



AN ROINN DLÍ AGUS CIRT AGUS COMHIONANNAIS
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Migrant Integration Strategy Monitoring and Co-ordination Committee Wednesday 31st January 2018: Atrium, St Stephen's Green

- Attendees:** Minister David Stanton T.D. (Chair, D/Justice and Equality)
Minister Charlie Flanagan, TD. (D/Justice and Equality)
Ms. Carol Baxter (D/Justice and Equality)
Ms. Úna Ni Dhubhghaill (OPMI, D/Justice and Equality)
Mr. Shane O'Connor (OPMI, D/Justice and Equality)
Ms. Alwiye Xuseyn (AkidWa)
Mr. Barnaba Dorda (ICTU)
Ms. Breda Farrell (D/Transport, Tourism and Sport) (*Standing in for Olive Walsh*)
Ms. Caitriona O'Brien (D/Education and Skills)
Sgt. Dave McInerney (An Garda Síochána)
Ms. Diane Nurse (Health Service Executive)
Ms. Fiona Ward, (D/Business, Enterprise and Innovation)
Ms. Fiona Conroy (D/Health)
Mr. Garry Boon (D/Employment Affairs and Social Protection)
Mr. Grant Couper (D/ Housing, Planning and Local Government)
Ms. Helen Lowry (Migrant Rights Centre Ireland)
Mr. Joe O'Brien (Immigrant Council of Ireland)
Mr. Kevin Clarke (INIS, D/Justice and Equality)
Ms. Leonie Kerins (Doras Luimní)
Mr. Mark Shannon (D/Public Expenditure and Reform)
Mr. Michael Keenan (D/Children and Youth Affairs) (*Standing in for Mr. John Lohan*)
Ms. Michelle Noone (Public Appointments Service)
Mr. Orla Corrigan (INIS, D/Justice and Equality)
Mr. Pablo Rojas Coppari (Migrant Rights Centre Ireland)
Mr. Paul Crowley (Central Statistics Office)
Ms. Patricia Sheehan (D/Education and Skills)
Mr. Richard King (Crosscare)
Ms. Tinu Achioya (Cultúr)
Ms. Tonya Myles (Cáirde)
- Apologies:** Mr. Paul Lemass (D/Housing, Planning and Local Government)
Mr. John Burke (D/Public Expenditure and Reform)
Ms. Sarah O'Halloran (D/Employment Affairs and Social Protection)
Mr. John Lohan (D/Children and Youth Affairs)
Mr. Nick Henderson (Irish Refugee Council)
- Absent:** Ms. Sharon Corcoran, (City and County Managers Association)
Ms. Anca Lupu (New Communities Partnership)
Mr. David Lawler (D/Defence)
Ms. Fiona Finn / Fiona Hurley (NASC)
Ms. Saoirse Brady / Hillary Harmon (Children's Rights Allowance)

1. Opening Remarks from the Chair, Welcome, and Apologies

Minister Stanton opened proceedings and welcomed his colleague the Minister for Justice and Equality to the committee meeting, reflecting on Minister Flanagan's long-standing advocacy for integration in one of Ireland's more diverse towns, Portlaoise. He also urged Committee members to work together beyond the confines of the Committee to ensure progress on the Strategy.

The Minister announced the apologies and asked Committee members who find themselves unable to attend to ensure they send a suitable deputy in their stead. The Minister stated that at the Committee was very large and there was a busy agenda to get through, so 'to-the-point' interventions would be highly appreciated.

The Minister set the scene for the day's meeting, giving a briefing recap on the last plenary meeting in October and the work that has been ongoing since, with sub-committees developing and refining indicators of success, the Minister commended the work of members, which was conducted very much in a spirit of cross-organisational cooperation.

The Minister set the scene for the meeting the theme which is a review of progress since the Strategy was launched almost a year ago on 7th February 2017. In keeping with that theme Committee members would hear from three organisations who have embraced the spirit of the strategy and are making meaningful contributions to towards its implementation in their respective areas of responsibility. The Minister welcome Dr. Rory McDaid from Marino Institute of Education, Emma Jane Clarke from Sport Ireland and Michelle Noone from the Public Appointments Service / Committee member.

Minister Stanton handed over to Minister Flanagan for his opening address.

2. Opening Remarks – Minister for Justice and Equality, Charlie Flanagan T.D.

Minister Flanagan commended the Committee on dealing with a policy area of critical importance to the current and future wellbeing of our society. The Minister's remarks focused on his insights coming from Portlaoise and the changes that have occurred there over the years. He urged the importance of cooperation across departments and social agencies to respond to the changing needs of communities like Portlaoise and others. The Minister remarked that the actions within the National Strategy were a great tool to promote and further social cohesion, but it was a living document and no one necessarily had all the answers, so the importance of this Committee was paramount and he would look forward to updates on the Committees work.

3. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes of the last meeting

The Agenda was adopted without comment.

Requests were made for corrections to the minutes regarding the listed attendees and apologies given. The minutes were adopted subject to suggested amendments being made.

4. Integration Strategy in Action – Case Studies

Minister Stanton welcomed the next speakers who have all found ways to deliver their services in a manner that targets the migrant community in a way that may not have been done previously. The Minister reflected that they serve as excellent examples for other organisations on how, with relatively modest resources, targeted interventions can make a difference.

- **Marino Institute of Education**

Dr. Rory McDaid of the Marino Institute of Education gave a presentation about the Migrant Teacher Training Programme in Marino and the progress-to-date, a project funded through the OPMI with the support of the EU Asylum Migration and Integration Fund which in its activities addresses two key pillars of integration – equal opportunities in education and employment.

- **Sport Ireland**

Emma Jane Clarke from Sport Ireland presented on the work being done in the world of sport to aid migrant integration. The vision of Sport Ireland is that sport contributes to the value of life in Ireland and sport was very much at the core of our communities with local GAA, rugby and soccer clubs in particular, being hubs for communities to gather and support each other in a healthy and enjoyable environment. Sports and healthy activities that focus on the individual can also be hugely beneficial in the area of mental and physical well-being of migrants and the marginalised.

- **Public Appointments Service**

Michelle Noone of the Public Appointments Service gave a brief overview of what is being done by the Service to address the two very specific actions (no.s 44 and 45) within the Migrant Integration Strategy and to build a public service workforce more representative of its diverse customers.

5. Review of Progress in 2017

Minister Stanton invited latest progress reports from Committee colleagues with responsibility for compiling reports on a thematic basis. As well as agreeing indicators, a key reason for convening the thematic sub-committees was to make life a little easier the main Committee, having 6 progress reports on a thematic basis is far preferable to the rather impractical alternative of going through all 76 actions, owner by owner.

- ***Progress Reports by Access to Public Services Theme (OPMI)***

Una Ní Dhubhghaill gave an update on the thematic subgroup *Access to Public Services* and thanked those members who attended for their work. Interventions from actions holders were also heard.

Mr. Grant Couper's (D/ Housing, Planning and Local Government) intervention highlighted the migration of actions under this theme to the new department (D/RCD). The Chair requested clarification on all actions that have migrated from the two Departments before the next meeting.

- ***Progress Reports by Employment & Pathways to Work Theme (OPMI)***

Shane O'Connor gave an update on the progress of the thematic subgroup *Employment & Pathways to Work*, discussing the development of the indicators and the barriers to employment explored.

- ***Progress Reports by Education Theme (D/Education and Skills)***

Caitriona O'Brien gave an update on the progress of the *Education* thematic subgroup, discussing items such as reviews underway for issues such as language provision and family learning services.

- ***Progress Reports by Active Citizenship Theme (D/Justice and Equality)***

Kevin Clarke gave an update on the progress of the thematic subgroup *Active Citizenship*, discussing items such as the review statistic review for 2017 underway and consultations with NGOs on the registration process.

- ***Progress Reports by Promoting Inter-Cultural Awareness (OPMI)***

Una Ní Dhubhghaill gave an update on the thematic subgroup *Promoting Inter-Cultural Awareness* with interventions from members on funding and complaints procedures.

6. Cross-cutting Actions – Update from OPMI

Minister Stanton invited Úna Ni Dhubhghaill to give an overview of the revised approach on the cross-cutting actions for Departments and Agencies. Úna presented on the new reporting template for cross-cutting actions, such as mainstreaming integration into their work, engaging with migrant NGOs on a regular basis, making integration a criteria for funding decisions, and training of staff on migrant entitlements etc. The reporting template is to help keep track of those specific actions requiring input from all Government Departments and monitor progress on those actions in a more effective and meaningful way than before. The possibility of creating an online version of the template will also be explored by OPMI before the next meeting.

7. Monitoring Indicators – Update and Examples

Minister Stanton invited Shane O'Connor give a presentation on the monitoring indicators. Mr. O'Connor presented the outcomes from the work of the various thematic sub-committees, which met over the course of November and December last year, to refine and improve existing indicators and devise indicators where none existed. The importance of having good monitoring indicators in place in order to show progress against targets for the delivery of actions under the Migration Strategy was emphasised.

Any further comment or amendments to these indicators were requested to be made by 12th February.

8. Schedule of Meetings

The schedule of meetings was agreed, with two further meetings proposed for 2018 in May and October. The October meeting would focus on preparations for the interim report to Government on the implementation of the Strategy. Comments on the proposed Schedule were requested to be made by 12th February.

9. & 10. Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting

No items were recorded under AOB.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to take place on 17th May 2018. The theme for this meeting will be *Promoting Inter-Cultural Awareness and Combating Racism and Xenophobia*.

Minister Stanton thanked all members for their attendance and contributions on the day. He emphasised the work that still needed to be done in some areas but noted that it was heartening to hear reports of progress being made on a number of fronts and to see a strong spirit of cooperation continuing to underpin the work of this Committee.