



30th of May

Ballybough Community Centre

Annual General Meeting

Annual Report of Activities

2014

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New
Communities



New Communities Partnership

January – December 2014

1. Ensure Representation and Participation at all Levels in order to Influence a Positive Change in Policies that Impact on the Lives of Ethnic Minorities in Ireland

To achieve this objective the following actions were proposed. NCP continues to proactively build alliances in the ten *Frontrunner* Local Authorities. In this way we try to ensure migrant inclusion, particularly third country nationals, in SPC's, LCDC's, PPN's and other newly established structures at a local authority level. The fair and equal representation of ethnic minorities on boards of state agencies, relevant committees, platforms and forums is another process we are steadily advocating for. Supporting the development of new Local Authority Integration Forums and consolidating the work of the existing forums outlines a further action.

The outcomes are an improved active participation and awareness among ethnic minorities of opportunities for participation in local authority and other public body activities. Moreover an understanding of the policy making process, become involved in it, and achieve outcomes for their ethnic minority communities is gained.

During the last year we achieved several actions on our way to ensure more representation and participation of ethnic minorities in Ireland. The following projects we were involved in will give you a general review.

Local Integration: NCP continued our collaboration and facilitation of participation of new communities through local integration forums in the following areas - Dublin City Council Social Inclusion Unit, South Dublin County Council Office for Social Inclusion, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council Social Inclusion Office, Fingal County Council Network Development Unit, Cork County Council and Cork City Integration Strategy Committee. As part of our work to promote the voice of migrants in the policy arena – NCP facilitated the participation of migrant representatives at the 4 European Integration Forums in Brussels.

Community: Important works continued with Cairde, Canal Communities Partnership, Crosscare, Dublin Inner Alliance, collaborative scoping exercise on barriers to new communities seeking employment work with Department of Social Protection (DSP) INTREO offices in Dublin Inner city and South Dublin, including Local Employment Service, European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), the re-organising FAI Intercultural Advisory Group (FIAG), GAA National Social Inclusion Committee (TRENT), GAA Integration Committees.

More significantly in this area of work also is the engagement of NCP with the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) to partner with the **front runner local governments** and ensure the inclusion of new communities in their re-alignment programme and fledgling public participation network (PPN)

Children & Family: Service Users Committee, Temple St Hospital, Ombudsman for Children, Social Work Team HSE Dublin Mid Leinster & HSE Dublin North, Child & Family Agency, Family Support Network. One Family, St Francis Hospice, Raheny, Southern Regional Advisory Committee on Violence against Women, Muslim Primary Education Board and our collaborative work in support migrant pupils' school works with volunteer teachers.

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.

Also worthy of mention is the work of our latest intervention measure to support families from migrant background who are facing child protection interventions. **NCP's Migrant Family Support Services (MFSS)** officially launched in June 2014 by Gordon Jeyes (TUSLA Child and Family Agency) and Tina Roche (Community Foundation for Ireland). This project has provided eagerly needed support to families and agencies involved in the child protection works. It also includes collaboration with the TUSLA Child & Family agency, with ongoing works.

Others: Department of Social Protection - Migrant Consultative Forum (MCF) – which includes FLAC, Crosscare, Doras Lumini and NASC. Gardai National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) NGOs forum addressing issues impacting on migrants accessing services and through Immigrant Networks – which includes Crosscare Migrant Project, Doras Lumni, Galway Migrant Service, Immigrant Council of Ireland, Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, NASC, The Integration Centre, many more.

NCP participation in **EUROCITIES** – a social inclusion project which NCP partnered with Dublin City Council (DCC) to mentor another European city in the area of participation of migrants; resulting in the development of three tool kits and a good practice model for Europe. And our youth platform involved with SIRIUS Network – an EU project that promotes Migrant education challenges in Europe; as part of the collaboration in October 2014 a conference was organised 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.



Participants of the conference at the Mansion House, Dublin

2. Deliver Training to Enhance the Capacity and Leadership Development of Ethnic Minorities

One of the actions of this aim is to deliver series of information workshops on Safeguarding Children to Migrant Community Leaders, mosques, churches, Qur'anic School and Sunday school teachers to support their work in dealing with children. Another action is the delivering of specialist training to migrant volunteer information providers on legislative processes. Thereby a best practice in service delivery in the Citizenship Application Support Service in Cork and Dublin and within community, churches and mosques information services are ensured. In NCP's *Homework Support Programme* support and mentoring to volunteer teachers (migrant & Irish) in Cork and Dublin is provided. Moreover the continuous delivery of English language training by member groups to the most vulnerable members of their community has to be encouraged.

The outcomes are a greater understanding for ethnic minorities of safeguarding children and their duties and responsibilities in bringing up children in Ireland. Furthermore the awareness of a different working culture and the legislative norms of Ireland has risen and the education prospects of children with low level English language proficiency have improved.



Migrant Family Support Service Launch with Gordon Jeyes

New Communities Partnership in 2014 provided a variety of community education & training programmes to third country nationals, ethnic minority job seekers, women's community groups and Intercultural Liaison Officers in local authority housing estates.

Date	Topic	Venue	Target group
January	3 workshops on the key principles of governance for community and voluntary groups	NCP office Dublin; NCP office Cork; North East Business College, Drogheda	Community leaders and Board members
January - April	8 weeks Sexual Health training workshop for women through Sexual Health Centre in Cork	NCP office Dublin	Migrant women
January - June	'English Language Training for Romanian Community in partnership with the VEC	NCP Boardroom premises, 53 Upper Dorset St, Dublin 1	Unemployed Romanian adult learners and wider new communities

February	South Dublin County Council Intercultural Liaison Volunteers Meeting	Sth Dublin County Council Offices	Intercultural Liaison Volunteers
	'Effective Volunteering & Management Skills In attracting Volunteers'	Irish Aid Volunteering Centre, O'Connell St D1.	New Communities and Dublin City Integration Forum members
	Effective Grant Making workshop for migrant led & support orgs in collaboration with Community Found	Wynns Hotel, Abbey Street, D1	Ethnic minority led (EMLOs) & support organisations in Ireland
	8 weeks of English Classes in the month of Feb from beginner to intermediate classes	NCP office Dublin	All migrants welcome
	An Introduction to Volunteer Management for Migrant Led Organisations	Dublin City Centre (TBC)	Migrant organisations
March	A grant application workshop for Cork and Waterford	NCP office Cork	Migrant led support groups
	Volunteer Management for Dublin Based Ethnic Minority Community Groups	NCP office Dublin	Ethnic minority community group leaders
	GO to VOTE - Mobilising the Migrant Community to Vote	European Parliament Dublin	Migrant community representatives
	A one day training on managing and motivating volunteers	NCP office Cork	Ethnic minority community group leaders
March - June	'English Language Training for Muslim Women in partnership with the VEC, including certificate awards	Islamic Foundation of Ireland, South Circular Road, Dublin	Muslim women
April	Intercultural awareness training	NCP office Dublin	Volunteer teachers on NCP English Language Support Programme

May	Community Mediation Training	NCP office Dublin, Cork, Limerick	Intercultural Liaison Volunteers
	A one-day course on the Irish citizenship application process	NCP office Limerick and North East College, Drogheda	Migrant community leaders.
	2 days of CV/Interview Skills Workshop	NCP office Dublin	Unemployed migrants
	Intercultural awareness training	NCP office Dublin	Volunteer teachers on NCP English Language Support Programme
	Cork Volunteer Centre Workshop on The Benefits of Volunteering	NCP office Dublin	All migrants
September	How to set up a business – Information for Migrants Action Community Enterprise (ACE), South Dublin County Partnership & New Communities Partnership (NCP)	Conference Room, ACE, Clondalkin, Dublin 22	migrant community who wants to know about setting up a business
October	Information Session - Starting Your Own Business	Ozanam House, 53 Mountjoy Square West, Dublin 1	Service provider
November	Migrant Family Support Services Volunteer Training - Cork	NCP Cork Office	MFSS volunteers
January - December	Free Homework & Language Support Programme for Migrant families/pupils	Dublin Primary Schools	migrant Children and families with little or no English as first language
July - December	Safeguarding Children Sessions	Churches, Islamic Centres, schools	Migrant parents, community and religious leaders
September - December	'English Language Training for Romanian Community in partnership with the VEC	NCP Boardroom premises, 53 Upper Dorset St, Dublin 1	Unemployed Romanian adult learners and wider new communities

With the support of Community Foundation of Ireland NCP was delighted to be able to offer a FETAC Level 6 course in Leadership and Organisational Skills to our members in Cork, 8 participants have completed the 10 week course.



Cork New Communities Partnership Volunteers

3. Promote Effective Integration & Social Inclusion Initiatives at Local, Regional and National Levels

An important objective of NCP is to promote interaction between ethnic minorities and the host society. Facilitating the provision of shared civil spaces for friendly encounters and intercultural dialogues can be seen as a first step. To support the active participation of ethnic minorities as volunteers with their local sporting clubs and participation in local Sporting and Intercultural Open Days and Events across the country describe further actions. The development of an information Guideline for migrant families on how to best safeguard a child and the explanation of what is child abuse enables families from different backgrounds to gain a greater understanding of the Irish system. And for ethnic minority children whose parents have little or no English skills a 'homework' support programme shall be developed and coordinated.

Who We Are
We are a new communities support group who assist families experiencing childcare protection interventions.
We are non judgemental. We listen. We assist families through the challenges that they meet. We offer a FREE service.

We Offer

- One to one support service for families experiencing child protective interventions or that have had their children taken into care
- Outreach services
- Awareness raising
- Cultural support for front line professionals

Contact
Migrant Family Support Service

<p>Dublin New Communities Partnership 53 Upper Dorset St, Dublin 1 Tel: 01 87 27 842 E mail: familysupport@newcommunities.ie</p>	<p>Cork New Communities Partnership 107 Shandon Street, Cork Tel: 023 23 99 910 E mail: ncpcoke@gmail.com</p>
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NCP MIGRANT FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE

GUIDELINES ON HOW TO BEST SAFEGUARD A CHILD

What is Child Abuse?

For Free Support & Information Call

Migrant Family Support Service
53 Dorset St, Dublin 1
Tel 01 8727842

Migrant Family Support Service Leaflet

www.newcommunities.ie

New Communities Partnership—empowering and representing ethnic minorities and their organisations in Ireland

The Migrant Family Support Service is funded by TUSLA-Child and Family Agency.



Migrant Family Support Service supporting families experiencing child protection interventions.
www.newcommunities.ie

This results in a greater understanding of different cultures which will lead to enriched and integrated communities and drop-in racism. Another outcome is the stronger link between families and individuals of different nationalities. On the organisational level exists a more effective co-operation between different organisations working on integration and interculturalism.

NCP supported a total of five local authority forums in 2014; - **Cork County Integration Network, Dublin City Integration Forum, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Ethnic Minority Integration Forum, Fingal Ethnic Network, South Dublin Migrant Integration Forum.** NCP has also initiated a platform where the four Dublin integration forums representatives meet to explore working together.

A total of 175 ethnic minority groups drawn from faith communities, women's networks, youth networks, arts, sports and ethnic led community support groups are facilitated by NCP to participate in the network of forums nationally. It also involves attending meetings, workshop and advisory groups for the promotion of diversity in Ireland.

To view a full list of Member Groups please consult the website: www.newcommunities.ie

The GAA Tent event, held in Croke Park in January 2014 was designed to involve NCP and the groups NCP represents in the Committee Planning Team and the Members Support Forum, for the Event to reach out to migrants and the wider ethnic minorities.

SIRIUS is a European Policy Network on the education of children and young people with a migrant background – NCP took part in the planning stage for the 2014-2015 project, held in April, in Barcelona.

Another important meeting in the promotion of Integration & Social Inclusion was April meeting with the agencies of HSE in what regards the Foster Unit. This meeting had the objectives of liaising the State Agencies with Dublin based community, voluntary & faith based organisations, ethnic minority community groups, service providers.

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.

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

The Palestinian Community Ireland and friends was holding a Charitable Lunch Event for the Children of Gaza suffering under the throes of bombardment.

The Slovak Centre Ireland organized a Cultural Week 2014.

Diaspora Women's Initiative Pre Valentine's Day

The Ivorian diaspora in Ireland invited friends and families to the celebration of Ivorian Independence

The Sixth Slovak Community Ball

International Children's Day in collaboration with the Romanian Community of Ireland.

Fingal Festival of Football

Bridging the Gap: Promoting Integration through Art Institutions Collaborative Work

SARI's 18th Annual SoccerFest

International Women's Day in collaboration with Romanian Community of Ireland

4th Annual Dublin African Film Festival (DAFF)

Dun Laoghaire Rathdowne Social Inclusion Week 2014

Social Inclusion Week launched by South Dublin County Council

English support - New Communities Partnership has set up free English language classes with English course homework support groups which are delivered by qualified primary and secondary school teachers.

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

NCP Youth 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'*.

4. Promote Awareness of and Improve Access to Services in the Local Community through Information Provision & Advocacy

An enormous part of this objective forms the initiative of CASS to provide practical support for approximately eight thousand ethnic minorities' to apply for Irish citizenship. The accessible support for Social Workers and Guardian Ad Litem who are dealing with migrant parents in the context of child care is another important aspect. To assist in improving family's communication and coping skills NCP delivers training to migrant leaders and parents on the Irish Social Work system. Based on research and community forum meetings NCP identifies emerging needs and issues of ethnic minorities to advocate them for a positive policy change. Information on health, housing, access to educational opportunities are provided through the NCP website.

The outcomes are an increase in numbers of ethnic minorities acquiring Irish citizenship. This reinforces a greater sense of belonging, loyalty and solidarity with the state. The number of groups using NCP premises to avail VEC sponsored English language training increases as well. Furthermore a greater understanding and appreciation among services providers of the needs and issues of new communities is established.

Key to NCP's supporting role to its 175 ethnic led organisations is the promotion of engagement and communication between ethnic minority communities and service providers at local and national levels.

Citizenship Application Support Service

The Citizenship Application Support Service (CASS) is a free information and support service established by NCP in March 2011 in recognition of the need to promote greater understanding amongst migrant communities, in particular third country nationals with low levels of English literacy on how to negotiate the Irish citizenship application process.

The service is operated nationally from the New Communities Partnership Dublin and Cork offices through a series of nationwide drop-in-centres, an online helpdesk and a dedicated telephone help-line. Alongside this, the Service is operating an outreach service Dun Laoghaire, Blanchardstown, Lucan, Clondalkin and Tallaght. You can find the full list on the NCP website: www.newcommunities.ie/services2/cass.html.

In 2014 saw the Service increase its client base again. The information service is provided by a team of NCP trained, multi lingual volunteer information officers.

NCP’S Citizenship Application Support Service (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.

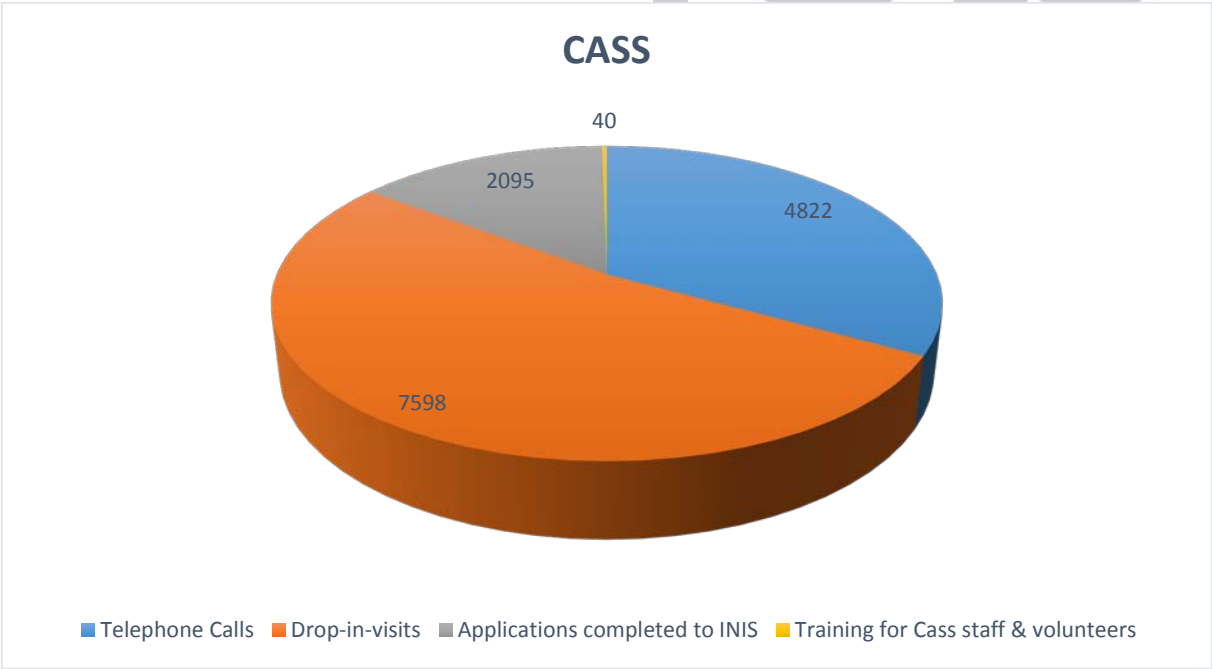
The staff and volunteers supported individuals and families to submit 2,095 completed application forms, which marks another significant increase of 57% on 2013’s figure of 1,242.

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.



CASS and NCP office staff

The following table breaks down the statistics of 2014:



Some voices of the **clients**:

“NCP is an excellent service and super staff. They were very helpful and our application has been approved.”

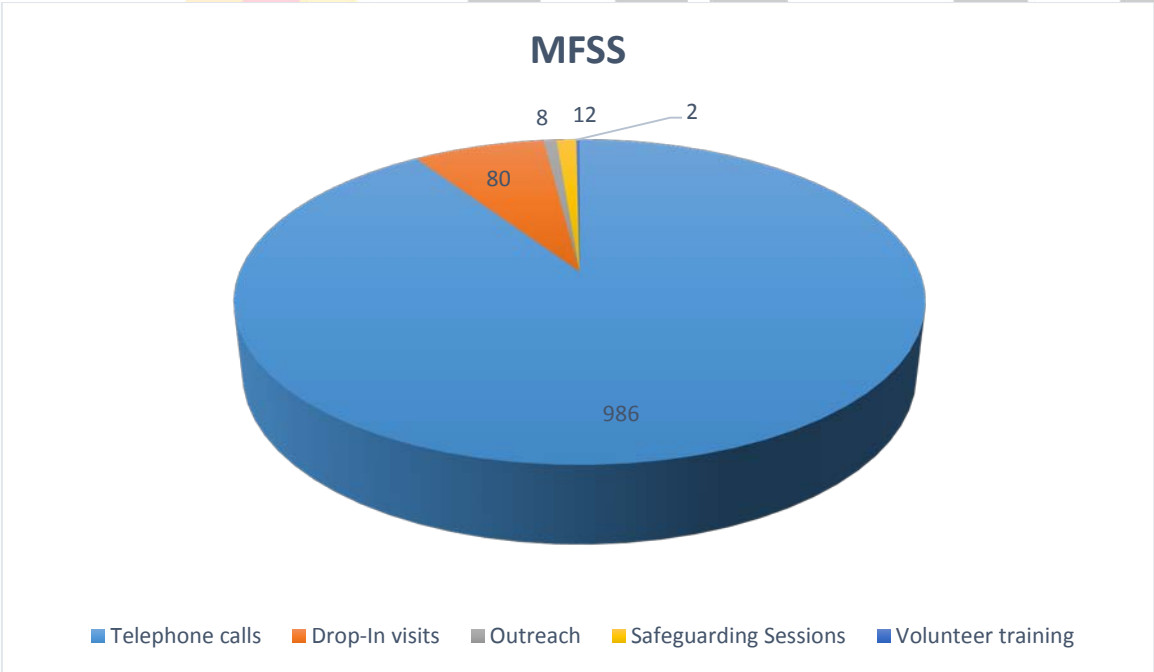
“Accurate, professional service. I will refer my friends or someone I know to you. Thanks for your service.”

“You are a group of wonderful people, your words are encouraging and render a brilliant service! Thank you all and God bless.”

Migrant Family Support Service

Another service of the NCP is the Migrant Family Support Service (MFSS) which was officially launched on June 10th 2014 at the Law Society of Ireland. It is a free and confidential service offering assistance to migrant families with children in care or currently experiencing child protection interventions. Cultural support to foster families raising children from a different ethnic background than their own and cultural consultancy and support to front line professionals (Social Workers, Guardians at Litem, Legal Aid Board Solicitors, Gardai, Teachers, Probation Officers etc) are also part of the MFSS work. Safeguarding Children Sessions to migrant and religious community leaders and migrant NGOs creates the fourth base of the service. In 2014 MFSS supported 35 families out of which 3 have already been reunited.

MFSS runs a weekly Drop-in clinic, information providing by a telephone helpline and e-mail, outreach and workshops. The service has been very busy since opening. In the first months from July until December (due to vacations only 5 months) 986 calls were received, whereas 50% came from TUSLA employees. In this time 98 families sought the MFSS support. The total number of children between all of these families is 231. The total of migrant children in care is 1625. Due to the overwhelming demand the NCP office in Cork started offering Migrant Family Support Service to provide a second contact point.



"You've turned my hopelessness to hopefulness." **Parent**

"I will forever be grateful to you and all other members of your crew, for your time, passion, generosity, empathy, sympathy, giving me your listening ears always and for your Ever Ready and Ever Present attitude towards me and all your other clients." **Parent**

"The MFSS has been an invaluable resource in the local community that serves the families our Agency works with. The staff are very accommodating and professional in how they deliver the service. Families and professionals alike really benefit from the service and it has filled a huge gap in community service provision that has been long awaited." **Social Worker**

NCP Youth

NCP Youth is supporting youth groups to organise activities for their community. The project is funded by SIRIUS European Network. NCP Youth identified a major barrier to the performance and integration of migrant school children from non-English speaking families. To address this issue an English and Homework Support was developed. From January to May the project 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. In September 2014 NCP a new format was designed whereby the support was relocated from the student's houses into primary schools from a disadvantaged areas in Dublin. From October on the project started in St. Mark's Junior School with 5 volunteers supporting 13 students. The programme included once a week classes for one and half hours over the period of 11 weeks.

Some voices from the evaluation form which was handed to **teachers** after the project...

"Very satisfying"

"Children are more confident with speaking, especially with their peers."

"Extremely likely they would like to continue the programme in the school."

5. Develop and Sustain Strategies to Increase the Economic Integration of Ethnic Minorities

The actions for this aim include to deliver support workshops. A self-employment workshop for emerging ethnic minority entrepreneurs and an employment workshop for ethnic minorities in search of employment. Further steps are to conduct evidence based research on the unique needs of migrants in the area of labour-force activation and to develop and implement strategies that promote the entering of migrants into the labour force and/or the prerequisite training and education programmes.

This will improve the economic and social well-being among ethnic minorities. The awareness of opportunities for self-employment and the access to labour market opportunities has increased. Moreover the barriers to labour market are removed and ethnic minorities gain relevant work experience in an Irish context.

NCP continued work on the Cycle-It initiative, including bicycle repair and rental facilities being added to the programme. We have enjoyed the support of TUS workers from CCP

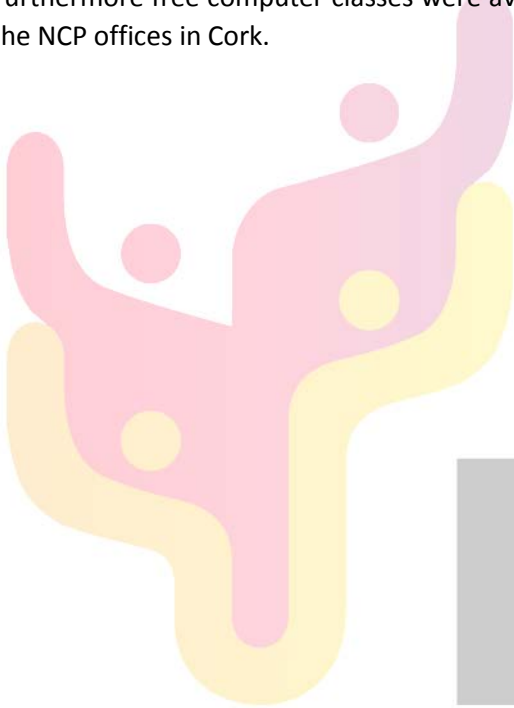
Through NCP Youth platform, Co-ordinating preparation towards an EU SIRIUS Migrant Education conference in collaboration with DCC, Department of Education, ESRI and schools for October 2014

NCP continues our engagement Inner City Enterprise (ICE), ICON, Community Technical Aid (CTA) and South West Inner City Network, to advise and assist unemployed migrants from Dublin's inner city to set up their own businesses, secure micro finance, including back to work supports.

NCP Cork continues their partnership with The Rubicon Centre for Business Incubation to provide ethnic minority women in Cork with an advisory service and mentoring panels through the PINC business incubation programme.

Since September NCP has started an Employment Information Clinic in Cork, 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.

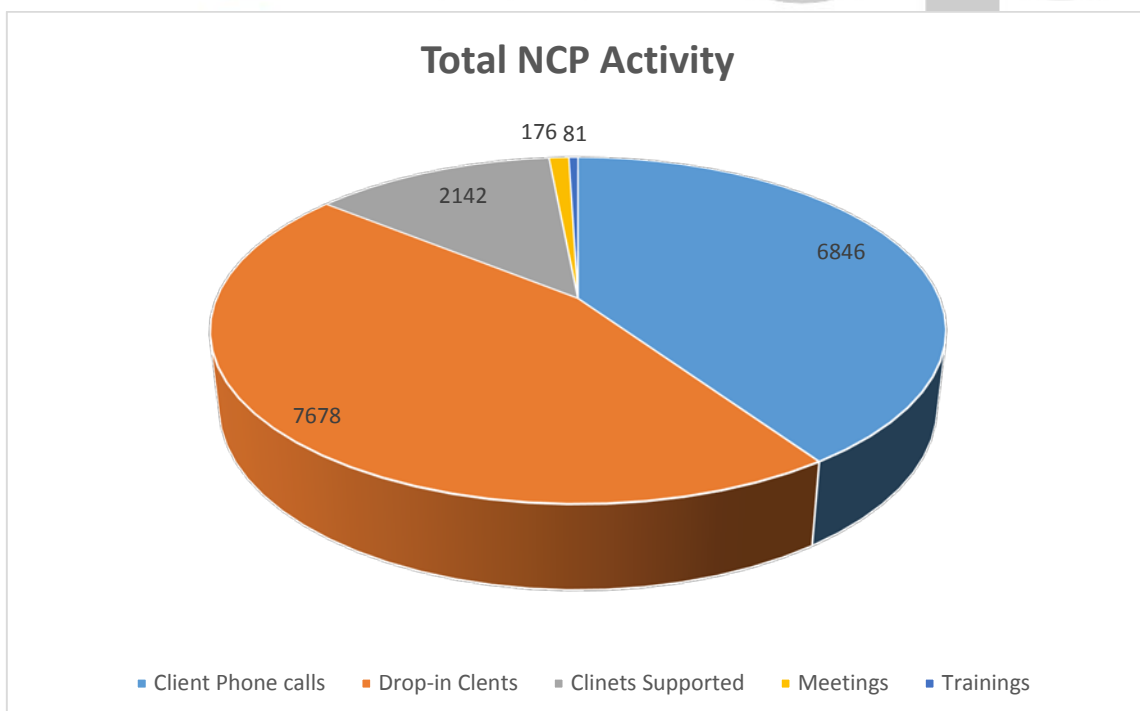
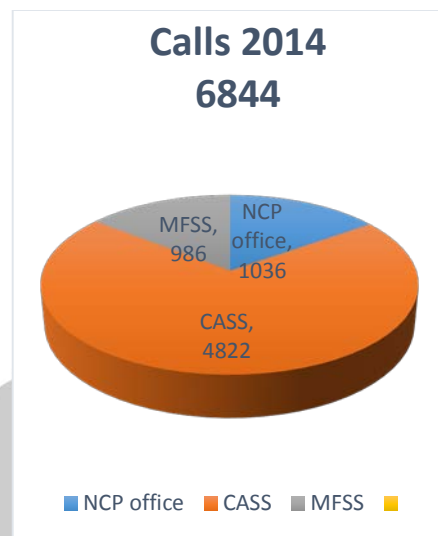
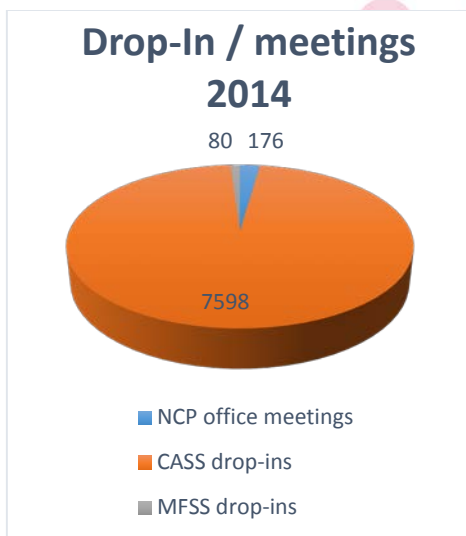
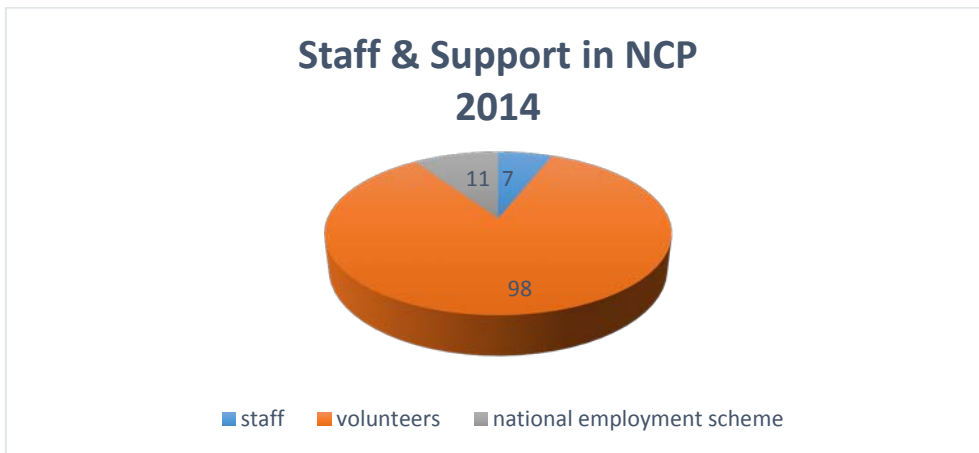
Furthermore free computer classes were available for beginners on a one to one basis each Friday in the NCP offices in Cork.



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New
Communities
Partnership

NCP in numbers:



New Communities Partnership (NCP) Ltd
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31 December 2014

	Continuing operations	
	2014	2013
Income	320,349	384,674
Expenditure	(312,788)	(375,736)
Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation	7,561	8,938
Tax on surplus on ordinary activities	-	-
Surplus on ordinary activities after taxation	7,561	8,938
Retained surplus for the year	7,561	8,938
The turnover and surplus relate to continuing operations as no business were acquired or disposed of in the above two financial years.		
A separate statement of Total Recognised Gains or Losses is not required as there are no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus or deficit for the above two financial years.		