

**THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR IRELAND,
32 Lower O'Connell St., Dublin 1
NEWS RELEASE**

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CALL FOR MORE SUPPORT FOR NEW COMMUNITIES AT NATIONAL FORUM ON EUROPE - *Community Foundation for Ireland makes presentation on migration and calls for sensitivity when "labelling" people.*

The National Forum on Europe held a Submissions Day at Dublin Castle today, having selected a small number to present from those received following its call for submissions late last year. The Community Foundation for Ireland's submission focussed on Ireland's new communities and the need to help them adjust to their new surroundings.

Brian Hanratty, the Foundation's Head of Fundraising and Development indicated that the charity had assisted several hundred community and voluntary projects throughout Ireland, since it was established in 2000. He stated the Foundation had direct experience of supporting initiatives for both the African and Chinese communities here, including the establishment of the Irish Chinese Information Centre at Smithfield in Dublin.

He also challenged the use of the terms "Eastern Europe" and "East Europeans," saying "If 'Eastern Europe' was a political term to label European countries under communist rule, then that has been consigned to history. Neither is it geographically correct, as the Austrian capital Vienna (which would never be referred to as being in "Eastern Europe") is further east than the Slovenian capital, Ljubljana or the Czech capital, Prague. In my personal view, the terms Eastern Europe and East Europeans are too often used in a derogatory fashion and should be used respectfully – or ideally, not at all," said Brian.

He stated that the submission was timely in a week dedicated to intercultural relations, in a year that will commemorate the 1916 Rising and Proclamation and on the morning after a review predicted that by 2020, one in five people of our then enlarged population would be immigrants, and added "FAS confirm that among its EU peers, Ireland has one of the highest percentages of foreign workers in its labour force - at least 6%, with over 150,000 PPS numbers issued to citizens of the ten new Member States alone. We also have refugees and asylum seekers arriving daily. There are major challenges facing these people, and our view is that more support is needed to help them"

"While Ireland can celebrate its economic success, it still has many social challenges to address, including how we welcome those new to our shores, and philanthropy can play a key role in that response alongside initiatives on the part of National and Local Government," concluded Brian.

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