

Building Autonomy to Address Poverty & Exclusion

Budget 2023



Pre-Budget Submission



**Community
Development
Programme**



**Clár
Forbartha
Pobail**

Budget 2023

Pre Budget-Submission

July 2022

The pilot Community Development Programme was launched in June 2021, reflecting the commitment in the Programme for Government to re-establish the Community Development Programme

The aim of the programme is to trial community development initiatives that address poverty, social exclusion and inequality, and promote human rights. The objectives are to:

- develop community development responses to a range of social, economic and environmental concerns
- facilitate an empowering collaborative approach to building relationships and undertake cooperative initiatives between marginalised groups, mainstream services and decision-making bodies
- showcase and profile the benefits of an autonomous approach to community development in relation to existing, new and emerging issues.

The pilot Community Development Programme has funding for three years, from October 2021 to September 2024. It is supported by a Project Team that is chaired by the Department of Rural and Community Development, with members from Pobal and Community Work Ireland. Community Work Ireland has been given brief to support the programme. This includes showcasing the work of the projects, with a view to building the case for the expansion and extension of the programme.

The successful projects, seven from a total of 123 applications, are:

- Kilkenny Traveller Community Movement
- ICON Community Development Project
- Clare Traveller Community Development Project
- Longford Roma and New Communities Project
- VOICE Community Development Project, ILMl
- Donegal Intercultural Platform Community Development Project
- Cultúr Community Development Project

While the projects are working in different areas and with a diverse range of communities, what unites the projects is the community development approach from which each is working.

This approach is underpinned by the definition of community work that is a developmental activity comprised of both a task and a process. The task is social change to achieve equality, social justice

and human rights, and the process is the application of principles of participation, empowerment and collective decision making in a structured and co-ordinated way.

These values are similar to the values that underpin the document recently approved by Government, *Values and Principles for Collaboration and Partnership: Working with the Community and Voluntary Sector at a Local and National Level*, which sets out an agreed set of values and principles for collaboration and partnership working with the community and voluntary sector at national and local level. The values and principles were developed by the sector and agreed by Government, and will provide the foundation for all consultation, collaboration and partnership working between the community and voluntary sector and central and local government.

The learning to date

The projects have identified the important shared characteristics of the approach that the Community Development Programme facilitates:

Autonomous

The work of the projects is based on needs analysis carried out with their communities - meaning that projects are community based and community led. This allows for work, including outreach work, with a range of communities with diverse, often invisible, needs. Autonomy allows for interventions that respond to the needs, characteristics and local circumstances of the hard-to-reach groups.

Voice to unheard communities

The projects are giving a voice to communities that often go unheard – this requires investment in those communities. It allows supported growth and ownership of future decisions – the process and opportunity to have direct impact is accessible for the first time for many in the communities the projects are working with.

Changing Narrative/Shifting Thinking

Recognising that marginalised communities are not responsible for the issues they face and they cannot address those issues on their own, the projects are shifting the thinking from a focus on issues such as discrimination and racism as an issue for minorities to a focus on the majority role.

Lived experience at the centre

The projects put the lived experience of the communities at the centre of all the work, supporting active involvement and leadership of participants to address their own human rights and equality issues.

New Partnerships

The CDP Network is showing that there are new ways of working with the State. This includes the partnership with the Project Team and the co-design of the Programme Planning and Monitoring Framework.

Programme Approach – networking/learning

The CDP Network comprises the seven projects with support from CWI. The network takes a programme approach, and the projects identify as members of the network. The network has allowed for networking, learning, collaboration, solidarity and support, and is currently focusing on extending the learning with an Introduction to Community Development programme for members of the target communities.

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The experience of the Community Development Programme so far is that it is working as envisaged in the original commitment in the Programme for Government. It allows for the autonomy and flexibility required to begin to address some of the most deeply embedded social issues.

Community Work Ireland and the members of the CDP Network are calling for a significant investment in the extension of the Pilot Community Development Programme to expand and extend autonomous community development projects in the most marginalised areas and with the most marginalised communities. This will lead to the creation of a sustainable community infrastructure that will contribute to ensuring social cohesion and crisis preparedness.

CWI and the CDP Network are calling for:

- An immediate increase in funding to account for the unprecedented inflation levels to offset the negative impact the impact of increased core costs
- For Budget 2023, the doubling of the budget with an increase to account for inflation at 8% to €2,332,800 million to allow for a call for applications for seven new projects.
- An increase in funding to be added to the budget annually over the next five years, allowing for a critical mass of projects based on the same approach as the current programme.

The sums below build in an annual increase to account for inflation at 8%.

Year	CDP Budget	Supporting	Annual Budget Per Project
2022	€1,080,000.00	7 Projects + Programme Budget	€135,000.00
2023	€2,332,800.00	14 Projects + Programme Budget	€145,800.00
2024	€3,779,136.00	21 Projects + Programme Budget	€157,464.00
2025	€5,441,955.84	28 Projects + Programme Budget	€170,061.12
2026	€7,346,640.38	35 Projects + Programme Budget	€183,666.01
2027	€9,521,245.94	42 Projects + Programme Budget	€226,696.33