Intercultural Integration:
A Shared Journey towards Equality and Belonging

EU-BELONG Transnational Knowledge Sharing Event
19-21 March, Letterkenny (Ireland)

At its core, the intercultural approach, as developed by the Council of Europe's Intercultural Cities Programme, transcends traditional integration models. It is indeed a participatory democracy framework seeking genuine equality, celebrating diversity, fostering meaningful interactions within regions, and encouraging civic participation for all.

The intercultural approach recognises that every individual plays a role in building a cohesive and inclusive society. This means that integration is fundamentally a shared responsibility, applicable not only to newcomers but to every member of a society undergoing demographic shifts. In this paradigm, integration is an ongoing, collective effort to create a harmonious coexistence in a changing societal landscape.

In terms of implementation, the intercultural approach transforms integration from a one-sided event to an ongoing process of mutual adaptation and growth for all inhabitants. In this context regions, have a crucial role to play as enablers and facilitators of multistakeholder collaborations, as well as in the mainstreaming of the intercultural approach across policies.

This is how the EU-Belong project is pioneering the field of inclusion & integration: by using the intercultural approach to innovate regional policymaking. In this change-making space international peer learning between policymakers -both politicians and civil servants- as well as their local partners involved in different dimensions of intercultural integration, is crucial.

Knowledge Sharing event in Donegal

The EU-Belong knowledge sharing event will be hosted by Donegal (Ireland) on 19-21 March 2024, on the occasion of the One Donegal Social Inclusion Week.
One Donegal Social Inclusion Week is coordinated by Donegal County Council and aims to highlight the very positive work being done, not only by the Council, but also by other statutory and community organisations in attempting to raise awareness of social inclusion related issues in Donegal.

The EU-Belong knowledge sharing event is co-organised by the AER and Donegal County. It will gather international experts, regional politicians and civil servants, professionals and volunteers engaged in creating intercultural societies , to:

- Learn in detail about the policies and practices employed in Donegal for intercultural integration.
- Meet peers working on similar challenges in different regions across Europe

- Engage in mutual learning, get inspired by each other's experiences and insights, create sounding boards, spaces for reflexivity and continuously improve policies and practices.
- Showcase regional initiatives: Feature speakers from Donegal and EU-Belong regions sharing approaches to building inclusive and intercultural communities.
- Highlight the principles of interculturalism and their translation in real life: Emphasise core principles such as equality, the diversity advantage, meaningful interaction, and active citizenship.
- Discuss key operational elements

AGENDA		
19 March 2024		
Evening	*Hotel*	**Welcome Reception** • **Gerry McMonagleLeas** Cathaorileach (Deputy Chairperson) of Donegal County Council • Performance from the Intercultural Choir
20 March 2024		
08.30-10.00	*Mount Errigal Hotel Letterkenny*	**Consortium meeting** *(closed to Consortium members)*
10:00-11:30	*Mount Errigal Hotel Letterkenny*	**EU Belong One Donegal Social Inclusion Week conference** In the context of the One Donegal Social Inclusion Week, the Assembly of European Regions and Donegal County • Welcome address, **Emanuela Pisanò**, EU Belong Project Manager, Assembly of European Regions **Donegal: a landscape of multiple collaborations** • *One Donegal Social Inclusion Week & The Donegal Black and Ethnic Minority Strategy* - **Charles Sweeney** – Social Inclusion, Donegal County Council • *EU-Belong pilot projects in Donegal: Supporting Pathways* - **Denise McCool**, Team Lead Community Development & Sustainability & **Sinead McDaid**, Team Lead - Enterprise & Employment at Inishowen Development Partnership • *Communities Against Racism Actions (CARA) Donegal* - **Nolunga Shologu** Community Links Worker & Project Lead for CARA- DONEGAL & **Sheril Davies** CARA facilitator **Moderator: Fadl Mustapha** Donegal Youth Service and Co-Chair of Implementation Group - Donegal Black and Ethnic Minority Strategy

11:30-11.45	***Tea/Coffee & Scones***	
11:45-13:15	*Mount Errigal Hotel Letterkenny*	**Journeying towards equality and belonging: experiences from regions across Europe** • *Listening better to improve policymaking: the case of the Timis Minority Council,* **Cornelia-Elena Micicoi,** County Councillor & **Agneta Kardos**, EU-Belong Project manager, Timis, Romania • *Addressing the issue of youth gangs through street education*, **Marzio Barbieri**, Social, inclusion and equal opportunities policies, Emilia Romagna, Italy • *The intercultural approach in rural areas: an instrument for regional attractiveness*, **Joakim Sandberg**, Director of Cultural Affairs, Västerbotten, Sweden • *Introducing interculturalism into public institutions and their agenda to address societal challenges*, **Agnieszka Szczepanik**, Migration Specialist - Intercultural Advisor, Poznan, Poland **Moderator: Emanuela Pisanò,** EU Belong Project Manager, Assembly of European Regions **Co-moderator: Vania Freitas**, Coordinator for Institutional Relations & Advocacy, Assembly of European Regions
13:15-14:00	***Lunch***	
14:00-15:30	*Mount Errigal Hotel Letterkenny*	**Charting the course of intercultural policies & practices in Ireland** • **Geraldine McTavish**, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Manager, Gaelic Athletic Association • **Sharon McLaughlin** EDI Lead for Atlantic Technology University Letterkenny & and 2 students • **Carmel Irandoust** Founder of NETLOVE **Moderator: Micheal O'Heanaigh** AER Vice President for Youth, Culture & Tourism
15:30-16:00	***Tea/Coffee & Scones***	
16:00-17:30	*Mount Errigal Hotel Letterkenny*	**Peer learning workshop** (2 groups) **Facilitation: Johanna Pacevicius**, Coordinator Policy & Knowledge Transfer, Assembly of European Regions **Agnese Pantaloni**, Coordinator European Projects, Assembly of European Regions **Simone Pettoruso**, Head of European projects Department ICEI

17:30-18:00		***Free time***
18:00-20:00		***Dinner and Tourist Visit***
	21 March 2024	
08:30	*Fort Dunree*	**Departure: Road trip for Site Visit (Fort Dunree)**
11:00-12:15	*Inishowen Development Partnership*	**Intercultural Coffee Morning:** showcase the work of Inishowen Partnership's projects
12:30-13:00	*Site visit*	**Visit (weather permitting) to Grianan of Aileach Fort**
13:00 14:00	*Regional Cultural Centre*	**Visit One Million Stars exhibition** *Donegal Volunteer Centre & Donegal County Council* *One Million Stars Ireland project is an inclusive community arts project connecting communities across Ireland in solidarity against domestic abuse and all forms of violence.* *Through the art of star weaving, the project raises awareness around healthy relationships.* *Connecting communities through group star weaving workshops, One Million Stars Ireland project has worked with diverse groups.*
14:00-14:45	*Mount Errigal Hotel Letterkenny*	***Lunch***
15:00-17:00	*Mount Errigal Hotel Letterkenny*	**Community Cornerstones: learning with and from stakeholders** • *Donegal Intercultural Platform* – **Paul Kernan** Project Coordinator DIP & **Balume Dube**, Community Worker DIP also Training & Development lead, Think Equality Donegal project • *Donegal Travellers Project* - **Kate Hagan** - Community Development & Health Worker & **Hugh Friel** - North West Roma Health Coordinator • *Donegal Youth Service* – **Loraine Thompson** and **Fadl Mustapha** • *Donegal Volunteer Centre* – **John Curran**, Manager • Donegal Local Development Company – **Joleen Kuyper Machado**, Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Officer • Donegal Regional Culture Centre – **Jeremy Howard**, Director, Regional Cultural Centre and **Dr. Harriet Purkis**, Curator, Living in Donegal Project **Facilitation: Johanna Pacevicius**, Coordinator Policy & Knowledge Transfer, Assembly of European Regions

17:00	*Mount Errigal Hotel Letterkenny*	**Closing addresses** • **Christina O'Donnell,** Staff Officer, Social Inclusion Unit Donegal County Council & EU-Belong project Manager • **Emanuela Pisanò,** EU Belong Project Manager, Assembly of European Regions
18:00	***Dinner***	
22 March 2024		
Departures		

Consortium Meeting Agenda

Time	Item	Speaker
8.30	**Welcoming**	Christina O'Donnell, DCC
8.35	**Setting expectations** Ice-breaker exercise & Introducing the session's structure	Emanuela Pisanó, AER
8.50	**EU-Belong Internal Sustainability** Quick overview & Break-out conversations	Emanuela Pisanó, AER Gabriella Patriziano, ICEI
9.30	**EU-Belong Transnational Sustainability** AER Intercultural Regions Network & other opportunities	Vania Frietas, AER
9.40	**Wrap-up**	Emanuela Pisanó, AER

The event is the second EU-BELONG transnational knowledge sharing event aimed at supporting regions in addressing current societal challenges through intercultural and multi-stakeholder policies. EU-Belong is a 3-year project run by the Assembly of European Regions (AER) and 12 partners, and co-funded by the AMIF Programme (AMIF-2020-AG-CALL) of the European Union.

EU Belong
An Intercultural Approach to Migrant Integration in Europe's Regions
Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council
AER Assembly of European Regions
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