



Supporting Foreign Nationals in County Monaghan

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Population Profile of County Monaghan

Total Population: 55,362

Polish: 680

Lithuanian: 1650

Other EU: 818

Rest of World: 885

(Non-Irish Population is c. 8% of County population)

Statistics from Census 2006

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Economic Migrants

PUBLIC MEETINGS

In early 2005 County Monaghan Partnership in conjunction with local CIC held public meetings with migrant workers in Monaghan town , Castleblayney, Clones and Carrickmacross.

The meetings had three specific aims:

- To develop a picture of the migrants positive experiences since arriving.
- To develop an understanding of the negative experiences of living and working in the County.
- To establish the needs of migrants in the County.

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Main Issues Identified...

- **Exploitation by employers**
- **Lack of knowledge of Rights/Fear**
- **Language barriers**
- **Difficulty of Integrating into local Communities**
- **Isolation**

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Conference for Employers

Aim of Conference was to give employers;

- Latest Information on Employing Migrants
- Insight into current best practice models
- Information on Rights and Entitlements of Migrants

50 Business representatives attended. Speakers were drawn from:

- Dept. Enterprise Trade and Employment
- Business in the Community
- County Monaghan Partnership
- STEP Dungannon
- Immigrant Council of Ireland
- Diversity in the Community
- Local Migrant Worker

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Guidebook for Employers

“Good Practice Guide in the Employment of Migrant Workers in County Monaghan”

- Distributed to every employer
- Positive Feedback from Employers
- Rights and Entitlements, Types of Migrant Workers, Staff Induction Programmes, Benefits of Good Practice, 10 Steps to Employment Equality, Experiences of exploitation.

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Other Supports

- Local Immigrant Support Group
- English Language Classes
- Establishment of MRCI Project in Monaghan
- Development of local Lithuanian school
- In collaboration with Integrating Ireland established Multicultural Form in the County

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Asylum Seekers

- St Patrick's Accommodation Centre
- Located 2 Miles outside Monaghan Town
- Houses c.150 Asylum Seekers
- Traditionally a Centre for families but profile changed in recent times



Challenges

- **Motivation**
- **Poverty**
- **Isolation**
- **Fear**
- **Legislation**
- **Uncertainty**
- **Confidence**

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Partnership Supports

- Fund Arts and Crafts Classes within the Centre
- Established a Residents Committee
- Build capacity of residents to sit on local structures (Networks and Fora)



Volunteer Bureau

- 14 residents have registered with Volunteer Bureau
- Very willing to volunteer
- Take up positions in local CIC, Age Action Shops etc
- Assisted local integration
- Keeps them occupied during stay at the Centre



Conclusions

- Working with New Communities is very challenging
- Unlocking Language barriers are key to integration
- Integration is a two-way process.
- Need to continually educate employers and challenge exploitation
- Need to quicken up asylum process