



SABIEDRĪBAS
SALIEDĒTĪBAS
RADARS



Sabiedrības integrācijas
fonds

Ireland Today: Belonging

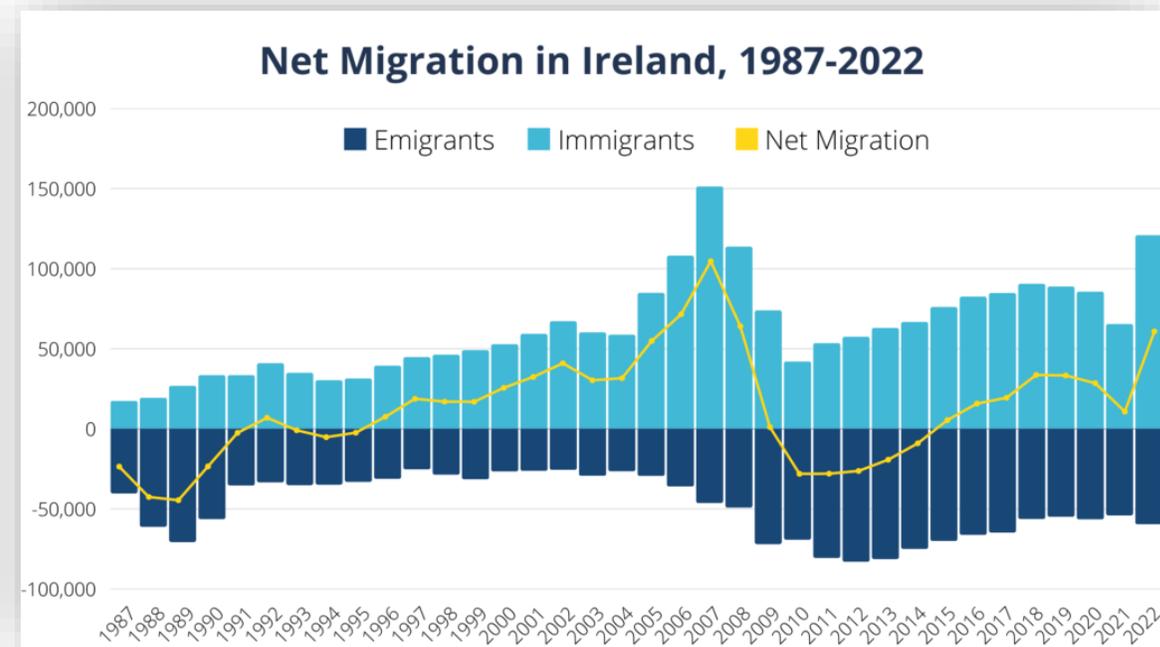


Dr John Lannon

CEO, Doras (Refugee and Migrant
Support Organisation)

From Ireland of the 1970's to Ireland in 2023

- Joined EEC in 1973
- 1980's: Unemployment and emigration
- From net emigration to immigration in mid 1990's
- Good Friday Agreement, 1998
- International Protection and *Direct Provision*, 2000
- Establishment of a Ministry for Integration in 2007
- EU Enlargement, freedom of movement - increases in immigration 2004 to 2008
- Temporary Protection Directive (Ukraine), 2022



Identity

Socially constructed

"Where are you from, originally?"



*"There are some people who have borrowed accents
From almost every single continent
Trying to fill in the blanks"*

Denise Chaila "Dual Citizenship"

A Look at One Local Integration Strategy ...

BELONGING TO **LIMERICK**

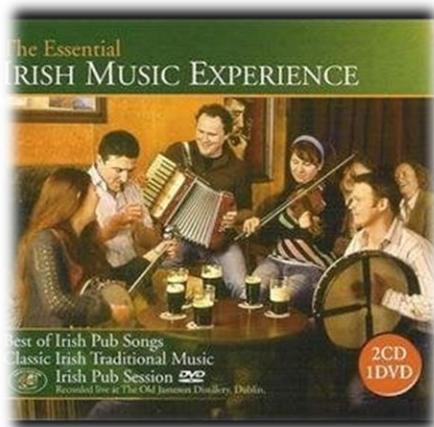
Limerick City and County Integration Plan
2018-22



- 5 priority integration themes:
- Language, Education and Employment
- Information and Communication
- Access to Public Services
- Cultural Awareness and Anti-Racism
- Active Community Participation

“ *It will require the strong support of the local authority and other statutory agencies, to secure the necessary human and financial resources to ensure a successful implementation of the Plan.* **”**

New Cultures, New Spaces (1)



"... a rapidly changing population structure, against which the mapping of a communal Irishness onto existing categories such as 'traditional music' becomes increasingly difficult" (Blake, 2016)



New Cultures, New Spaces (2)

“Gaelic games ... reflect the distinctiveness of Irish cultural and social life ... at times, played a more overt political role in resistance to imperialism” (Liston & Maguire, 2022)



The Role of Civil Society

Helping government find solutions
and holding them accountable

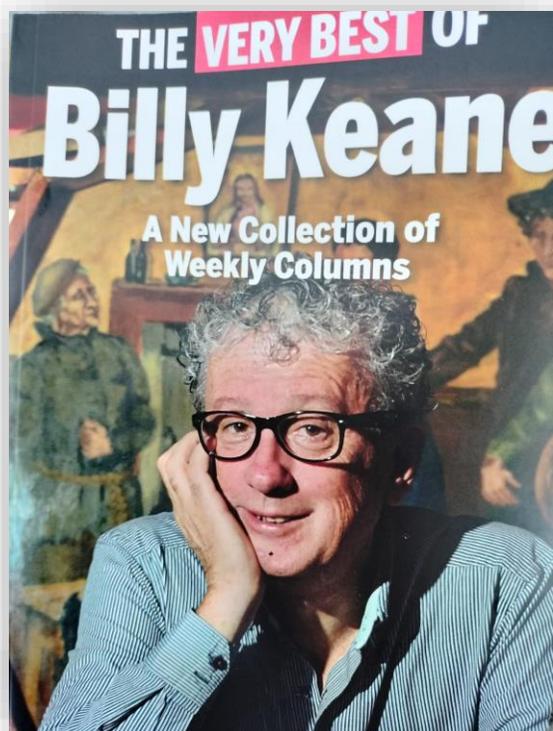
Supporting Active Citizenship



Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development, Joe O'Brien TD said:
"We have seen the outpouring of support in communities across the country, assisted by the vital roles played by community and voluntary organisations. The contribution of €5m by Government to this Fund will enable those most in need to be assisted by the NGOs involved, and provide meaningful and essential supports to our communities to welcome and help the people coming from Ukraine."

Final Thought on Societal Institutions

Navigating culture and structure – different places, different dreams



"Addis, the taxi man from Ethiopia, was driving us to the White House. When we were outside the East Wing he said: "You know my friends some day my son can be President of America". So how about the Irish Dream?

We must redefine Irishness to include all of the boys and girls who come here for support, our love and their chance of a better life.

And maybe the day is not far off when a young African-Irish boy will take the Sam from the president of the GAA and really live the Irish Dream"*

* The Sam Maguire cup is award given to the All Ireland champions in the dominant sport of Gaelic Football. The body overseeing the sport is the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)



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Thank You
***Go Raibh
Maith Agat***



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