Connecting Communities Empowering Transitions

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Module 2

Civic Integration

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What to expect

Module two aims to

I. Support youth workers to support the civic integration of young people

II. Identify and illustrate some of the factors influencing the civic integration of young people

III. Present legal frameworks and organisations that support the civic integration of migrants.

What is civics?

Civics

- According to CivXNow, also known as "civic education" or "civic learning", civics is a lifelong process that makes people into active, responsible and knowledgeable members of their communities.

Gallery Walk

Create a poster which addresses the following question:

In the context of the young people that you work with, what encourages and discourages them from participating in civic duty?

What is civic engagement?

Volunteering

Joining a local organisation

Fundraising

Advocating

Global citizenship

Areas that young people can get involved in to enhance their civic integration

How can we support our young people to thrive and create just and free societies?

Through the provision of quality education

- Equipping young people with critical thinking skills, knowledge on their rights and responsibilities and promoting a deeper understanding of social justice issues is fundamental to the success of a young person in society.

- Look to the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) and SDG4 as a pivotal driver of positive change, transformative education and sustainable worlds.

Through empowering young people

- Empower young people to use their voices and advocate for issues that truly affect their needs.

- Electing young people to community groups helps to create opportunities for young people to be engaged in decision-making processes on a local level.

- In Ireland, the National Youth Council of Ireland is running a campaign for 16 year old's to be able to vote – would this work in reality?

Legal frameworks that support the civic integration of migrants in Ireland and Bulgaria

Ireland

- Immigration Act 2004

- The Migrant Integration Strategy – A Blueprint for the Future

- Residence Permits & Citizenship

- Anti-Discrimination Legislation - The Equal Status Acts 2000-2018

Bulgaria

- Law on Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria

- National Strategy for the Integration of Refugees and Foreigners

- Citizenship Act

- Anti-Discrimination Legislation

Organisations that support the civic integration of migrants

International Organisations

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

- International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- International Labor Organization (ILO)

Irish Organisations

- Migrant Rights Centre Ireland
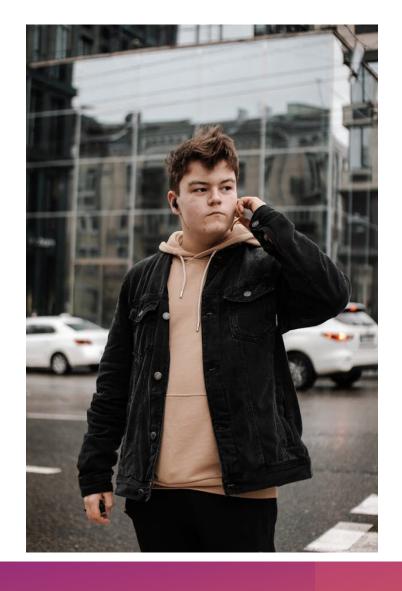
- Immigrant Council of Ireland

Bulgarian Organisations

- Caritas Sofia

- Center for Legal Aid – Voice in Bulgaria

- The Bulgarian Red Cross

Case Study – Alex's Story (Fictious)

Alex is an 18-year-old migrant who recently arrived in Ireland from Ukraine, fleeing the war. Like many young people, Alex came to Ireland alone, leaving his family behind due to difficult circumstances. He does not have any close relatives in the country and is staying in temporary housing provided by a local charity.

Alex completed secondary school in Ukraine but is not currently enrolled in further education or vocational training. His English skills are limited, which has made it difficult for him to find a job. Despite his situation, Alex is eager to integrate into Irish society, make new friends, and contribute to his local community. He is passionate about technology and environmental issues but doesn't know where to start or how to get involved in civic life.

Alex spends most of his time alone, feeling isolated and unsure of how to navigate life in a new country. He has expressed interest in improving his English and meeting people who share his interests, but he is uncertain about where to turn for support.

Case Study – Alex's Story

Challenges:

1. **Social Isolation**: Alex is living in a new country without family support and lacks a social network.
2. **Limited Language Skills**: His limited English makes it difficult for him to communicate effectively, access services, or participate in community activities.
3. **Unemployment**: Alex wants to work but is finding it challenging to secure a job due to his language skills and lack of connections.
4. **Desire for Civic Engagement**: Alex is passionate about technology and environmental issues, but he is unsure how to get involved in these areas in his new community.

Case Study – Alex's Story

Task:
You are a youth worker tasked with helping Alex integrate into the community and become civically engaged. Using the knowledge gained from this training, create a support plan for Alex by addressing the following:

1. **Building a Social Network**: What steps would you take to help Alex build a social support network and reduce his sense of isolation?
2. **Language and Employment Support**: What resources and opportunities could you provide to help Alex improve his English and find meaningful employment or volunteer opportunities?
3. **Connecting Civic Interests**: How could you connect Alex with civic activities that align with his passion for technology and environmental issues?
4. **Long-Term Engagement**: What can you do to ensure that Alex remains engaged with his community and continues to grow his civic and language skills over time?

Case Study – Task

Suggested Responses:

- **Building a Social Network**: Introduce Alex to local migrant support groups and community centres where he can meet other young people. Organize informal social events like coffee mornings or tech meetups to help him make friends in a relaxed environment. Encourage participation in clubs that don't require advanced English skills initially.

- **Language and Employment Support**: Help Alex enroll in free or subsidised English classes tailored to migrants. Introduce him to online job platforms or vocational training programs that focus on tech or environment-related fields, where he can practice English and develop work skills. Offer guidance on how to create a CV and prepare for interviews in English.

Case Study – Alex's Story
Suggested Responses

- **Connecting Civic Interests**: Connect Alex with local environmental organizations or technology-focused groups where he can volunteer or participate in projects. This could include tech workshops, coding events, or local environmental clean-ups. Volunteering in areas that interest him will help build his confidence and sense of belonging.
- **Long-Term Engagement**: Pair Alex with a mentor who shares his interests and can guide him through the process of integrating into civic life. Encourage him to set long-term goals, such as leading a tech project or organising a community environmental event. Regular check-ins and goal-setting can help ensure that Alex stays motivated and engaged.

Case Study – Alex's Story
Suggested Responses

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