

2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion: Evaluation Report

Maureen Bassett
Kathy Walsh

2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

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Glossary of Terms

Alzheimer's Association of Ireland: The Society is a dementia specific service provider with over 100 services across the country.

Camogie Association: The Association is the governing body for the Irish sport of Camogie which is played by girls and women.

Cathaoirleach: The term Cathaoirleach is used in a generic sense for chairpersons of various organisations and local authorities.

Central Procurement Directorate: The Directorate is responsible for public procurement policy in Northern Ireland.

Combat Poverty Agency (CPA): The Agency was a State agency working for the prevention and elimination of poverty and social exclusion in Ireland. It was integrated with the Office for Social Inclusion in the Department of Social and Family Affairs in July 2009.

Community & Voluntary Pillar: The Community and Voluntary Pillar is made up a number organisations who work together to represent the interests of the community and voluntary sector in social partnership.

Community Platform: The Community Platform is a group of national community and voluntary sector networks and organisations engaged in combating poverty and social exclusion and promoting equality and social justice.

Community Workers' Co-operative: The Community Workers Co-operative (CWC) is a national organisation that promotes and supports community work as a means of achieving social change that will contribute to the creation of a more just, sustainable and equal society.

Co-operation Ireland: Co-operation Ireland is a peace-building charity on the island of Ireland.

Economic and Social Research Institute: The Economic and Social Research Institute is a not-for-profit company which produces research that contributes to understanding economic and social change and that informs public policymaking and civil society in Ireland and throughout the European Union.

Equality Authority: The Equality Authority is the statutory agency working towards the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of gender, age, disability, race, religion, marital status, family status, sexual orientation and membership of the Traveller community.

European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN) (Ireland): EAPN Ireland is a network of groups and individuals working against poverty and is the Irish national network of the European Anti Poverty Network. Their aim is to put the fight against poverty at the top of the European, national and local agenda.

EU-SILC: The EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) is a voluntary (for potential respondents) survey of private households. It is carried out under EU legislation (Council Regulation No 1177/2003) and commenced in Ireland in June 2003.

Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA): The GAA is a 32 county sporting and cultural organisation. It is a volunteer led, community based organisation that promotes the indigenous games of hurling and Gaelic football and also promotes ladies football, camogie and handball.

Garda Síochána: An Garda Síochána is Ireland's National Police service.

Health Services Executive (HSE): The Executive runs all of the public health services in Ireland.

Integration Centre: The Centre is a non-governmental organisation which is committed to the integration and inclusion of people from immigrant backgrounds in Ireland.

Irish Business & Employers Confederation (IBEC): The Confederation is the national umbrella organisation for business and employers in Ireland.

Irish Sports Council: The Council is the statutory agency responsible for the promotion, development and coordination of sport in the Republic of Ireland.

Local Government Social Inclusion Steering Group: This Group oversees the Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network.

Monaghan Integrated Development (MID): MID is a local development company funded by the Irish Government and charged with the delivery of a range of programmes whose aim is to support specific target groups with a view to making a positive difference in their lives.

NAPinclusion/ National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007 – 2016: The plan contains a wide-ranging and comprehensive programme of action to address social exclusion.

National Traveller Money Advice and Budgeting Service (NTMABS): NTMABS is an advocate for the financial inclusion of Travellers and other marginalised groups.

National Women’s Council of Ireland: The Council is the national representative organisation for women and women’s groups, with over 150 affiliated groups and organisations.

New Communities Partnership (NCP): NCP is an independent national network of more than 100 ethnic minority led groups.

Office for Older People: The Office was established in January 2008 to support the Minister for Older People in their work.

Office for Social Inclusion: The Office was the Irish Government Office with overall responsibility for developing, co-ordinating and driving Ireland’s National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007 - 2016. In 2009 it was integrated with the Combat Poverty Agency to form the Social Inclusion Division within the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

Oireachtas Committee on European Affairs: This Committee is made up of 22 members drawn from both Houses of the Oireachtas (Irish Parliament). The work of the Committee is informed by the policies and legislative proposals which emanate from the European Union.

Pobal: Pobal is a not-for-profit company with charitable status that manages programmes on behalf of the Irish Government and the EU. The Programmes it manages provide support to communities and local agencies toward achieving social inclusion, reconciliation and equality.

Primary Health Care (PHC): PHC is essential health care accessible to individuals and families in the community.

RTÉ (Radió Teilifís Éireann): RTÉ is Ireland’s national public service broadcaster.

TV3: TV3 is a privately-owned Irish television station.

Social Partnership: Social partnership is the process by which issues of social policy are agreed between the Government and the social partners. The social partners include trade unions, employers, farming organisations, environmental organisations, and the community and voluntary sector.

Senior Officials Group on Social Inclusion, Children and Integration: This group made up of senior officials across a range of government Departments reports to the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion, Children and Integration. This Cabinet Committee is chaired by the Taoiseach and comprises relevant Ministers. Meetings of this Committee provide an opportunity to review trends, assess progress in the relevant strategies and programmes and resolve any policy and organisational issues which may arise.

Social Inclusion Division: The Division was established in July 2009 when the Combat Poverty Agency and the Office for Social Inclusion were integrated within the Department of Social and Family Affairs. The Division became part of the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs on 1 May 2010. The Division took on the role of National Implementation Body overseeing the implementation of the Irish 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion Programme. In May 2011 the Social Inclusion Division was transferred to the Department of Social Protection.

Social Inclusion Forum (SIF): The Forum is an annual meeting between those working on poverty and social inclusion, in government, in community & voluntary organisations, and as individuals. The Forum provides those who are not directly involved in the social partnership process with an opportunity to help monitor and develop the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion.

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP): The Society is the largest, voluntary, charitable organisation in Ireland. It has a membership of 9,500 volunteers throughout the island of Ireland.

Sports Northern Ireland: Sport Northern Ireland is the lead agency for developing sport in Northern Ireland.

The Community Platform: The Community Platform is a network of national networks and organisations working to address poverty and inequality.

The Regional Seminar Team: This team was established to organise and implement and review the five regional seminars undertaken as part of the EU Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion Poverty and Social Exclusion. It involved a community sector organisations, (including the Community Workers' Co-operative and the European

Anti-Poverty Network Ireland (EAPN)) as well as representatives of the National Implementation Body (the Social Inclusion Division).

Towards 2016: *Towards 2016* is the title of the seventh social partnership agreement.

University College Dublin (UCD) Social Science Research Centre: The Centre facilitates and supports research excellence and interdisciplinary research collaboration. It brings together researchers from a wide variety of disciplines across the University including sociology, politics, education, law, history, psychology, social work and social policy.

Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice: Established in 1996 the Partnership works for social and economic change – tackling poverty and exclusion. It is a collaborative ministry of the Daughters of Charity, the Sisters of the Holy Faith, the Society of Vincent de Paul and the Congregation of the Mission.

Young Social Innovators Programme (YSI): YSI is charity that operates a social awareness education and action programme targeting young people. The programme encourages young people (aged 15-18 years) to get involved in social awareness and social action in their community.

Section One

Introduction and Background

1.1 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

1.1.1 Background

The designation of 'European Years' began in 1983. The purpose of the designation was to increase awareness of a particular issue/topic and to instigate positive changes at national and EU level to address the issues involved. 2009 was the European Year of Creativity and Innovation while 2007 was the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All.

The decision (No 1098/2008/EC) to designate 2010 as the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion was made by the European Council on 22 October 2008 and adopted by the European Parliament in November 2008.

This decision was made on the basis of the need to affirm and strengthen the initial political commitment of the EU at the start of the Lisbon Strategy (2000), to make "a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty". The designation of the year was also meant to highlight the importance of collective responsibility in combating poverty, across a variety of stakeholders including decision-makers and those in both the public and private sectors. The 2010 European Year was, in addition, to give a voice to those who experience poverty and social exclusion.

The 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion was officially launched by European Commission President José Manuel Durão Barroso and the President of the Spanish Government and the then President-in-Office of the Council of the European Union, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero. This took place at an opening conference in Madrid on the 17th January 2010 attended by representatives from the 27 Member States as well as Iceland and Norway, who also participated in the 2010 European Year. The closing event was held in Brussels in December 2010.

1.1.2 Aims and Objectives

The aims of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion were to:

- Raise public awareness of poverty and social exclusion in Europe
- Convey the message that poverty and exclusion are obstacles to social and economic development
- Challenge the idea that tackling poverty is a cost to society
- Re-affirm the importance of collective responsibility and involve all sectors of society in actions to tackle poverty
- Give 'voice' to people experiencing poverty and social exclusion.

The year had four overarching objectives:

Recognition: Recognise the fundamental right of persons experiencing poverty and social exclusion to live in dignity and to take an active part in society.

Shared responsibility and participation: Promote public support for social inclusion policies, emphasising collective and individual responsibility for combating poverty and social exclusion, and fostering commitment by all public and private actors.

Cohesion: Promote a more cohesive society, where everyone accepts that society as a whole benefits from the eradication of poverty.

Commitment and practical action: Renew the pledge of the EU and its Member States to combat poverty and social exclusion, and involve all levels of authority in the pursuit of that aim.

1.1.3 Actions and Activities

The following actions were to be undertaken as part of the year:

- Encourage involvement and commitment across all sectors of society to tackle poverty and social exclusion,
- Encourage European citizens to participate in working against poverty and social exclusion,
- Give 'voice' to the concerns and needs of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion,
- Engage with civil society and non-governmental organisations in the work against poverty and social exclusion,
- Challenge stereotypes on poverty and social exclusion
- Promote a society which sustains and develops quality of life, social well-being and equal opportunities for all
- Boost solidarity between generations.

These actions were to be undertaken at a number of levels using a number of activities including:

- Awareness campaigns
- Innovative initiatives
- Creative solidarity schemes
- Meetings
- Discussions and conferences

- Competitions highlighting achievements and successful experiments of relevance to the theme of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

Civil society participation was central to the year as was the participation of social partners, local and regional authorities and national government.

1.1.4 Implementation Structures and Budgets

At a European level, a committee of representatives from the Member States assisted the Commission in supervising and implementing the 2010 European Year.

Responsibility for implementation at a member state level was undertaken by designated National Implementing Bodies (NIBs). These Bodies were also responsible for the development of the National Programmes. These Programmes were to apply the EU level joint policy guidelines and adapt them to the particular national circumstances.

The 2010 European Year had a total budget of approximately €26 million euro, of which €17 million euro was provided by European Union, the remainder of the money was provided by individual member states.

1.2 The European Year in Ireland

1.2.1 Background & Context

The Social Inclusion Division (formed following the integration of the Office for Social Inclusion and the Combat Poverty Agency) of the then Department of Social and Family Affairs¹ was designated as the Irish National Implementing Body. The Division became part of the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs in May 2010 and responsibility for the European Year transferred to its new parent department.

Structures Involved

There were two key structures involved in the development and subsequent implementation of the Irish 2010 European Year.

The National Implementation Body (The NIB) was established in 2008. Its role was to co-ordinate the development of the Programme for the 2010 European Year and to oversee its implementation and management. The NIB was also responsible for ongoing liaison with the European Commission. It initially involved representatives from the Office for Social Inclusion (in the Department of Social

¹ This became the Department of Social Protection in May 2010.

and Family Affairs) and the Combat Poverty Agency. When these two bodies were integrated, the NIB was composed of representatives from their joint successor, the Social Inclusion Division located in the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs.

The National Advisory Body (The NAC) was established in 2009. Its role was to advise and support the NIB on all aspects of the 2010 European Year Programme and its implementation. The NAC involved over 30 representatives drawn from all the main stakeholders including government departments, statutory agencies, local authorities and social partners (including trade unions, employer organisations and some national voluntary sector organisations). This group met six times in total over the years 2009 and 2010.

1.2.3 Preparation and Development of the Irish Programme

Work was begun by the NIB on the development of the 2010 European Year National Programme, in 2008. The NIB met regularly over the period late 2008-2009 to undertake work necessary for the development of the Year. The NAC, which was established by the NIB, met three times in 2009 to advise and assist in the development of the Programme.

An extensive programme of consultation was initiated as part of the process of development of the 2010 European Year. The activities undertaken as part of this process are outlined below.

Three consultative workshops organised were by European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN Ireland). The purpose of these workshops (funded by the NIB) was to facilitate the participation of people who experience poverty and social exclusion and their organisations in the development of the European Year. These workshops attracted over 90 participants.

Thematic workshops were organised by the NIB with representatives from a variety of community and voluntary groups involved in supporting children, people of working age, older people, carers, migrants, Travellers, people with disabilities and communities. Those took place in April and May 2009 and included:

- Older People and Carers (four community and voluntary organisations participated)
- Children's Workshop (eight community and voluntary organisations participated)
- Working Aged (eleven organisations participated - Three statutory/semi-statutory agencies & Eight community and voluntary organisations)
- Migrants (eleven organisations participated - Ten community and voluntary organisations and one funding organisation)

- Disability (seven community and voluntary organisations participated)
- Communities (nine community and voluntary organisations participated)
- Travellers (three Traveller organisations participated).

A series of consultations were out carried out by representatives of the NIB with the following:

- Management Advisory Committee and the Policy Committee of the Department of Social and Family Affairs
- Senior Officials Group on Social Inclusion, Children and Integration (chaired by the Department of the Taoiseach)
- Board of the Combat Poverty Agency
- Local Government Social Inclusion Steering Group.

Bilateral meetings with government departments and agencies at national and local levels were also held.

Other smaller scale consultations were also carried out as part of existing work of other organisations e.g. the Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice (with people directly experiencing poverty) and the Combat Poverty Agency (public attitudes to poverty). These organisations fed the findings of these consultations back to the NIB.

The findings arising from all of these events and consultations were documented and subsequently used by the NIB, with the support of the NAC, to inform the development of the National Programme. The Programme, when developed was submitted to the European Commission.

1.2.4 Aims and Objectives

The key objectives of the Irish Programme for the 2010 European Year were:

- To raise awareness of poverty and social exclusion
- To engage a wide range of stakeholders
- To give voice to people experiencing poverty and social exclusion
- To raise awareness of the role of the European Union in addressing poverty and social exclusion.

The National Programme identified a number of key themes drawn from the objectives identified in the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion (NAPinclusion) 2007-2016 and the National Report for Ireland on Strategies for Social Protection & Social Inclusion 2008-2010. These included:

- Unemployment
- Supports for disadvantaged children
- Older people, especially those living alone
- Integration of immigrants and ethnic minorities and Travellers, urban and rural disadvantage, homelessness and indebtedness.

1.2.5 Key Activities

The Irish Programme involved a number of activities as follows:

Funded events at national and regional level: The substantial majority of these events focused on social inclusion or on an aspect of social inclusion (e.g. the annual social inclusion forum, the regional seminars and the one off seminars to explore particular themes or subjects). Support was also provided for a small number of national activities and events to assist in raising the profile of social inclusion among a wider audience (e.g. young people and teachers involved in the Young Social Innovator's Programme and Showcase and local authority officials attending Co-operation Ireland's Local Authority Forum event).

Funding initiatives: Three funding initiatives were supported under the Programme. These initiatives provided financial support to assist in the organisation of local and regional events (e.g. local social inclusion weeks) and activities with a strong local social inclusion focus.

Designation of two Social Inclusion Weeks: Two Social Inclusion Weeks were designated to mark periods of particular activity during the European Year, these were 15th – 21st May and 17th – 22nd October. Both weeks were used to highlight best practice and showcase locally based social inclusion initiatives and activities. They were organised in co-operation with local authorities and local partnerships. The week in May took place around the day designated as *International Day of the Family* (15 May). The week in October took place around the day designated as *International Day for the Eradication of Poverty* (17 October).

Development and implementation of a communications strategy: Initiatives implemented under the strategy included the development and maintenance of a website, communications in relation to key events, the provision of communications support to smaller projects and the application and use of the 2010 European Year logo.

Branding of events: A small number of events were strongly linked to the 2010 European Year but were not funded out of the 2010 European Year budget.

1.2.6 Budgets, Costs and Resources

The total cost of the National Programme was €598,779.80. The NIB provided financial contributions of €424,057.80 equivalent to 71% of the costs of the Programme. The European Union contribution amounted to €174,722 equivalent to approximately 29% of eligible costs. The first instalment representing 80% was paid in 2010. The final instalment was paid following approval by the European Commission of a final report and financial statement by the European Union. See Appendix 1 for details of the Irish 2010 European Year Programme prepared by the National Irish Bank.

1.3 The Evaluation of the European Year in Ireland

1.3.1 Background

The evaluation of the 2010 European Year commenced in July 2010 and included an interim and summative element rather than formative². The interim report was submitted in September 2010 and covered the period January – August 2010. The final evaluation report was submitted at the end of January 2011 and included a review of the entire year.

1.3.2 Aims and Objectives

The aims of the evaluation are to:

- Provide an overall assessment of the contribution of the Irish National Programme, to the achievement of the main objectives and aims of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010.
- Assess the impact in terms of:
 - Raising awareness of poverty and social exclusion
 - Engagement of a wide range of stakeholders
 - Giving voice to people experiencing poverty and social exclusion
 - Recognition of the role of the EU in addressing poverty and social exclusion
- Capture the main learning/lessons for policy and practice and the potential of the Irish National Programme for ongoing contribution to the development of government social inclusion strategies.

² The evaluation was the subject of a formal tendering process.

1.3.3 The Evaluation Methodology

See Table 1.1 for details of the various methodologies used to undertake the evaluation.

Table 1.1 The Evaluation Methodologies	
Activity	Source
Review of Secondary Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European level documentation • Various National Programme documentation • Reports and other documentation of completed seminars • Websites of participating organisations
Focus Group discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Advisory Committee • National Implementation Body • Regional Seminar Team
Interviews (with)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives from the NAC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government - Department of the Taoiseach - Department of Education and Skills - The Equality Authority - Irish Business & Employers Conference (IBEC) • MKC (responsible for 2010 European Year communications in Ireland) • European Commission in Brussels and in Dublin • Representatives of organisations delivering/involved in elements of the Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pobal - Dublin City Council - Rural Policy Division, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Northern Ireland) - European Anti- Poverty Network - Irish Sports Council • Other stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Women's Council of Ireland - Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP) - Former Chairperson of the National Implementation Body (retired) - Academic involved in social policy analysis.
Survey of Funded Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A short online survey of funded projects was undertaken, with invitations to complete the survey issued by the NIB. A total of 57 projects participated in the survey, with 40 projects submitting fully completed questionnaires.

Case studies (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview with representative of Dublin City Council • Focus Group with Regional Seminar Team
Data analysis and preparation of the interim and final evaluation reports	

1.3.4 Report Outline

Section Two of this report provides an overview and an analysis of the key outputs and outcomes arising from the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion to date. Section Three assesses the effectiveness to date in terms of achievement of EU and national objectives. It also examines and assesses both the strengths and challenges in the management and implementation processes and the added value of the year. Section Four provides an overall assessment of the Irish Programme.

Section Two

Review of Performance

2.1 Overview of Activities (Jan-Dec 2010)

See Table 2.1 for a summary of key activities undertaken between January and December 2010

Table 2.1. A Summary of Key National Programme Activities	
Month	Event
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Commission launch of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in Madrid.
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of the Irish European Year Programme in Dublin Castle. • European Anti Poverty Network Ireland (EAPN) International Conference: <i>Building a Social Europe: from Crisis to Opportunity</i> (for national and European stakeholders).
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on the 2010 European Year at the Oireachtas Committee on European Affairs.
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Eamon Ó Cuív T.D. Minister for Social and Family Affairs announces Public Awareness Funding Initiative, Grant Awards for local community groups.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Social Innovators (YSI) Showcase • Social Inclusion Week One • Pobal Seminar on Urban Disadvantage • Galway Regional Seminar • Dundalk Regional Seminar • Wexford Regional Seminar • 'Say No to Ageism' week organised by the Equality Authority • Showcase event of projects supporting the participation of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion in primary health care • Closing date for United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty funding initiative • Closing date for local authority funding initiative.
June/July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert seminar on poverty measurement - Social Inclusion Division and the Economic and Social Research Institute • European Anti Poverty Network Ireland - 20th Anniversary Book launch <i>Ireland and the European Social Inclusion Strategy: Lessons Learned and the Road Ahead</i> • Cork Regional Seminar • Publication of the Irish European Year Newsletter (available on the website) • The European Council adopted the Europe 2020 Strategy - A Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth.

September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donegal Regional Seminar • Participation and inclusion event at the All Ireland Camogie Finals in Croke Park • Equality Authority Seminar on Equality and Social Inclusion, with a focus on migrants.
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pobal Cross-border conference on Rural Social Disadvantage • Second Social Inclusion Week organised by local authorities with a focus on the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty • Co-operation Ireland's All Island Local Authority 'Active Citizenship and Local Government Seminar' • Irish Sports Council/Sports Northern Ireland conference with a focus on social inclusion.
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminar on Poverty Indicators and Targets • The Annual Social Inclusion Forum • National Traveller Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS) - Regional Focus Groups.
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU level- 2010 European Year closing event.

2.1.1 Other Key Activities

The launch on the 17th June at EU level of the Europe 2020 Strategy- A Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth, was an important contextual development for the 2010 European Year. This Strategy contains the first ever specific EU level target to cut poverty i.e. 'to lift 20 million people out of poverty and social exclusion by 2020'. The Strategy also seeks to build a 'European Platform Against Poverty' where European and national stakeholders will be able to exchange good practice and develop new ways to co-operate on poverty issues. Through the Platform, the Commission also aims to devise programmes that deliver better education, training and employment opportunities.

2.2 Events

There were a number of flagship events in the Programme, including the launch, the regional seminars and the November 2010 Social Inclusion Forum.

2.2.1 Opening Event/s

The launch of the Irish 2010 European Year Programme took place in Dublin Castle in February 2010. The launch was attended by representatives from the European Commission and by Ms. Mary Hanafin, T.D. Minister for Social & Family Affairs, Representatives from the community and voluntary sector participated in the event.

2.2.2 Regional Seminars

Regional seminars were held in five locations between May and September 2010, see Table 2.2 for details.

Table 2.2 An Analysis of the Regional Seminars³	
Event Title: Regional Seminars	
Date and Location	Galway 11 th May : Dundalk 13 th May: Wexford 18 th May : Cork 3 rd June: Donegal 28 th September
Organisers / Partners	A partnership of community sector organisations, led by the Community Workers' Co-operative with the European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland (EAPN) and in association with the Community Platform was awarded the tender to deliver the seminars. They worked in partnership with the NIB to plan, implement and review the seminars.
Aim and Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To bring together statutory organisations responsible for implementing policy together with people experiencing social exclusion to discuss the impact of policy and how it is implemented • To develop a model of good practice for consultative processes • To feed into the deliberations at the annual Social Inclusion Forum (SIF)-the closing event of the Irish 2010 European Year.
Format	<p>Inputs setting the context for the seminars and the 2010 Year; followed by workshops on the four cross cutting themes of the Irish 2010 European Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child poverty, • Access to quality work and learning opportunities • Access to services (especially for older people) • People with disabilities. <p>Each workshop was facilitated and included inputs on good practice. Closing sessions included feedback from workshops and responses to issues raised from officials responsible for policy implementation.</p>
Attendance	420 attended the seminars from a wide range of stakeholders including: people affected by poverty and social exclusion; representatives of voluntary and community organisations; government departments, state agencies and local authorities.

³ The key messages and the process and policy learning identified in this and all the subsequent tables were drawn from the reports generated by the organisers of the events. Where reports were not compiled this information was drawn from event documentation and through interviews. The policy learning outlined is learned by the organisers and identified by them.

Key Messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect those who benefited least from the Celtic Tiger⁴ against the consequence of economic recession • Community development is key to tackling poverty and social exclusion through capacity building and by offering a mechanism for socially excluded communities to influence policy design and implementation • Recent cuts to community support infrastructure, threaten to undermine the progress that has been made • Replicate the model developed for the planning and delivery of the regional seminars and use to inform the development of a participation mechanism • Issues raised will inform the Social Inclusion Forum (SIF) and be brought forward to the Senior Officials Group on Social Inclusion, Children and Integration.
Process/Policy Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to translate consultation into policy development and implementation- with particular efforts required to ensure the inclusion of less heard voices e.g. children, older people and marginalised groups • Policy to take account of cross cutting issues e.g. disability and child poverty; locality, geography, ethnicity, gender and other factors which have an exacerbating effect on poverty & exclusion • Address gaps between development and implementation – holistic and strategic approach required and standardised and systemic approach to interagency working supported at all levels • Community Development to be a focal point for addressing poverty, social exclusion and inequality- needs resourcing and support • Addressing social exclusion and inequality requires an analysis of the root causes and policies that address these • Service development requires greater coherence and to be more people centred taking account of diversity of needs.
Evaluation	<p>The evaluations completed by participants were largely positive⁵ - aspects stressed: the timeliness of the events in terms of current economic crisis and the need to hear from the most vulnerable; facilitating participation; presence of representatives of the Social inclusion Division was welcomed and also the workshops and themes. A small number referred to a need for greater representation of key policy makers at the events and expressed concerns that the seminars might be another ‘talking shop’.</p>

⁴ Celtic Tiger is a term used to describe the economy of Ireland during a period of rapid economic growth.

⁵ 16% - filled out evaluation sheets. This relatively low response rate was a feature of many of the events / seminars and appears to reflect difficulties with the common practice (beyond European Year events) of distributing evaluations sheets following conclusion of events as participants are leaving.

2.2.3 Social Inclusion Forum

The Social Inclusion Forum took place in November 2010 and was the closing event of the Irish Programme. See Table 2.3 for details.

Table 2.3 An Analysis of the Social Inclusion Forum	
Event Title : Building a Society for all -Social Inclusion Forum	
Date and Location	November 17 th 2010; National Convention Centre Dublin
Organisers/Partners	Social Inclusion Division, Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs, Community Worker's Co-operative, EAPN and the Community Platform.
Aim and Objectives	<p>The Social Inclusion Forum is held annually. Its purpose is to provide organisations and individuals primarily in the community and voluntary sector with the opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input their views on key policies and implementation issues • Identify barriers and constraints to progress and how best these can be tackled • Provide suggestions and proposals for new developments and more effective policies in the future.
Format	<p>The 2010 Forum included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An opening speech by Mr. Pat Carey, T.D. Minister for Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs • A series of presentations based on developments during the 2010 European Year up to that time including: 'European 2020 targets and opportunities for meaningful participation'; 'Draft code of practice for engaging with people experiencing poverty and social exclusion'; 'Learning from 2010 Year and the Regional Seminars • Presentation of the 2010 European Year Journalist Awards • Five parallel workshops (see Appendix 2 for more details) – Four linked to the themes of the 2010 European Year (and the regional seminars) and one focused on migrants; each with inputs and facilitated discussion and responses to the draft code of practice • Plenary session including a panel of those who gave inputs at the workshops.
Attendance	Some 150 people attended including: representatives from a wide range of national and local voluntary and community organisations; representatives from five government departments, nine state agencies, five local area partnerships, eight local authorities as well as European focused organisations, academics and others.

Key Messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty and social exclusion are unacceptable in society • Voluntary and community organisations have an important role in informing policy and in championing new ways of tackling poverty/ exclusion • EU 2020 Strategy which sets out a vision for Europe’s social market economy over the next decade and includes targets on poverty reduction is important to progress • Need for more evidence of the ‘voices’ heard in consultation being heeded/more feedback in this regard. • Importance of keeping a focus on the wider context including ongoing monitoring of progress in relation to the NAPinclusion • A call to bring asylum seekers under the remit of the Office of the Minister of State for Integration.
Process/Policy Learning	<p>Each work shop identified a series of specific policy responses as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisations should work in a smarter way that is based on structured partnerships, not personal relationships • Increase interagency collaboration and co-ordinate services • A rights-based approach should be adopted, allowing every organisation and agency to be held to account for upholding these rights • Respect should underpin all services-listening to the needs / concerns of service users • Ensure good quality data on all vulnerable groups • Evaluate interventions and initiatives/include service users in planning these • Improve the balance between quality of services and providing adequate income support • Ensure provision of information about eligibility for and entitlement to services • Address gaps in service provision especially in rural areas/ including transport services both on geographic and disability grounds • Recognise the role of community groups in service provision / make them integral part to informing and delivering programmes • Introduce a minimum income level to ensure that all citizens can live with dignity and without the fear of poverty.

Evaluation	Participants ⁶ evaluations were very positive – 85% (of those who responded) rated it as excellent, very good or good with a similar evaluation of the workshops. The most useful aspects of the SIF were identified as networking and the workshops. Other useful aspects included the Minister’s speech, speaker inputs and the handouts. Suggestions for what could be changed included the physical set up of rooms; smaller numbers; more use of exercises /participatory methods/limiting individual inputs to ensure all get to participate. Others included need for more focus on bigger picture i.e. recession and NAPinclusion and review of effectiveness of current policies; more decision makers and politicians in attendance; Minister to attend the closing session of the day
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2.2.4 Thematic Seminars /Roundtables

Seminars were organised on a variety of topics aimed to engage a wide range of stakeholders including non traditional stakeholders in the events of the year. The themes of these events included particular excluded groups, research methodologies, rural development and urban disadvantage.

2.2.4.1. Target Group Events

Events which targeted Travellers and a seminar which explored the needs of migrants were held as part of the year. See Tables 2.4 and 2.5 respectively for details.

Table 2. 4 An Analysis of the Traveller Focus Group Discussions	
Event Title: Regional Focus Groups on Local Area Development work (four half day sessions in Balbriggan, Tullamore, Cork and Waterford respectively)	
Date and Location	Balbriggan 30th Nov, Tullamore 2nd Jan, as well as Cork and Waterford
Organisers/Partners	National Traveller Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS)
Aim and Objectives	To undertake consultations with local Traveller organisations on the findings and recommendations arising from the analysis of the local area development work. This development work involved over 37 meetings between Traveller organisations, service providers and MABS to discuss the issues facing Travellers. The findings from the focus groups will be incorporated into a final report due for circulation in the spring of 2011.
Format	The focus groups were conducted with targeted, cohesive groups that are already in existence, such as Primary Health Care groups, women’s groups etc.

⁶ 25% approximately filled out evaluation sheets

Attendance	Cork (nine participants), Waterford (six Primary Health Care Workers), Tullamore (four Primary Health Care Workers) and Balbriggan (12 participants). All participants were from the Traveller community. The vast majority of participants were woman.
Key Messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were mixed levels of awareness of the services provided by MABS but consensus that MABS is a source of useful money management advice for Traveller communities should they chose to access it • Debt issues for Travellers were seen to relate to their preference for paying for things outright (in cash) in preference to being billed over a longer period of time. Rent arrears is a particular issue for some Travellers • Illegal lending practices were also seen to be an issue for Travellers particularly around Christmas and key life events (including communions, christenings weddings and funerals) • The transition from trailer to house was also seen to raise significant money management issues • Other issues for Travellers were seen to relate to accessing insurance and mainstream financial services as well as accessing affordable credit • Many members of the Traveller Community rely on support from the Society for Saint Vincent de Paul to assist them with particular debt issues.
Process/Policy Learning	<p>Longer term solutions are required to support and assist Travellers address their debt issues. Solutions identified at the focus groups included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of training in money management for adults and in schools • The provision of outreach centres in Traveller centres • Greater promotion of local MABS services, • Greater involvement of Travellers in local MABS management.
Evaluation	There was no formal evaluation.

Table 2.5 Analysis of Seminar focused on Migrants	
Event Title: Making the Link: why equality and social inclusion matter for migrants and ethnic minorities	
Date and Location	27 September 2010 in Dublin.
Organisers/Partners	Equality Authority
Aim and Objectives	To explore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current issues for migrant and minority ethnic communities • Why equality and social inclusion are important to break down barriers for migrant and minority ethnic communities • What can be done to promote equality and social inclusion for migrant and minority ethnic communities.
Format	The seminar was addressed by Ms. Mary White, T.D. Minister for Equality, Integration and Human Rights, followed by a keynote address focusing on policy frameworks and mechanisms drawing on the UK experience; a number of inputs including an EU comparative approach and one on the links between equality and social inclusion; 'a café dialogue' (a method aimed to maximise participation and exchange) and a series of workshops. The latter included examples of good practice in different contexts i.e. the Workplace, Communities and Public Services.
Attendance	62 people attended the seminar from the target audience including officials from government departments, local authorities and public bodies as well as representatives of NGOs, academics, trades unions and equality consultants.
Key Messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong link between equality and social inclusion/ above average risk of poverty and social exclusion for legal migrants and more so for asylum seekers • Need to address statutory barriers and also "pretentious" barriers to integration caused by attitudes in society • Importance of seeing how we are doing in an EU comparative context e.g. re family unification • Promote and support participation in all aspects of Irish society.
Process/Policy Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to consider the introduction of 'a statutory duty' to strengthen the realisation of equality as in UK and NI • Need for a new policy framework which links equality and poverty and social inclusion • Need for strong anti discrimination policy framework / institutions • Need to strengthen Ireland's laws regarding family reunification • Use EU indicators agreed in April 2010 in Saragossa to monitor outcomes of integration policy.

Evaluation	<p>The summary report highlights that participants indicated in written feedback the following: speakers very interesting and informative; event matched their needs; gained relevant knowledge and information and would be able to use such knowledge and information in their work. Participants also indicated at the event itself that the seminar broke new ground in exploring the links between equality and social inclusion in terms of migrants and minority ethnic communities. It also showcased existing good practice, thereby highlighting practical ways to promote equality and social inclusion for migrants and minority ethnic communities. The organisers concluded that were they organising the event in the future they would record the event and would prepare proceedings that could be used by a wider audience.</p>
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2.2.4.2. Spatial Targeting of Poverty and Social Inclusion

Two seminars were organised by Pobal in relation to the targeting of exclusion and disadvantage on a spatial basis as part of the 2010 European Year events. See Table 2.6 for an analysis of the seminar on Urban Disadvantage and Table 2.7 for an analysis of the seminar on Rural Disadvantage.

Table 2.6. An Analysis of the Urban Disadvantage Seminar	
Event Title: A Tale of Two Cities (A half day seminar on urban disadvantage)	
Timing and Location	May 2010 in the Fatima F2 Centre, Dublin City
Organisers/Partners	Pobal
Aim and Objectives	<p>To provide a space for reflection, learning and the formulation of effective strategies to counter persistent 'urban disadvantage' and specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To outline good practice that has contributed to positive changes in disadvantaged urban areas • To isolate the core factors which frustrate or prevent the development of coordination and cooperation across agencies and between sectors in tackling urban disadvantage • To identify the key ingredients required for successful strategic responses to urban disadvantage.
Format	<p>There were a number of short inputs followed by round table discussions and a closing plenary session.</p> <p>There was also an opportunity to take part in a short tour of the Fatima Regeneration Complex.</p>
Audience/Attendance	<p>It was attended by approximately 80 people which included representatives from voluntary and community organisations, including people experiencing poverty, local authority staff and county councillors (from around the country) and also local development organisations. There was also some statutory and government representatives.</p>
Key Messages	<p>The seminar resulted in the identification of five actions that contribute to positive change, seven actions that inhibit change and seven principles that should support positive changes and development in areas of urban disadvantage.</p>
Process/Policy Learning	<p>The seminar concluded that there was a need for the development of a National Regeneration Board (located under the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government). The purpose of this Board would be to develop a policy/legislative basis for the different elements of regeneration and to promote cross-learning and ensure use and dispersal of good practice development.</p>
Evaluation	<p>A report detailing the key findings from the seminar has been produced entitled: Guiding Principles to Inform the Development of Effective Strategies to Tackle Urban Disadvantage.</p>

Table 2.7. An Analysis of the Rural Disadvantage Seminar	
Event Title: New Ideas, New Directions An All-Island Conference on Combating Rural Poverty and Social Exclusion	
Timing and Location	21 st October 2010, Drogheda
Organisers/Partners	Pobal in conjunction with the Social Inclusion Division of the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs, and with the support of the Rural Development Council (Northern Ireland)
Aim and Objectives	<p>The aim was to develop an informed and agreed Action Framework to address poverty and social exclusion in rural communities in both jurisdictions by enabling key stakeholders to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a comprehensive understanding of the nature, experience and impact of poverty and social exclusion in rural communities and the factors that have determined or influenced this social exclusion • gain a better understanding of rural development, regional development and social inclusion policies and explore the possibilities and opportunities for improved interfaces and synergies between these policies.
Format	<p>There were a number of short inputs (including from the Minister for Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs) and the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland). These were followed by a series of thematic discussion groups – themes included: Income Adequacy; Employment and Economic Development; Regional Planning and Development; Community Development; Integrating and Reconciling Communities; Climate Change; Rural Transport; Primary Health Care and Education. These were followed by more formal inputs on Improving Cohesion between Rural Development and Social Inclusion Policies and a session on sharing experiences and highlighting priorities.</p>
Audience/Attendance	Over 190 people registered to attend the conference. These included representatives from voluntary and community organisations and local development organisations. It was also attended by some government representatives from both sides of the border.

Key Messages	<p>There is a need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect rural development and social inclusion policies in a common framework • Connect economic, financial, employment and social policies so that they are mutually reinforcing and sustainable • Connect and integrate services so that they are delivered in a mutually reinforcing way • Connect national, regional and local policies so that they are coherent and reinforce each other • Connect north and south so learning can be shared and cooperation increased; and, above all • Connect our values and our policies.
Process/Policy Learning	The need to recognise the difference between poverty <u>of</u> areas, arising from unbalanced regional development and poverty <u>within</u> areas, whereby poverty and exclusion is experienced by particular social groups.
Evaluation	No evaluation feedback was included in the report of this event. The research for the final evaluation identified that it was attended by a wide range of stakeholders, there was positive engagement and learning. It is expected that there will be a follow up event in 2011, to be held in Northern Ireland. A positive outcome was identified in terms of relationship building between Northern and Southern Government officials which offered potential for further collaboration.

2.2.4.3 Research (Indicators and Targets)

Two specialist research focused, half day seminars, were organised by the Economic & Social Research Institute (ESRI) as part of the 2010 European Year events. See Table 2.8 for details of the Analysis of Poverty Seminar and 2.9 for an analysis of the Indicators Seminar.

Table 2.8. An Analysis of the Poverty in a European Perspective Seminar	
Event Title: Poverty in a European Perspective: Indicators, Findings & Policy Implications (A half day seminar)	
Date and Location	1 st June, Economic & Social Research Institute Offices, Dublin
Organisers/Partners	The Economic and Social Research Institute
Aim and Objectives	The aim of the seminar was to examine recent findings from comparative measurement of poverty and deprivation and to discuss emerging issues for national and European policy, especially in the context of economic and fiscal crisis.

Format	The seminar was organised around two sessions: Poverty and Deprivation in Ireland and Europe and Living Conditions and Quality of Life in Europe. This was followed by a panel discussion entitled European Policy Issues and Debates. The contributors included Irish and European and International researchers. It was opened by Mr. Pat Carey, T.D. Minister for Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs.
Attendance	It was attended by 69 individuals drawn from Universities and other research centres, including the independent research sector. It also attracted representatives from government departments, state agencies and the NGO sector. The Danish and Finnish embassies were also represented.
Key Messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for ongoing consultation around the setting of the national targets • EU-SILC is important in relation to tracking progress towards national and European targets • Further work is needed in relation to poverty measurement and improved measures of material deprivation as well as well-being and quality of life indicators, as a subset of poverty targets.
Process/Policy Learning	<p>The seminar raised important questions in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The appropriateness of current deprivation indicators • The importance of data collection and the role of government support for this • The difference between national and EU poverty measures • The need to move beyond GDP and income measures and to measure well-being and quality of life. <p>It also contributed to the debates on the development of agreed indicators across the EU and the development of indicators to be used in the European 2020 Strategy.</p>
Evaluation	Formal evaluation sheets completed at the event were largely positive although the response rate was low.

Table 2.9. An Analysis of the Indicators and Targets Seminar	
Event Title: The use of indicators and targets in social inclusion policy: National and European perspectives (A half day seminar)	
Date and Location	3 rd November , Economic & Social Research Institute Offices, Dublin
Organisers/Partners	Co-hosted by the Social Inclusion Division of the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs, the Economic and Social Research Institute and UCD Social Science Research Centre.
Aim and Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To examine and debate the increasing use of indicators and targets in social inclusion policy at national and European levels. • To focus on the recent adoption by the EU of a social inclusion target in the Europe 2020 Strategy and how this target will be expressed at national level. • To consider how indicators can be used to monitor the implementation of social inclusion policy.
Format	The seminar featured inputs from national and international policy makers and experts.
Attendance	It was attended by 74 individuals who included policy analysts from the voluntary and community sector, independent researchers and academics.
Key Messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further work required on the ‘low work intensity’ indicator, specifically the contradiction between the definition and the extension of the retirement age • Need for the development of an access to public services indicator while equality related indicators also need further development.
Process/Policy Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for links to be developed with the broader policy context and work of the Community & Voluntary Pillar Indicator’s Sub-Group and the development of performance indicators for the long-term goals in Towards 2016 • Clarity required on choice of baseline data, e.g. if 2008 is the base year, this should be written down in official documents • All indicators should be available at the same time.
Evaluation	Only three evaluation forms were returned, all of which were positive. The anecdotal feedback from the seminar (a European Year evaluator attended to observe the event) was also positive particularly given the topicality of the subject.

2.2.4.4 EAPN Conference

The key European focused event supported under the National Programme was the EAPN conference held in February. See Table 2.10 for an analysis of this conference.

Table 2.10 Analysing European Anti-Poverty Network (Ireland) International Conference	
Event Title: Building a Social Europe –From Crisis to Opportunity	
Date and Location	19 th February 2010, Dublin
Organisers/Partners	EAPN (Ireland)
Aim and Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take stock of the European Union’s contribution to ending poverty and social exclusion • Take forward EAPN’s proposals for improving the social dimension of the EU 2020 Strategy • Provide an opportunity for a range of stakeholders including people experiencing poverty, to input on how the legacy of the 2010 European Year should be realised.
Format	The conference was opened by Ms Mary Hanafin, T.D. Minister for Social and Family Affairs. The programme reflected an EU and Irish comparative focus and included contributors from the EU and Irish contexts. The series of workshops on specific themes also included brief inputs from both an EU country context as well as an Irish one. A video input presented at the beginning of the conference gave voice to people experiencing poverty. In this five contributors shared their views on the impact of the EU on poverty; suggestions for actions to strengthen this and hopes for the EU in 2020.
Attendance	It was attended by approximately 220 people, including a wide range of country representatives from EAPN networks across Europe with 27 EU countries represented. The EU Parliament and Commission were also represented as well as other European NGOs. The Irish participants included representation from local authorities, national voluntary organisations and local community organisations from around the country. There was also some representation of academics, statutory agencies and government departments.

Key Messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current economic crisis raises severe challenges for the EU, but also provides an opportunity to shape a new vision for the EU and its role in the world • 2010, European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion must be seized as a key opportunity • Securing a legacy should include getting the Europe 2020 Strategy right • The commitments on child poverty and homelessness must also be followed up • The Europe 2020 proposals made by the Commission were broadly welcomed by the conference • The development of new EU instruments were strongly supported • Increased civil dialogue was seen as key to building ownership of Europe 2020.
Process/Policy Learning	<p>A series of proposals from each of the workshops are outlined in the summary report of the Event, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote equal participation of men and women in decision making to assist in more balanced policy making • Put in place EU horizontal directive with positive duties and a further focus on social and economic rights • Reshape the National Reform Programme so that they include real National Employment Strategies, with quantified targets for sustainable job creation, inclusive labour markets, and quality jobs • Set up EU legislation that guarantees the right to universal services within a quality standard framework and which meets the needs of all users regardless of their citizenship • Build solidarity – between workers and the unemployed, link living wage campaigns to adequate income and universal services.

Evaluation	No participant evaluations were provided; one of the evaluators attended the event and observed that it was very well attended by a wide range of stakeholders and participants were very engaged. The inputs and workshops offered stimulating opportunities to engage in discussion on the challenges and future potential of the European Union in tackling poverty and social exclusion, especially in light of the European 2020 strategy. Through the workshop inputs, it also offered opportunities to learn from other European countries. The EAPN conference was seen as significant in terms of its focus on the EU dimension and the involvement of a large number of EU contributors and participants. The emphasis on the 2010 European Year itself was welcomed including the strong message on the need for a legacy from it.
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2.2.5 Other Funded Events

In addition to the core National Programme of funded events, a small number of other activities were funded by the Social Inclusion Division. These are outlined below.

2.2.5.1 EAPN Book Launch

The EAPN marked its 20th anniversary with the launch of a publication entitled *Ireland and the European Social Inclusion Strategy: Lessons Learned and the Road Ahead*. This received some funding from the European Year and the publication carries the 2010 European Year logo. The publication was launched by Mr. Pat Carey, T.D. Minister for Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs on Thursday 1st July in Dublin. The event was attended by over 40 people, the majority of whom were from community and voluntary organisations. They also included representatives from local development, Trade Unions and some statutory organisations.

2.2.5.2 Young Social Innovator's Programme and Showcase

The Young Social Innovators (YSI) Programme aims to raise social awareness and develop commitment to social change among 15-18 year olds in Ireland by engaging them in social awareness action orientated education. A National Showcase event takes place each year where selected projects (assessed as having reached a particular level) are showcased. Projects are judged at the event and a series of awards are made. These include a number of awards related to specific 'Challenges' including one entitled *Making Ireland More Inclusive and Poverty Free*. The 2010 Showcase event was held in Dublin on the 5th May.

The Social Inclusion Division provided €15,000 to the YSI in order to link the 2010 YSI Programme to the 2010 European Year through activities such as in-service training for teachers as well as the Showcase event. The funding was provided to:

- Support the use of the 2010 European Year logo on all letter heads, booking forms, schedules, etc. to be circulated to all second level schools
- Include information leaflets on the 2010 European Year as part of in-service teacher packs (circa 200)
- Support an advertisement on the YSI website home page to highlight the 2010 European Year
- Provide a link to the calendar of events and invitation to young people to create local events
- Cover the costs of a stand at the Showcase event in May.

A representative from the SID acted as a judge at the showcase and the SID also had a presence in the Exhibition area where 2010 European Year material was available. Students from Good Counsel College New Ross Co. Wexford won the *Making Ireland More Inclusive and Poverty Free Award* and this was presented by Mr. Pat Carey, T.D. Minister for Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs.

The reach of the YSI Programme is wide as the following highlights:

- 185 schools and Youthreach Centres worked on projects in the 2009-10 YSI Programme
- 391 projects were submitted involving over 5,500 young people
- 60 projects³ were assessed as reaching the standard to be considered for awards at the 2010 showcase , including seven in the *Making our Country Inclusive and Poverty Free Challenge*
- 2,183 young people attended the showcase. Teachers/tutors and the public also attended
- All award winners were announced in the Irish Times on 19th May

The engagement with YSI was the key action targeting young people in the Irish 2010 European Year National Programme.

2.2.5.3 Camogie Event

The Camogie Association is a key national sporting body and was funded to include a social inclusion event as part of its National All Ireland Finals day in September. See Table 2.11 for an analysis of this event.

⁷ This number was limited by available exhibition space as a smaller venue was used in 2010 because of financial constraints.

Table 2.11 Analysing Social inclusion Event - Camogie Association	
Event Title Gala All Ireland Camogie Finals Day - Celebrating Diversity in Ireland	
Date and Location	12 th September 2010- Croke Park Dublin
Organisers/Partners	Camogie Association (working with New Communities Partnership (NCP) and The Integration Centre). Dublin City Council and the GAA Social Inclusion Committee also supported the project.
Aim and Objectives	The project aimed to promote integration of different ethnic minority communities by bringing families from these communities to the All Ireland Camogie Final showcase and to demonstrate to girls and women from these communities how they could become involved in this national sport.
Format	150-200 attended the informal reception before the All Ireland Senior Final. Those in attendance were addressed by representatives from the Camogie Association, the GAA, Integration Centre, NCP and other key organisations. 32 children, representing each county, accompanied a team member from the senior finalists in the pre-match parade. 600 members of ethnic communities attended the actual game.
Attendance	Members of a diverse range of new communities including families and community leaders.
Key Messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport is an important way of promoting social inclusion • Camogie is a sport that girls and women can participate in • The opportunity to participate in sports is not the same for all groups in society.
Process/Policy Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with existing community/voluntary organisations (which are working with the target groups) to promote participation is vital • Working with community leaders is also vital; relationship now built for working with new communities and follow-up dialogue planned • Follow-up is important - this initiative is linked to another initiative running in local clubs and schools which aims to increase participants in camogie.

Evaluation	The event report deemed the event to have been very successful; attendance surpassed plans/expectations and resulted in tangible outcomes and follow ups are planned. Relationships have been forged with partner organisations and community leaders. The organisers concluded that involving a number of the children on the day made the project very visible to all those in attendance at the finals (approximately 17,500). In addition the President of the Camogie Association included a reference to the 2010 European Year in her opening address; the match day programme carried the logo as did the giant TV screens at the event. The event was also covered live on national radio and TV.
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2.2.5.4 Co operation Ireland Event

Co-operation Ireland's Local Authority Forum was funded to organise a cross border seminar to share best practice on active citizenship and social inclusion between Local Authorities. See Table 2.12 for an analysis of this event.

Table 2.12 A Review of Co-operation Ireland's Local Authority Forum Event	
Event Title: Local Government & Active Citizenship	
Date and Location	20 th October in Monaghan.
Organisers/Partners	Co-operation Ireland's Local Authority Forum
Aim and Objectives	This was a cross-border seminar aimed at sharing the experiences and best practice of local government North and South in their anti-poverty strategies, the promotion of active citizenship and how local government facilitates social inclusion.
Format	Following an introduction there were two main sessions with speakers and time for feedback and responses; Social Inclusion and Anti Poverty Strategies in Local Government and Building Sustainable Communities: Access to Services and Social Inclusion. The seminar concluded with a plenary session.
Attendance	The event was attended by 46 participants including a good representation from Northern Ireland. The participants included representatives of a wide range of local authorities (from North and South of the border) as well as specific local authority units /boards e.g. social inclusion units, county enterprise boards and county childcare committees etc.

Key Messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities have a key role in promoting social inclusion. They also have a responsibility to engage with and identify the needs of disadvantaged groups • Buy in of all key internal stakeholders is essential for success • Local anti-poverty strategies are a key tool to promote social inclusion • The importance of engaging with local communities and using community development and partnerships approaches • Collecting an evidence base to demonstrate effectiveness supports development.
Process/Policy Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buy-in of state agencies at senior level is central to having an effective local anti-poverty strategy • Local social inclusion activities need ongoing funding and support. These remain priority issues and should not be neglected during the downturn • Valuable learning from approach on socially responsible procurement outlined by Belfast City Council. A toolkit is available from the Central Procurement Directorate. (Website: http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/cpd) • Importance of sharing practice North and South • Local Authority Forum should establish contacts for regular exchanges of information and networking, including the use of online tools.
Evaluation	<p>According to the seminar report participants felt there was a great value in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cross border approach • The learning gained from sharing learning re specific strategies and approaches • Opportunities for networking and support.

2.2.6 Closing Event

The closing event for the 2010 European Year took place in Brussels on the 17th December. It was attended by representatives from the NIB and by a representative from the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Social Inclusion and Social Disability Units. The Social Inclusion Officer made a short input on the work of both the Units in general and her Unit in particular during the 2010 European Year. The Unit staff also set up and staffed a stand, handing out materials on their work and the work of the Local Authority Social Inclusion Units nationally. They also showed a short video on the role of the Units. The event was attended by representatives from across the member states.

2.3 Funding Initiatives

2.3.1 Overview of the Funding Initiatives

Three funding initiatives were supported under the 2010 European Year. See Table 2.13 for details. The United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty Initiative did not receive financial support under the 2010 European Year but was closely linked to the other funding initiatives and, as such, is included in the analysis.

Table 2.13 An overview of the different 2010 European Year funding initiatives. See Appendix 3 for details of the projects funded					
Initiative Name	Purpose	No. of Applications received	Total Budget €	No. funded	Avg. grant size €
The Awareness Raising Initiative (closing date Nov 2009.)	Once-off funding to enable organisations promote awareness of poverty and social exclusion and the 2010 European Year at local/national level. Applications were to focus either on the main thematic areas or the specific themes outlined in the National Programme. There was a preference towards a local focus. Projects were to be completed before the end of June 2010 (due to very large scale of applications and subsequent processing time this completion time was changed to the latter part of the year.)	583 312 were eligible	100,000	43 (two at national level 41 at local level)	2,885

The Pobal 'Good Practice' Initiative (closing date of the 26th April 2010)	Highlight good practice in tackling poverty and social exclusion by national and local organisations already in receipt of Pobal funding through programmes and funding processes managed by Pobal.	64	50,000	12	4,167
Local Authority Funding Initiative	To make €1,700 available to all local authorities to promote the aims and objectives of the 2010 European Year by hosting events and /or activities linked to the October 2010 Social Inclusion Week and United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	30	50,000	28	1,700
Total 2010 European Year Funding Initiative Budget			€200,0000		
The UN Day Initiative (not out of 2010 Budget)	To make one-off funding available to support anti-poverty groups organise local activities during the week of the 17th – 22nd October 2010 (In many cases the local Social Inclusion Week)	12	30,000	9	3,333

2.3.2 Findings of the Survey of the Funding Initiatives

All of the projects that participated in the various funding initiatives including the (UN Day Initiative) were invited to participate in an on-line survey. 57 (62%) out of a total of 92 projects participated in the survey; (approx 56-59% of projects funded under the Awareness Raising initiative, Local Authority Funding initiative and Pobal initiative respectively and 44% of projects funded under the UN Day initiative). 70% of those responding (40) completed the questionnaire in full.

2.3.2.1 Focus of the Funded Projects

The vast majority of the projects surveyed (73%) operated at a local/county level; (16% operated at a regional level and 11% at a national level). The majority of projects surveyed (77%) indicated that their focus was on events and activities, while 93% of all of the projects surveyed involved some element of events and activities. The funded projects generally focused on more than one theme. The most popular themes were people

with disabilities, migrants and ethnic minorities. Other popular themes included rural disadvantage, child poverty, access to quality work and learning opportunities and access to services (with a focus on older people). Less popular but still common themes included urban disadvantage, Travellers and homelessness. Other themes covered by a small number of individual projects included transport, parenting, literacy, addiction, citizenship, one parent families, health and young people.

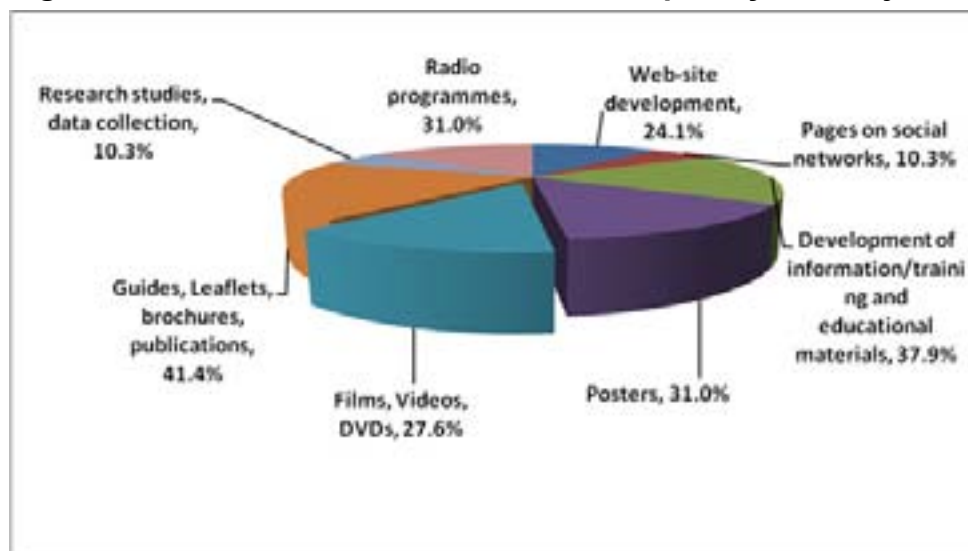
The most popular types of activities were the organisation of conferences, meetings, workshops and seminars (67% respondents). Other popular types of events included launches (42% respondents), exhibitions (37% respondents) and the development of art work (35% respondents). Other activities undertaken included:

- The provision of training (26% respondents)
- The provision of capacity building supports (26% respondents)
- Pilot projects (23% respondents)
- Competitions (16% respondents)
- Performance/s/festivals (16% respondents)
- Consultations (16% respondents).

Over 70% of the projects surveyed actively involved specific groups in their work. The following groups in particular demonstrated high levels of project activity: people of working age (26 projects); older people (24 projects); people with disabilities (24 projects); migrants and ethnic minorities (24 projects); children and young people (22 projects) and the unemployed (22 projects). The following groups demonstrated moderate levels of project activity: one parent families (18 projects); Travellers (15 projects) and people who are homeless (seven projects). Other groups that were involved in a small number of individual projects included members of the gay, lesbian and transgendered community (three projects), drug mis-users, health sector workers, households on local authority housing waiting lists (two projects), carers, religious minorities, local authority tenants, prisoners and local politicians.

Only 12% of the projects surveyed indicated that they had undertaken policy work (five respondents had developed action plans, one respondent had developed a manifesto while another had developed policy recommendations). Other products/tools were also developed by some projects, See Figure 2.1 for details.

Figure 2.1 Details of Products/Tools developed by the Projects Surveyed⁸



⁸ 29 funded projects completed this question, 29 is therefore the total sample size for this question. The percentages are relative to this total sample size.

2.3.2.2 Achievements, Outcomes and Learning

Over 40 of the funded projects identified detailed achievements and over 30 of the projects surveyed indicated that their project had generated other unanticipated outcomes. See Table 2.14 for details for these outcomes and Table 2.15 for details of the key learning points.

Description of Outcome	No of Responses
Commitment between project organisers to continue to work together following project completion	32
Existing networks have been strengthened	30
Enhanced media coverage of social exclusion and poverty	30
Increased interest in working with excluded groups	24
Plans to involve people experiencing poverty in other initiatives	22
Application of the learning and good practice emerging from the project	22
New networks addressing social exclusion have been created	13
Other	8

The key learning points identified by the funded projects are identified in Table 2.15.

Table 2.15 An Analysis of the key learning points identified by the funded projects	
Focus	Practical learning point
Greater awareness of the needs of the poor and excluded	<p>The media can be useful in raising awareness.</p> <p>A lot can be done to raise awareness on a tight budget but funding is needed to address the actual issues.</p> <p>The issues highlighted during social inclusion week are only a small sample of the issues happening every day of the year.</p> <p>There is a need for consistent policies to support individuals trying to change their situation.</p> <p>There can be a tendency to look at economics rather than targeted projects.</p> <p>The impact of those experiencing poverty speaking on their own behalf is huge.</p> <p>Many people are not aware of the existence of different types of poverty.</p> <p>There is a value to co-operation between different interest groups to create more awareness of various social inclusion issues.</p> <p>Social exclusion issues are not always obvious to the wider public.</p> <p>The poorest remind us that all sectors of society need to be involved in the fight against poverty.</p> <p>People are receptive to diversity.</p> <p>Social inclusion needs to be explored with groups in a practical way to ascertain the relevance locally.</p> <p>A series of smaller events can work better than one large event.</p>
Collaboration/ networking	<p>Collaboration is useful and can achieve a lot, but it takes time.</p> <p>There is a need for Project Directors (especially drug projects) to share information especially in tighter budgetary times.</p> <p>Groups must ensure that they are sure they are working for the same outcome.</p> <p>It is valuable to get people together to share knowledge and make contact with others working in communities.</p>

Access	Access extends beyond the physical environment to include attitudes, intellect, etc.
Workingwith excluded groups	<p>It can be difficult to engage and work with excluded groups because of the issue of “labelling”.</p> <p>Need for engagement with excluded groups to be sustained There is a need to create opportunities for excluded groups to get involved.</p> <p>Need to engage with groups from the beginning in the planning of the event there to ensure commitment and good participation levels.</p> <p>Need to target some groups/ people using personal contact/s.</p> <p>Important to ensure that the representatives from a particular group is representative and has the authority to make interventions on behalf of their organisation/group.</p> <p>Traveller culture is still a hidden culture.</p>
Methodologies for engaging with excluded groups	<p>Play is an excellent media for involving all members of the community both young and old.</p> <p>Need time to engage with excluded groups.</p> <p>Art and crafts are a good way to engage with people.</p> <p>There is a demand for physical activity among older people.</p> <p>Money is not always the issue often time what is needed is support in relation to organisational/logistical issues.</p> <p>The timing of events (e.g. are they held during office hours or in the evening) can be critical in terms of getting participants.</p> <p>‘Political Speed Dating’ provided an excellent and well received platform to engage with youth and local politicians.</p> <p>Sports has a role to play in breaking down barriers</p> <p>“Open-house” events with a social dimension were particularly effective in attracting people along.</p> <p>Using facilitators that participants know can encourage participants to talk and open up in the group discussions.</p> <p>Higher level of communication required locally to ensure everyone can participate.</p>

As part of the survey the funded projects were asked what if anything they would have changed about their project. The responses in order of popularity were:

- Additional time for preparation (to get greater levels of engagement)
- Additional resources, to enable more events/larger events/the development of a website.
- More commitment from project partners
- Getting more groups engaged in the process/event (including particular excluded groups and key politicians and decision makers); including more activities at the events.

There was also an issue about the timing of the events for some projects (caused by the delay in the funding decisions) who had planned and would have preferred to hold their events earlier in the year, when more people would have been in a position to attend.

2.3.2.3 Contribution to the 2010 European Year Objectives

Projects were asked to rate the extent to which they believed their project had contributed to the achievement of the 2010 European Year objectives (72% respondents completed this task). The majority believed their projects had made a contribution to the achievement of all the objectives. The majority of projects believed that their most significant contribution had been to raising awareness of poverty and social exclusion and their least significant contribution had been in relation to raising awareness of the role of the EU in addressing poverty and social exclusion.

2.3.2.4 Efficiency of the Grant Administration Process

Funded projects were asked to rate the efficiency of the grant administration process under a number of headings. The 41 funded projects who rated the administration process were generally satisfied with the process. They were most satisfied with the straightforward nature of the application form and with the swift response where issues had arisen. The funded groups surveyed were also generally very satisfied with the guidelines and procedures, reporting requirements and speed of payments. The funded projects were least satisfied with the speed of assessment and decision making. This was particularly the case for projects funded under the awareness raising initiatives. Because of the sheer Volume of applications received, applicants had to wait over four months for their funding decisions. The applications of the other initiatives were processed over a significantly shorter period of time.

2.3.2.5 Gender Mainstreaming and Accessibility

The issue of gender equality was not one that received significant attention at a funded project level. Most projects believed that their events and activities involved and attracted both men and women. Although there tended to be more women than men at many of the events, the timing of the majority of the events (during the day) may have been a contributory factor in this regard. A small number of projects organised gender specific events including a 'women at risk of poverty' workshop, Women's Group events and men's group events, including a Men's Gardening project. One of the projects identified a particular issue in relation to the involvement and transfer of young migrant women into local clubs and as a consequence a new project to address this problem has been developed by the local Sports Partnership for 2011.

Most of the funded projects had given considerable thought to the issue of physical accessibility and events where possible were held in accessible venues. Some projects provided transport to enable people with disabilities to attend particular events. People with disabilities (physical, sensory and intellectual) were actively involved as participants in at least four projects, while two of events (2) were also organised to highlight disability issues at a wider community level. In a number of cases, materials e.g. seminar packs had been developed to cater for individuals with sight impairment issues. Events were also organised specifically for people with disabilities (e.g. HSE talk on disability rights and entitlements, special camps to cater for children with disabilities).

2.4 Social Inclusion Weeks (May & October)

2.4.1 Background

Two Social Inclusion Weeks were designated to mark periods of particular activity during the 2010 European Year. These were May 15th -22nd and October 17th-23rd. The latter was also linked to the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty on the 17th October. The proposal to have two Social Inclusion Weeks came from EU level and was considered by those interviewed for the evaluation as very ambitious. It was generally concluded that in hindsight it might have been better to focus on one national social inclusion week. The intention for the Weeks was that activities would be organised by local authorities, local area partnerships and local voluntary and community groups. The Local Authority Funding Initiative and UN Day Funding Initiative outlined in Section 2.3 provided support for activities to be undertaken as part of these weeks. The later announcement of awards under the Awareness Raising Initiative also meant that some events funded under that initiative took place during the October Social Inclusion Week. A number of national events also took place at this time.

2.4.2 Activities

2.4.2.1 May Social Inclusion Week

Three local Social Inclusion Weeks were held in May (in Dublin City and in Counties Monaghan and Meath respectively). Two were organised by local authorities and the Monaghan week was organised by the Monaghan Local Development Company (the Monaghan Partnership). The Urban Disadvantage seminar outlined under 2.2.4.2 was also held during the May Social Inclusion Week.

The May-2010 Social Inclusion Week was organised by Meath County Council in cooperation with organisations working in community development and social inclusion. This involved a number of events and activities including an exhibition, a peace garden, an information day, a drama and an African Celebration Day.

The Dublin City 2010 May Social Inclusion Week (see Appendix 4 for brief case study) was organised by Dublin City Council. The European Year for combating poverty and social exclusion logo was carried on all materials. The programme was launched by the Lord Mayor of Dublin Ms. Emer Costello and included a wide range of activities including: a series of sporting events including a high profile snooker event; activities for older people with a emphasis on creativity; information sessions on local services and supports held in local communities; locally based IT workshops for all (free of charge) and a seminar entitled *Excluded Groups in Our Society*.

Monaghan Integrated Development mounted a mobile social inclusion exhibition throughout the May Social Inclusion Week. The local newspaper (the Northern Standard) and radio (Northern Sound) published and publicised a collection of case studies and human interest stories.

2.4.2.2 October Social Inclusion Week

All of the projects funded under the Local Authority Funding Initiative and the UN Day Initiative took place during the October Social Inclusion week. These 37 projects (including 28 organised by Local Authorities) facilitated the holding of events/activities throughout the country. See Section 2.3 for details. Details on a number of the local authority activities can also be accessed on the 2010 European Year website <http://www.welfare.ie/EN/eu2010/Pages/SocialInclusionWeek.aspx>.

These projects generated a huge energy and interest in social inclusion around the country. Many of the projects made use of new technologies by posting details about the planned activities on local authority websites as well as on the websites of other participating organisations e.g. Alzheimer's Association, An Garda Síochána. Use

was also made of social media e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Flickr as well as online forums and blogs. Many of the events and activities generated considerable media interest particularly at local level. The Week was also covered at national level e.g. RTÉ's Morning Ireland, (RTÉ is Ireland's national television and radio broadcaster) TV3 (commercial broadcaster). Thus the potential reach of the messages about social inclusion was widened far beyond those who actually participated in the events. Two other 2010 European Year funded events also took place during October Social Inclusion week i.e. seminar on Rural Disadvantage and Co-operation Ireland's Local Government and Active Citizenship event.

2.5 Communications

2.5.1 The Irish Communications Strategy

Communication was to be built into all aspects of the 2010 European Year and National Programmes. Following a competitive tendering process on the part of the European Commission, Ketchum Pleon was employed to assist with communications across the 29 countries involved in the European Year. MKC Communications, a Dublin based consultancy were subsequently employed by Ketchum to provide the Irish national communications consultancy, in association with and support of the National Implementation Body.

Specific Irish national communication initiatives included:

- A national launch of the 2010 European Year
- The launch and maintenance of a website providing information on the Year's events, activities, and with links to other relevant websites at local, national and European Year levels
- Communications in relation to key individual events
- The provision of communications assistance to smaller 2010 European Year funded projects
- Making the 2010 European Year logo available for use in the promotion of events relevant to the Year's objectives.

Other communication activities undertaken as part of the year included a National Journalism Award on Poverty and Social Exclusion, the theme of which was 'the experience of poverty today'.

MKC Communications had a number of key tasks as follows:

- Communication support for events
- Partnership/Media support including:
 - Personal contacts with journalists
 - Closer contacts with certain high profile journalists
 - There was a budget of €16,000 to create partnerships with the media to promote the year. This was used during the October Social Inclusion Week to run an online promotional campaign in association with the Irish Times
 - Press releases for local events/press pack materials
- Input Irish material into the European level newsletters (five to date) produced by the Commission for the media people
- Monthly mail shots and short articles for a) the European level website and b) the national website
- Monthly mainstreaming meeting conference call
- Monitoring of the media (there was no dedicated budget for this purpose so responsibility for this task was passed to the Social Inclusion Division.
- Monthly meeting/conference call with a) the National Implementation Body and b) hub team in Brussels. Monthly media monitoring reports and deliverables were reviewed at these fora.

The six Irish communication campaign peaks identified as the core objectives of the communication strategy were as follows:

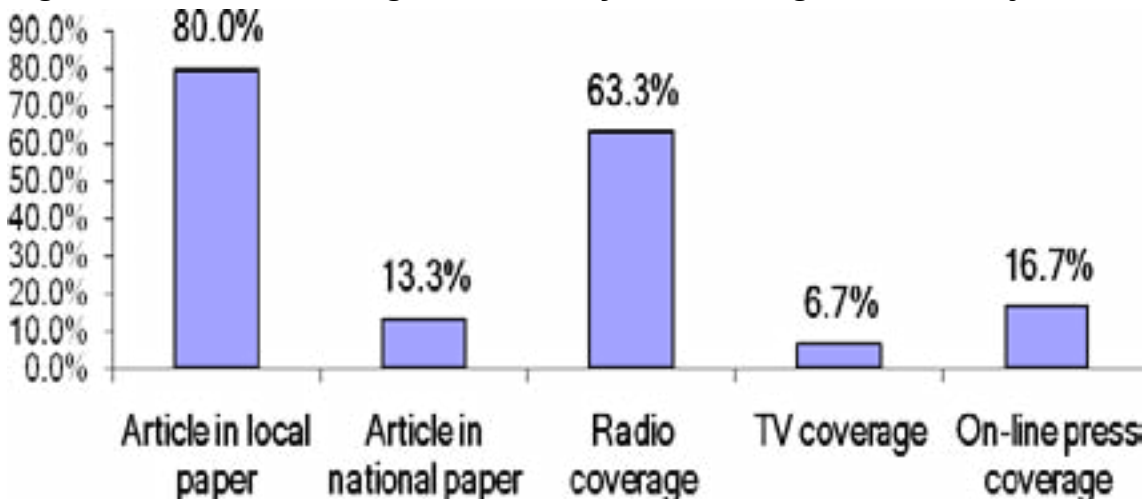
- The EAPN International Conference in February
- The announcement of Funding Initiative beneficiaries in April
- The Pobal Conference on Urban Poverty and Exclusion in May
- The Regional Conference in Donegal in September
- The Pobal Conference on Rural Poverty and Exclusion in October
- The Annual Social Inclusion Forum in November.

All events achieved some level of media coverage but in some cases this was limited. Particular challenges were identified in gaining the interest of national media personnel in poverty and exclusion except at the level of personal interest stories. MKC provided direct assistance to 10 of the 43 projects funded under the awareness raising initiative to help them with their media work around their events held during the October Social Inclusion Week. A small number of these projects participated in the funded initiatives survey and indicated that they had achieved good local coverage of their particular event.

2.5.2 Overview of Media Coverage

There were mixed levels of media coverage of the events held as part of the 2010 European Year Programme. Many of the larger national events got limited national coverage particularly in the first eight months of the Programme. In contrast local and regional events appeared very successful in getting coverage in the local media and in some cases in the national media. See Figure 2.2 for details on coverage of the funded initiatives surveyed.

Figure 2.2. Media Coverage Achieved by the Funding Initiative Projects Surveyed



The low level of coverage of some national events can be linked to the formal nature of these events which make it difficult for the media to identify 'personal interest stories'. It also appears that some of the larger 2010 European Year events were held on dates when key political events of significant interest were unfolding and the media became absorbed in reporting those.

However some of the difficulties were overcome with intensified efforts particularly in relation to the October Social Inclusion Week. This was the most successful month for media coverage for the 2010 European Year. National Social Inclusion Week took place from the 17th to the 23rd and various regional initiatives secured a volume of coverage across the country. The fifth Irish press breakfast also took place in October and contributed to that month's coverage as well as several national events. Two major pieces of national radio and television coverage were also secured. The first piece was on the national broadcaster RTÉ's nine o'clock news (average audience of 867,000, a 48% share) on the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The launch of Social Inclusion Week was reported on Ireland's most popular radio programme, Morning Ireland (average listenership of 467,000).

2.5.3 Website

The Irish 2010 European Year website was set up as a section of the website of the Department of Social and Family Affairs to provide support and information about the 2010 European Year and can be accessed through

<http://www.welfare.ie/EN/European Year 2010/Pages/European Year 2010.aspx> .

The site provides details on activities /events organised as part of the 2010 European Year and access to the logo, for use by interested groups and organisations. The site had approximately 5,563 hits⁹; approximately 20% were direct, just over 43% were through search engines (mainly Google) and the rest were referrals through other websites e.g. Pobal.ie.

When the Departmental changes took place the location of the website was considered, it was decided to leave it in the original location as it was felt that it might cause confusion to move it at that stage in the Year. Overall the research for the evaluation highlighted that accessing the website was not as easy as might have been the case indicating that a standalone web-site may have been better option.

2.5.4 Journalists Awards

The European Year 2010 Journalist Award was intended to support and recognise journalists working/writing about poverty and exclusion in online and print media as well as audio-visual journalists. The submission deadline for entries was the 24th of September with applications assessed by a judging panel (made up of representatives from EAPN, the 2010 European Year Commission Representation, a news editor from a national daily paper as well as representatives from the NIB and the National Union of Journalists).

The winner of the print/online category was Conor Lally for an article titled “A pimp’s family business” which explored the treatment of vulnerable women in the world of prostitution in Ireland. The article was first published in the Irish Times on the 8th of May. The winners of the Audio/Visual category were Bill Hughes and Bernadine Carragher for their programme entitled “Music changes lives” first broadcast on RTÉ on the 5th of January. The programme explored the impact of two schools in Dublin providing free music lessons to pupils that otherwise would not have been able to afford them. The awards were presented at the Social Inclusion Forum by Ms. Barbara Nolan, Director of European Commission Representation in Ireland.

⁹ This data relates to the period March 2010 to Dec 2010.

2.6 Other Branded Events

A small number of other events were held which were not funded by the 2010 European Year but were strongly linked to it. These included: an event linked to another ongoing SID joint initiative; an event organised by a state agency, which is also a member of the NAC and input into an event with a 'non traditional partner. There were also a number of smaller events /activities which carried the 2010 European Year logo. These are outlined below.

2.6.1 Community Participation in Primary Care (Joint Funding Initiative) Showcase

The event was held in Dublin in May and its purpose was to showcase the projects involved in a joint initiative of the SID and the Health Service Executive (HSE) to support the involvement of disadvantaged communities and groups in the development of primary care services at local level. The Minister for Health and Children, a number of Senior Managers from the HSE (including the CEO) and representatives of the SID attended and spoke. There were inputs also from a representative of one of the projects and the Evaluator. It was attended by approximately 100 people. The invitation to the event carried the 2010 European Year logo and the event was also linked to the theme of participation for people experiencing poverty in policy implementation.

2.6.2 Say No to Ageism Week-Equality Authority

The "Say No to Ageism Week" is an annual event and it took place in 2010 from May 24th to 30th. It was developed by three organisations, the HSE, the Office for Older People and the Equality Authority. Its aim is to raise public awareness about stereotyping of older people and to promote and support practical action for 'age friendly' service provision in key sectors. A wide range of sectors, including health, transport and hospitality developed initiatives as part of the week and throughout 2010. The week involved increasing public awareness through the use of outdoor advertising in the transport sector and other related events. Posters for internal use, with the key message of *Say No to Ageism Week* (under the acronym CARE - Consideration, Acknowledgment Respect and Equality) carried the 2010 European Year Logo. The logo was also carried on the booklet entitled *A Guide to Age Friendly Services published by the Equality Authority*. This is an example of a state agency linking their activities with the 2010 European Year.

2.6.3 Irish Sports Council and Sport Northern Ireland Conference

The Sports Councils from the North and South of Ireland included a link to the 2010 European Year in their bi-annual conference and also included a focus on social inclusion through sport. Table 2.16 analyses this conference.

Table 2.16 Analysing Irish Sports Council and Sport Northern Ireland Conference	
Event Title: All Ireland Sports Development Conference- Active Participation: Be Part of the Debate	
Date and Location	October 22, National Convention Centre, Dublin
Organisers/Partners	Irish Sports Council and & Sport Northern Ireland (also involved Dublin City Council as Dublin European Capital of Sport 2010).
Aim and Objectives	<p>To create a learning experience for delegates and highlight the value of sport to society; promote a sense of unity within the broad sports community and create an opportunity for delegates to engage with both Councils and improve coordination, dialogue and delivery on both sides of the border.</p> <p>The SID proactively engaged with the organisers to encourage linking the Conference to the 2010 European Year and to include a workshop on social inclusion and sports</p>
Format	<p>Following opening remarks there was a key note address; a number of inputs drawing on research including one into participation in sports by disadvantaged groups (delivered by a staff member of the ESRI); two series of workshops as well as a post workshop plenary and a concluding panel session.</p> <p>The workshops included one on sport and social inclusion delivered by a representative of the SID and also involving an input by a member of one of Ireland's new communities. There was also an exhibition space featuring the 2010 European Year.</p>
Attendance	The primary target audience was decision makers and policy makers. Approximately 300 people attended from a broad range of sports organisation including at senior management level, members of both Sports Councils, sports development officers, representatives from local sports partnerships and national network, representatives from a number of government departments; academics and local authorities.
Key Messages	<p>From a social inclusion perspective¹⁰-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport can make a key contribution to social inclusion • Early school leavers are five times less likely to participate in sport • Members of new communities particularly benefit from participation in sports contributing to social integration and development of community/youth leaders.

¹⁰ This draws on an interview with a representative of the Irish Sports Council

<p>Process/Policy Learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop and support specific initiatives aimed at involving disadvantaged groups in sport • Adopt a coordinated approach e.g. important role for SID and Social Inclusion Units of different government departments including the Department of Education and Skills. • Maintain and develop relationships between Irish Sports Council and SID • Recognise important role of local sports partnership and local authorities – link to wider social inclusion work of local authorities.
<p>Evaluation</p>	<p>The Irish Sports Council evaluated the workshop on social inclusion positively, including the input of the member of a group affected by social exclusion. It was felt that the input on inclusion in sport and socio economic disadvantage highlighted in research above raised awareness amongst many participants (evidenced by follow ups since) and that the input and relationship with SID overall was very positive and should be continued.</p>

2.6.4 Use of the Logo

In addition to those already outlined, there are further examples of the 2010 European Year logo being used on non funded events. For example, Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC) carried the logo on materials which publicised the year with its members. A small number of members hosted activities and used the logo but no details are available on these.

In addition the Offaly County Council Cathaoirleach Awards 2010 had a Social Inclusion focus to reflect the 2010 European Year. The Logo was supplied to all funded groups, all local authorities, the YSI, and The Irish Sports Council.

2.6.5 Parallel Activitiy

The Social Inclusion Division engaged technical assistance to develop a code of practice to promote the participation of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion (and those who work with them) in developing and implementing social inclusion strategies. It is a key responsibility for SID to develop appropriate mechanisms for this purpose.

The objectives of the code of practice are:

- Provide a comprehensive framework
- Set out the rationale and benefits of engagement
- Give guidance on methods and examples
- Establish what people can expect from engagement
- Build on best practice.

2.6.5.1 Progress to Date

- Series of consultations carried out with Government Departments and statutory and community and voluntary sector interests
- Draft Code presented at the Social Inclusion Forum for preliminary feedback from stakeholders
- Two workshops held in February 2011 on the framework for the draft Code of Practice; one with community and voluntary groups and one with government departments and state agencies
- Final draft of Code submitted in early March 2011.

Participation by those affected by poverty and social exclusion was a key theme of the 2010 European Year to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion and it is envisaged that this code of practice will form a legacy of the 2010 European Year. .

Section Three

Review of Effectiveness

3.1 Introduction

The following assessment of effectiveness is tempered by an acknowledgement that the breadth of the 2010 European Year Objectives both at EU and national level and the lack of indicators and targets make such an assessment very difficult. The approach adopted is to draw on indicators such as level of attendances /engagement in activities; analysis of who attended; type, range and focus of activities; media coverage gained; learning identified by participants and outputs and outcomes from events/projects e.g. reports, new relationships as well as evaluation of events by participants. It is also informed by the insights of those interviewed for the interim and final evaluations and the projects who responded to the survey.

3.2 Management and Implementation Processes

The following section reviews the 2010 European Year Programme development and implementation.

3.2.1 Programme Development

3.2.1.1 Preparatory Phase

The feedback during the interim and final evaluation processes highlighted that the preparatory phase was largely positive, particular reference was made to the:

- Consultation process
- Linking to the themes of the NAPinclusion
- Establishment and input of the National Advisory Committee (NAC).

Challenges and issues identified which could have strengthened this phase included:

- Inclusion of gender mainstreaming as a cross cutting approach
- Inclusion of a wider range of organisations on the NAC. The view of the NIB in this regard was that this could have resulted in a committee that was too unwieldy. One way of dealing with this was to get agreement with represented government departments to engage relevant agencies under their responsibility.
- The change in relevant government structures at the preparatory phase was seen as a mixed blessing. It was viewed as positive by some in bringing a greater range of perspectives and expertise whilst others felt it caused challenges in the form of functional and administrative realignments and staff changes
- More control by the NIB of the communications strategy, to avoid a 'one size fits all approach' from European level and related to this the development of stronger links with media and maximisation of the potential of the journalist awards.

3.2.1.2 The National Programme

The many positive aspects of the Programme identified by the evaluation interviewees included:

- Strong regional and local focus
- Inclusion of funding initiatives to support the active involvement of local voluntary and community organisations and also local authorities
- Focus on the inclusion of local authorities as key actors
- Series of regional and national level events /seminars /roundtables with a policy focus and dealing with key themes and groups
- Inclusion of a range of stakeholders in organising events including:
 - Government agencies attached to a number of government departments
 - A high level international event led by EAPN
 - Input into a national event with a 'non traditional' partner e.g. Sports Council of Ireland.

Areas where the Programme could have been strengthened included:

- Inclusion of more measurable European level objectives with key performance indicators, with this approach mirrored at national level
- Improved focus on the anticipated legacy from the 2010 European Year at an early stage in the preparatory processes.
- Staging of some higher profile events at the beginning and end of the 2010 European Year
- There was broad agreement amongst the evaluation interviewees that the decision not to have a high level publicity campaign for the Year was the correct one given resource constraints and prevailing economic context.
- Inclusion of a stronger focus on progress in relation to the meeting of commitments /targets under NAP inclusion particularly in the current economic circumstances.

3.2.2 Programme Implementation

The assessment of the implementation of the Programme has identified many positive aspects and mirrored many of the positive features outlined in sections 3.2.1.1 and 3.2.1.2.

Positive aspects of the Programme that were specifically identified included:

The approach of tendering out of the planning and organisation of the regional seminars to a consortium of voluntary and community sector organisations and the subsequent development of a partnership approach between the consortium and the NIB.

Events which were specifically mentioned in the feedback from participants who attended the events (See Section 2 for details) included: the regional seminars and the regional seminars as preparation for the Social Inclusion Forum; EAPN International Conference.

Positive reference was also made to the rural disadvantage conference; the migrant focused seminar; the technical 'poverty' seminars and the National Sports Council Conference.

The feedback from the funded projects in terms of satisfaction with administration of the initiatives, including the straightforward nature of the application processes; guidelines and procedures, reporting and speed of payments was generally positive.

The involvement of the majority of local authorities in the two social inclusion weeks, with a specific funding initiative established to support this engagement.

Extensive activity in the latter stage of the 2010 European Year was seen to have created an energy and focus and also resulted in a considerable level of media coverage both local and national.

The challenging aspects of Programme implementation were identified as:

The delays surrounding the processing of applications and the making of awards under the awareness raising initiative. These delays were due to the sheer volume of applications received relative to the amount of funding available under the scheme. This caused difficulties for a number of the projects surveyed which were not able to host their events at the time of year that would have best suited them. The NIB who acknowledged the difficulties caused by the delays for some projects, believed there was a positive dimension to the high level of applications, in that it indicated the existence of a high level of interest in raising awareness about poverty and social exclusion at a local level. It was suggested that the ideal solution would have been to increase the amount of funding available under the scheme. This was however not possible in the current economic climate. Another approach would have been to have a narrower focus on a number of key thematic areas and potentially reduce the number of applications. In addition, some funded projects would have liked their activities to be spread over a longer time supporting a greater level of local engagement.

The low level of activity during the May Social Inclusion week was identified as a challenge at the interim evaluation where it was suggested that the European level decision to have two social inclusion weeks was challenging in the Irish context. The very high level of participation in the October Social Inclusion Week suggests that the October week generally fits better with Irish local authority agendas.

Programme activities in the first half of the year faced challenges in securing media coverage particularly at national level, due at least in part to the preference for 'personal interest' stories; there was more success in this regard at local level.

Questions were raised by a number of the evaluation interviewees about the impact of a large number of relatively small scale one off activities. While there is evidence (from the survey) of outcomes from some of these activities, it is difficult to quantify these outcomes in the longer term. An alternative approach suggested by some evaluation interviewees

was that the Programme may have achieved more tangible impacts by the support of a smaller number of larger scale initiatives. The NIB indicated that this was discussed at the planning stage of the Programme and the general consensus was for smaller scale activities at all levels.

3.3 Extent to which the Programme met 2010 European Year Objectives

3.3.1 Raising Awareness of Poverty and Social Inclusion

There are challenges to making an assessment of effectiveness of the Programme in terms of raising awareness for the following reasons: the absence of indicators and targets at EU and national level; the decision not to stage a dedicated public awareness campaign (for cost as well as considerations of appropriateness in the prevailing economic climate) and the lack of a clear baseline of awareness levels of poverty and social exclusion.

The following assessment (based on the consultations conducted as part of the evaluation) highlights certain elements of the Programme identified as having particular significance in terms of raising awareness. Key among these were: the launch, the awareness raising funding initiative and the two Social Inclusion Weeks (the October Social Inclusion week in particular). It was felt that the latter provided a focal point for awareness raising, particularly at a local level.

Other aspects of the Programme that were identified as having contributed to raising awareness included the series of national and regional level funded seminars and conferences. Whilst this awareness raising was mainly experienced by those who attended the events some also attracted media attention thus widening their reach. The regional seminars and the EAPN conference were specifically mentioned in this context. Awareness of the 2010 European Year as well as awareness of poverty and social inclusion was also raised through a presence at /involvement in (often including the placement of exhibition stands) other national events. These included YSI, the National Sports Conference, the All Ireland Camogie Finals and the National Ploughing Championships. In a number of cases presence at these events was strengthened by other inputs including: sponsorship/presentation of an award at the YSI event; a workshop on sport and social inclusion at the National Sports Conference and a reference to the 2010 European Year in the opening address of the President of the Camogie Association. The latter was relayed live on national TV and radio. Involvement in these national events raised awareness of poverty and social exclusion among the wider public and 'non national stakeholders. The statistics in relation to the low level of participation by early school

leavers in sport for example were seen to have been particularly noted among the National Sports conference participants.

Local elected representatives were frequently involved in the Social Inclusion Weeks. Inputs by the NIB to various Oireachtas Committees and responses to Parliamentary Questions helped in raising awareness of poverty and social exclusion amongst members of the Oireachtas.

Other aspects of the Programme which contributed to raising awareness included the Journalist Awards, the website and the work of the Department Press Office.

Media coverage is a key way of spreading the reach of messages and issues raised.

Overall the Programme was very successful in engaging local media for many events and activities and this was particularly the case during the October Social Inclusion Week. It was noted that local authorities generally have established good relationships with local media personnel. It was more difficult to get media coverage at a national level; this was particularly the case in the early part of the Programme. Many of those interviewed acknowledged the difficulties in engaging Irish national media in issues of poverty and social exclusion beyond a focus on 'colour pieces'. Some of the difficulties were overcome in the latter stages of the Programme when two major pieces of national radio and television coverage was secured. These included a piece on the national broadcaster RTÉ's nine o'clock news (average audience of 867,000, a 48% share) on the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 2010). It also included coverage of the launch of the October 2010 Social Inclusion Week, which was reported on Ireland's most popular radio programme, Morning Ireland (average listenership of 467,000). The 2010 European Year would have benefitted from more intensive work to build strategic links with key media personnel at the preparatory stage of the Year, as well as from the development and use of a small number of core messages.

Overall the Irish 2010 European Year Programme has been successful in raising awareness of poverty and social exclusion and specific aspects of this particularly among those who attended/participated in the various activities at national/regional and local level. Local media coverage successfully extended the reach of the messages at local/regional level. There are also some examples of reach to some 'non traditional' audiences through YSI, National Sports Conference, the Camoige All Ireland Finals and the National Ploughing Championships. It seems likely that the Year had the greatest impact was on those already engaged in the issues.

3.3.2 Engagement of a Wide Range of Stakeholders

The Programme was successful in raising awareness amongst a wide range of stakeholders including representatives from government departments, statutory agencies, local authorities, voluntary and community organisations, people affected by poverty

and social exclusion and to a lesser extent academics. Local funded projects reported engagement from a wide range of stakeholders. All the organised events attracted very good levels of attendances and interest. The media were most engaged at a local level. There was also engagement with some 'non traditional' stakeholders (including national sporting organisations).

There was a wide geographic spread in terms of stakeholder engagement as a direct result of the spread of the various funded initiatives. The five regional seminars also contributed to this spread. The inclusion of a number of events with a North/South focus resulted in stakeholder engagement from the border counties and from Northern Ireland. There is a proposal to hold a follow up event on rural poverty and exclusion in Northern Ireland in 2011. European stakeholders were engaged in the Irish Programme through a number of events including the EAPN International Conference which included representatives from 27 European countries. European stakeholders also participated in the launch of the 2010 European Year, the rural conference and the technical events. Overall there was strong evidence of engagement with a wide range of stakeholders. Particularly among those already engaged to some degree with poverty and social inclusion issues. There is also evidence of some success in engaging other stakeholders not already engaged particularly in the schools and sporting area. The spread of engagement within governmental, political and voluntary and community sectors would appear to have been particularly successful. It is not possible however to make any definitive assessment of the impact of this engagement, although some evaluation consultees highlighted the establishment of new relationships and increased /new levels of understanding about specific aspects of poverty and social inclusion as evidence of the impact of the year.

3.3.3 Giving Voice to People Experiencing Poverty and Exclusion

Key elements of the National Programme were identified by those interviewed /surveyed as being successful in engaging and 'giving voice' to people experiencing poverty and social exclusion. This view was often qualified by the observation that 'giving voice' also needs to show evidence of impact, this is discussed below.

The regional seminars were specifically identified in regard to 'giving voice', while the increase in attendance from members of new communities at the SIF was striking. A number of particular events (including the Equality Authority Seminar on Migrants, the MABS Workshops with Travellers) also ensured the 'voices' of specific groups were heard. At a local level, a significant majority of survey respondents indicated they had involved members of excluded groups in their activities. Groups specifically targeted and involved in local level projects included migrants/members of newer ethnic communities; people with disabilities; unemployed people; children/young people; older people and to a lesser extent lone parents, Travellers and homeless people.

While gender mainstreaming was not identified at the outset as a core Irish Programme objective, efforts were made to address this issue following feedback from participants at the first regional seminar. The EAPN conference also included a workshop on the gendered nature of poverty. The lack of a gender mainstreaming focus to the National Programme was mirrored at a local level as it was not a funding criterion. The majority of surveyed projects did not focus on gender equality, which is the core purpose of gender mainstreaming but believed that they had catered equally for men and women.

The Programme was more successful in terms of catering for and involving people with disabilities. There is significant evidence of detailed consideration of physical accessibility at all levels, local, regional and national level, while additional measures, including signing, were also put in place to support participation at particular events. 'People with Disabilities' was also a core theme of the regional seminars, the SIF and indeed a number of local projects.

The depth of engagement i.e. the degree to which those experiencing poverty /social exclusion were actively involved in the organisation and implementation of events varied. At least three of the locally funded initiatives surveyed were led by excluded groups while the organisers of the regional seminars involved 'grass roots' organisations in the planning and preparation for the seminars. There are also some examples of people directly affected by poverty/social exclusion being involved in National Programme events including speaking at the launch, the SIF, the Primary Health Care showcase, workshops and through a video shown at the EAPN conference. Other ways identified that deepened engagement included funding support for pre-participation work with people affected by poverty and social exclusion e.g. in advance of the SIF and other events.

The Programme had some clear successes in terms of engaging and giving a voice to people affected by poverty and social exclusion at local, regional and national level. As highlighted above, this was particularly the case for migrants/asylum seekers/new ethnic communities, people with disabilities, older people, children and younger people (mainly at local level). It did so to a lesser degree for group such as lone parents, Travellers, homeless people ex-prisoners and drugs mis-users.

The realisation of impact from hearing the voices of those experiencing poverty and social exclusion during the 2010 European Year, particularly in the shape of policy /practice change has yet to be evidenced. This will depend on the longer term legacy from the 2010 European Year.

3.3.4 Role of the EU in Addressing Poverty and Exclusion

The EU dimension of the 2010 European Year was embedded visually through the use of the 2010 European Year logo, and structurally through the inclusion of representatives of the European Commission on the NAC.

A number of the key events also emphasised this dimension including the Launch, the EAPN Conference, the EAPN 20th Anniversary Book Launch and the technical seminars. The inclusion of a European perspective in a number of other events including the Conference on Rural Disadvantage can also be seen to have contributed to raising awareness of the European dimension. The funding initiatives included criteria which stressed that actions must include raising awareness of the 2010 European Year and carry the logo, implicitly raising awareness of the EU. The EU Commission representation in Ireland offered the use of its premises to NGOs and the NIB. The NIB took this opportunity and the announcement of the Public Awareness Funding Initiative took place there. The launch of the European 2020 strategy and the proposal to introduce poverty reduction targets were seen as having contributed to an increase in awareness of the European dimension to tackling poverty and social exclusion particularly at national level.

It was acknowledged by a number of those interviewed that raising awareness of the role of the EU in relation to poverty and social exclusion was difficult particularly amongst those directly affected by poverty.

3.4 Policy and Practice Messages Arising from the Programme

The policy messages from each of the national/regional Programme events are outlined in Section Two. The learning emerging from the funded initiatives is also outlined in that section. Many of the policy messages relate to specific policy areas /groups, while it is also possible to identify a number of cross cutting themes. Key among these were:

3.4.1 General

Vulnerable groups need to be protected in times of recession.

Support is required for civil society organisations including the promotion of active citizenship in all aspects of society for all those affected by poverty and social exclusion (including in sport).

3.4.2 Policy Development

There was a call for a new policy framework to tackle inequality, poverty and exclusion. Policy/policies need to proactively address cross cutting issues e.g. disability and child poverty; locality, geography, ethnicity, gender and other factors have an exacerbating effect on poverty, social exclusion and inequality.

Consultations need to feed directly into policy development and implementation with particular efforts and proactive support required to ensure the inclusion of particular groups including children, older people and marginalised groups.

The adoption of a community development approach is key to tackling poverty, social exclusion and inequality. This approach requires ongoing resourcing and support.

3.4.3 Policy Implementation

The gap between policy and policy implementation needs to be closed. This could be supported through the development and effective implementation of a strategic approach to inter agency work supported at government and senior management level.

Service provision and development require greater coherence and to be more people centred in order to take account of diversity of needs facing groups experiencing inequality and social exclusion.

A greater balance is required in policy development between the provision of quality accessible services and adequacy of income with an increased emphasis on the former. There is a need for senior management to buy into specific policies strategies and approaches as well as for overall anti poverty strategies, locally and nationally.

3.4.4 Data

There is a need for quality data on poverty and social exclusion as well on specific aspects and groups. The work on development of national poverty indicators needs to go beyond GDP and income to include measures of well being and quality of life.

Given the clear links between inequality and poverty/social exclusion tackling either or both of these issues requires an analysis of the root causes. This analysis needs to inform the policies designed to target them.

Policy development needs to be informed by evaluation of existing interventions (including the input of those affected in both planning and implementation of these) as well as by learning from best practice within Ireland and from Northern Ireland and other European countries.

3.4.5 National Consultation Practices

The model of development and delivery of the regional seminars and the linking of this to the SIF was highlighted by many as a key learning arising from the 2010 European Year which should be developed and replicated.

The consultation code of practice developed as part of the 2010 European Year has the potential when applied to support the effective inclusion in policy development of those affected by poverty and social exclusion and the organisations that work with them.

Section Four
**Overall
Assessment
of the Irish
Programme**

4.1 Introduction

The Office for Social Inclusion and the former Combat Poverty Agency under the auspices of the Department of Social and Family Affairs began work on the development of the Irish 2010 European Year Programme in late 2008. A National Advisory Committee (NAC) involving representatives from government departments, state agencies and a small number of voluntary organisations was established in 2009 to assist this process. A series of consultation events were organised to support the identification of the key issues to be included in the Programme. These were further supplemented by bilateral meetings with key government departments and agencies at national and local levels as necessary. The work of finalising the Programme as well as overseeing its implementation became the responsibility of the newly formed Social Inclusion Division in June 2009. From 1st May 2010 to 1st May 2011 the Division was based in the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs. The Division is now located in the Department of Social Protection. Key Programme activities included:

- Regional and national seminars/roundtables to explore NAPinclusion priorities
- The funding of largely locally based activities many of which were scheduled to take place during two specially designated Social Inclusion Weeks in May and October.

4.2 Relevance and Complementarity to the Overall Programme

The aim of raising awareness of poverty and social exclusion was shared by the overall 2010 European Year Programme and the Irish Programme. The former Programme stressed the need to raise public awareness while the NIB did not seek to have a national public awareness campaign (mainly for cost reasons and appropriateness in current economic context) but undertook more targeted awareness raising work in the form of seminars, conferences and events at local, regional and national levels.

The Irish Programme, similar to the overall 2010 European Year Programme, sought to give voice to people experiencing poverty and exclusion and to engage a wider range of stakeholders in the process. The Irish Programme also sought to raise awareness of the role of the EU in addressing poverty and exclusion.

A core message of the European level Programme was the need to recognise and communicate the messages that poverty and exclusion are obstacles to wider social and economic development and to challenge the idea that tackling poverty is a cost to society. This was not an explicit focus of the Irish Programme however these messages were explored at a variety of events organised as part of the Irish Programme. Discussions at these events also focused on the identification of changes in relation to existing policies and practices.

The Irish Programme facilitated and supported the organisation of many activities which were relevant and complementary to the European Year Programme. These did not proactively address all four overarching Programme objectives (recognition, shared responsibility and participation, cohesion, commitment and practical action) equally. It is likely that the decision to structure the Irish Programme around the core objectives of the NAPinclusion, the key national policy framework for tackling poverty and social inclusion, contributed to this.

4.3 Effectiveness and Impact

The Irish Programme was effective at a number of levels. It supported the organisation of a variety of well attended and received events and seminars at national, regional and local levels. The national and regional seminars attracted a variety of different types of stakeholders who commented favourably on the content and the opportunities for networking provided at these various events. These events also generated policy learning and learning in terms of the process of organising similar events. Much of this learning has been documented in the various summary event reports. This learning was also usefully fed into the deliberations and discussions at the annual Social Inclusion Forum, where there was increased attendance and engagement from a cross section of stakeholders including government departments. The ultimate impact of more extensive engagement and discussion at the annual Social Inclusion Forum has yet to be felt, but the belief is that it will work to reinvigorate the event on an annual basis and will support the development of more effective social inclusion policy.

The funding initiatives were effective in terms of supporting initiatives and work that would otherwise not have gone ahead, particularly in the current funding climate. The local authority funding initiative can be seen to have been particularly effective in terms of providing local authorities with an incentive to initiate/implement a social inclusion week at a time of scarce financial resources.

The one-off nature and breadth of projects funded under the awareness raising initiative raises some questions in terms of the impact of these initiatives in the medium to longer

term. In contrast the good practice initiative can be said to have provided a unique opportunity to reflect on and capture the learning arising from work already undertaken. The ultimate impact of initiatives will depend on how this learning is used at an individual project level and how the related collective learning is captured and shared with a wider audience. It is clear in this context that the effectiveness and ultimate impact of the various funding initiatives would be enhanced by the preparation of an overall analysis of the learning and good practices emerging from each initiative and indeed as a collection of initiatives.

Overall the Irish Programme was effective in terms of facilitating the organisation of a series of activities throughout the year that would otherwise not have taken place. These events generated a range of learning outcomes and outputs, the impact of which will be determined by how they are used by the event organisers. The impact of the Programme could be enhanced with the preparation and publication of two short documents (the first outlining the policy learning, the second outlining the learning from the process) that would be shared, adopted and used by government departments, state agencies, local authorities and other community and voluntary sector organisations.

4.4 Legacy and Sustainability Issues

The consideration of the legacy of the 2010 European Year at the development stage of the Irish Programme would have strengthened this aspect. Notwithstanding, the Irish Programme went on to generate a series of legacies including reports, DVDs, and art pieces that offer tangible legacies of the Programme.

The designation at European level of 2010 as the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion and the subsequent development and implementation of the Irish Programme can be seen to have contributed to the shaping of the Irish input to the Europe 2020 strategy for jobs and growth. This strategy now includes the first specific EU level target to cut poverty.

The Irish Programme in addition identified a range of policy issues and learning for policy making and for practice that can be used to shape policy content and the way policy is developed. Maximising this learning legacy is however complicated by the fact that this learning is spread across a range of documents and locations. If the learning arising from the 2010 European Year were to be gathered into one document and one easily accessible location the legacy and sustainability of the investment in the year could be enhanced. Another legacy of the Programme has been the development of closer working relationships between the SID and a number of key national community and voluntary organisations involved in poverty and exclusion work. It seems likely that these

relationships will continue to be developed into the future. In particular the model of organising regional seminars leading to a strengthened SIF form part of this aspect of the legacy.

The 'code of practice for engaging with people experiencing poverty and social exclusion' commissioned by the Social Inclusion Division as a parallel activity during the 2010 European Year also offers the potential to be a significant legacy, depending on its full implementation and evaluation.

The significant expansion of the Social Inclusion Week Programme (as a result of the 2010 European Year and the local authority funding initiative) across the majority of local authorities countrywide is another key legacy of the Programme. Feedback from many of the local authorities who held a social inclusion week for the first time, suggests that social inclusion weeks may become a regular and sustained feature in the local authority calendar. The 2010 European Year also provided Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council with a unique opportunity to share their experiences and to participate in the closing event in Brussels. There is also evidence that a number of the funded projects contributed to the development of new structures and initiatives that will have a life beyond the confines of the year. Less tangible but equally important legacies included the establishment of connections at different levels between individuals and organisations that can be built upon in the future.

4.5 Gender Mainstreaming and Accessibility

Gender mainstreaming was not a core Irish Programme objective but the issue of gender equality was identified and discussed at a number of events held as part of the Year e.g. following feedback from participants at the first regional seminar. The EAPN conference included a workshop on the gendered nature of poverty. The lack of a gender mainstreaming focus to the National Programme was mirrored at local level (it was not a funding criteria). Most of the surveyed projects did not focus on gender equality and believed that their events and activities involved and attracted both men and women. A small number of gender specific events were organised locally including a 'women's at-risk-of-poverty' workshop, women's group events, and men's group events including a men's gardening project. The Irish Programme may have benefited from inclusion of gender mainstreaming as a cross cutting approach.

The Programme was particularly successful in terms of addressing the issue of accessibility and particularly physical accessibility. There is evidence of detailed consideration of physical accessibility at all levels, both as a focus of discussion and as a logistical issue in terms of the organisation of the various events and activities. Where possible all of the venues used were wheelchair accessible and had wheelchair facilities within them. Additional measures including signing and the preparation of special seminar packs for people with sight impairment issues were put in place to support participation at particular events. Some funded projects provided transport to enable people with disabilities to attend particular events.

'People with disabilities (physical, sensory and intellectual) were also actively involved as participants in at least four projects, while a number of events were also organised to highlight disability issues at a wider community level. People with disabilities' was a core theme at the regional seminars, the SIF and indeed across a small number of funded projects. Events were also organised at a local level specifically targeting people with disabilities, including a talk on disability rights and entitlements, including a talk on disability rights and entitlements.

All of the events and activities held as part of the Irish 2010 European Year Programme were free to attend. A number of event organisers provided financial supports to enable people travel to the venue or indeed cover the costs of childcare, thus the issue of financial accessibility was addressed in some cases.

4.6 Conclusions

The Irish 2010 European Year Programme supported the organisation of over 20 national and regional events and numerous local events. The Programme also connected with and had a presence at a number of national annual events, raising the profile of poverty and exclusion among what could be termed non traditional audiences. All of the events organised as part of the Irish Programme were well attended by a broad range of stakeholders. It is hoped that the learning generated from these various events and activities will be used and progressed further by the event organisers and others. One of the key impacts of the Programme was the enlargement of the local authority social inclusion week programme. This enlargement is something which seems likely to be continued into the future. There is also scope for further work to be done to capture the learning arising from the Programme in one location that would be accessible to anyone interested in the area.

Appendix 1- Programme Costs 2010 European Year.

Programme Budget for key events/activities for the Irish 2010 European Year		
Programme Costs	Title	Budget
Funding Initiatives	Public Awareness Funding Initiative	€100,000
	Pobal Good Practice Funding Initiative	€50,000
	Local Authority Funding Initiative	€50,000
	Camogie Association	€3,000
	Young Social Innovators*	€15,000
	UN Day Funding Initiative*	€30,000
	National Traveller MABS	€6,500
	Total	€254,500
Activities	Launch of Irish National Programme Dublin Castle	€6,000
	Regional Seminars (5)	€50,000
	Pobal Urban Disadvantage Seminar	€6,500
	Pobal All Island Rural Disadvantage Seminar	€10,000
	EAPN International Conference	€27,950
	Equality Authority Seminar for Migrants and Ethnic Minorities	€6,500
	ESRI Research Seminar – Poverty in a European Perspective	€6,500
	Research Seminar on the use of Technical Indicators	€6,500
	Co-operation Ireland All Ireland Seminar	€3,000
	Total	€122,950

* Funding provided by the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs

Appendix 2

Social Inclusion Forum -Policy Learning identified in workshops under five themes

Child Poverty

- Prioritise early childhood development and care and ensure supports for young children and their families in the community, in a holistic way
- Organisations should work in a smarter way that is based on structured partnerships, not personal relationships.
- A rights-based approach should be adopted, allowing every organisation and agency to be held to account for upholding these rights.
- Respect should underpin all services. Teachers and those working with children need to actively listen to ensure that children's values and concerns are being heard.
- Promote more volunteerism among professionals, such as teachers and there should be a method of claiming tax benefits for this goodwill.
- The balance between quality of services and providing adequate income support needs to be improved.

Access to Quality Work and Learning Opportunities

- The profiling model (outlined at the SIF) must take account of the Long-Term Unemployed as well as new entrants to the Live Register and training (including sensitivity training) in its use provided.
- Provision of meaningful and appropriate training and employment placements, with relevant financial and other supports must be linked to use of above
- Training and employment programmes should have a social and community benefit
- Address delays in processing payments,
- Support the development of a robust social economy-CDP's role here
- Address gaps in the distribution of activation services particularly in rural areas
- Incentivise employers to employ people on the Live Register and address disincentives to work
- Provide information in European languages such as Polish (Government departments and agencies)
- Reform the system of work permits, to address the fact that migrants face great difficulty in changing employer
- Recognise the role of community groups in service provision / make integral part to informing and delivering programmes.
- Introduce a minimum income level to ensure that all citizens can live with dignity and without the fear of poverty.

Older People- Access to Services

- Develop and implement a Common Assessment Tool to improve access to services.
- Standardise and make transparent in allocation of care hours /cease cut backs in hours
- Greater support for and recognition for Carers/ensure cutbacks in hospital services do not negatively impact on carers
- Increase interagency collaboration and co-ordinate services.

- Ensure provision of information about eligibility for and entitlement to services
- Move away from a focus on the economic and environmental impact of services on older people to one that addresses the social impact
- Introduce flexibility with regard to the tailoring of Home Care Packages attuned to specific needs

People with Disabilities – Access to Services with a Focus on Employment

- Ensure good quality up-to-date data on People with Disabilities and analysis and evaluation of interventions and policies
- Consider a cost of disability payment that provides a single payment and protect secondary benefits
- Put in place a different model of employment support to reflect the recession.
- Tailored supports in training and education need to be maintained, monitored and evaluated
- Provide information on individual rights and entitlements and employers should be aware of these
- Greater interagency co-operation and communication is required to ensure coherence across policies
- Accessibility and transport, particularly rural transport, needs to be prioritised.
- More support is needed for local disability support groups, which are key in supporting activation strategies.

Integration of Migrants

- Include asylum seekers, under the remit of the Office of the Minister for Integration
- Ensure integration of policies, greater inter-departmental working and effective implementation and evaluation of policies and initiatives; including evaluation of integration funds
- Support real participation of migrants in decision-making and policy formulation
- Ensure up-to-date data and knowledge of the circumstances and needs of migrants
- Ensure equality of treatment of migrants and the national population
- Address the problems attached to system of Direct Provision (for asylum seekers) viewed as a means of creating social exclusion and poverty.

Appendix 3: Projects Approved under the 2010 European Year Awareness Raising Initiative

Projects Approved under the 2010 European Year Awareness Raising Initiative		
Applicant	Funding	Proposal Summary
Irish Rural Link Co Westmeath	3,000	Three regional meetings culminating in a two day national conference in Killala to raise public awareness of the lived experience of rural poverty and social exclusion. (Promotional leaflets, posters, website linking the Year and rural poverty and social exclusion)
National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) Dublin 1	2,500	Launch a national campaign to encourage organisations dealing with the public to develop practices that reduce literacy-related barriers to accessing information – in public services, at work and in the community. This would include a once-off national seminar on the topic of literacy in Ireland. NALA also propose launching a 'Plain English guide to Social Services' – a handy, jargon free resource for people with literacy difficulties in Ireland.
AkiDwA Dublin 1	3,000	Work with migrant women on EY2010 in Mayo, Monaghan, Portlaoise, Galway (Clifden) with view to:-Present an overview and objectives of the EY2010 for combating poverty and social exclusion; Provide information on poverty and social exclusion; and Identifying strategies for social inclusion.
Family Resource Centres Mayo	4,000	Undertake social analysis exercise and use the knowledge gained to compose and direct a local radio broadcasting campaign that will raise awareness of the nature and extent of disadvantage in Mayo. The campaign will demonstrate that this is a problem for society as a whole (pushing the theme that equal societies do better) and invite people to become involved in local projects tackling the issue.
Linenhall Mayo Arts Centre Castlebar, Co Mayo	3,000	Fashion Show (Six week workshop in preparation for Fashion Show to highlight European Year; re-fashion clothes from charity shops, intercultural dimension. Promote objectives of the Year by projecting text versions of the objectives as a backdrop through the show, involving travellers and youth who experience poverty.
Connemara Community Radio Letterfrack, Co Galway	2,500	Produce a half hour slot weekly (7-30 to 8-00pm on Tuesdays) highlighting the Year and poverty incl orgs working locally and nationally on the issues:-

Projects Approved under the 2010 European Year Awareness Raising Initiative		
Applicant	Funding	Proposal Summary
Mental Health Ireland Ballinasloe, Co Galway	2,700	Promote the objectives of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion through art exhibitions (art, booklet and poetry writing by people using mental health services in Galway). Exhibitions will be open to the public in various locations
Clann Family Resource Centre Oughterard, Co Galway	3,000	Short film, DVD launch and radio programme during local arts week. The project will enhance two themes for the European Year 2010 rural disadvantage and services for older people areas will include culture and services which are essential for older people in rural communities. The DVD and radio Programme will focus on rights and citizenship.
Moville & District Family Resource Centre	3,500	Theatre performance on the themes of the Year devised, produced and performed by three schools in area (10-14 yr old). The Performance will be captured on a DVD and there will be an intergenerational photo exhibition on poverty.
An Cosán – The Shanty Educational Project Ltd Tallaght, Dublin, 24	3,000	Host a seminar on Grassroots leadership in urban disadvantage (also marking 10th Anniversary of Project) in Tallaght West to showcase good practice and share knowledge gained through community education training and to highlight public ownership of social inclusion issues and policies and the responsibility of local communities in tackling poverty and marginalisation.
ATD Fourth World Dublin 1	4,250	Record, write and distribute stories of children, young people and adults living in disadvantaged communities (Ballymun, Ballyfermot, Sandyford, the Inner City - homeless people, parents in bed & breakfast, isolated tenants in local authority housing estates, people in drug support and training programmes). Establish link with ATD European network. Promotional leaflets and wire sculpture exhibition.
near FM Coolock, Dublin 17	2,500	Organise two radio panel discussions on Poverty & Family and Exclusion from the workplace. Guests will include representatives from many organisations operating in Dublin who on a daily basis combat poverty and social exclusion in society as well as people who experience the issues themselves.
Ballymun Anti Poverty Framework, Co Dublin	3,700	Organised four seminars on the topics of Homelessness, Ethnic Minorities, Child Poverty and Access to Services respectively

Projects Approved under the 2010 European Year Awareness Raising Initiative		
Applicant	Funding	Proposal Summary
Cairde Dublin 1	3,500	Organise a community consultation on the impact of poverty on the health of ethnic minorities in Balbriggan cumulating in a one day consultation seminar which will mark the Year and present the findings of consultations.
Mountwood Fitzgerald CDP Dun Laoghaire	2,000	Trainees who are experiencing poverty and social exclusion at first hand themselves are to create public awareness tools using new technologies
Ballybeg Community Education Project. Waterford	4,000	Information booklets on poverty with young people. Booklets for primary and secondary school. Young people will compile and design information for booklets.
Kildare Town Youth Project	2,700	Produce a DVD and Posters (resulting from a 12 week programme on poverty and social inclusion) with 15-16 year olds
New Communities Partnership, Cork	3,750	Organise five events including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training workshop (focus on employment for migrant groups); • Seminar (breaking down barriers to social inclusion focusing on the Traveller community and new communities); • Five -a-side football (intercultural tournament); • Photo exhibition on social exclusion; • Conference (Social exclusion in Cork)
Cork Music Works	2,500	Mentoring Sessions with two schools in Cork to bring together students with and without intellectual disabilities to Sign and Sign in a choir. Public Performances at various local festivals and events through the year for example the Life Long Learning Festival-March, Bealtaine-May and the Cork Mid Summer Music Festival. All with view of promoting EY2010.
Cork Centre for Independent Living	4,000	Workshop entitled Disability and the Poverty Trap which will be filmed and shown on the local television channel Cork Community Television. Speakers at the workshop will include local academics as well as activists and members of the disabled community discussing themes related to the above topic.
Cork Social Housing Forum	1,600	Organise a 0.5 day seminar on Homelessness / Housing

Projects Approved under the 2010 European Year Awareness Raising Initiative		
Applicant	Funding	Proposal Summary
Doras Luimní Limerick	4,000	Run an Intercultural Creative Writing Award with the theme Integration in a Time of Recession; aimed at young people (aged 12-18 years) from all communities (secondary schools, Limerick Youth Service, direct provision centres, sporting and community organisations). Launch and Awards Ceremony at UCH Limerick
Irish Wheelchair Association Limerick	3,750	Art exhibition of work by participants. An integrated dance performance with students from schools and colleges in area as well as an information day.
West Clare FRC, Hospital FRC, & Croom FRC,	4,000	Photographic Exhibition & Information Morning (with speaker on poverty) on following themes of EY2010: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Poverty; • Access to Work; • Access to Services; • People with Disabilities; • Rural Disadvantage. In eight FRCs in Limerick / Clare region
Raheen Hospital Support Group Co Clare	2,500	Intergenerational arts project promoting EY2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a shadow puppet performance (storytelling, song and music) with older people from the East Clare area and National School children with two public performances; • Produce a series of hand made books for display at performances.
Monaghan Community Forum	3,000	Social Inclusion Week: organise and co-ordinate a week of social inclusion activities and events, across community/ voluntary, statutory and non statutory agencies. Including five workshops with a social inclusion focus on the themes of Talent, Technology and Tolerance
Knockmay Women's Voice Co Laois	3,000	Build the capacity of local women living in poverty and social exclusion to take leadership in the regeneration of local estate. Get them to express their experience of poverty and social exclusion and dreams for change through paintings, collective quilt of creative imagery and poetry. Organise an exhibition of the work at the County Council or local Arts centre
Kerry Travellers Development Project	4,000	Provide equality and inclusion training and organise a cultural event to celebrate Traveller culture, and highlight the exclusion experienced by Travellers.

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South West Kerry Women's CDP	3,000	Hold four capacity building workshops with people experience poverty and social exclusion i.e. People with Disabilities, Older People, Lone Parents, Children, to enable them to have a voice with which to raise awareness of their issues. Host a seminar with feedback from the four workshops
Feachtas Ealaion Teoranta, Co. Wexford	3,500	Produce a documentary film dealing with the theme of social exclusion will be produced with adults with an intellectual disability who attend County Wexford Community Workshop (CWCW New Ross). The film will receive a gala premiere in St. Michael's Theatre, New Ross and will be available on DVD and the internet
Thurles Action for Community Development,	4,000	Design & erect sculpture (nine wall plaques and one larger plaque) depicting themes of year. Create nine small wall plaques in clay and then "cast" in bronze One larger wall plaque will be created to encapsulate all the themes of the National Programme
Sligo County Community Forum	3,000	Host a seminar on 'The impact of Poverty in a Changing Ireland' with the aim to give recognition to those experiencing poverty in this area and raise awareness of the issues that they face; present an analysis of poverty at a macro and micro level. The seminar will be a mixture of guest speakers and participatory workshops.
Longford County Childcare Committee	1,800	Host a one day seminar with workshops for parents and childcare providers who need support in the area of poverty with open forum where participants and ask questions to a panel of speakers from childcare background
Apple Tree Foundation Dundalk, Co. Louth.	2,300	Develop a drama/visual arts based presentation with young people from disadvantaged areas in Dundalk which will allow them to explore and articulate their experience of poverty and social exclusion and the pressures that lead to in anti-social behaviour as well as teen pregnancy.

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Navan Community Development Project	2,220	Work with Meath Local Sports Partnership to run a 6 month Programme (Active Learning) targeted at those experiencing social exclusion and poverty; engage members of the travelling community, lone parents and the unemployed from the Clogherboy area of Navan. Provide participants with opportunities to experience activities and courses which due to travel distance, entry requirements, childminding difficulties or pricing structures would not usually be afforded to them.
Athlone Women's Network Westmeath	1,000	Host information Seminar to provide opportunities for disadvantaged women in the locality. Provide Community Radio skills training to disadvantaged women and support them to highlight issues that perpetuate social exclusion in a creative way,
The Good Shepherd Centre, Kilkenny,	2,500	Develop road show to bring to local schools and to the broader community in Kilkenny City and county that will highlight the causes and needs of people experiencing homelessness. People who have experienced homelessness will be trained and supported to be part of the road show as well as staff from the Centre.
County Wicklow Network For Older People, Wicklow	1,800	Organise and hold Older Persons Sports Festival in the first week of May 2010. The aim of the festival is to promote sports and physical activity among older people especially those at risk of isolation and social exclusion
Roscommon Women's Network CDP	2,500	Group (15/20 participants) to meet weekly to discuss Rural Disadvantage and Access to Services and make recommendations, produce artwork to symbolise and demonstrate their findings and plan a conference and media campaign locally to highlight their issues and recommendations.
Irish Wheelchair Association, Cavan	2,000	Devise, write produce and tour a play dealing with issues in relation to personal experiences of people with a disability. This project will involve members of the Association, Dramatherapy group in partnership with actors from the Cavan area.
St. Catherine's Community Services Centre, Carlow	1,500	With VISAUL Centre for Contemporary Art and George Bernard Shaw Theatre produce an interactive book on poverty as experienced by the Centre's members

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Rossinver CDP Co. Leitrim	1,500	Undertake a 10 week art course for older people on their experience of social exclusion and rural disadvantage and to exhibit this work
St Mary's Youth & Community Centre, Co. Offaly	3,000	Deliver in partnership with Offaly Sports Partnership a 6 month intervention to afford children living in poverty the opportunity to participate and excel in sports.

Appendix 4 Dublin City Council's Social Inclusion Week - A Case Study

This case study was included in the interim report as an example of 2010 European Year activities that did not require funding from the 2010 European Year budget whilst still advancing the aims and visibility of the year.

Dublin City Council's Social Inclusion Week -A Case Study

Introduction

Dublin City Council (DECK) held a Social Inclusion Awareness Week from 17th to the 21st May entitled *Everyone Has the Right to be Included*. The main aim of the Week was to increase awareness and understanding amongst DCC staff of social inclusion and of the link between the services delivered by DCC and social inclusion.

Activities

The EU logo was carried on all materials and the European Year gave a heightened legitimacy to the Social Inclusion Week. The week was also linked to Dublin as 2010 European Sports Capital and included a strong emphasis on social inclusion through sport. The programme was launched by Lord Mayor Emer Costello and included a wide range of activities including: a series of sporting events including a high profile snooker event; activities linked to older people and creativity; information sessions on local services and supports held in local communities; locally based IT workshops for all (free of charge) and a seminar entitled *Excluded Groups in Our Society*.

Learning and Outcomes

- Importance of continuing to support DCC staff to understand how their work can promote social inclusion or potentially inhibit this e.g. need to be mindful in communications with the public regarding literacy issues
- Responsibility for increasing social inclusion needs to be seen as organisation wide and not just with the SUIT
- Need to involve people in communities affected by poverty and social exclusion in the planning of DCC social inclusion events
- Increased understanding amongst DCC staff of poverty and social inclusion and how their work links to this and revitalised interest in social inclusion and the work of the SUIT
- Greater recognition across the organisation of the work being done at local level, to promote social inclusion, by DCC staff
- Built relationships across the organisation and between members of socially excluded groups and DCC staff
- Promoted social inclusion through creating opportunities for members of socially excluded groups to come to the Dublin Civic offices
- Linked members of a number of organisations working on specific issues of exclusion together

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Department of Social Protection
Gandon House
Amiens Street
Dublin 1
e: social.inclusion@welfare.ie
t: 01 7043968