

COMMUNITY TELEVISION DEVELOPMENTS IN IRELAND 2001-2002

Community Media Network, along with several community media organisations, have been examining the possibility of community television in Ireland for some years. In the year 2000, the Dublin City Development Board (DCDB) began a process of consultation around the future of Dublin. This, combined with the Broadcasting Act 2001, offered a concrete forum in which the possibility could be moved forward. The following is a shortlist of key events since the work for a Dublin Community Television Channel began.

January 2001	Call for an Advisory Group on community media by the Dublin Community Forum.
June 2001	Consultation Workshop in Dublin on community media organised by the Advisory Group on Community Media, is attended by about 60 community and voluntary organisations from all over the city and strongly endorses the promotion of community media in Dublin, and specifically the idea of community television.
September 2001	As a direct result of the Workshop, a Community Media Forum was set up under the DCDB, open to all community groups in Dublin. Several Working Groups constituted, including one on Community Television.
October 2001	The Community Television Working Group applied for and received funding from the Community Forum and the Dublin City Development Board to undertake a feasibility study.
December 2001	A first, background study undertaken and reported on in January 2002 entitled "Lessons for Community Television from International Experience", as a prerequisite to assessing the situation and potential in Ireland.
January 2002:	Second report commissioned to look at the feasibility of Community Television in Dublin and to design a plan in consultation with community and voluntary groups in Dublin. Launched in November 2002: "Building Community Through Television: A Plan for Dublin Community Television"
May 2002	CMN members protest at the exclusion of community media from the remit of the New Forum on Broadcasting.
June 2002	Interim Steering Group for DCTV constituted, comprising a diverse group of over 20 community and voluntary organisations in Dublin and including representation from local government in a support role.
July 2002	Dublin city development plan (Dublin: A City of Possibilities 2002-2012) strongly endorses the idea of a community television station, explicitly recognising its potential contribution to the culture, social and political life of Dublin.
August 2002	New Forum on Broadcasting report published including recommendations on community media.
November 2002	"A Day for Community Television" – workshop run by the Community Media Forum, attended by about 80 representatives of community and voluntary organisations countrywide. Workshop forms Advocacy Group and an Action Plan.
November 2002	Dublin Community Television Interim Steering group submits an Expression of Interest to the BCI.
February 2003	Dublin Community Television begins the process of incorporation as a Co-op.

THE CONTRIBUTION COMMUNITY TELEVISION CAN MAKE

Increasing participation and a means to influence policy and evaluate services:

- Supporting participatory democracy in its broadest sense, as a means for consultation and debate. Enabling communities to engage with Government and statutory bodies devising and implementing social policy eg: Local Authorities, Government Ministries;
- Broadcasting through a community TV channel offers possibilities to increase levels of participation in community organisations
- Increasing citizen involvement in local issues.

Opportunities for education, training and development:

- The channel itself provides an opportunity for training and development, up-grading technology skills, team building and leadership;
- Programme making, combined with the knowledge base within the community itself, using community development principles and media production skills together;
- Programming for education and adult learning to support community based initiatives around issues such as literacy and parenting;

Empowering:

- Participating in media production is an empowering experience for many organisations as well as the individuals who participate, it gives: a sense of achievement in putting a programme together, team involvement, and being in control of your issue, contributing to an increased sense of worth and belonging.
- As a communications tool, community television is empowering as a way for people to take control of their own development.
- To create our own information,

Celebrating Diversity:

- A way to bring together the rich diversity of our society, to break down the barriers that exclude people; to celebrate many culture-sand communities, to tell stories.
- A means to engage with the experience of others, and to understand and act on issues.

Tackle social exclusion:

- Community television can create a forum for debate and include the needs and ideas of those most affected by policy changes.
- Embedded in community development it has strong common threads with one of the most progressive government strategies to address poverty that has emerged in the past decade - The National Anti-Poverty Strategy.
- A means for the communities themselves to inform and influence the direction of these strategies.
- Provide a means of generating and delivering feedback on the effect of policy on the ground and in the provision of services.

THEMATIC PROGRAMMING EXTENDS GEOGRAPHICAL COMMUNITIES INTO COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

DCTV has developed a structure to support programme planning and the production of content for community television. The following is an example of a Thematic Content Group that has already begun work. A number of Thematic Content Groups have been formed around issues such as Environment, Travellers, Irish Deaf Society, to name a few.

Adult Education Thematic Content Group - DCTV

Formed in Summer 2002 by Dublin Adult Learning Centre (DALC), Lourdes Youth and Community Services (LYCS), National Adult Literacy Association (NALA), and DIT, the group has been meeting to develop programme ideas and to identify needs.

*** Programmes:** The educational content group has so far developed three brief treatments for educational programmes. The proposed programmes share an intention to facilitate personal empowerment in the areas of citizen and consumer rights through entertainment. The programmes will be produced and presented by people from concerned community groups and will be more effective when they reflect the language, concerns and culture of the community.

*** Media Awareness Training:** A media awareness course should be run in advance of the creation of production teams to raise awareness about the role of community television, ownership of media, and production.

Within this format possibilities exist for linking with many of the following and more: The Department of Education; National Organisation for Development Education (NODE); Prison Education Service; FAS; Unions . . .

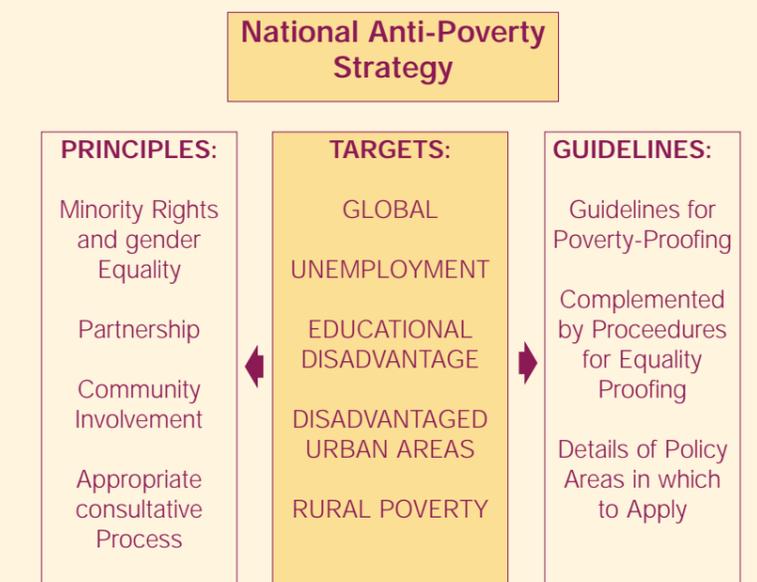
COMBATting POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION BY LINKING TO GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

National Anti-Poverty Strategy

Figure 1: Target Groups and Inequalities Leading to Poverty

Groups in or at risk of poverty	Inequalities linked to poverty
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Unemployed (particularly long-term); * Children (especially in large families); * Single adult households and households headed by someone working in the home; * Lone parents; * People with disabilities; * Older people, in particular households headed by a retired person; * Members of the Traveller community; * The homeless; * Ethnic minorities. 	<p>Arising in the context of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Age; *Gender; *Disability; *Belonging to an ethnic minority (incl. Travellers) *Sexual orientation.

Figure 2: Summary of NAPS Elements



There are **Social Inclusion Units (SIMS)** in every City and County Council that input to the development plans.

RAPID stands for **'Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development'**. 25 areas have been identified nationally, contactable through Directors of City/County Development Boards.

COMMUNITY TELEVISION

useful websites:

Dublin community television initiative is part of the Dublin Community Media Forum and the websites are at www.activelink.ie and www.dublin.ie. Most member groups have websites that will provide links to other media and community development sites.

DCTV Interim Steering Group member organisations are: Amnesty Ireland, axis Arts Centre; Ballymun communications; Community Media Network; Community Response; Dublin Adult Literacy Centre; Dublin City Development Board; Dublin City Council; Dublin City University; Feasta; Gingerbread; Inner City Renewal Group; Irish Deaf Society; Lourdes Youth and Community Services; Merchants Quay Project; NALA: NEAR FM; Northside Community Media Coop; Rathdown District Ass.; Pavee Point, REHAB/NTDI; Sustainable Ireland.

International sites

Annenberg Project:

CAN TV: Chicago Community Network Television

CCTV: Cambridge Community Television

DCTV: Downtown Community Television:

Deep Dish TV:

DeutscheWelle:

Global Village CAT - a part of the Open Channels Network, lists websites of 600 access television centres in 20 countries.

FreeSpeech TV:

MATV: Malden Access Television

MNN: Manhattan NeighbourhoodNetwork

Paper tiger Television:

Public Broadcasting in the USA:

Remote-TV

SCAT: Somerville Community Access Television

Youth Channel: MNN Youth Channel

Zalea TV, Paris, France

www.learner.org/channel

www.cantv.org

www.cctvcambridge.org

www.dctvny.org

www.deepdish.org

www.dw-world.de

www.openchannel.se/cat

www.freespeech.tv

www.matv.org

www.mnn.org

www.papertiger.org

www.pbs.org

www.remote-tv.de

www.access-scat.org

www.youthchannel.org

www.zalea.org

Adbusters

AMARC: (World association of community radio broadcasters):

Indymedia:

Undercurrents, UK:

www.adbusters.org

www.amarc.org

www.indymedia.org

www.undercurrents.org

Access television exists in many countries such as Sweden, where there are thirty channels: Germany with almost ninety; the Netherlands; Denmark, New Zealand and Australia.

Useful e-mail listservs that will keep you informed:

APC: Association of Progressive Communicators:

Community Exchange:- a weekly bulletin:

Devmedia (Media for Development in Democracy):

Media Channel:

apc-euroir-media@gn.apc.org

gian@activelink.ie

devmedia@listserv.uoguelph

MC-Net-list-owner@mail-list.com

CMN Steering Committee: Danny Burke, (Belfast), Pat Grant, Chris Hurley, Oliver McGlinchey, Sean O'Siochru. Project Co-ordinator: Margaret Gillan; Resources co-ordinator: Bill McConnell.

CMN is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the promotion of community media as a tool for change.

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