

Good bye 2014, welcome 2015!

2014 has been a challenging year here in NCP; full of events, meetings, seminars, campaigns, magazines, interns and volunteers joining, some staff leaving and new staff joining the team.

As challenges will continue to come it is important to continue to believe in our inner strength, our determination and passion that lie in us for the years to come.

NCP is celebrating 10 years of existence next year. NCP fought hard to be recognised as an effective network representing and empowering ethnic minority-led groups, at all levels, throughout those years. Our engagement and funding from various Government Departments, Local Authorities, NGOs and private entities has given us the confidence and reassurance that the work that NCP does is vital in the integration of ethnic minorities in Ireland and a positive impact on the policies that impact on their lives.

We are a small team but with huge potential. NCP is here ten years later due to dedication and passion from all our staff and wonderful volunteers. It is great to see that our organisation is able to provide career opportunities not only to people from migrant background but to Irish people as well to learn about our activities, from engagement with communities and celebrate together our achievements.

NCP is here, 10 years later, also due to the commitment and support from all our funders who believe in our ability, appreciate and value our contribution throughout the years.

I wish all our staff, volunteers and NCP community groups a very peaceful time this holiday season and a happy and full of positive energy New Year!

Anca Lupu, NCP General Manager

Overview of NCP services and success in 2014

NCP may have been known for our services targeted to new communities through and with the intercultural experience and expertise of migrants in a diverse Ireland. It has indeed overflowed as our services and support are mainstreamed and accessed the wider Irish society. The year was very busy and challenging as we delivered huge amount of support and services through frugal budget as resources reduction continued to bit even harder and stripped us to the bone.

Euro Cities – representing DCC on integration at EU level and mentoring Rotterdam on participation

Dublin Inner City Cooperative – continued work with 15 organisation leading to establishment of Cooperative. It is crucial to keep the mainstreaming agenda on but continue leveraging targeted approach to ensuring the new communities in Dublin are not left worst off in the achieving the Irish authorities strategy by engaging proactively with inner city organisations and local campaigns.

Local Integration forums – FEN, DLR, DCC and SDCC – while we continued to build on the successes of last year, all local authorities local integration forums where support to keep their autonomous voice and participatory democracy with relevant services providers. We

also ensured a regular meeting of the heads of the relevant forums to explore collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Communal space and group development and support – about 30 EMLOs use NCP to articulate and plan actions, virtual office, mentoring and support provided to ensure coordinated voice for new communities in relevant government plans towards integration and participation

Individual supports in the areas of *immigration, citizenship, employment, enterprise, event planning and delivery, sign posting to services and latest developments* in and around Ireland of interest to new communities were continually provided to the new communities throughout the year.

Events and collaborative successes – Volunteering Ireland, Integration Centre, ENAR, Migrant Right Centre Ireland, DCETB, Islamic Foundation Ireland, wider Canal Communities projects, Dublin Aids Alliance, TUS

Advocacy and influencing policies and representation – It was a period we tried hard to keep the pressure in strategic that recognition of diversity in Ireland is needed most i.e. GAA, MCF, Irish Aid, FAI – including strategic engagement with the Department of Social Protection, Department of Environment and Department of Justice and Equality and local authorities to ensure that new communities are recognised and catered for just like other identified community of places and interests.

NCP will like to thank all our partners, friends and funders especially: Department of Justice & Equality, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, Pobal, Community Foundation for Ireland, Dublin City Council, South Dublin County Council, Cork County Council, National Lottery, EuroCities including other relevant organisations who supported our programme activities – *Croke Park Fund, Joe Lucey Small Grants*.

Wishing you all a Wonderful Christmas and Happy New 2015! Nollaig Shona Daoibh!

Reginald Oko Flex Inya – NCP Projects Manager

CASS project

2014 was a very busy year for the **Citizenship Application Support Service (CASS)**, which presented a number of challenges on the resources of CASS staff and volunteers who provide the free support and information service for individuals who wish to apply for Irish Citizenship.

There was a marked increase in the number of clients availing of the service, both migrants and information providers.

Our CASS volunteer advisors and staff enabled 11,850 individuals in 2014 (January – November 2014) to access free advice in a local CASS centre or through the telephone information line or online help desk, which marks an increase of 46% on 2013's figure of 8,137 individuals.

NCP'S Citizenship Application Support Service (CASS) staff and volunteers supported individuals and families to submit 1,955 completed application forms, which marks another significant increase of 57% on 2013's figure of 1,242. It is evident from the numbers receiving citizenship that there has been a significant increase in number of naturalisation applications that are eligible for citizenship at first instance.

The Citizenship Application Support Service continues to undertake a number of initiatives to raise awareness of the naturalisation process, and on the supports available to applicants

through CASS. The CASS staff, due to their experience and knowledge of the naturalisation application process, provide a unique service in assisting with exceptional cases.

We would like to acknowledge those individuals and organisations who supported CASS financially in 2014 whose ongoing commitment to equal access to information continues to make our work possible.

We wish all our funders, stakeholders, Citizenship Division (Tipperary & Minor section Dublin), Board of Directors, staff, interns and volunteers a merry Christmas and successful New Year 2015!

Edward Boakye, CASS Project co-ordinator

Migrant Family Support Service

Set up at the beginning of 2014, the service aims to support migrant parents experiencing child protection interventions, the front line professionals involved with the particular families and also foster parents raising children from a different ethnic background than their own.

In March, the service opened two drop in clinics in Dublin and Cork to offer information, advocacy and culturally sensitive practical supports. In June 10th, the service was officially launched by the Child and Family Agency Chief Executive, Mr. Gordon Jeyes, which attracted much welcomed media attention and interest in the programme.

As a service, we are delighted to see the amount of parents finding the courage to come seeking comfort and clarity and we are committed to respectfully support them in their journey to reunite with their children. Meeting somebody to provide a listening ear over a cup of tea and being able to talk freely in confidence, proves invaluable for our clients. Offering the parents guidance in a world of complicated procedures and terminology regarding the child protection system is what the service aims to do - in a friendly and empowering manner. Currently, we assist 35 families from all over the country and the referral list is continuously growing. With our support and with a lot of hard work done by the parents themselves, 3 families have already been reunited.

We are incredibly grateful to the dedicated teams of volunteers in Dublin and Cork for all their hard work and dedication. Their passion and generosity in giving their time is an inspiration to us all and we are delighted to have such a wonderfully diverse team.

At the end of year one, we look back with great joy to the achievements we had in such a short period of time with only one staff. We also look forward to 2015, full of hope. It's with this hope that we'd like to wish all our service clients, volunteers and funders a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Daniela Jurj, MFSS Project Co-ordinator

NCP Youth Ireland

From January to May we continued working with the Oatland Primary School and The Muslim National School where 20 students and 5 volunteers were involved in 'English Support Teachers' programme. As part of the programme volunteers were visiting the schools and helping migrant students with English and homework. From September 2014 we also started working with the St. Mark's Junior school in Tallaght where 15 more students and 4 volunteers joined the programme.

From January 2014 NCP Youth Ireland joined SIRIUS European Policy Network. In April at the SIRIUS General meeting in Barcelona NCP Youth Coordinator Sevak Khachatryan was

elected as a National Coordinator for Network in Ireland. As part of the collaboration in October 2014 we organised a conference titled: “Education in Ireland – Challenges and Opportunities for Migrants”. The aim of the conference was to bring together policy makers, educators, migrant grassroots organisations and parents to engage in conversations on the challenges and opportunities for migrants being educated in Ireland. The outcome of the conference was presented at the SIRIUS General meeting on the 20th of November 2014 in EU Parliament in Brussels by NCP Youth Ireland Coordinator Sevak Khachatryan.

We also started collaborating with several organisation in Ireland such as ‘The Platform’, ‘YPAR- Young people at Risk’, ‘IFI- Irish Film Institution’ and ‘Dublin City Volunteer Center’.

NCP Youth Ireland would like to thank all the volunteers and organisations who supported us for the past year and looking forward to continue working with them in 2015.

Sevak Khachatryan, NCP Youth Project Co-ordinator

NCP Cork

NCP Cork has had a busy and successful year at our home on Shandon Street.

We have expanded CASS this year to be open five days a week which has been very successful and we have on average 120 appointments per month. In addition since July NCP Cork offers outreach to Tralee once a month which is very busy.

With the support of Community Foundation of Ireland we were delighted to be able to offer a FECTAC Level 6 course in Leadership and Organisational Skills to our members, 8 participants have completed the 10 week course. All those involved have thoroughly enjoyed it and we look forward to the presentation of certificates in the New Year.

With dedicated volunteer teachers NCP Cork has been able to continue providing English classes at a beginner level to members of the community and we have supported 30 students over the year.

Since September we have started an Employment Information Clinic, community members can meet one on one with a volunteer Information Officer to discuss their CV, job searching, interview skills or any current employment issues. This service has been fully booked every week.

Finally we have started a new service, the Migrant Family Support Service which holds a drop in clinic every Tuesday for parents. New volunteers have been recruited for this service with fantastic skills and knowledge to support and share with others.

NCP Cork is very grateful for the many volunteers and students who have worked with us during the year on our CASS programme, English language classes, Employment Clinic, MFSS and Africa Day events. Our work could not continue without your time and commitment. I would like to wish all of our volunteers and members a very merry Christmas and a wonderful new year and I look forward to working with you all in 2015.

Erin Geraghty, NCP Cork Project Co-ordinator