

SOCIAL INCLUSION FORUM 2026

Advancing ACTION on Poverty & Social Exclusion

Community Work Ireland & European Anti-Poverty
Network Ireland Preparatory Workshops



**SUMMARY OF KEY PROPOSALS -
AVIVA STADIUM May 27th 2026**

Introduction

The Social Inclusion Forum is an important annual event to monitor the Government's social inclusion and anti-poverty agenda. The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland and Community Work Ireland (CWI) collaborate annually to organise a series of consultation workshops to listen to, record and present the views and experiences of communities throughout the country and to support participation at the Social Inclusion Forum. This report outlines some of the issues raised at the preparatory workshops, and sets out a range of proposals to address them.

With the conclusion of the Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020 - 2025, and our failure to meet the overall target of reducing the numbers in consistent poverty to 2% or less, ending up at more than double that figure, we need to change tack. To eliminate poverty, there needs to be a whole of society response, understanding the systemic problems that lead to some groups being more at risk of poverty than others, along with an assessment of the impact of the cost of living increases and housing costs which are putting more people at risk of poverty & social exclusion.

The **theme** of SIF 2026 is:

“Advancing Action on Poverty & Social Exclusion”.

This year's SIF workshops focussed on seven themes:

- 1) Building Inclusive Communities
- 2) Nothing About Us Without Us - Disability in Ireland
- 3) Household Poverty & Child Poverty
- 4) LGBTQI+ - Pride & Poverty
- 5) Inclusion of Traveller & Roma Communities
- 6) Gendered Inequalities in Poverty
- 7) Social Inclusion in Gaeltacht Communities

Three online and four in person workshops were held in Dublin, Enniscorthy, Inis Mor, and Roscommon in preparation for SIF 2025. Unfortunately the workshop in Limerick was cancelled due to weather problems initially and then the fuel crisis, exposing the vulnerabilities which communities are enduring as a result of external factors. Nonetheless, over 150 participants joined from all over the country, from a broad and

diverse range of backgrounds and experiences. Each workshop provided the context and the opportunity for detailed discussion. We thank all those who gave their time and energy to this process.

Overarching Issues

There were a number of overarching broader points that kept re-emerging at the different workshops, which before looking at the issues and proposed solutions under each of the seven thematic areas, are important to highlight, as they impact the overall situation.

- The use of the word poverty has been dropped from discourse, replaced by references to social inclusion. While linked, they are not the same, and the word poverty should be re-introduced & elevated in all public documents and spaces.
- Housing overshadows everything, solve the housing crisis and many of the problems of poverty & deprivation will be addressed. Poverty needs to be assessed, after housing costs are taken out, as the numbers at risk of poverty are far greater, particularly for those renting.
- Recognition that vast amounts of public funding are provided for services in terms of childcare, elder care, accommodation of asylum seekers, housing supports, services for disabled people, and so on, but as these are paid to private operators the costs are higher than they should be, and there are huge problems with quality of service, or services not benefitting those they are supposed to target.
- Spiralling cost of living crisis, often due to external events is having a severe impact and must be addressed by benchmarking of social welfare payments linked to the cost of living rather than permanent crises and ad hoc responses.
- Government announcements should detail concrete targets, ie. number of houses, number of occupational therapists, not financial data which often yields little results
- Autonomous community work should be prioritised and the resources made available to develop this into government policy and programmes, to ensure better collaboration & results.
- High levels of frustration at the lack of progress on housing and addressing the impact of the rise in the cost of living
- Widespread belief that the solutions for the most marginalised groups are well known, the problem is that they are not being implemented.
- Investment needs to be prioritised in frontline community services which are doing critical preventative work, but are overstretched & understaffed due to low pay & uncertain funding - short term funding & programme timescales cut across results
- Better information on many good schemes is needed from the Department, along with more cultural training for staff & a greater understanding of the intersectional nature of poverty. There needs to be education & promotion of entitlements.

1. Building Inclusive Communities

It is in communities that the problems of disadvantage, exclusion and division are felt. And it is here that people are engaging in tireless, undervalued work to engage in prevention, to break down barriers across all generations, and run many schemes and programmes that can change the lives of those who engage with them. But despite funding being provided to the sector, it is top-down, with changing to funding requirements and governance taking its toll. Lack of co-ordination across departments is causing duplication & waste. There is a deeply held view that a neo-liberal approach has undermined the sector & that disadvantaged communities are not much different than they were 20 years ago.

Many participants repeated that 'consultation' has replaced all notion of working collaboratively, that this consultation is tokenistic, with little true engagement at local level and a far cry from a genuine partnership where views are taken on board. There needs to be a change in the mindset that sees the sector as ah-hoc, plug-ins in a shrivelled system of service provision. It is only by understanding a values led system which targets the involvement of every citizen, no matter their age, when they came to Ireland, their educational status and so on, and the supporting of such programmes at grassroots level, that the results will be felt. Short term funding and programme timespans are cutting across this.

Problems & Solutions

More Youth Workers are needed - 9 hours a week is not enough

Intergenerational transfer of values based community work is not there, need more young people leading the work in communities

Needs to be more funding of preventative work with specific initiatives for 5-10 year olds & 10-15 year olds. Lack of income means parents cannot afford activities

More remuneration for CE scheme workers - €20 extra for the level of work involved does not encourage take-up - 3 year limit means no opportunity to progress

Everyone should have the right to volunteer - it is welcome that disabled people can keep their benefits while volunteering, but job seekers must gain permission. Volunteering should be supported across the board with prospects afterwards where possible

Good funding is available such as the Dormant Accounts Scheme, but these need to be more targeted at areas of marginalisation

Excellent community-led & run initiatives exist for older people such as the Kildare Dementia Cafe & Grantstown Community Village & DayCare which has outreach, meals, activities and medical support all on site. These need to be models of elder care, integrated in a manner which does not have to depend on fundraising to keep going

Poor digital skills among older people is difficult to overcome, the provision of a telephone contact should be mandatory for anyone providing a service.

Mens sheds are an excellent development for men over 60, but participation of men under 60 in the community needs attention

Community spaces need to be publicly available and accessible on an intergenerational basis with open access, (both indoor & outdoor), to cut across loneliness and division, combined with service integration

Sports Partnerships working well in some areas and should be expanded but non sporting activities need equal access to funding and public spaces - music and art are being pushed out to the margins

SNAs should be relocated in the Summer to work with communities, improving their employment situation & providing extra resources for youth integration in the community

Poverty and disadvantage are creating the conditions for racism - this must be tackled- communities need to be funded for the excellent initiatives underway in difficult circumstances in many areas

There should be designated DSP/Revenue/Immigration staff to act as a point of contact for community groups working with migrants and asylum seekers

At every session participants stressed the need to allow migrants & asylum seekers to work, which is absolutely necessary to enable inclusion & integration, including by improving the system of skills recognition or adaption from other countries

Locating IPAS centres in rural, isolated communities or disadvantaged areas, run by private for profit operators must cease - we need a publicly run, integrated service

More consistency is needed, for example there was no difficulty in investing in translation services for Ukrainians, but there are none for Roma

ETB language programmes need to be expanded for those with no basic language skills in English

The drugs problem is often caused by poverty which fails to be addressed in responding to the crisis - empowerment of local communities, provision of services and a health based approach is necessary

It was widely recognised that rural transport has taken great strides forward, but costs remain high, (€8 return from Rosslare IPAS to Wexford from an income of €38.50), also uneven, really good connectivity around Wexford town, but nothing in Enniscorthy. This programme needs to keep being extended and prices reduced.

Community cars should be available in rural areas- this would be hugely beneficial for island communities, negating the need for 2 cars (double tax & insurance) which can't be driven at the same time

2. Nothing About Us Without Us - Disability in Ireland

'Disabled people are on the outskirts of society'

The extra costs of disability and the stigma around it, continue to dominate, leading to exclusion problems for disabled people. Large amounts of money are spent on the sector but most of it goes to private operators and large organisations, which does not necessarily filter down nor have the impact on the lives of the disabled person themselves or their families and carers. There was consistent agreement that disabled people need to be given more agency over the funding, with more direct payments and an improvement in the Independent Living Allowance, rather than funding organisations.

A much more targeted approach to employment needs to be developed. It was also felt that there are huge barriers of bureaucracy and cost in relation to regulation in designed services, while services for disabled children remain unavailable in many areas. There needs to be greater services in local areas for disabled people at all stages of their lives, particularly those with high dependency whose carers may need a residential service for them in their community, as they get older and are unable to cope.

Problems & Solutions

Care for children with autism or special needs is just not there in most parts of the country, with parents left helpless if they cannot afford private supports - waiting lists are far too long - there needs to be a radical overhaul of public provision in this regard, including utilising the skills of people who have come into the country but are not allowed to work or use their existing skills and education.

Special Needs places need to be available locally in schools after pre-school - failure to deliver these is leading to children having to leave their community on buses, or where not suitable in a car travelling with an SNA, this is costly, impractical and leads to poorer outcomes for all.

Skepticism & bureaucracy in applying for benefits, lack of consistency in decisions - there needs to be an updating of training and guidelines for staff.

Disabled people find it difficult to access services due to transport & childcare costs

Disabled peoples' voices must be heard in creating policy, the Human Rights Strategy for Disabled People is a good model which should be replicated

Specialised housing, linked to need is not being developed - social housing can be offered only to find it is inaccessible for the disabled person's needs.

Universal Design needs to be adopted as standard.

More focus on our poor performance in relation to disabled people in employment is welcome. However the results are still very poor. There is a total lack of knowledge of supports among employers. Targets need to be improved in both the public and private sectors, including small local employers, and a public education campaign.

Disabled people want to take up employment but are concerned at the lack of supports. Often fear of not being able to keep it up, or maintain attendance holds them back, particularly in relation to the lack of mental health support. More supports & flexibility needed.

The reduction in the Wage Subsidy Scheme to 15 hours is welcome, but it is felt that it should be more flexible, allowing for example, 3 people to work 5 hours if someone finds 15 hours too much, maybe on a panel basis akin to substitute teachers. This reduces the pressure on the primary worker, and allows others benefit from some employment, which the employer has the hours maintained.

Creative solutions to the extra cost of disability should be developed, utilising not just extra direct payments, but also tax credits and other initiatives.

Funding streams and availability of volunteers needs to be prioritised at local level to cut across exclusion

Some Experiences:

'There's a person living in Waterford hospital palliative care unit for 6 months, because their apartment is on the 3rd floor and not accessible to return to'

'I was born with a medical condition but was told it was not a disability when applying for a primary medical cert'

'I was working well remotely but when they saw the way I looked and talked, things changed'

'A disabled person's autonomy was taken away because their day care centre blocked them taking up employment under threat of losing their place in the centre, whereas it could have been freed up for the 19 hours allowing someone else to benefit.'

3. Household Poverty & Child Poverty

Household & Child poverty is severely impacted by both the housing, and cost of living crises. Poverty cannot be tackled without addressing these points. Poverty levels should be calculated after housing costs are deducted. This would result in much higher at risk of poverty figures particularly for those renting. Older people living alone, and children are disproportionately impacted by poverty, as are the unemployed, those unable to work due to long standing health problems, and asylum seekers and migrants. Establishing a minimum income, benchmarked with MESL and automatically adjusted to take account of the cost of living is the only secure basis to begin to eradicate poverty, combined with accessible public services and targeted measures to address the systemic reasons why some groups are most impacted than others. As the response to the fuel protests show, the money is there when the political will to use it is exercised.

Problems & Solutions

Cost of rent overshadows everything - social housing is not affordable, landlords will not accept HAP

Housing differential scheme by local authorities - different in different areas, some paying 25% of their income - this should be reduced to no more than 11%

Inconsistency in local authority housing allocation, rules not uniformly applied

Public Housing must be provided by the state

Threshold for social housing eligibility must be increased

Impact on future generations of the housing crisis in terms of trauma & mental health not taken seriously

All state efforts should focus on keeping people in their homes

Homeless figures are understated, veiled by couch surfing, by excluding children in direct provision, and over 18 year olds living at home

Homeless hubs & accommodation substandard with rules that cause trauma. On the one hand no support, on the other excessive control - curfews, need permission to leave for a couple of nights, families split up, you spend more time(2 cookers, 6 families all at same time, so buy take-out food)

Stigma around being homeless, no intervention for the trauma, stress causes increased violence & abuse

Energy costs are a huge pressure - why are they so high in Ireland? Need to stop subsidising energy companies. Energy grant scheme has to be made fit for purpose, upfront costs and bureaucracy is too high to make it accessible - a strategy to retrofit all homes must be developed

Community food banks are struggling to meet the gap and are not a long term solution

Education as a route out of poverty must be given more attention - this requires broadband & childcare

Free Books & Food Cloud are welcome initiatives, but they are a band-aid

Huge waste of food & packaging relating to school meals which is a burden on the school

Migrants struggle to access information & navigate complex benefits process -need frontline staff training in this area to be more pro-active rather than placing barriers

Information formerly provided by DSP is being handled by CICs, migrants are not allowed to use their phones, and with no translation are missing out on entitlements

Over 500 asylum seekers have no accommodation, yet spaces in IPAS, no assistance unless in IPAS, privately & poorly run, providing an expensive, yet harmful system - all asylum seekers must be given accommodation and allowed to work - we need construction and other workers, targeted schemes must be developed

Different treatment of different migrants causes racism, ie. Specialised benefits for Ukrainians, not available to Irish or other nationalities

Medical card extension is welcomed, but the threshold must be raised & a plan in place to overcome the shortage of GPs

Peer led primary health care should be developed for migrants with special attention to mental health

Spiralling health insurance costs is tipping more people into poverty

Slaintecare must be implemented in full

Mental health needs more attention at SIF. Services are not there, either in CAHMS or by the HSE, people are not listened to, there is talk of prevention but no resources to support it - there must be a cross departmental focus & investment in transformative mental health policies which address the structural inequalities involved, listen, and collaborate, along with raising awareness & training across society

Young carers face huge levels of stress & disadvantage, not acknowledged due to stigma, therefore unsupported - 25-30% of young people surveyed in TY in Roscommon were in this situation

Discrimination in employment & service provision because you come from certain areas, or have a certain accent, is rampant and must be outlawed without further delay

Capacity building workshops regarding accessing entitlements & supports must be undertaken in all areas of disadvantage

‘Feed your kids or dress them, both is not affordable’

‘I used to spend €250 on Christmas food shopping, now I’m paying that every week’

‘People are taking toilet rolls from public toilets because they can’t afford to buy them’

‘I had to go to SVP to get money for my prescription, as some of my medication not covered by the medical card, felt humiliating’

‘In homeless accommodation its like you are owned by the Council, yet nobody comes near you’

4. LGBTQI+ - Pride & Poverty

Unfortunately, there was very little reference to this topic during the preparatory workshops, perhaps reflecting the fact that sexual orientation is not seen as a reason why someone would be any more economically disadvantaged than anyone else. However, culturally, issues of exclusion remain among this community, including among younger people and in rural areas, and parents of those transitioning. The workshops felt that there needs to be more community funding for LGBTQI+ community workers. This topic will be addressed at the Forum in the ‘Building Inclusive Communities’ workshop.

We would like to draw attention to the excellent initiative undertaken by County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP) in collaboration with the Midlands LGBT+ Project, who delivered six *LGBT+ Sensitivity and Awareness Training* sessions last year, aimed at strengthening understanding and inclusivity across the community, social, and health sectors. More than 80 participants took part, representing a wide range of organisations, including An Garda Síochána, Kildare and Wicklow ETB, In Sync Youth & Family Services, iScoil, School Completion Programme, Foróige, The Hive – Kildare Town Youth Hub, Kildare Town Library, Special Olympics Ireland and local community services. Three LGBT+ Visibility events were hosted in libraries and a community centre. With limited availability of local LGBT+ resources, and the difficulty of ensuring accessibility for rural participants, the project aims to continue, strengthening cross sector collaboration, inclusion & visibility.

Also, the first piece of research into deprivation among the LGBT+ community ‘Pride & Poverty’ published by Outhouse this year, has finally made visible this issue, and revealed the following: High levels of deprivation, Barriers to stable income and employment, People spoke about discrimination, insecure work, and disrupted career paths - showing up strongly for trans and non-binary people, and Hidden poverty and low visibility in data. Potential Solutions were suggested along the following lines: A fund dedicated national research, State-funded research to build a stronger evidence base and move from correlation to clear understanding of causes and impacts, Include LGBTQ+ households in SILC, and Develop a national mapping of LGBTQ+ experiences, similar to Traveller mapping work, to reflect the diversity and complexity of the community.

5. Inclusion of Traveller & Roma Communities

The Traveller & Roma communities continue to be one of the most marginalised, with shocking figures of exclusion across education and employment, with lower mortality rates and higher levels of suicide continuing. Sub standard housing and overcrowding prevails. Yet, at the same time there have been many comprehensive reports and impressive strategies. But while some improvements have taken place, they are well below what was expected and what is needed. There is a clear disconnect between stated policy objectives and their results. There is no point in continuing to repeat the same approach. There needs to be a whole of society response that raises awareness about Traveller & Roma culture and history, combined with targeted supports in all areas to secure the implementation of policies around housing, health, education and employment.

Problems & Solutions

Racism and discrimination is pervasive across society, with most Travellers experiencing both individual and systemic racism on a regular basis - cultural awareness programmes need to be organised at every level of society.

Accessing services can be particularly difficult- frontline staff need to be trained in Traveller & Roma culture, and have increased understanding of the barriers of literacy & confidence which can impede many Travellers & Roma in gaining their entitlements.

No ethnic identifier for Travellers & Roma accessing public services, it is improving but needs more awareness

Facilities & services were made available to Travellers during Covid but were then withdrawn, clear the funding is there, but political will needed to deliver

Requiring a fixed address and habitual residency clauses can act as a barrier to receiving necessary income and supports, requiring people to provide repeat proofs for each benefit despite already qualifying, this is discriminatory - a flexible approach needs to be adopted

Implementation of Traveller accommodation, barriers, it is not working in practise

“Traveller families are not ticking boxes on housing applications as they fear it would be used as a reason to be not allowed access accommodation”

Possibility of availing from energy grants to reduce carbon footprint and high energy costs is not available to Travellers

Targeted programmes to keep Traveller and Roma children in school should be implemented, combined with the re-introduction of specific teachers for Traveller & Roma children, but also cultural awareness across all levels of education - there is evidence of discrimination and low horizons & lack of academic encouragement for Traveller & Roma children. It is unacceptable that the overwhelming majority of Traveller & Roma children do not complete second level education, unlike the almost full completion among the settled community. This massively aggravates exclusion, disadvantage, physical & mental health problems.

The introduction of the €6000 accommodation support for Travellers going to college is a very welcome step forward, but there are multiple barriers to accessing the funds as they are paid to the college. The Aboriginal model of the resources following the child should be piloted. This funding should be provided directly to the student to have the required impact of enabling them to remain in college

Grant schemes for employers to take on Travellers are not advertised or pursued & there is no encouragement of employers to play a role in reducing Traveller exclusion. A significant local employer in Wexford who attended the workshop, had never been approached to employ a Traveller

In Limerick, attendees felt that the Traveller apprenticeship scheme was working well with Travellers & employers, and that work placements in the public service were an innovative way forward

However a lot of Traveller men in training could not get work, with only 2 out of 30 securing employment & feeling they had to hide their identity

ETB funding for cookery courses & domestic violence programmes for Traveller men had good attendance

Travellers talking to Travellers is the way forward. There has been considerable success from such schemes including the Wexford Local Development Programme which employs 14 Traveller women dealing with Traveller health. Such programmes need to be expanded to other areas. No access to speech and language services for disabled Traveller & Roma children

Targeted health & wellness programmes need to be introduced to improve Traveller mortality - the provision of a designated HSE worker for Roma & Brazilians welcome

Community funding is necessary to support Traveller programmes. Three Traveller programmes were closed in the last year as a result of complicated application and governance requirements to access funding.

6. Gendered Inequalities in Poverty

Women are more likely to experience poverty than men. This predominately relates to the fact that they undertake the majority of care & domestic work. This means the burden of child & elder care rests on their shoulders, undermining access to the labour market & social inclusion, and often resulting in poorer pensions. If equality is to be achieved, these issues must be addressed. These topics will be discussed at the Forum as part of the Household Poverty & Child Poverty workshop.

Problems & Solutions

Lone parents are predominately woman and face multiple barriers to inclusion & the labour market

Allowing the retention of benefits when employment is taken up, is welcome but it needs to be improved - there should be at least a period of two years retention of benefits, reducing gradually thereafter up on employment

Working single parents receive no social welfare payments when working full time - more support is needed in terms of lower rent, medical cars, back to school and child payments

Stop taxing carers social welfare - only work 18.5 hours without tax

Childcare is an enormous burden, and inaccessible in many rural areas, resulting in reduced access to training & employment mainly for women from low or middle income backgrounds and particularly those parenting lone. There must be the development of a public childcare system, available along the lines of education provision for older children

Inability to bring parents to Ireland for migrants working here means a key social support for children, available to most Irish workers is not available, further isolating women who have come to live in Ireland and preventing their integration and inclusion - restrictions must be relaxed

Feelings of stress & shame when unable to care for older people

Privatisation of care work, has resulted in a lucrative industry of poor care at enormous cost to the state. Care work needs to be recognised as work and remunerated accordingly

Undervaluing of care work has to stop. As a first step a system of direct payments for care work should be implemented, targeting vulnerable women initially. Successful pilot schemes have been implemented in the US targeted at women at risk of criminalisation, or having their children taken into care

A care income recognises care and domestic work as work, empowering women & recognising society's historical debt, it has been recommended by the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty & Human Rights

Ex-prisoners, addicts and lone parents are the majority of those involved in sex work. The present model of criminalising the purchase of sex makes them unsafe & more vulnerable. Sex Work should be decriminalised and supports put in place. Stop criminalising poverty

Tusla interventions deemed as neglect are often the consequences of poverty. This is what needs to be tackled, rather than targeting the victim and traumatising their children- more support for vulnerable families

“Women & children are not being counted in homeless figures because they are in refuges”

7. Social Inclusion in Gaeltacht Communities

The hosting of a workshop, as Gaeilge in an island community was appreciated. Participants believed that the survival of our island communities face substantial challenges, particularly urgently, from population decline, that requires a fundamental shift in government approach to engagement. There was a real desire for the islands to be *'living, vibrant places'* but that this means *"making the island an attractive place for young families"...**"If they don't do this the islands are in trouble"*, & *"Working together to value the people living on Irish islands, that their lives are worthwhile, that they have something to contribute to Ireland by providing services and incentives"*. It was widely felt that the 'penalties' associated with island living, higher costs and reduced access to essential services & employment, must be addressed to ensure equality of treatment with the rest of the country. National policies and programmes are not adequately "island-proofed" to ensure they meet the needs of Gaeltacht island communities. This disconnect contributes to a broader perception that island communities are overlooked.

Problems & Solutions

Childcare is urgent for young families to remain, but while facilities may exist, attracting and retaining qualified staff is extremely difficult under current schemes such as ECCE *"there is a full time childcare facility but we cannot get a qualified person to run it...we don't have the population to sustain and full time service"*. The state needs to directly intervene to cover this deficit.

Targeted initiatives to attract & retain young people and families on the island, such as tax incentives, improved housing policies, and measures to address dereliction and regulate short-term lettings, alongside simplifying the upfront costs and procedures around planning permission.

Investment in infrastructure—particularly roads, transport, and public services, especially healthcare—were seen as essential to overcome the additional financial and logistical burden of travelling to the mainland for basic services.

Recognition of the extra pressure on the cost of living for island residents, must be offset; for example extra costs of delivering hot meals programmes to schools.

Transport was repeatedly identified as a critical issue. Local Link provides an important lifeline, but only twice weekly—significantly restricts mobility, particularly for older people and disabled people. Also the lack of appropriate infrastructure on ferries was

described as a major barrier, *“Ferries are getting huge subsidies but disabled people are still being manhandled”*.

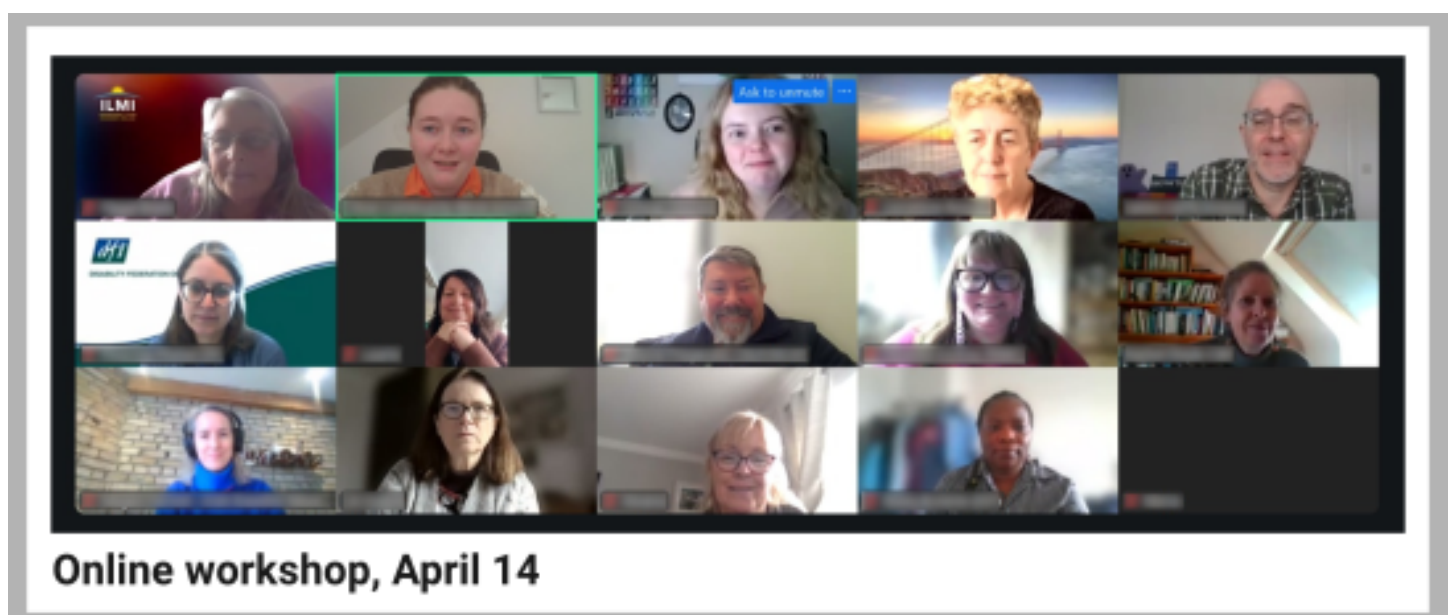
Isolation is a major concern, particularly for older residents. As younger generations move away in search of education and employment opportunities, older people are increasingly left without nearby family support, with travel to and from the islands expensive and logistically challenging, particularly in peak seasons.

Simple community initiatives, were shown to have a significant positive impact, *“We ran bingo and people loved it especially older people...we didn’t realise how little was happening but it was too costly to keep going”*. Sustaining & developing these activities requires flexible, community-driven financial supports, relatively modest lump-sum investments could have a transformative impact if allocated based on locally identified needs.

Concerns were also raised about the diminished capacity of Údarás na Gaeltachta, which historically played a key role in supporting enterprise, employment, and the Irish language in Gaeltacht areas.

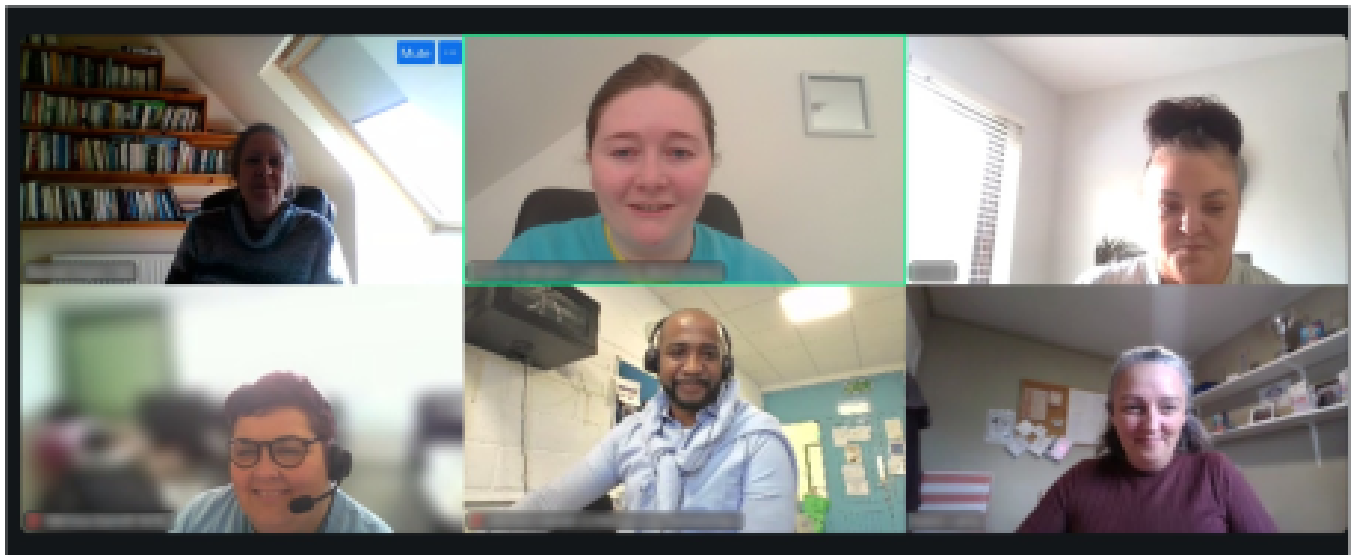
Significant opportunities exist within Gaeltacht island communities. Their small scale and clearly defined geographic boundaries position them as ideal sites for piloting innovative approaches to sustainability, including in areas such as climate action, biodiversity, and housing. Initiatives like Measure 3 of the CLÁR Programme, “Our Living Islands,” were recognised as positive steps that could be expanded and strengthened.

Regional disparities in poverty must be addressed in a targeted way, not just on the islands, but in the forgotten counties





SIF workshop IHREC, Dublin



Online workshop, Limerick



SIF workshops in Enniscorthy (left) and Dublin (right).



SIF workshops in Roscommon (top) and Inis Mór (bottom)



Community Work Ireland (CWI) is the national organisation that promotes and supports community work as a means of addressing poverty, social exclusion and inequality; promoting, protecting and advancing human rights and ultimately achieving social change that will contribute to the creation of a just, sustainable and equal society. We support over 1070+ members. www.cwi.ie, contact us: info@cwi.ie or 086 822 6210



EAPN: Established in 1990, the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland is a network of groups and individuals working against poverty. It is the Irish national network of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN Europe), which has decades of experience in lobbying for progressive social change and anti-poverty initiatives across Ireland and Europe. The Mission of EAPN Ireland is 'To put the eradication of poverty at the top of the Irish and European policy agenda and empower groups working to end poverty to understand and influence policy-making.' <https://eapn.ie/> contact us: 01-8745737 enquiries@eapn.ie