Promoting
Civic Participation of
Third Country Nationals
through Local Authority Platforms

led by
Dublin Employment Pact and New Communities Partnership together with Dublin City Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Fingal County Council and South Dublin County Council.

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The project, "Promoting Civic Participation of Third Country Nationals through Local Authority Platforms" is led by Dublin Employment Pact and New Communities Partnership working with the Dublin local authorities

This project is co-financed by the European Commission under the European Integration Fund and is supported by the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration in the Department of Justice and Equality and Pobal.

Dublin Employment Pact Ltd. is registered in Ireland No. 340167. CHY 14496.

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Dublin has become increasingly diverse and multicultural as new immigrants are arriving and contributing to its growth in a variety of ways. As key factors in supporting immigrants to integrate into Irish society, the four Dublin Local Authorities have come together to facilitate the local integration of new communities through shared learning and innovative approaches.

The project will deliver a series of actions between October 2010 and July 2013 aimed at supporting third country nationals (residents from countries outside the EU) to establish a foothold and become fully participating citizens of Irish society, while charting pathways for the progression of their families and future generations.

The project is primarily aimed at developing capacity among new communities and especially among women and young people in new communities to actively engage to the fullest possible extent in opportunities for economic, social, civic and political participation.

Specifically, the project will achieve the following elements:

≈ Support Local Authorities in connecting, dialoguing and engaging with new communities in consultation, planning, design and implementation of their integration, anti-racism, diversity, equality and social cohesion strategies.

≈ Promote greater understanding among new communities of the history, norms and values of the Irish society which in turn will foster a sense of belonging and shared citizenship.

≈ Promote active engagement of new communities with all aspects of Irish social, political and cultural life thereby reducing the social exclusion experienced among new communities.

≈ Develop mechanisms for new community representation and participation in local authority policy and planning structures to enhance the understanding among new community leaders of the policy making process, how to convert issues of concern into policy positions and how to communicate and lobby for their policy message.

≈ Train community representatives as Intercultural Liaison Volunteers to act as liaison/link persons between communities and their local authorities.

≈ Create workplace opportunities in local authorities to enhance the employability skills of third country nationals and develop the diversity culture of the authorities

The project will also facilitate inter-agency learning by allowing staff members of the four Dublin Local Authorities to exchange their knowledge and experiences in a structured and focused manner. The four Dublin local authorities are committed to building stronger communities with the ability to meet wide ranging needs by addressing issues regarding racial, ethnic and economic diversity which will enrich the social and cultural fabric of our society.

The project partners strongly believe that this collaborative way of working constitutes an important foundation for building a vibrant and cohesive society shared and valued by established and new residents with differing experiences, histories, ethnicities and backgrounds.