



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: 1,200 Engaged in Crossing Borders Breaking Boundaries Project

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

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/)



@CrossingBBB

The Crossing Borders, Breaking Boundaries project supported approximately 1,200 workers (particularly migrant workers) in the agri-food sector in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, allowing them to speak out about their poor working conditions and challenge the barriers that prevent them from accessing their employment rights. The project's research established that without full access to rights, its impossible for people to fully contribute to their local communities in order to help build a more integrated society.

Key Project Outputs

Over 1,200 workers:

- **Fought to: get back unpaid wages, challenge bullying and discrimination, and speak out against exploitation;**
- **Learnt more about what employers are falling short on and shared this information with other workers to empower others;**
- **Delivered migrant-led actions so that those directly affected could have a platform to voice their concerns and ensure their stories were heard;**
- **Took part in cross-community participatory workshops such as: How to Lobby, Racism and Sectarianism, Campaigning on an Anti-Racist Platform, Confidence Speaking English as a Second Language;**
- **Participated in research that enabled the project to bring together common experiences of workers in the sector, providing them with the evidence to add weight to their demands for long-term change.**

“This project’s research provides contemporary evidence confirming that workers in the cross-border agri-food sector (particularly in smaller workplaces) continue to experience poor working conditions, low pay rates, long hours, inadequate terms and conditions of employment, and less than optimum employment practices. Although migrant workers reported a relatively successful integration into local communities, the demands of a working week characterised by long and often unsocial working hours, alongside language barriers, limit opportunities for full local integration.”

Jennifer Hamilton, Senior Lecturer, Ulster University