

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



CULTÚR MIGRANT CENTRE

JUNE 2020

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COMPANY GENERAL INFORMATION

CULTÚR

OF DIRECTORS

PROGRAMME MANAGER: TINU ACHIOYA

CHAIRMAN: JOHN O'DOWD

YEMI ADENUGA

EVANS SHIRIHURU

AOIFE MASTERSON

MARIAN CURRY

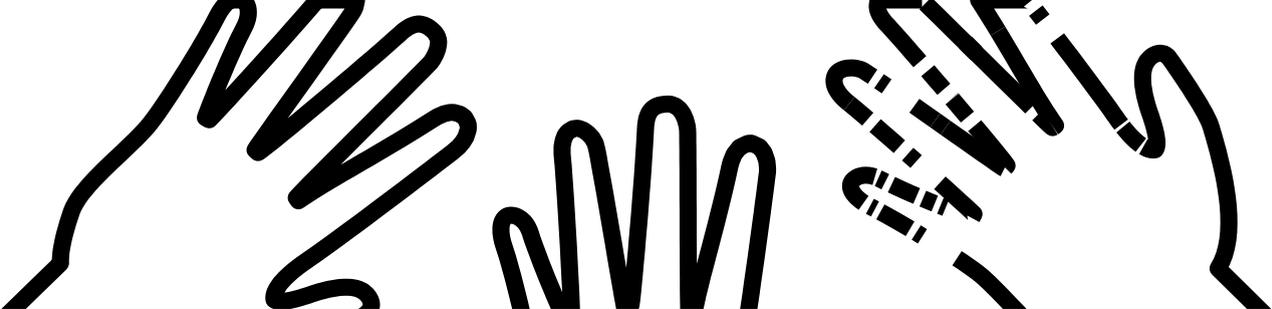
PAMELA KPADUWA

ANTON MC CABE

BERNY MCMAHON

ANNA MIELNIK

MARY COFFEY



COMPANY GENERAL INFORMATION

REGISTERED OFFICE

Address: Cultúr Migrant Centre,
Ground Floor
St Anne's Resource Centre (grounds of St. Marys Church)
Railway Street
Navan

Companies Registration Number: 9644811K

Charitable Office Number: 17691

Company Status: Company Limited by Guarantee not
having a Share Capital with Charity Status

Principal Bankers: AIB



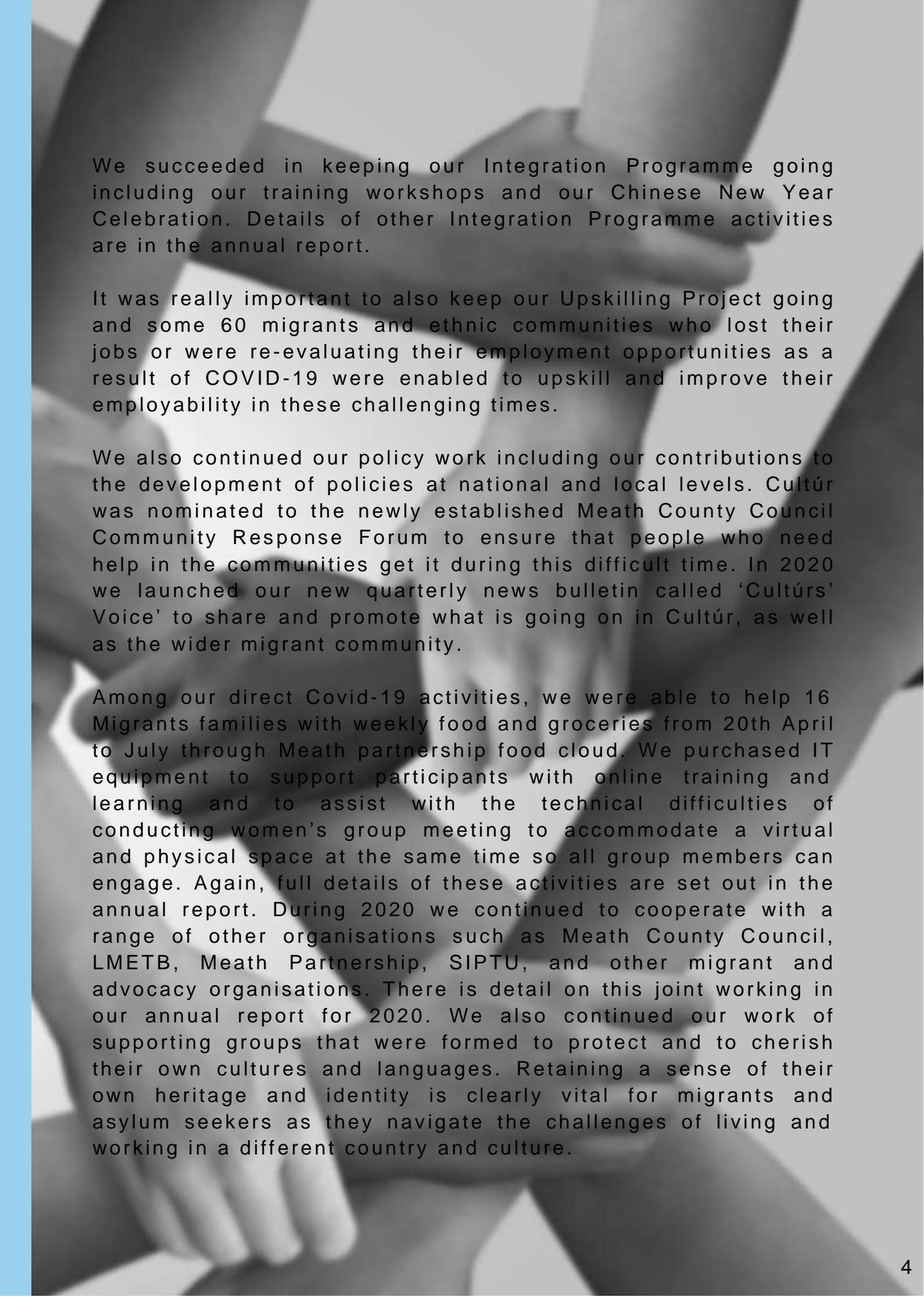
INTRODUCTION BY CHARIPERSON

Because of Covid-19, 2020 was an especially challenging year for Cultúr and its staff, volunteers, Board and those members of the migrant and asylum seeker communities whom we work with. The restrictions on movement and activities meant that we could not operate as normal from our offices in Navan. All of our activities including those through which we engaged directly with participants (such as language classes, career guidance, and specialist group meetings) had to go online. Zoom and other online meetings became the order of the day.

Keeping our language classes and other activities going was vital during 2020 because achieving independence and being able to live with dignity, whether alone or with a family, requires migrants to learn a new language, new ways of doing things, and in many cases new skills.

Our 2020 activities were essential if we were to continue to work with and to support migrants and asylum seekers. There is no question but our staff and volunteers rose heroically to this challenge and quickly became expert in the use of the new 'remote' technologies such as Zoom, Google Meet and so on.

The list of activities that we engaged in bears this out, as can be seen from the 2020 annual report. The lifeblood of our organisation is our volunteers and I would like to thank Deirdre Dowling and three of her friends from Moynalvey who held a virtual 10km a day x 4days, 120km marathon and raised €2,172 funds for Cultúr in July.



We succeeded in keeping our Integration Programme going including our training workshops and our Chinese New Year Celebration. Details of other Integration Programme activities are in the annual report.

It was really important to also keep our Upskilling Project going and some 60 migrants and ethnic communities who lost their jobs or were re-evaluating their employment opportunities as a result of COVID-19 were enabled to upskill and improve their employability in these challenging times.

We also continued our policy work including our contributions to the development of policies at national and local levels. Cultúr was nominated to the newly established Meath County Council Community Response Forum to ensure that people who need help in the communities get it during this difficult time. In 2020 we launched our new quarterly news bulletin called 'Cultúrs' Voice' to share and promote what is going on in Cultúr, as well as the wider migrant community.

Among our direct Covid-19 activities, we were able to help 16 Migrants families with weekly food and groceries from 20th April to July through Meath partnership food cloud. We purchased IT equipment to support participants with online training and learning and to assist with the technical difficulties of conducting women's group meeting to accommodate a virtual and physical space at the same time so all group members can engage. Again, full details of these activities are set out in the annual report. During 2020 we continued to cooperate with a range of other organisations such as Meath County Council, LMETB, Meath Partnership, SIPTU, and other migrant and advocacy organisations. There is detail on this joint working in our annual report for 2020. We also continued our work of supporting groups that were formed to protect and to cherish their own cultures and languages. Retaining a sense of their own heritage and identity is clearly vital for migrants and asylum seekers as they navigate the challenges of living and working in a different country and culture.



Cultúr has always recognised this in its goal of ‘celebrating diversity’. Details of these activities are also set out in this annual report. As Chairperson I would like to commend you to read this report to see the scope and depth of work that Cultúr carries out each year with the minimal level of funding available to it from the State. I would like to sincerely thank our funders from statutory and voluntary sectors. Without their trust in our work, we would not be able to keep going from year to year. I would also like to thank all of the organisations with which we have worked in partnership over the past year.

Lastly, and most importantly I would like to thank the ‘Cultúr community’ - the voluntary Board, our Project Manager and staff, and the interns and volunteers who work so hard and with such commitment to that work.

John O’Dowd
Chairperson.

OUR ORGANISATION

Cultúr Migrant Centre is a community organisation based in Navan, Co. Meath working with ethnic minorities including migrants, asylum seekers and refugees

01

VISION

An equal and intercultural Co. Meath where ethnic minorities and their families are included and respected

02

MISSION

To promote the empowerment, participation, self-determination and rights of ethnic minorities who experience or are at risk of poverty, social exclusion and racism

03

BELIEFS

We believe that by working together in solidarity with ethnic minorities and others we can achieve real social change

OUR REACH



In 2020, we supported people from fifty four nationalities

OUR REACH

The image features two stylized human figures in yellow, positioned on either side of a central blue heart. The figures are simplified, with rounded heads and broad, open arms that appear to be holding the heart. The heart is a light blue color and is the central focus of the graphic. The background is white, and the overall design is clean and modern.

WE SUPPORTED

435

migrants, asylum seekers and refugees who felt isolated during the lockdown were supported through online virtual platforms



95% of our
participants
their Cambridge

Information based on 143 participants since January 2020



**ACROSS OUR EVENTS AND
CLASSES WE FACILITATED
OVER 1220 PEOPLE**

We **trained 10** migrant peers
to facilitate a practical
approach to racism course
and delivered it to **80**
students across two schools



The background of the page features white silhouettes of a family—a man, a woman, and two children—holding their hands to form a triangular shape that resembles a house. The entire scene is set against a solid light blue background.

**We supported eight families
in moving out of Direct
Provision into independent
living**

We delivered Cultural Competency
Training to 80 people across
An Garda Siochana ,Tusla,
as well as to foster parents





74 people attended our Navan Women's Group Meetings (AMIF) in 2020

A black and white photograph of a person's hands holding a small, spiral-bound notepad. The notepad has the words "WE ARE EQUAL!" written in large, bold, capital letters. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a crowd of people, possibly at a protest or rally. The image is set against a light blue background that transitions into a white area below.

WE
ARE
EQUAL!

VALUES AND PRINCIPALS

A commitment to working towards an anti-racist and **intercultural society**

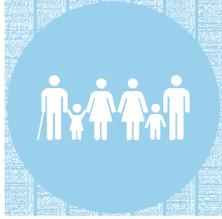
A focus on an **equality framework** which is anti-racist, anti-sexist, with a class analysis and promotes the social inclusion of ethnic minorities.

An emphasis on a **community work approach** to our work

A commitment to the **empowerment** and participation of ethnic minorities.

A capacity and willingness to **working in solidarity** with others seeking to promote the rights of ethnic minorities through a shared vision and ethos

OUR AIMS



COMMUNITY WORK

To use a community work approach to engage with and empower ethnic minorities in Co. Meath, building participation and collective action, supporting ethnic minorities as agents for social change on issues identified by ethnic minorities themselves



POLICY WORK

To use a human rights framework to ensure ethnic minorities are aware of and can exercise their rights as equal members of the community and that duty bearers are made aware of their responsibilities in this regard



HUMAN RIGHTS

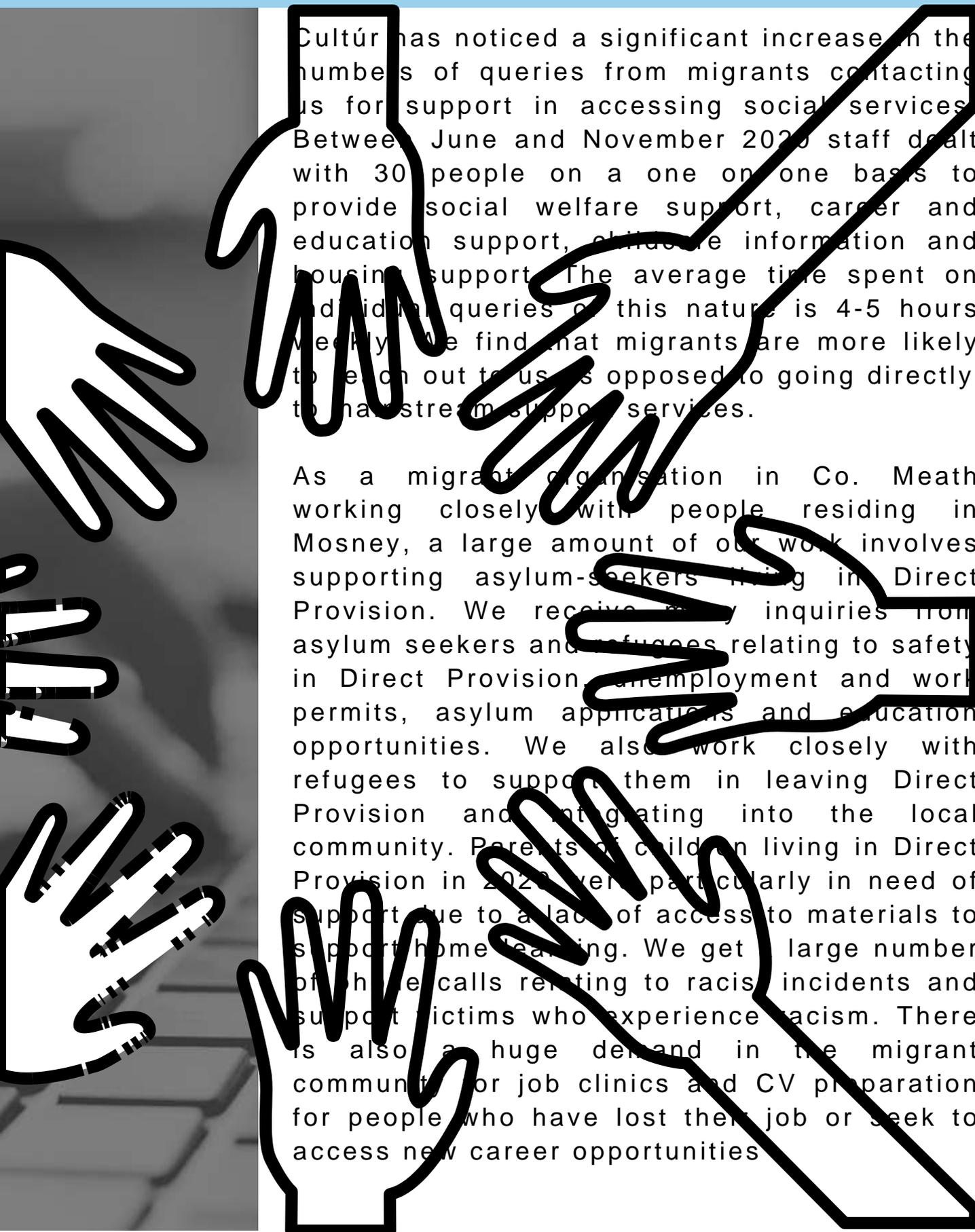
To influence and contribute to policy development on issues affecting ethnic minorities, facilitating their equal participation and representation in order to address their needs and interests



ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

To continue to develop Cultúr as a valued local community work organisation that has resources, structures and policies to achieve its aims and is accountable to all its stakeholders

INFORMATION SERVICES



Cultúr has noticed a significant increase in the numbers of queries from migrants contacting us for support in accessing social services. Between June and November 2023 staff dealt with 30 people on a one on one basis to provide social welfare support, career and education support, childcare information and housing support. The average time spent on individual queries of this nature is 4-5 hours weekly. We find that migrants are more likely to reach out to us as opposed to going directly to mainstream support services.

As a migrant organisation in Co. Meath working closely with people residing in Mosney, a large amount of our work involves supporting asylum-seekers living in Direct Provision. We receive many inquiries from asylum seekers and refugees relating to safety in Direct Provision, employment and work permits, asylum applications and education opportunities. We also work closely with refugees to support them in leaving Direct Provision and integrating into the local community. Parents of children living in Direct Provision in 2023 were particularly in need of support due to a lack of access to materials to support home learning. We get a large number of phone calls relating to racist incidents and support victims who experience racism. There is also a huge demand in the migrant community for job clinics and CV preparation for people who have lost their job or seek to access new career opportunities.

MEET THE TEAM

Cultúr Migrant Centre is staffed by - four staff, three CEE workers, two student placement workers and twelve volunteers



TINU ACHIOYA
Programme Manager



**REUBEN
HAMBAKACHERE**
Integration Project Officer



PAULINE POOLE
Community Worker



JOANNA FITZSIMONS
Project Worker

MEET THE TEAM



JOANNA CIBOR OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

SHOLA YAHYA OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

KATEY TOLAN VOLUNTEER POLICY OFFICER

EVA STUDENT PLACEMENT

JOHN WALLACE JUMP PROJECT TUTOR

BREDA HAYES JUMP PROJECT TUTOR

PAUL ROONEY JUMP PROJECT TUTOR

THERESA MARTIN JUMP PROJECT TUTOR

LINDA LAFFERTY CCE VOLUNTEER TUTOR

EDMUND CARRIGAN CCE VOLUNTEER TUTOR

BOB LEE CCE VOLUNTEER TUTOR

PATRICK MURRAY CCE VOLUNTEER TUTOR

TOM FLANAGAN CCE VOLUNTEER TUTOR

PATRICK CONNAUGHTON CCE VOLUNTEER TUTOR

SEHAR RAFAQAT CCE VOLUNTEER TUTOR

ZKRIAT SADIQ VOLUNTEER

SAHEED IBRAHIM VOLUNTEER

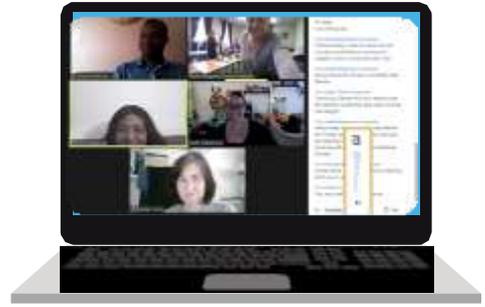
SUE MEDIRION VOLUNTEER

SHAHZAD OBAIDULLAH VOLUNTEER

SORCHA DOWLING VOLUNTEER

SIAN ABRAHAM LONG COMMUNICATIONS VOLUNTEER

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

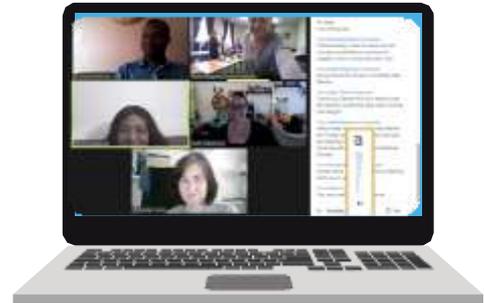


Cultúr Migrant Centre is a registered charity managed and governed by a board of directors. Our work is informed by a strategic plan and the Directors oversee the governance and the strategic direction of the organisation.

The Board continues to meet on a regular basis to oversee and implement the organisation's strategic plan. In 2020, the Board met eight times. It held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in July 2020 in person and virtually on Zoom. Our annual report and accounts were submitted to the charity's regulator for 2019 in 2020 in line with our obligations as a registered charity

The project manager is responsible for the day to day management of the organisation. The project manager oversees the staff, volunteers, projects and the implementation of the strategic plan in the form of annual work plans approved by the Board which are in line with internal policies and procedures. All internal policies and procedures are under the direction of the Board of Management

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



THERE ARE TEN BOARD MEMBERS. THE BOARD OPERATES FOUR SUB GROUPS, WHICH ASSIST IT TO CARRY OUT ITS GOVERNANCE FUNCTION

FINANCE

Oversees the financial management of the organisation

HR & INTERNAL POLICY

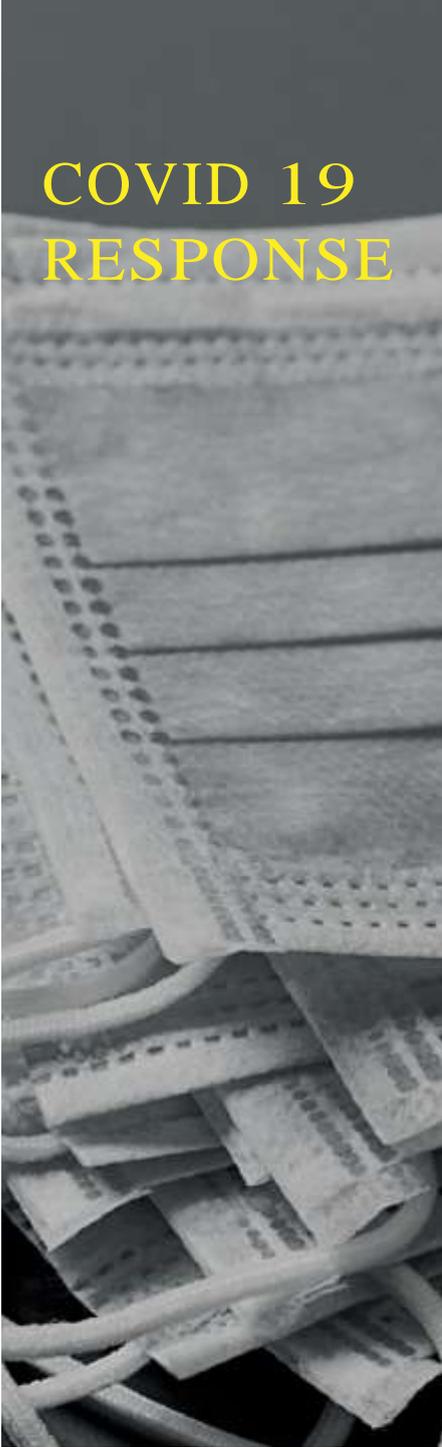
Deals with HR and staffing matters and internal policies

GOVERNANCE

Oversees compliance with legislation and codes. Oversees governance codes

FUNDRAISING

Raised some funds in 2020 to support the current work we do. Continues to dedicate time to the sustainability of our future



COVID 19 RESPONSE

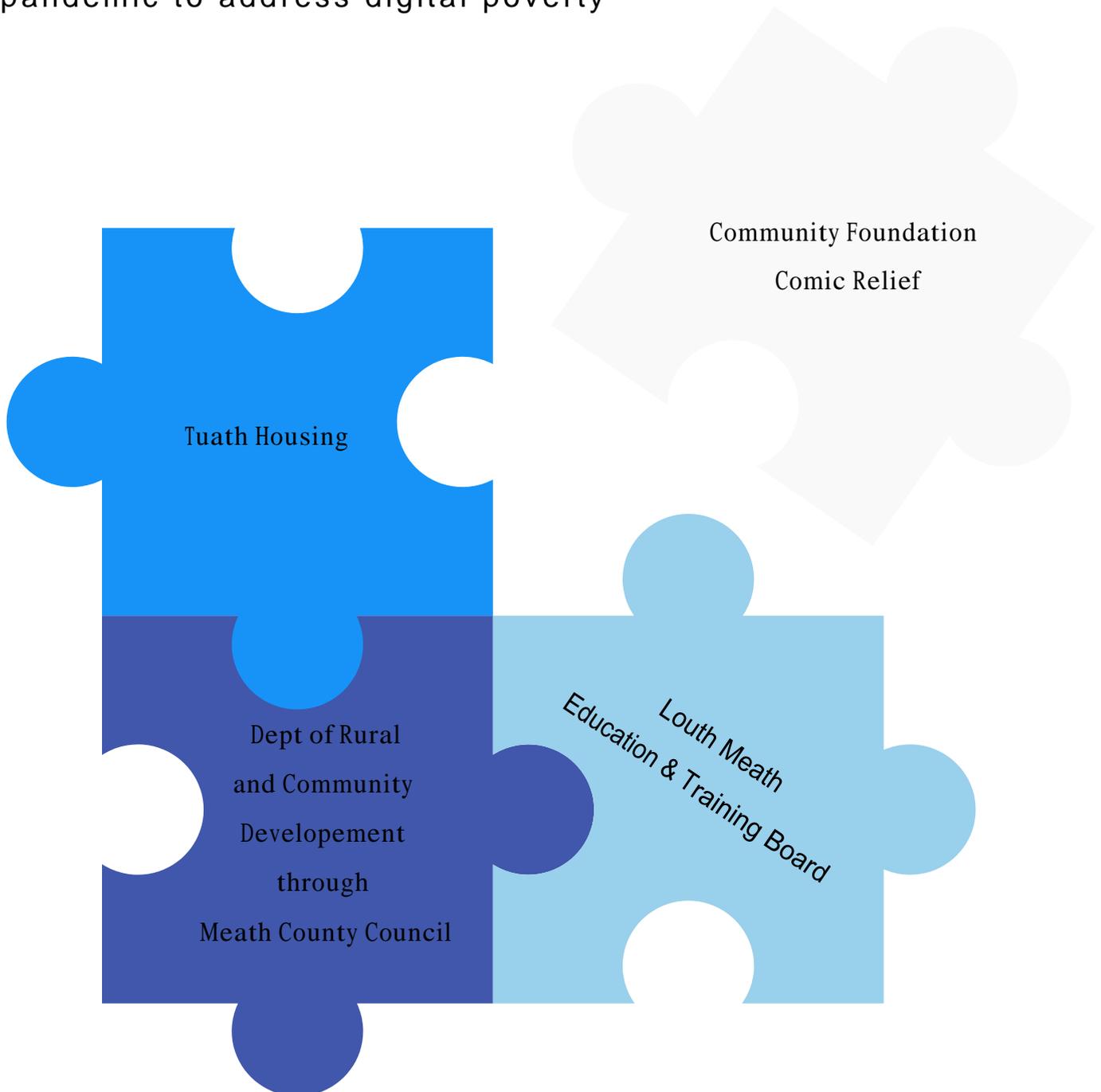
The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated a change in the way we work at Cultúr in the year 2020

"Our office is a focal point of the migrant community, a place where they can link in with other migrants, receive language supports, ask questions and obtain information, celebrate cultural events and pursue career development."

Our office is a focal point of the migrant community, a place where they can link in with other migrants, receive language supports, ask questions and obtain information, celebrate cultural events and pursue career development. It saddened us greatly to have to begin working from home in March but the team adapted quickly to ensure we remained connected to our clients and were able to support them working remotely.

COVID 19 RESPONSE

To aid us in our work, we received grants from the following organisation to purchase IT equipment, mobile top-ups, sanitisers, masks etc to provide to migrants including asylum seekers and refugees during the pandemic to address digital poverty



SNAPSHOT OF OUR COVID RESPONSE

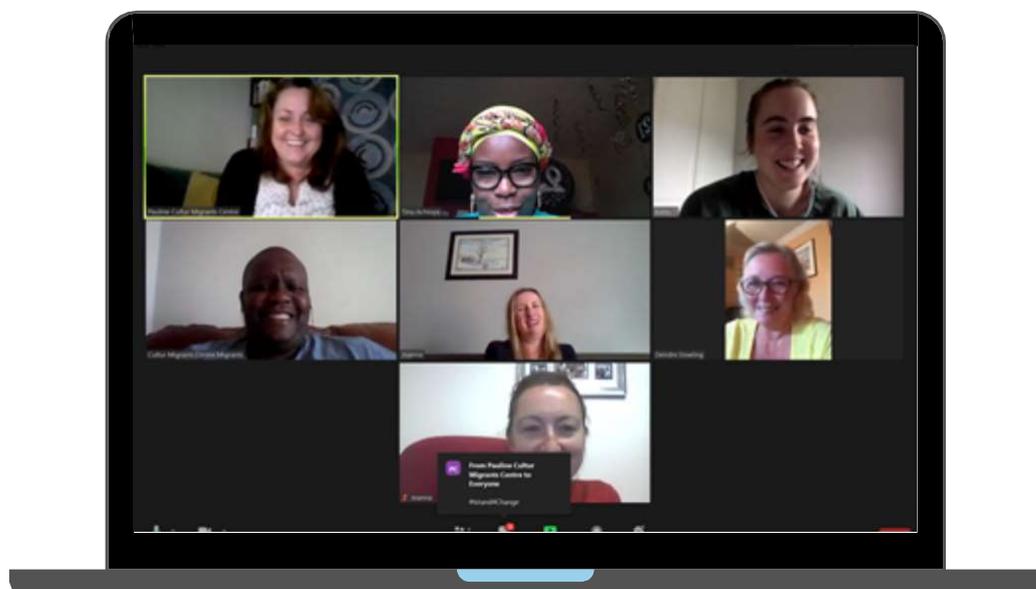


Our language classes, Migrants Forum and Women's Group moved online to Zoom for the majority of 2020, although we were able to facilitate social distanced small groups when there were no restrictions.

All staff, tutors and volunteers had Zoom training. All staff had a G Suite training with Google on the 7th of October 2020 and availed of free training delivered by Deloitte Ireland as part of their Impact Week programme from the 19th – 22nd of October 2020.

Coffee morning held fortnightly to support staff wellbeing during lockdown periods.

Zoom check ins and team meetings take place with all staff members weekly.



SNAPSHOT OF OUR COVID RESPONSE

FACILITATION



REMOTE SUPPORT

RESPONSE FORUM

ZOOM TRAINING

ACREDITED
TRAINING

LOCAL OUTREACH

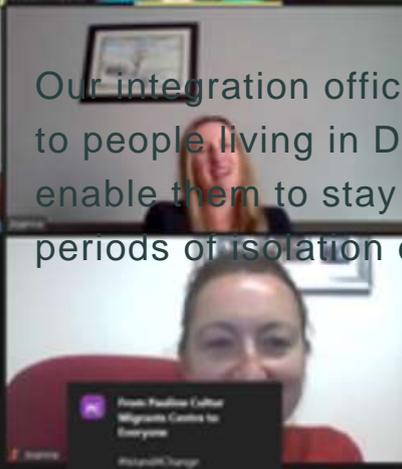
UPSKILLING

REMOTE SUPPORT

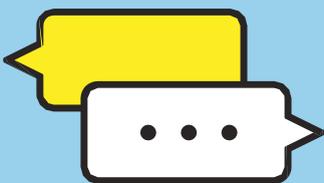
All support services delivered via Zoom, Phone, Whatsapp and Facebook



Our integration officer gave Zoom training to people living in Direct Provision to enable them to stay connected during periods of isolation during lockdown.



RESPONSE FORUM



We joined the Meath County Council Community Response forum to ensure that people who needed help in the local community were supported during the COVID-19 pandemic



FACILITATION

We identified and facilitated 16 migrant families receiving food and groceries weekly from the 20th of April until July through Meath Partnership Food Cloud.

LOCAL OUTREACH



We collaborated with St Vincent De Paul and Irish Red Cross , Meath County Council, Meath Partnership and ethnic led local shops regarding support for basic needs of vulnerable migrants including undocumented people not receiving supports in Co. Meath during COVID-19.

IMPACT SURVEY



Designed and shared two COVID-19 needs assessment/ impact survey to assess our participant's needs and how COVID-19 has impacted them. Over 80 responses in total so far. We will be publishing a report on this in 2021.

OUR FUNDERS

Saint Stephens Green Trust

Asylum Migration and Integration Funds

St Columban Missionaries

Department of Justice

European Social Funds

Meath County Council

Tuath Housing

LMETB

Tulsa

Rethink Ireland

Community Foundation of Ireland

FUNDRAISING



Cultúr made changes to its website in 2020 to better facilitate donations. People can now donate to Cultúr through our donate button, by cheque or by standing order. In 2020, two individuals raised funds for Cultúr. We would like to thank those who donated funds to our organisation in 2020 and we would especially like to thank our fundraisers for raising awareness of Cultúr among the local population

FUNDRAISING



MARATHON

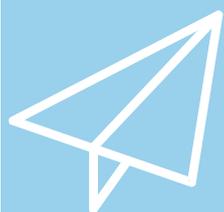
Deirdre Dowling, Theresa Maguire, Trish Kelly and Breeda Moran from Moynalvey ran a Marathon each over the course of four days and raised 2'172 euro for us in July



TWIN LOOPS

Our chairman John O'Dowd also raised 1863.63 euro for Cultúr by completing the Twin Loops Challenge which saw him cycling through many scenic spots in the Boyne Valley

PUBLICITY

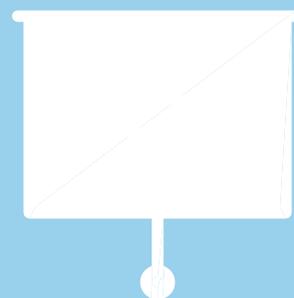


NEWS BULLETIN LAUNCH

Cultúr launched our new Quarterly News Bulletin “Cultúr’s Voice” to share and promote what is going on in Cultúr as well as the wider migrant community

ERASMUS PROJECT

In partnership with an ERASMUS project supporting refugees and new communities to set up their own businesses, we designed and presented an introduction video that was used on an online platform in six EU countries



CORE IRELAND MAGAZINE

Cultúr was featured in Core Ireland’s Summer Magazine

PUBLICITY



MEATH CHRONICLE

We were featured in the Meath Chronicle on the 21st of June 2020 speaking about our anti-racism event



MEATH DAILY TV

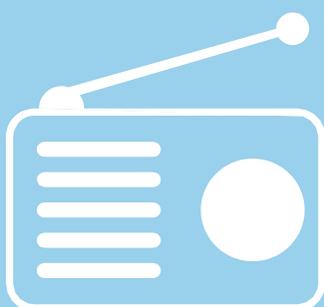
Meath Daily TV covered our anti-racism campaign

CORE IRELAND MAGAZINE

Contributed to the article "Race for Equality" published in the Daily Star on the 10/07/2020



PUBLICITY

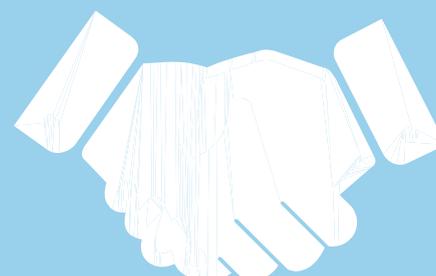


LMFM RADIO

We were on LMFM twice during 2020. Deirdre Dowling was on to speak about her fundraising efforts and spread awareness about Cultúr as a migrant organisation. Reuben was featured also

PARTNERSHIP WITH TUSLA

We developed a migrant leaflet in partnership with TULSA “Welcome To County Meath



SOCIAL MEDIA

In 2020, Cultúr has significantly increased our social media following by posting more regularly on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We ran two very successful social media campaigns in advance of our Anti-Racism event and our Human Rights Day event



OUR EVENTS

Engagements per Post



CHINESE NEW YEAR



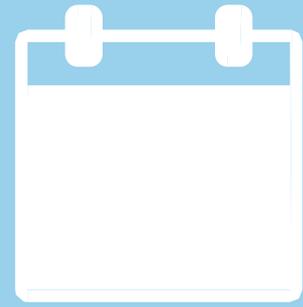
On the 29th of January we hosted a Chinese New Year Event in our office. 2020 was the year of the Rat. This event was organised to highlight and raise awareness of traditional Asian Culture and to celebrate Chinese New Year with the Asian community in our local community. Over 30 people attended the event which centred around Asian food and culture. We also learned how to say a few words in Chinese

ANTI RACISM CAMPAIGN

In June, Cultúr launched an anti-racism campaign that involved a social media show of solidarity from individuals and partner organisations. People shared their pictures with us with #DontBeABystander #IStandWCulturAgainstRacism. The aim of this campaign was to spread awareness of racism and to promote our anti-racism event which was held on the 26th of June. We were especially delighted with the response from young people who sent in sixteen very creative posters. Our campaign reached over 978 people on Facebook and more on Twitter and Instagram.

OUR EVENTS

Engagements per Post



ANTI RACISM EVENT



We hosted our anti-racism event “Hear Our Voices, Racism is Our Experience”. The event was our first virtual event and was very successful with 42 people attending. Guest speakers included personal testimonies from individuals who have experienced racism as well as contributions from Facebook and An Garda Síochána.

AFRICAN LIVES MATTER VIRTUAL PROTEST



In collaboration with Afro in Diaspora Center and organisations in Cavan, Donegal, Monaghan, Dublin and Cork we hosted an African Lives Matters virtual protest. The aim of the event was to start a conversational dialogue platform to influence policy to address racism, injustice and police brutality. This was organised in response to the killing of George Floyd in America. 43 people attended this event.

OUR EVENTS

Engagements per Post



Save Our Children Black Mothers Campaign

Dr. KesienaEben...	Sophie Okpara	Seunfunmi	Caroyn Solanke	SamuelOjelabi
Lauralleogben	Sola Mobolaji	FergusO'Dowd	JoanneHession	Sharon Okobi
Reuben Hambak...	FELISPEAKS	Nick Park	Bashir Otukoya	Flora Okobi
	Flora Okobi	Ted Leddy		

Cultúr organised an event with four other black mothers to try and stamp out racism in Ireland and make the country more inclusive for their children. The event was organised in partnership with Cllr Yemi Adenuga, Evelyn Nomayo, CEO of Phase Innovate, Flora Okobi, Project Manager for Culture Connect in Louth, Toluwani Akaehomen and CEO of HerGenuity Africa and Kilkenny. The campaign was covered in detail by the Irish Mirror. 130 people attended the event on the 9th of June 2020.

OUR EVENTS



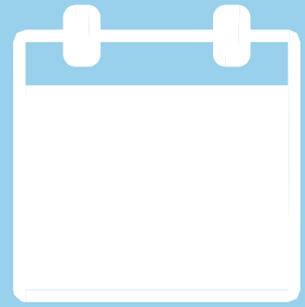
Human Rights Day Campaign

Cultúr ran a four week Human Rights Day campaign in advance of our Human Rights Day event. We posted every week on our social media channels highlighting a different aspect of human rights. Our theme was "From Crisis to Compassion: Recover Better". COVID-19 has exposed many structural inequalities and human rights failures. Our campaign focused on four key rights; Children's Rights, Migrant Rights & Direct Provision, Women's Rights and Climate Change. We discussed different elements of these rights and how they're been impacted by COVID-19. Our aim was to shed light on how we can "recover better" from the pandemic and ensure human rights are the focal point of our recovery efforts. We had Conn McCarrick, United Nations Youth Delegate for Ireland speak to us about children's rights in a video we shared on social media. Our campaign reached over 1000 people through Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and through our website

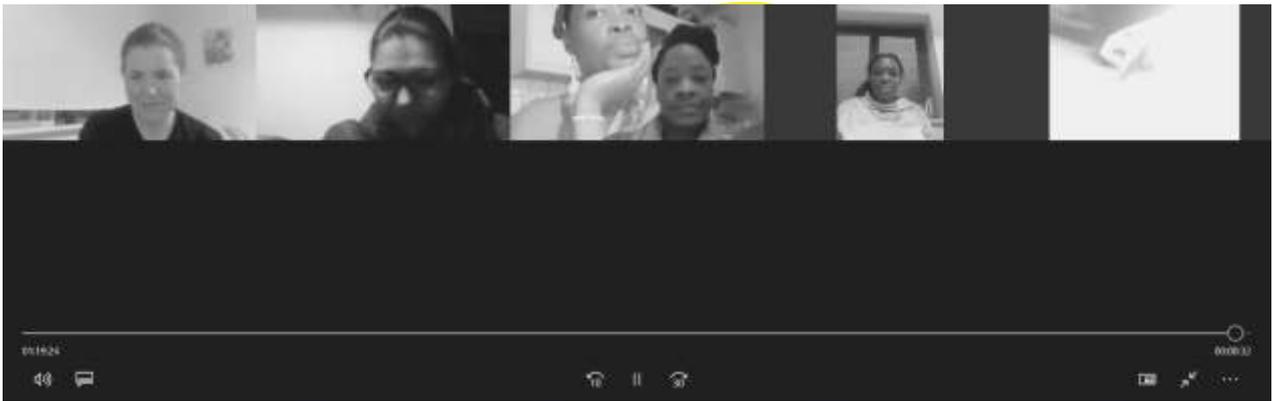


OUR EVENTS

Engagements per Post



HUMAN RIGHTS DAY EVENT



On the 10th of December 2020, we hosted our Human Rights Day event virtually on Zoom. 30 people were in attendance. The event saw discussions on women's rights, children's rights, migrant rights and climate change. Guest speakers Catherine Lane from the National Women's Council of Ireland, Joanna Ozarska from SIPTU Workers Rights, Percy Mpofu who spoke about Migrants Rights living in Direct Provision and Bernie Kiernan from Meath Women's Refuge.

OUR PROJECTS

Social Connection and Inclusion Project (SCIP)

The aim of the SCIP project is to increase the capacity of asylum seekers, refugees and TCNs in accessing employment opportunities, training and education and improve their employability by focusing on developing skills. Its other purpose is to increase the capacity of migrant leaders to engage in the local community and participate in civic activities and local community participatory forums in their towns and counties



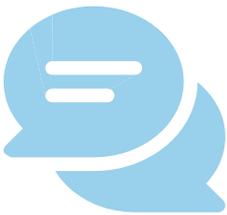
OUR PROJECTS

Social Connection and Inclusion Project



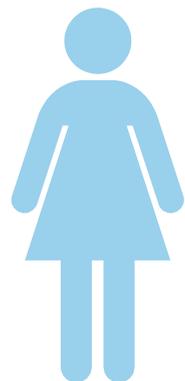
READY FOR LIFE SKILLS

Delivered 1 Ready for Life Skills QQI level 3 course to 15 participants.



MEATH MIGRANT FORUM

Facilitated the Meath Migrant Forum which creates channels of participation by which members can stimulate dialogue, discuss matters affecting their community and influence policy and change. The group met four times in 2020



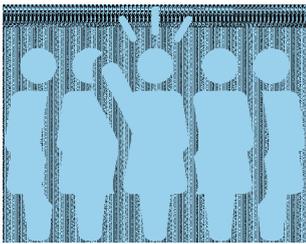
NAVAN WOMENS GROUP

Facilitated the Navan's Women's Group which consists of various activities, training, guest speakers and discussions. The aim of the group is to develop friendships and connections between migrant women and also women from the local community. Another key aim of the group is personal development and capacity building. In 2020, the group participated in a cookery course, celebrated International Women's Day, had a spa day workshop, made Christmas cards and completed a fascinator workshop

OUR PROJECTS

Social Connection and Inclusion Project

COMMUNITY LEADERS GROUP

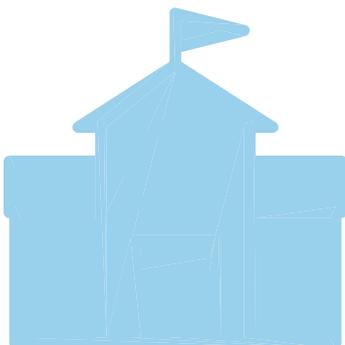


Established and facilitated Community Leaders Group forum which allows other groups and organisations to link in with one another, share expertise and develop capacity, especially among migrant groups



ANTI RACISM EVENT

Launched an online anti-racism campaign “Don’t Be A Bystander” and held an anti-racism event “Hear Our Voices Racism is Our Experience”.

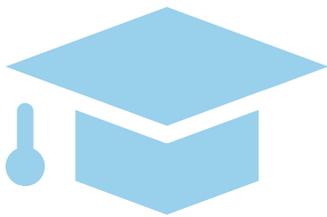


ANTI RACISM WORKSHOPS IN SCHOOLS

Delivered integration and anti-racism workshops in a secondary school in Ashbourne to 27 students and teachers

OUR PROJECTS

Social Connection and Inclusion Project



ANTI RACISM WORKSHOPS AT THIRD LEVEL

Delivered integration and anti-racism workshop to 7 applied social studies QQI level 5 students from LMETB and 25 students from the University of Dublin Blanchardstown



REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

Identified three refugee sponsors and informed them about the project and the supports available.



CULTURAL COMPETANCY TRAINING

Held virtual cultural competency training for eight service providers and community organisations. Also delivered multiple cultural competency training to members of An Garda Siochana in Meath

OUR PROJECTS

Social Connection and Inclusion Project



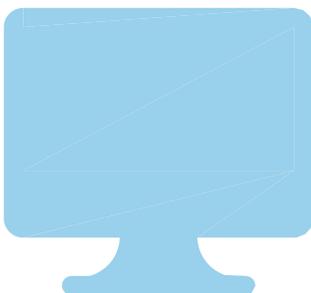
NEEDS ASSESMENT SURVEY

Created a survey to assess the current needs of people at the transition stage from direct provision to independent living



CATHERINE DAY REPORT

Supported two migrant women to participate in the IHREC strategic meeting on the Catherine Day report



REMOTE LEARNING SUPPORT

Secured funding to support remote learning for 8 participants during COVID-19.

OUR PROJECTS

Social Connection and Inclusion Project



SUPPORTING REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP GROUP

Attended meetings to support the development of a new Refugee sponsorship group in Navan that was recently established

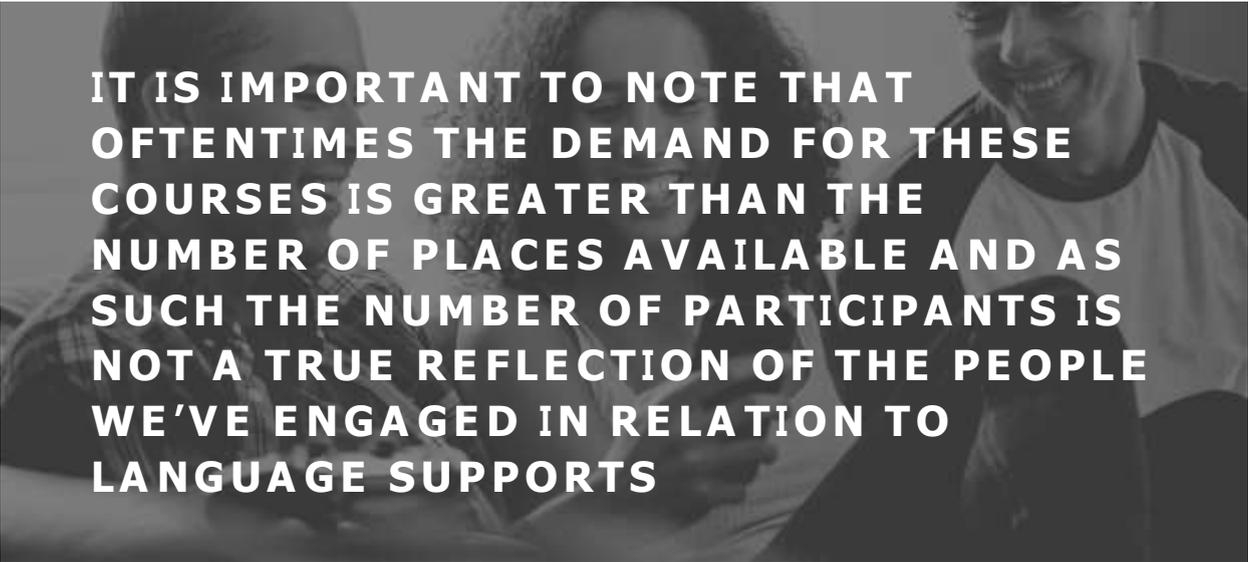


INCLUSION WORKSHOPS

-Supported the participation of TCN's in a social inclusion workshop organised in partnership with IADT, which 27 people attended.

OUR PROJECTS

Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) & Cultur Conversational English (CCE) Classes



IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT OFTENTIMES THE DEMAND FOR THESE COURSES IS GREATER THAN THE NUMBER OF PLACES AVAILABLE AND AS SUCH THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IS NOT A TRUE REFLECTION OF THE PEOPLE WE'VE ENGAGED IN RELATION TO LANGUAGE SUPPORTS

One of our biggest areas of work is supporting the migrant community in improving their English language skills. We receive funding to do so under PEIL and are supported by LMETB, volunteers and tutors. To date, the PEIL Jump Project has had 615 participants overall, with 63 new participants joining in 2020. In 2020 we delivered 7 Accredited English Courses and have also facilitated four English for Work courses funded by LMETB. Overall in 2020, 128 migrants participated in Accredited English Classes and 40 migrants participated in the English for Work courses. It is important to note that oftentimes the demand for these courses is greater than the number of places available and as such the number of participants is not a true reflection of the people we've engaged in relation to language supports. In 2020 we had over 80 people on waiting lists for English language supports.

OUR PROJECTS

Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) & Cultur Conversational English (CCE) Classes

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, classes had to be moved online and participants received Zoom training in order to be able to participate. There have been delays in examinations due to the restrictions and our coordinator has ensured participants are up to date on developments on this front. Many migrants reported a loss of English language skills due to the pandemic as they were not out and about in the English speaking community as much as they usual are resulting in less avenues to practice. We encouraged migrants wanting to engage in more conversation to participate in our Cultur Conversational English (CCE) Classes online.

Our CCE classes are designed to assist migrants with little or no English or with basic English to converse and interact with others in the community. These classes also help learners to progress onto our other accredited Cambridge classes. Between January and March, we facilitated 11 classes with 46 students and 6 tutors. By the end of March, 29 students had completed the class. There was a break in classes from April to mid May while we organised a move to virtual classes due to the COVID-19 restrictions. From May to June we held 17 classes online. For the majority of the month of October we were able to host classes in person socially distanced but we resumed online classes in November and December. For this winter period there were 28 participants registered and 18 participants completed the class.

OUR PROJECTS

Rising Strong- Online Resilience Training

In 2020 we ran an online resilience coaching programme that was attended by 9 women. The purpose of this training was to provide mental health support and wellbeing advice during the pandemic. It focused on how we can overcome stress and anxiety during COVID-19. The training was held online.





The Upskilling Project is designed to provide training support to migrants in order to improve their employability and job-related skills. The project is designed to facilitate 60 migrants in non-accredited soft skills training to build self-esteem and confidence before proceeding on to accredited courses. This project started in September 2020 and is currently still ongoing. So far we have 133 participants registered and 25 of these have completed their courses successful, while some are still completing their courses. Below is a breakdown of the course enrolment details.

The SNA (Special Needs Assistant) Course was run from 2nd November 2020 to 14th December 2020. This course was accredited QQI Level 5. The participants will receive their certificate in April/ May 2021.

The Security Training took place in December 2020 for 21 days online. The first day for registration and induction and the last day for the exam took place in the training centre. 13 participants finished and received their certificate and are now waiting for their PSA (security licence)

We are now preparing to start the Care Skills and Care for the Elderly and the Forklift training in February. We are also working on designing other courses related to retail and health and safety.

OUR PROJECTS

THE UPSKILLING PROJECT



70

people were on our
course waiting lists
over 2020



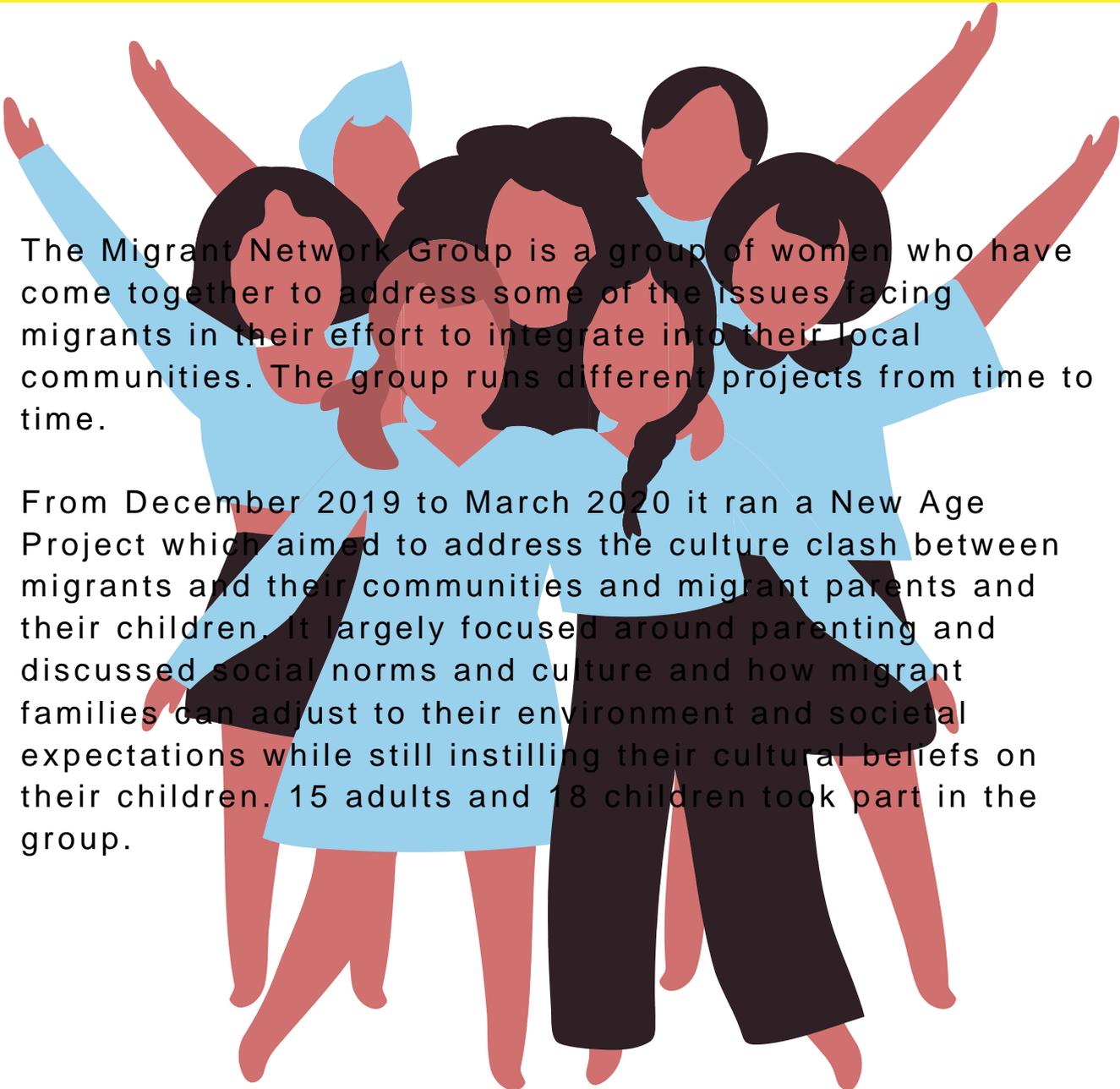
33

enrolled themselves
in Upskilling courses



OUR PROJECTS

MIGRANT NETWORK GROUP



The Migrant Network Group is a group of women who have come together to address some of the issues facing migrants in their effort to integrate into their local communities. The group runs different projects from time to time.

From December 2019 to March 2020 it ran a New Age Project which aimed to address the culture clash between migrants and their communities and migrant parents and their children. It largely focused around parenting and discussed social norms and culture and how migrant families can adjust to their environment and societal expectations while still instilling their cultural beliefs on their children. 15 adults and 18 children took part in the group.



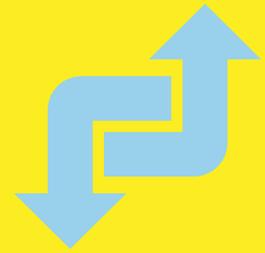
POLICY WORK

CULTÚR IS HEAVILY INVOLVED IN COUNTY MEATH IN TERMS OF INFLUENCING POLICY AS IT CONCERNS MIGRANTS

Cultúr is heavily involved in County Meath in terms of influencing policy as it concerns migrants. We are members of various committees and groups including; the Migrant Integration Strategy Monitoring & Coordination Committee, the Meath Intercultural Network, the Joint Louth/ Meath Migrant Integration Forum, the Public Participation Network, Meath County Council Community Response Forum and the Meath Joint Policing Committee.

We work closely with Meath County Council, Meath Partnership, SIPTU and other local organisation in terms of representing the migrant voice in policy arenas.

POLICY WORK



Contributed to the Migrant Integration Strategy Monitoring and Co-ordination Committee

Attending the inaugural meeting of the Joint Louth/ Meath Migrant Integration Forum

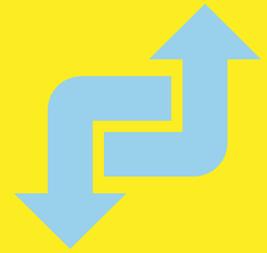
Joined the Meath County Council Community Response forum to ensure that people who needed help in the local community were supported during the COVID-19 pandemic

Joined a group of 40 organisations that submitted a joint letter to the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) regarding an increase in Direct Provision weekly allowance (considering lockdown circumstances). This was refused but we are still pushing

Wrote a letter to local TD Damien English on the effect of COVID-19 on migrants and the changes that need to be made upon the formation of the new government

Organised a teleconference meeting in partnership with MASI, IRC, NASC to discuss and address increase cases in Direct Provision centres. HSE officials and Joe Barry, TCD academic seconded to the HSE were in attendance

POLICY WORK



Made oral and written submissions to the Catherine Day Advisory Group on the Provision of Support including Accommodation to Persons in the International Protection Process. The report was published on the 21st of October 2020. We released a statement in response of the publication of the report calling for the recommendations to be implemented. The government's white paper on the issue has been delayed but is expected to be published in Spring of 2021. We will continue to call on the government to implement the report in full and particularly will be emphasising the need for own door accommodation and the need to move away from the for-profit model

We participated in integration and migrant-led conferences throughout the year

Culúr raised a query to IPAS Justice department about our findings in San Giovanni house for asylum seekers in Slane. Residents concerned about getting sick because the accommodation does not allow for social distancing. A spot check was carried out and issue was resolved.

THANK YOU

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our funders, our members, our Programme Manager, Tinu Achioya, our staff and our board as well as all of those who supported us or donated in 2020. Our work is not possible without you.

2020 was a difficult year for everyone, especially for those living in direct provision or precarious conditions. Your support has meant that we have been able to reshape how we work to support those most isolated during the pandemic.

Cultúr looks forward to seeing what can be achieved in 2021. We continue to work towards an accepting and diverse county Meath with your help.

If you would like to donate to Cultúr Migrant Centre, you can do so by visiting our website at **www.cultur.ie**

Keep up to date with our work by following us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

This report was written by Katey Tolan, created and designed by Sian Abraham Long and edited by Tinu Achioya

