



## SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

### Project Case Study: Crossing Borders Breaking Boundaries

#### THEME:

Building Positive Relations :  
Regional

#### FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):

£1,098,316.69

#### MATCH FUNDERS:

The Executive Office NI,  
Department for Rural and  
Community Development  
Ireland

#### LEAD PARTNER:

Migrant Rights Centre  
Ireland

#### PROJECT PARTNERS:

Community Intercultural  
Programme, Irish  
Congress of Trade Unions  
(Northern Ireland), Ulster  
University's Institute for  
Research in Social  
Services, Cavan County  
Council, Armagh  
Banbridge and Craigavon  
Borough Council and  
Newry and Down District  
Council

#### PROJECT CONTACT:

brid@mrci.ie

Start Date: 01/10/2017

End Date: 31/12/2020



[https://www.mrci.ie/  
crossing-borders-  
breaking-boundaries/](https://www.mrci.ie/crossing-borders-breaking-boundaries/)



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The project will tackle the sectarianism, discrimination, racism and exploitation of EU and non-EU migrants in precarious and insecure sectors of the labour market, along the Border Region of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

One of the key objectives will be to conduct research on the profile, cross-border dynamics, and issues impeding labour market integration of black and minority ethnic (BME) workers in the agricultural, and food processing businesses sectors in Donegal/Derry, Cavan/Armagh, Monaghan/Newry-Down.

A further objective will be to develop a new and innovative model of labour workers market integration to increase the capacity of BME to secure their labour rights and enhance their leadership skills.

*“The research will fill a significant gap in our current knowledge and provide insight into the profile, cross-border dynamics, and employment barriers migrants face. It is providing real-time information and enhancing our understanding of the dynamics emerging in the border region. The results will provide a firm evidence base to guide policies in this area.”*

Dr Nat O' Connor of Ulster University



Info session and Clinic - Lurgan - March 2019

ICTU delivers information and support around employment rights to a group of Bulgarian workers in Lurgan.



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Across its lifetime, the project will:

- Provide vital casework and advocacy support to BME workers;
- Facilitate workers to participate and take action through leadership training and capacity building, creating a new model of labour market integration;
- Support the organisation of workers to lead dynamic campaigns to raise awareness and change policies;
- Conduct in-depth research with workers to find out more about working conditions, the impact of cross-border dynamics/Brexit, and issues impeding labour market integration of BME migrants.

*“This is a new and innovative approach to cross-border cooperation that is putting workers’ rights at its heart.”*

MRCI Director Edel McGinley



CIP Casework Session - CIP offers valuable 1-1 support with migrant workers in Portadown and Armagh

**Key Output :** Regional level project that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities