

The particular focus of the first NORTH SOUTH INTERCULTURAL FORUM is on the challenges for employment policy and employment services emerging as a consequence of inward migration.

In recent years there has been significant increase in ethnic, cultural and national diversity in the workforce in Ireland North and South, including the border region. Many migrant workers are now employed in the agri-food and tourism and in public and private sector services, including the health services. In a very short period of time these changes have created new challenges for state agencies, employers, trade unions and NGO's, including:

- Challenges for managing migration at a macro policy and at a regional level
- The monitoring and enforcement of employment law and information on rights
- The challenges of working in an intercultural workplace
- The challenges for agencies involved in recruitment and human resource management
- The challenges for all public services in seeking to respond positively to diversity

This first intercultural forum will focus on the challenges for service providers in respect of employment and inward migration in the border region in the context of recent policy developments north and south.

FORUM AGENDA

- 10.00 am Registration
- 10.15 am Introductions & Welcome
Anastasia Crickley,
Chairperson NCCRI
- 10.30 am *'The Challenges for Employment Policy and Services arising from increased Inward Migration'*

OVERVIEW AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Seán Murray,
Economic Migration Policy,
Department of Enterprise Trade
and Employment (ROI)

Tim Devine,
Head of Employment Rights Division,
Department of Employment and
Learning (NI)

SHORT INPUTS FROM

Patricia Curtin,
Assistant Director General,
Employment Services and
Social Inclusion, FÁS

Caroline McQuaid,
Manager Human Resources,
Kerry Group

Tayra McKee,
Organiser, T&GWU

Daniel Holder,
Project Manager, ANIMATE

- 11.45 am Tea and Coffee
- 12.00 pm Roundtable Discussion
- LUNCH
- 2.00 pm Forum Plenary
Identification and discussion of
key action points and good practice
including
- 3.30 pm Summary & Close

National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism



North South Intercultural Forum

25TH OCTOBER 2005

THEME:
Employment & Migration

VENUE:
Fairways Hotel,
Dundalk, Co Louth



The National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI) established the Synergy North South Intercultural Initiative to focus on building an intercultural approach into service provision with a particular focus on the border region www.nccri.ie

The Synergy initiative aims to develop strategies for the inclusion of minority ethnic groups, focusing on their participation in the planning, implementation and delivery of service provision in the border region.

To further this aim, the NCCRI/SYNERGY initiative is establishing a North South Intercultural Forum to bring together both government and non-government bodies from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland to:

- Ensure that service providers have greater understanding and positively respond to the needs of minority ethnic communities in the development and provision of key services.
- Promote partnership approaches between all sectors to meet the challenges and opportunities of increasing cultural and ethnic diversity in Ireland, North and South.
- Enhance the participation of community organisations representing minority ethnic communities in decision-making at a local level.
- Identify opportunities for cross border cooperation in service delivery.

The Intercultural Forum will be seek to develop a whole organisational approach to service delivery, focussing on:

- *Mainstreaming*
- *Targeting*
- *Benchmarking*
- *Participation*

FORUM STRUCTURE

It is envisaged that around 60-70 people will participate in each Intercultural Forum. Each Forum will have a particular theme, for example: employment, health, accommodation or education. Supporting papers and information will be available for each Forum meeting. Through a workshop structure it will facilitate as much discussion as possible with a strong emphasis on ensuring good interaction between Government and non-government bodies, including the community sector, business, trade union and farming sectors.

The Forum will seek to build on and complement existing initiatives in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and the first Forum meeting will take place on 25th October 2005 in Dundalk. Thereafter there will be three Forum meetings held each year.

A follow up report of each Forum will be produced within one month of each meeting and circulated to participants and placed on the NCCRI's website www.nccri.ie

NORTH SOUTH COOPERATION: POLICY CONTEXT

North South cooperation is reflected in both the Irish Government's National Action Plan Against Racism (NPAR) *Planning for Diversity* www.justice.ie and the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister's *Racial Equality Strategy for Northern Ireland 2005 - 2010*. www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk

The National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI) secured funding through Cooperation Ireland under the European Union's INTERREG IIIA programme to focus on building intercultural service provision in the border region and Northern Ireland. The Synergy North South Intercultural Initiative is based in Dundalk, Co. Louth. For more information on the Synergy initiative click on

www.nccri.ie/north-south.html

If you wish to participate in this event please complete and return the following details to us at:

NCCRI

**Synergy North South Intercultural Initiative,
2/3 Jocelyn Street, Dundalk, Co Louth**

or email your details to:

tinu@nccri.ie

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Organisation:

Your Role:

Organisation address:

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