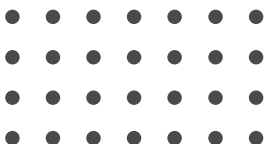




2024 Annual Report

A comprehensive evaluation of our strategic achievements, overall impact, and key milestones in 2024, highlighting partnerships, community engagement, and the vital support of our funders in advancing our mission.



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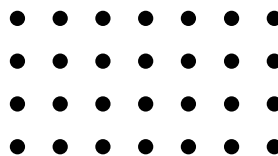
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Message from the Chairperson

Reuben Hambakachere Board Chairperson of Cultúr Migrant Centre

Dear Friends, Partners, and Members of the Cultur Community,

It is with great pride and deep appreciation that I present the Cultur Migrant Centre 2024 Annual Report.

This year has been a significant milestone in our journey. In June, we proudly celebrated Cultur's 20th anniversary, two decades of unwavering commitment to inclusion, empowerment, and social justice for migrants, refugees, and ethnic minority communities across Ireland. It was a moment to reflect on how far we've come and to renew our vision for the future.

Throughout 2024, our work has continued to make a real difference. From employability and community safety to youth empowerment and intercultural engagement, our projects have reached and uplifted countless individuals and families. This success would not have been possible without the extraordinary dedication of our CEO and staff. Their passion, professionalism, and resilience continue to be the driving force behind our impact.

We were also pleased to welcome several new board members at our AGM in September, bringing fresh ideas, diverse experience, and strong commitment to our governance and mission. We are excited to have them on board as we step into the next chapter of our work.

Key highlights of the year included the continued growth of the "Be Safe in Your Space" initiative, the strengthening of our Migrant Network, and the deepening of partnerships with communities and organisations across the country.

To our funders, partners, and community members. Thank you. Your ongoing support, collaboration, and trust sustain our mission and inspire us daily.

As we move forward into 2025, we do so with renewed energy and an enduring belief in a society where everyone, regardless of background or status, is welcomed, valued, and empowered.

With sincere gratitude and hope,

Reuben Hambakachere
Chairperson, Cultur Migrant Centre

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROJECTS



CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH



CLASSES

450 participants

90% success rate

COMMUNITIES CONNECT



90+ IPAs engaged

30 mentees recruited

30 mentors

UPSKILLING PROJECT



128 participants registered

98 assessed



81 Attendees

WOMEN'S GROUP



46 Total Members

Connect4Inclusion



44 participants

Healthy Journey for Migrant Women



40 Attendees

BE SAFE IN YOUR SPACE



21 participants

Migrant Network Community



Development Project

+300 participants

AFRICA DAY



152 Attendees

WORLD REFUGEE DAY



83 Attendees

MEATH CULTURE NIGHT



108 Attendees

INSPIRE WOMEN'S DAY



112 Attendees

Office Drop-ins



Number of Drop-ins - 133

Women - 66

Men - 67

From 27 countries



Accessing...

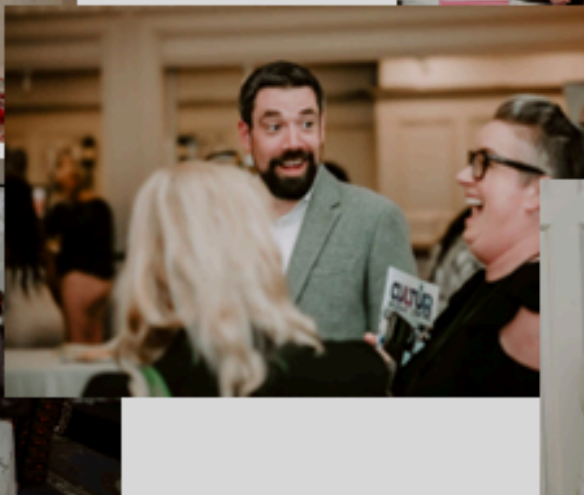
- English Courses
- Group Development
- Career Development
- Further Education/Vocational Training
- Drop-in/Consultation/Advocacy
- Other Support

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A Year of Celebrations and Impact

At Cultúr Migrant Centre, 2024 was a year full of meaningful moments and impactful events that brought our community together. One of the key highlights of the year was the celebration of our 20th anniversary a significant milestone that marked two decades of supporting and empowering migrants and diverse communities across Counties Meath and Louth. The event was attended by 81 guests, including community members, partners, and supporters, and served as a powerful reminder of how far we have come and the positive impact we continue to make

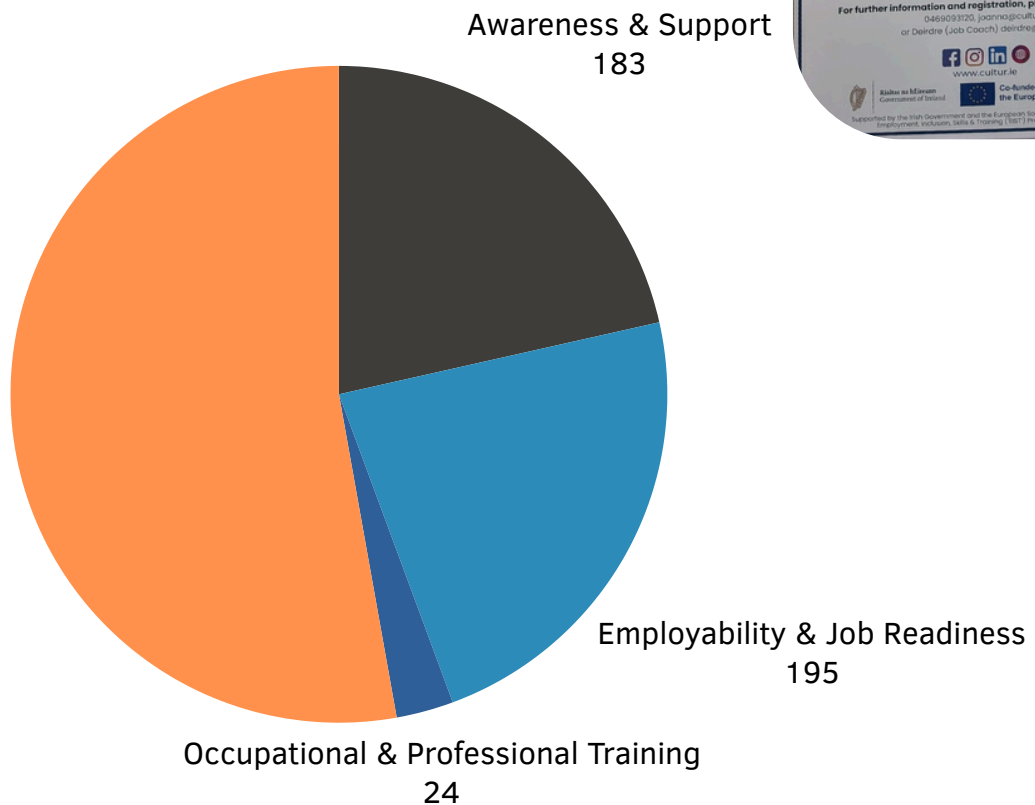
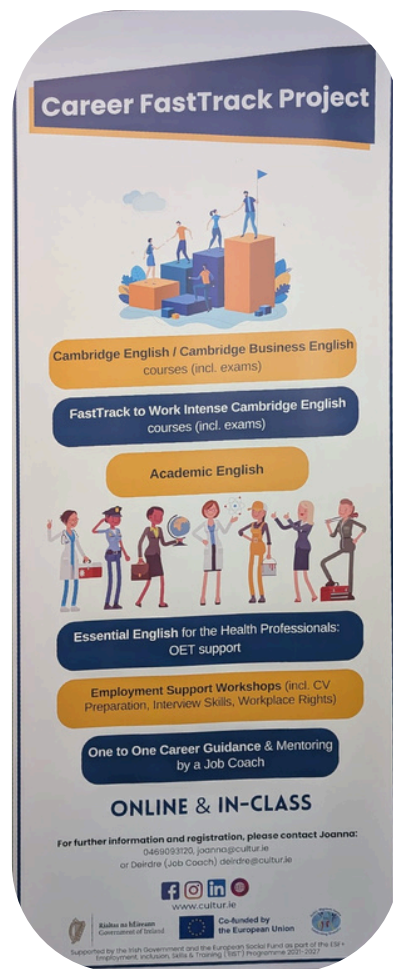
During the celebration, we shared a special moment as the cake was cut to commemorate this remarkable achievement, symbolizing the growth and success we've experienced over the years. The event also featured a variety of stalls where members of the community showcased their businesses, reflecting the vibrant entrepreneurial spirit and cultural diversity within our network. Additionally, we proudly released our new magazine on the same day, marking a new chapter in our commitment to sharing stories and experiences that reflect the diverse voices of our community.



Career FastTrack Project

Overall Objective:

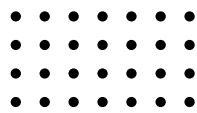
The project aimed to support 363 legally resident migrants facing barriers to participation by providing **career support, language training, and accredited professional training, leading to higher employability, participation, and further education.**



Summary:

This project made remarkable progress in supporting migrants through career development, language training, and professional upskilling. By successfully engaging community stakeholders and providing tailored services, the initiative has helped migrants overcome barriers to employment, further education, and social integration. The project also laid the groundwork for future expansion and support in Louth.

Community Connect Project



Project Description:

The Communities Connect project aimed to support the integration of young male International Protection Applicants (IPAs) aged 19-25 in County Meath, Louth, and Monaghan. The initiative focused on building capacity through tailored workshops, mentoring, and engagement with host communities. By pairing 30 mentees with 30 volunteer mentors, the project successfully exceeded its target, fostering stronger community ties and local integration



Key Activities:

Mentoring Program: 30 IPA mentees were paired with 30 local mentors, facilitating cultural exchange and integration.

Workshops & Networking: Participants attended various events, including onboarding sessions, a cultural networking dinner, and social activities to build community connections.

Contribution to the IPA Community:

The project improved access to support services and enhanced confidence among participants in seeking services. It promoted social cohesion, especially in Termonfeckin, and addressed barriers such as poverty, discrimination, and limited education access. The initiative also helped prepare young IPAs for the changes in the asylum process, enabling them to work while awaiting decisions on their cases.



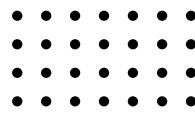
Participants:

- Mentors and Mentees: 52
- Local IPA Participants: 15
- Volunteers: 50 volunteers, including 20 from the IPA community.

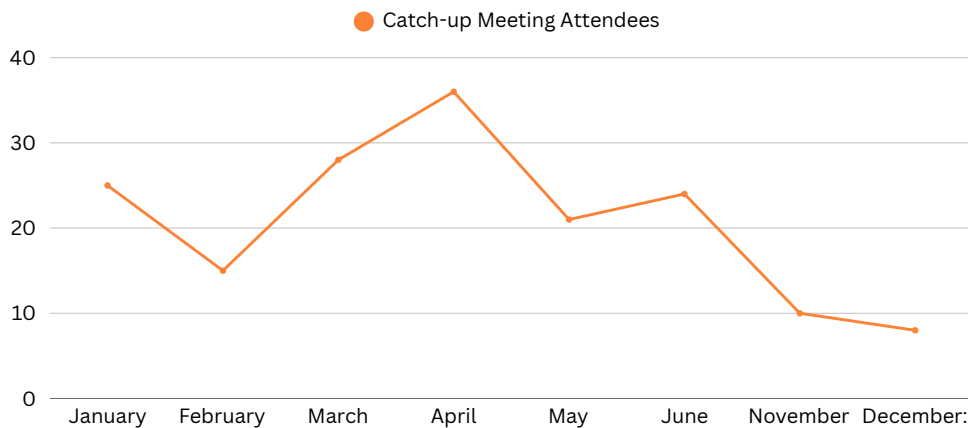
Project Expenditure:

- Total Expenditure: €20,000
- Key Costs: Recruitment, training programs, workshops, networking events, staff allowances, and venue hires.

Women's Group



Total Attendance in 2024:
445 for meetings, workshops, and events.



Events

International Women's Day -
108 attendees
Inspire Gala Night -
108 attendees



Key Events & Activities (Summary)

- **Women's Health Workshop (March 5, 2024):** Focused on cancer awareness and prevention, fostering open discussions on health.
- **International Women's Day (March 8, 2024):** A successful celebration of women's achievements
- **Mental Health Jewellery Workshop (June 14, 2024):** Combined creative expression with mental health discussions, fostering empowerment and emotional connection.
- **Africa Day Planning (May 2024):** Women played a key role in organizing the event, contributing to its success through collaboration and teamwork.



Challenges Encountered:

- Member drop-offs due to relocation and work commitments.
- Managing differing perspectives and schedules during event planning.



Participation by Nationality:

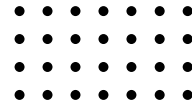
The group attracted diverse participants from countries including Sudan, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Algeria, South Africa, Sierra Leone, and more.

Conclusion:

The group had a successful year, empowering women through continuous engagement, health awareness, and workshops. Attendance remained high, with notable achievements in fostering inclusivity and community integration.



Cultur Cycle Connect



Empowering Communities Through Cycling

As part of Bike Week 2024, Cultur Cycle Connect organised an engaging cycling event to promote safe cycling practices, physical well-being, and community inclusion. The event combined a Safety Awareness Workshop and a Cycling Tour, creating an immersive experience for participants of diverse backgrounds.

Summary

- 20 participants (10 male, 10 female) from various age groups
- Comprehensive Safety Awareness Workshop led by a cycling expert
- Guided cycling tour at Blackwater Park to enhance endurance and confidence
- Discussion on the mental health benefits of physical activity
- Live entertainment & community engagement through music and poetry

Key Achievements

The event successfully:

- ✓ Promoted cycling among migrants, fostering an inclusive cycling community
- ✓ Improved cycling skills and road safety awareness
- ✓ Encouraged physical and mental well-being through active participation
- ✓ Fostered community and facilitated integration



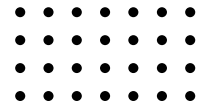
Challenges & Future Recommendations:

With over 70 interested participants, demand exceeded available resources.

Future events would benefit from increased funding to accommodate more participants, particularly from Direct Provision Centres.

Connect4Inclusion

Project Overview



The Connect4Inclusion initiative promoted intercultural awareness and social cohesion through interactive workshops and community engagement.

The project included:

- Four cultural competence sessions and four allyship workshops, equipping participants with strategies to address discrimination and foster inclusion.
- Creative methods such as drama, arts, and canvas painting to make intercultural learning engaging.
- Training 18 peer ambassadors to produce campaign materials, enhancing outreach and sustainability.



Key Achievements

1. 8 interactive workshops on cultural competence and allyship
2. 18 peer ambassadors trained to create and share awareness campaigns
3. 44 participants engaged, with 35 from migrant backgrounds
4. Creative learning methods such as drama and arts to deepen understanding
5. Stronger community alliances built through networking events

Impact on Community Integration

- Fostered understanding of cultural diversity and encouraged inclusive practices.
- Enabled participants to develop practical tools for allyship and intercultural dialogue.
- Strengthened community connections by breaking down barriers and promoting shared responsibility for inclusion.
- Trained ambassadors played a key role in extending the project's reach and embedding integration practices within the community.

Project Expenditure

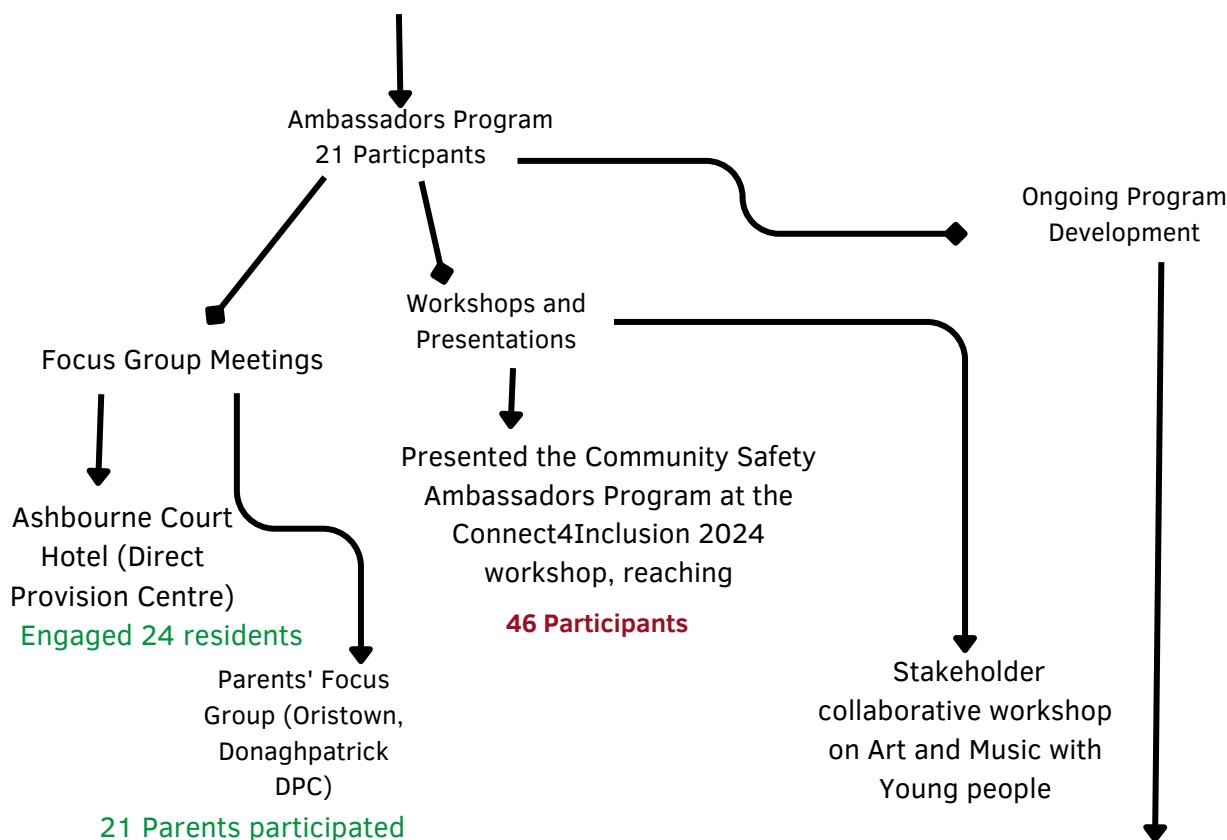
Funds were allocated to workshop delivery, venue hire, participant travel, promotional materials, and administration.

Be Safe In Your Space

Project Aims & Objectives

Aims to strengthen relationships between An Garda Síochána and migrant communities, enhance safety awareness, and empower families to tackle antisocial behavior. The month of August saw the successful launch of the program's Ambassadors Program, along with a series of focused activities and meetings aimed at promoting community safety.

Project Overview



Participant Feedback

- Participants appreciated the clear and structured presentation of the program.
- There was enthusiasm about the opportunity to become certified Ambassadors and to contribute to community safety.
- Feedback from the Focus Group Meetings indicated a positive reception and highlighted the importance of ongoing safety initiatives in Direct Provision Centres.

The Future of the Project...

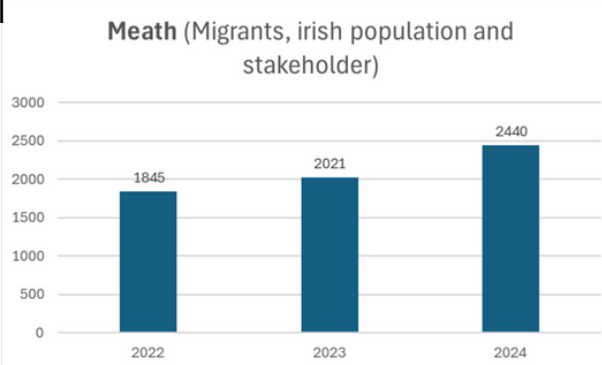
- Future modules, including Fire Safety, being prepared based on participant feedback. Plans include making sessions more interactive and tailored to diverse community needs.
- Design and distribution of educational materials, including manuals, toolkits, and social media content, to further engage participants.

Migrant Network Community Development Project (Meath & Louth)

The Cultúr Migrant Centre has continued to grow its impact across Counties Meath and Louth through the Migrant Network Community Development Project. This initiative actively challenges social exclusion, discrimination, and inequality faced by ethnic minorities. It promotes empowerment, participation, and community organising, while fostering strong collaboration with local stakeholders.

Key Highlights from 2024

- €60,927 in funding raised to support ongoing activities.
- New ethnic groups identified and supported across both counties.
- 2 migrant networks established and integrated into local PPN structures.
- New office opened in Dundalk, expanding our physical presence in Louth.
- Multiple action meetings held with civil society stakeholders.
- Consultations with migrant leaders conducted from January to December.
- 25 migrant leaders supported through capacity-building initiatives.
- 16 migrant-led organisations strengthened.



Looking Ahead:

Cultúr Migrant Centre continues to advocate for:

- A **dedicated one-stop shop** for migrants in the region.
- Greater **involvement of migrants in local commerce**.
- Targeted **LCDC-led funding** for integration and community-based initiatives.



Strategic Alignment with LECP

The project aligns with key actions under the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP):

- Action 4.3.5 – Promoted intercultural awareness and education.
- Action 6.2.4 – Increased participation opportunities for ethnic minorities.
- Action 7.1.4 – Responded to needs identified in the Migrants Needs Analysis.
- Action 4.3.3 – Ensured accessible election information in multiple languages.



Campaigns and outreach included:

- 4 capacity-building programmes delivered.
- 15 consultation processes with key institutions (e.g., SIPTU, TUSLA, Navan Family Centre).
- 12 women's group meetings.
- Engagements with 2 schools, 4 libraries, 2 mosques, and 3 Christian churches.

Anti-racism workshops and events, including:

- Anti-racism Day with Meath Traveller Workshop.
- Ramadan Celebration.

Promotion of political participation, with:

- “Your Voice Matters” workshops in Louth and Meath.
- 25 multilingual election information leaflets distributed (in 9 languages).



Recognition: The project was awarded the Louth PPN Award in November 2023.



Community Impact

- Strengthened ties between migrant communities and Irish society.
- Supported schools to address diversity and inclusion challenges.
- Amplified the voices of migrants and refugees through interagency collaboration.
- Raised awareness of workers' rights and reported 6 incidents of racism.
- Supported and mentored new volunteers contributing to local campaigns.

Bringing Joy and Dignity at Christmas: Supporting Families in Direct Provision

In December 2024, with the generous support of the Lakeside Fund, Cultúr Migrant Centre delivered a heart-warming initiative to bring relief and joy to children and families living in Direct Provision centres across County Meath.

Thanks to a grant of €12,020, we purchased and distributed 601 Me2You vouchers (valued at €20 each), ensuring that every child received a meaningful gift during the festive season.



Centres Supported:

- Ashbourne Hotel (163 children)
- Mosney (352 children)
- The Lodge (34 children)
- Flaxmill House (20 children)
- The Old Forge (18 children)
- Collegelands Forge (14 children)

The Impact

- 601 children received support
- 7 Direct Provision centres engaged
- €12,020 in total distributed
- Emotional and practical relief for families during the festive season
- Increased sense of inclusion and recognition for asylum-seeking families

A well-organised and transparent distribution plan ensured families received their vouchers in time for Christmas, enabling them to buy gifts and essentials that reflected their cultural and personal needs. This initiative was made possible thanks to the Lakeside Fund and the dedication of centre staff, Cultúr volunteers, and coordinators together creating moments of joy, dignity, and belonging for families often left on the margins.



Your support has been invaluable , this wouldn't have been possible without you!

Thank you to all our funders and volunteers



EUROPEAN UNION

Asylum, Migration
and Integration Fund



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach

Co-funded by the
European Union



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Aidiúil
an Longloirt
Longford Local Community Development
Committee



European Union
European
Social Fund



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Michumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



working to support
community development for an
inclusive, equal and sustainable
Ireland

Supported by the Department of Social and Community Development



Erasmus+

This project is funded by the European Union.



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency



Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta
an Duine agus Comhionannas
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission



Imetb
Bord Oideachais agus
Oiliúna Lú agus na Mí
Louth and Meath Education
and Training Board

RETHINK
IRELAND



The Community
Foundation for Ireland



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council



HEAD OFFICE
CULTÚR CELEBRATING DIVERSITY LTD.
GROUND FLOOR, ST. ANNE'S RESOURCE
CENTRE
RAILWAY ST NAVAN
CO. MEATH.

Louth Office

St Joseph's Redemptorists Ground floor
Alphonsus Road
Dundalk A91 F3FC
CO. Louth



www.cultur.ie



+353 46 9093120



info@cultur.ie

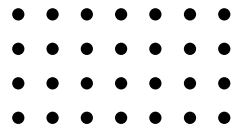
CULTÚR CELEBRATING DIVERSITY LTD. CHARITY NO. 20066369 CULTÚR REG. NO 9644811K CRO 418507



2024

Impact

Annual Report



DESIGNED BY:

VERONICA NOLUSINDISO SOKUJKA

AUTHORED & EDITED BY:

TINU ACHIOYA