

NEW INSIGHTS ON MIGRANT INTEGRATION IN IRELAND

30 March 2023

Conference Brochure



#EMNireland #MigrantIntegration



About the conference

Integration allows migrants to contribute to Ireland's economic, social, cultural and political life and is critical for social cohesion and inclusive growth. Nonetheless, racism and discrimination can create barriers to integration.

This conference will present new evidence from EMN Ireland/ESRI research on migrants' integration in Ireland and bring together expert speakers to reflect on the policy implications of the research. The new National Action Plan against Racism for Ireland will also be presented by a representative from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

About the reports



Monitoring report on integration 2022

The Monitoring report on Integration 2022, published jointly by the ESRI and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, is the latest in a series of reports on how migrants in Ireland are faring, in terms of key life domains: employment, education, social inclusion and active citizenship. This report shows that migrants in Ireland have employment rates and levels of education that exceed those of the Irish-born population, with certain groups showing particular progress. Nevertheless, Ireland faces substantial challenges in integrating those that come to live here, particularly in areas that are currently under substantial pressure, such as housing. Migrants also had a higher 'at-risk of poverty' rate than Irish-born.



Labour market integration of international protection applicants in Ireland

Ireland granted international protection applicants the right to work in mid-2018. A considerable number of applicants have sought to access the labour market since then, with over 12,000 applicants granted labour market access permissions up to the end of 2022. New ESRI research examines labour market access by applicants and their integration into the Irish labour market.

This research is part of an EU-wide study conducted by the European Migration Network (EMN), which is funded in Ireland by the European Commission and the Department of Justice.

Both reports can be downloaded at www.emn.ie and www.esri.ie

Agenda



- 9:30 *Registration opens*
- 10:00 **Welcome**
Helen Russell, Head of Social Research, ESRI
Emma Quinn, Head of EMN Ireland, ESRI
- 10:10 **National Action Plan Against Racism**
Colm O'Loughlin, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration,
and Youth
- 10:30 **Session One: Migrant Integration**
- Monitoring Report on Integration 2022: Key findings**
Frances McGinnity, ESRI
- 11:05 **Panel Discussion 1 - Moderator: Mark Cumming**
Brian Killoran, Immigrant Council of Ireland
Denise Charlton, Community Foundation Ireland
Sevak Khachatryan, New Communities Partnership
Ukrainian Action in Ireland
- 11:50 *Coffee Break*
- 12:05 **Session Two: International Protection Applicants in the Labour Market**
- Labour Market Integration of International Applicants in Ireland**
Emily Cunniffe, EMN Ireland/ESRI
- 12:40 **Panel Discussion 2 - Moderator: Mark Cumming**
Salome Mbugua, AkiDWA
Stephen Collins, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission
Lucky Khambule, Movement of Asylum Seekers in Ireland (MASI)
Niamh Rabbitt, Department of Justice
- 1:25 **Close**
Emma Quinn, EMN Ireland/ESRI



Speakers



Helen Russell

Helen Russell is a Research Professor and head of the Social Research Division at the Economic and Social Research Institute. She holds a D.Phil. in Sociology from the University of Oxford. Her research covers a range of inter-connecting issues relating to employment, equality and social inclusion. Recent recent research has looked at housing adequacy and child outcomes and inter-generational poverty.



Emma Quinn

Emma Quinn is the Head of EMN Ireland, the Irish National Contact Point (NCP) of the European Migration Network (EMN) within the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). She is also joint coordinator of the research area Migration, Integration and Demography at the ESRI. Emma holds Masters and undergraduate degrees in Geography from University College Dublin, as well as diplomas in immigration and asylum law and statistics. Emma has published widely on migration, international protection and integration.



Mark Cumming

Mark Cumming is an international development specialist with 32 years experience in a range of state, ngo and faith based development agencies. He has a Masters in Development Studies where his thesis focused on the theme of Business and Human Rights. He has served in a range of programming, funding and policy roles, including most recently serving as CEO of Comhlámh. He has particular expertise in facilitation and training with interests to explore the power dynamics in relationships both in terms of state-civil society relations and partner relationships between civil society groups in the global north and global south.

Speakers



Fran McGinnity

Dr Frances McGinnity is an Associate Research Professor at the Economic and Social Research Institute, where she leads a programme of research on equality and migrant integration. She is also Adjunct Professor of Sociology at Trinity College Dublin and currently Senior Visiting Fellow at the Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion at LSE. She received her doctorate from Nuffield College, Oxford in 2001. Her core research interests are in equality, diversity and discrimination, migrant integration, childcare, work-life balance and labour market processes, in Ireland and from a comparative perspective. She has been leading the Monitoring Report on Integration series in Ireland since 2010.



Brian Killoran

Brian Killoran is the CEO of the Immigrant Council of Ireland. He became CEO in 2015, having worked in various roles within the organisation since 2004. The Immigrant Council is a national, non-governmental organisation and Independent Law Centre which promotes the rights and entitlements of migrants and their families. In the area of migrant integration, the Immigrant Council promotes access to legal rights, improved responses to gender based violence as experienced by migrant women, migrant political participation, migrant leadership, anti-racism and national and local level integration planning.



Denise Charlton

Denise is leading the Community Foundation for Ireland response to Covid-19. A human rights, equality and social justice campaigner she was appointed CEO in July 2020. Her commitment to equality has seen Denise successfully take leadership roles in campaigns on marriage equality, children's rights and immigration reform, to name but a few. Previously serving as CEO of both the Immigrant Council of Ireland and Women's Aid, Denise has a deep understanding of the sector and the positive impact that strategic giving can have on individuals, families and entire communities. As a consultant and non-executive director of a number of philanthropic entities, she is committed to policies that nurture the importance of philanthropy in delivering equality, sustainability and fairness for all.



Speakers



Sevak Khachatryan

Sevak Khachatryan is currently overseeing NCP's (New Communities Partnership) Communications & Public Relations. NCP is Ireland's largest independent migrant-led national network of more than 150 groups comprising 65 nationalities. Prior to this role, Sevak has been managing youth integration projects in NCP, working directly with primary and secondary schools in Dublin. In February 2021 Sevak was elected to join the Board of Directors and is also the Co-chair of SIRIUS Policy Network on Migrant Education. SIRIUS is the international leading Policy Network on Migrant Education, the EU's adviser on these topics since 2012, based in Brussel.



Ukrainian Action in Ireland

Ukrainian Action in Ireland is a non-for-profit organisation registered in Ireland. They describe themselves as a group of like-minded people who came together with the aim to help Ukrainians in need and to foster Irish-Ukrainian friendship. Their mission is to be the Ukrainian voice and action in Ireland.



Emily Cunniffe

Emily Cunniffe is a Policy Officer in the European Migration Network Ireland, which sits in the ESRI. Emily conducts research on migration and asylum law and policies in Ireland, including on recent international protection trends, human trafficking and immigration detention. She holds an LLM in Comparative, European and International Laws and previously worked in the area of migration law with NGOs in Ireland, Brussels and Greece.



Salome Mbugua

Dr. Salome Mbugua is a researcher, gender equality activist and human right advocate. She is the CEO of AkiDWA -The Migrant Women's Network Ireland. Her professional experience spans over 20 years of work experience in civil society working with under-represented groups in particular women, children, and the youth, in Europe and Africa. Dr Mbugua serves as a human right commissioner with Irish Human rights and equality commission. Dr Mbugua holds a Doctorate from Trinity College Dublin and master's degree in Equality Studies from UCD.

Speakers



Stephen Collins

Stephen Collins is senior solicitor with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, Ireland's National Human Rights Institute and Equality body. Since starting with the Commission over five years ago, he has been solicitor on record in several challenges to roadblocks preventing labour market access for asylum seekers and refugees, including *A Syrian Refugee v A Bank*, *Landsberg and Breetzke v The Road Safety Authority*, and the equality reviews of banking practices that resulted in access to financial services for asylum seekers since 2021. His strategic litigation practise is currently focused on citizenship and immigration, detention and anti-human trafficking. Stephen has represented the Commission at ENNHRI, the European Network of National Human Rights Institutes, Equinet, the European network of equality bodies and at the European Commission's Meetings of National Bodies on the Free Movement of Workers.



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice

Niamh Rabbitt

Niamh Rabbitt is a Higher Executive Officer within the Department of Justice, where she runs the unit which grants international protection applicants' access to the labour market. She has also spent time working in the International Protection office.



Lucky Khambule

Lucky Khambule is an organiser, campaigner, and activist for the rights of asylum seekers, migrants and refugee communities in Ireland and a passionate community worker. Ireland has been his home for the past 10 years and has been active in multiple struggles for social justice, dignity, and equality. He lived in direct provision from 2013 to 2016. He continues to be the voice of those trapped within the confinements of direct provision in Ireland and advocates for free education and full access to employment for asylum seekers. Leads to campaigns to end direct provision, proper right to work.

Lucky is currently working with MASI- on voluntary basis as a coordinator of the group. Served as board of directors for Comhlámh in Ireland for five years until 2022. He is driving force behind the right to work campaign. He also works full time for Standard Life insurance company in Dublin. In 2021 he was the winner of the HERO Awards on social inclusion. He was honoured to receive the Human Right Award from the Bar of Ireland in 2021 on behalf of MASI.