assistance of 37 volunteers.

We are particularly proud of the vital work and assistance NCP continues to do on behalf of our members – including offering citizenship services, employment training days, homework clubs, and outreach training, to name a few – and of the many events that we either organised or participated strongly in during 2017.

Those events included our national conference at Dublin Castle in March 2017; a collaboration with the SIRIUS Policy Network on migrant education; a consultation on the effects of Brexit on social security in Ireland; our two annual Intercultural Family Days in July and December; and many more.

The work that we undertook in 2017 would not have been possible without the tireless work of our board, staff, interns, and volunteers, or without the support of our funders.

Though 2017 was not without its challenges, as any organisation faces, the number of successes NCP enjoyed far outstrips any truly difficult moments.

We're looking forward to continuing this work into 2018 and beyond.



***Fatma Msumi, NCP
General Manager***

Fatma Msumi, NCP General Manager

Our Mission

New Communities Partnership (NCP) is a national network of 175 ethnic minority-led organisations. The mission of NCP is to be an effective network, representing and empowering ethnic minority-led groups, at all levels, in order to influence positive change in policies that impact on their lives.

Our Vision

We are working towards an intercultural and inclusive Irish society where immigration groups are achieving equality in economic, social, political, and cultural aspects of Irish life. To achieve this, we are pursuing and implementing five strategic goals:

- Ensure representation and participation of ethnic minorities at all levels
- Deliver training that enhances the capacity and leadership development of ethnic minority communities in Ireland
- Promote effective integration and social inclusion initiatives for migrant communities
- Promote awareness of and improve access to services for migrants
- Develop and sustain strategies to increase the economic integration of ethnic minorities



Strategic Goals 2016 - 2017

GOAL 1. Ensure representation and participation of ethnic minorities at all levels in Irish society in order to influence a positive change in policies that impact on their lives.

In 2017, NCP organised and attended 331 meetings, conferences and events to further our goal of ensuring representation and participation of economic migrants at all levels in Irish society. Among the events, conferences, and meetings held were the President's Garden Party, a Stakeholder Consultation Event on Brexit, the International Women's Group Mansion House Event, NCP Youth's engagement with the SIRIUS Network and NCP's participation in the European Commission Network Conferences.

NCP also hosted a national conference titled "message sent is not message received" in March 2017 to highlight trends in child protection processes and their impact. (More on page six.)

Stakeholder Consultation Event on Brexit

In February NCP was invited to the Department of Social Protection's consultation event regarding the UK's withdrawal from the EU and the implications it would have for social security in Ireland. A number of different organisations were invited to act as consultants, and through our participation NCP was able to highlight issues from a migrant perspective and to lend a voice to promote positive policies for members of new communities in relation to Brexit.

SIRIUS Policy Network on Migrant Education

The SIRIUS Network is an international organisation whose purpose is to bring together key stakeholders in migration and education from around Europe, including policymakers, researchers, practitioners and representatives of migrant communities. SIRIUS transfers knowledge and influences policy developments in order to help pupils from migrant backgrounds achieve the same educational standards as their native peers. SIRIUS currently counts 38 members from 21 European countries.

As part of the collaboration with SIRIUS, the NCP Youth Project Coordinator has represented NCP in the following meetings:

- SIRIUS General Assembly in Brussels (April 2017)
- Joint Conference SIRIUS + Erasmus + Project NAOS in Rotterdam (June 2017)
- SIRIUS General Assembly in Brussels (December 2017)



Participants at the SIRIUS General Assembly in Brussels, December 2017

European Commission Network Conference

NCP Cork represented the organisation at the European Commission Network Conference in Brussels in December 2017. The theme of the conference was urban development with special emphasis on developing methods to end school segregation in European cities.

President's Garden Party

In July 2017, NCP was invited to attend the President's Garden Party to celebrate diversity and multiculturalism in Ireland, and the organisations who work to promote integration and community. This event was a great opportunity for NCP's members to network and interact with people from within Irish communities who have blended families. Of particular interest was hearing from parents whose children come from different backgrounds and mixed ethnicities.



NCP Staff and their families at the President's Garden Party

International Women's Club Mansion House Event

NCP supported Dublin's International Women's Club in organising this event, which took place in the Mayor's Residence in February 2017. The International Women's Club works to promote integration and cultural understanding between women. This event facilitated networking between women of 15 different nationalities

GOAL 2. Deliver training that enhances the capacity and leadership development of ethnic minority communities in Ireland.

In total, NCP facilitated a total of **79** training sessions in 2017.

Trainings Delivered in Brief:

- The **Migrant Family Support Service (MFSS)** delivered **45** trainings, most significantly our Child Protection Awareness Trainings. In these trainings, NCP works with a range of participants, including state agencies, community leaders, religious institutions, schools, and individuals from all over the country.

These training sessions enable us to foster strong relationships between state agencies, migrant families living in Ireland, community leaders, and the NGOs we work with.

NCP Cork celebrating Cork community leaders receiving certificates for Leadership and Organisational Skills training



- The **Citizenship Application Support Service (CASS)** facilitated **19** trainings, including intern trainings in 2017.

CASS is an important part of NCP's work, a service that provides guidance and advice to individuals who wish to apply for Irish citizenship. Our training is given to volunteers, interns, staff, students and other service providers working in this area.

- The **Migrant Access Programme (MAP)** delivered **four** Employment Trainings in Dublin and Cork. This programme was developed to offer free, bespoke support to migrants who wish to increase their employability. Through these trainings, NCP was able to increase our reach and the positive effects of this programme.
- **NCP Youth** held **one** volunteer training for the English Homework Club. The English Homework Club is an opportunity for volunteers from the community to work with primary school-aged migrant children for improved learning outcomes. This training allowed us to continue that work.
- **NCP Cork** facilitated **10** NCP services trainings in 2017. NCP Cork continues to be a busy and thriving branch of NCP's activities. The 10 service trainings enabled us to continue, broaden, and strengthen our existing work in NCP Cork.

Our goal with all training work that we do is not just to inform the individuals, volunteers, staff, groups and agencies who we work with but to empower them to self-determine their own needs and to improve their own outcomes.

We believe that by effectively training and informing our members and the migrant people who use our services, we enhance the capacity and leadership development of ethnic minority communities throughout Ireland.

GOAL 3. Promote effective integration and social inclusion initiatives for migrant communities at local, regional and national levels.

NCP continued its tradition of facilitating the use of our office space for by migrant-led groups as a meeting space; to receive post; and for information and training. This includes faith groups, women's networks and youth networks.

To further this goal NCP organised intercultural events and collaborated with other stakeholders to participate in cultural events and host National conferences. Intercultural events include; a bi-annual Intercultural family day event, Halloween Festival and St. Patrick day parade. National conferences and events included NCP's National Conference as well as an information day hosted in collaboration with the International Office for Migration (IOM).

Message Sent is Not Always Message Received - NCP National Conference 2017

With the support of Tusla, NCP organised a national conference in Dublin Castle in March 2017. The conference's aim was to facilitate discussion and improve outcomes for new community families and professionals in child protection interventions. The MFSS showcased their work relating to the topic and the outcomes of NCP's collaboration with Tusla.

We were honoured to have experienced and knowledgeable guest speakers, including:

- **Eifion Williams**, Interim Head of Commissioning Tusla
- **Emily Logan**, Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission
- **Judge Rosemary Horgan**, President of the District Court
- **Dr Carol Coulter**, Director of the Child Care Law Reporting Project

NCP CEO Anca Lupu was also a speaker at the event.

We at NCP are extremely grateful to our guest speakers, funders and everyone who attended and who helped to make this event a success.



Raices de Venezuela at the Intercultural Family Day

Intercultural Family Days

NCP organised its annual Intercultural Family Days in July and December 2017. Both events were held in Drimnagh Castle and were attended by over 150 adults and children. NCP's intercultural day events showcased and displayed some of the rich cultural heritage and traditions present in Ireland. It also gave an insight into contributions migrants make to Irish society and the opportunities available to explore within communities.

NCP appreciates the contributions of our network members; people from diverse communities, including members of the local communities, and the wider public who attended these events and added to their richness and variety.

Migrant Information Day

NCP collaborated with the UN Migration Agency, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), to organise a Migrant Information Day in November 2017 at the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission building. This event provided the public with relevant and much needed information about services available to migrants and showcased the amazing work that is taking place throughout the country in areas relating to employment, education, health, discrimination and integration.

Over 30 different organisations and 250 participants attended the event. We at NCP were honoured to have Mr. David Stanton (Minister of State for Equality, Immigration and Integration at the Department of Justice) and Ms. Emily Logan, (Chief Commissioner of Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission) there to launch the event.



GOAL 4. Promote awareness of and improve access to services for migrants in the local community in Ireland through information provision and advocacy.

Citizenship Application Support Service (CASS)

CASS continued to provide advice and support to our ever-increasing number of clients. As of October 2017, CASS began charging for its services. Clients who avail of the service are assisted by a multilingual team who are trained to ensure that applicants meet the legal requirements, have the necessary documents, and fulfil the criteria to become Irish citizens.

An overview of CASS 2017 in numbers:



5327 Drop-ins



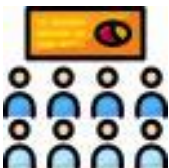
820 Citizenship applications



3529 Phone calls



479 Outreach



19 Trainings



580 Referrals

NCP Migrant Family Support Service (MFSS)

The MFSS provides confidential and free advice and support to migrant families with children in care or who are going through child protection interventions. NCP staff act as advocates and bridge the gap to cultural understanding between families and the state agencies involved in their child care cases or interventions. In total, the MFSS provided support to 58 families of 26 different nationalities in 2017.

An overview of MFSS 2017 in numbers:



427 Drop-ins



232 Outreach



5079 Phone calls



110 Referrals



45 Trainings

NCP Youth

The NCP Youth Project continued to provide English language and homework support to migrant students in primary school from non-English speaking families in Dublin through the "English Homework Club". It is expected that NCP will broaden the scope of the English homework club and extend it to migrant children in secondary schools. Plans are near conclusion to ensure this takes off in the coming year. The service works towards an intercultural and inclusive Irish society where migrant students achieve their full potential in schools and have the same opportunities as their Irish peers.

During the first term of the 2017/2018 academic year (October - December 2017) NCP Youth worked together with four schools in Dublin inner City and supported a total of 100 students with the help of 20 volunteers.



4 Schools



100 Students



20 Volunteers

Since 2014 NCP Youth has also maintained an ongoing collaboration with Young People at Risk (YPAR), an interagency initiative that brings together statutory, voluntary and community services to meet the needs of at-risk young people. At European level, NCP Youth has been representing Ireland in the SIRIUS European Network on education of children and youths from migrant backgrounds.



Volunteer helping student
at Homework Club



Volunteer with students
at Homework Club

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

NCP is a member of the Dublin City Co-Operative. The Co-Op is an innovative model that brought together a group of local and community groups to work together with mutual understanding and areas of specialty within its operational area. In 2017 NCP worked, through the Co-Op to implement the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP). This service focuses on reducing poverty and promoting social inclusion and equality through regional engagement and collaboration.

An overview of SICAP 2017 in numbers:



135 Drop-ins



50 Outreach



1664 Phone calls



100 Referrals



80 Applications

GOAL 5. Develop and sustain strategies to increase the economic integration of ethnic minorities across Ireland.

NCP has strived to develop and deliver practical supports in assisting members of new communities access the Irish labour market. In 2017 NCP launched the nationwide service the Migrant Access Programme (MAP). SICAP also continues to help clients become job ready.

In addition to these services, NCP works continuously to offer volunteering opportunities and intern positions in order to give experience to members that bring them closer to finding employment. In 2017, 20 volunteers gained valuable teaching experience through engaging with NCP Youth's Homework Club. Additionally, NCP had the pleasure of being able to give work experience to 11 works through community employment schemes.

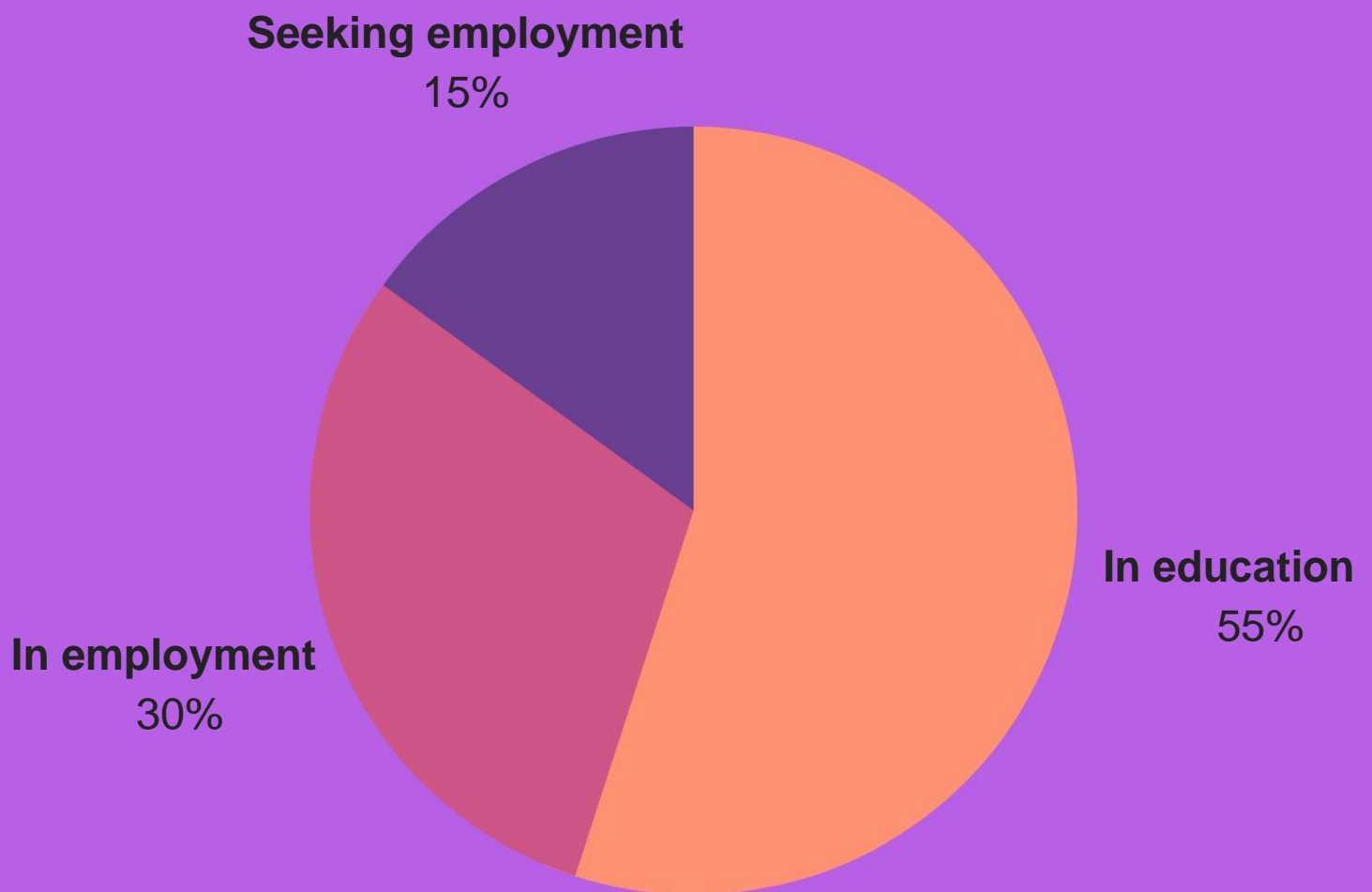
The Migrant Access Programme (MAP)

The Migrant Access Programme offers free and tailor-made support for migrants seeking to increase their employability.

During 2017 MAP organised five public information sessions to a total of 83 participants. The information sessions focus on employment rights, qualification recognition, the Irish labour market, and volunteering, training and education opportunities.

In addition, MAP attended a number of networking meetings to raise awareness of the service among migrant communities and relevant organisations.

Perhaps most significantly, MAP delivered four employment training sessions to a total of 44 participants. Participants found employment, engaged in volunteer opportunities or enrolled in further education and training.



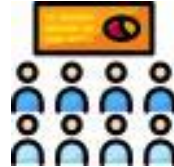
Status of participants upon completion of MAP training 2017

New Communities Partnership in Numbers 2017

Total NCP Activities 2017



6447 Drop-ins



79 Trainings

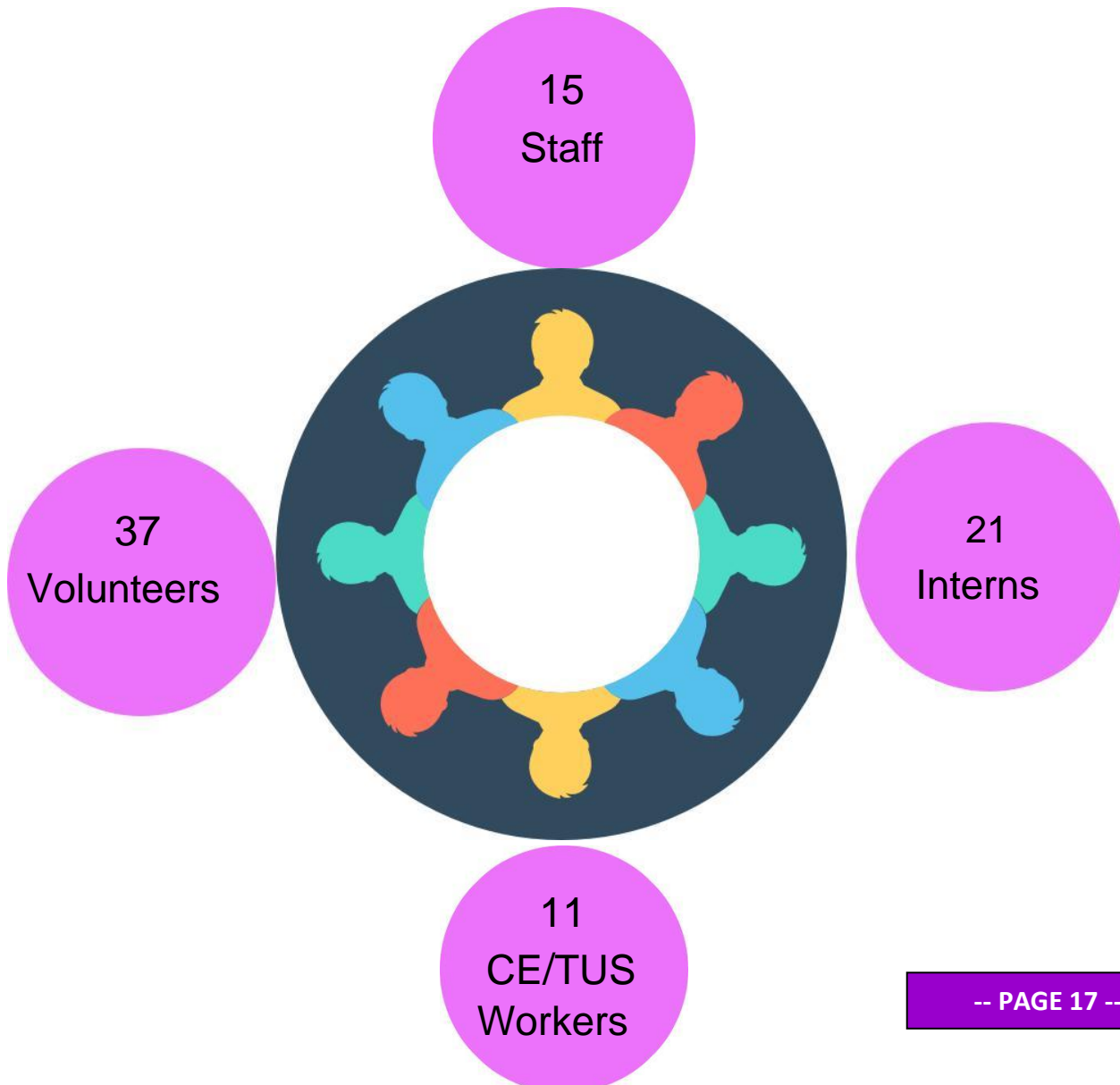


10788 Phone calls



331 Meetings

NCP Staff, Interns and Volunteers 2017



NCP Board of Directors 2017

- Ben Uzoma, Chairperson
- Sarah Duku, Treasurer
- Ewa Flood, Secretary
- Florin Andreiu, Director
- Veronica Bokeng Akale, Director
- Shaykh Dr. Muhammad Umar Al-Qadri, Advisory Executive
- Issah Huseini, Director
- David O'Connor Clarke, Director

NCP Staff 2017

- Anca Lupu, CEO
- Laura Kersulyte, Finance & Office Coordinator
- Edward Boakye, Project Coordinator CASS
- Daniela Jurj, National Coordinator MFSS
- Jeannett Taku, Project Worker MFSS / Programme Coordinator Cork
- Sevak Khachatryan, Project Coordinator NCP Youth
- Angelisa Zerpa, Project Coordinator MAP
- Rares Mihai Nicula, Social Inclusion Coordinator
- Doris Abuchi Ogbonda, Project Worker MFSS
- Yemisi Ojo, Project Worker MFSS
- Frank Odei Tettey, Information Officer CASS
- Anna Talipina, Information Officer CASS
- Foday Stanley, Project Worker Cork
- Noel O'Neil, Reception/Administration
- Ying Ying, CE Receptionist
- Ludmila Gorbaczewska, CE Office Administrator CASS
- Eric Mark, CE Reception Cork

