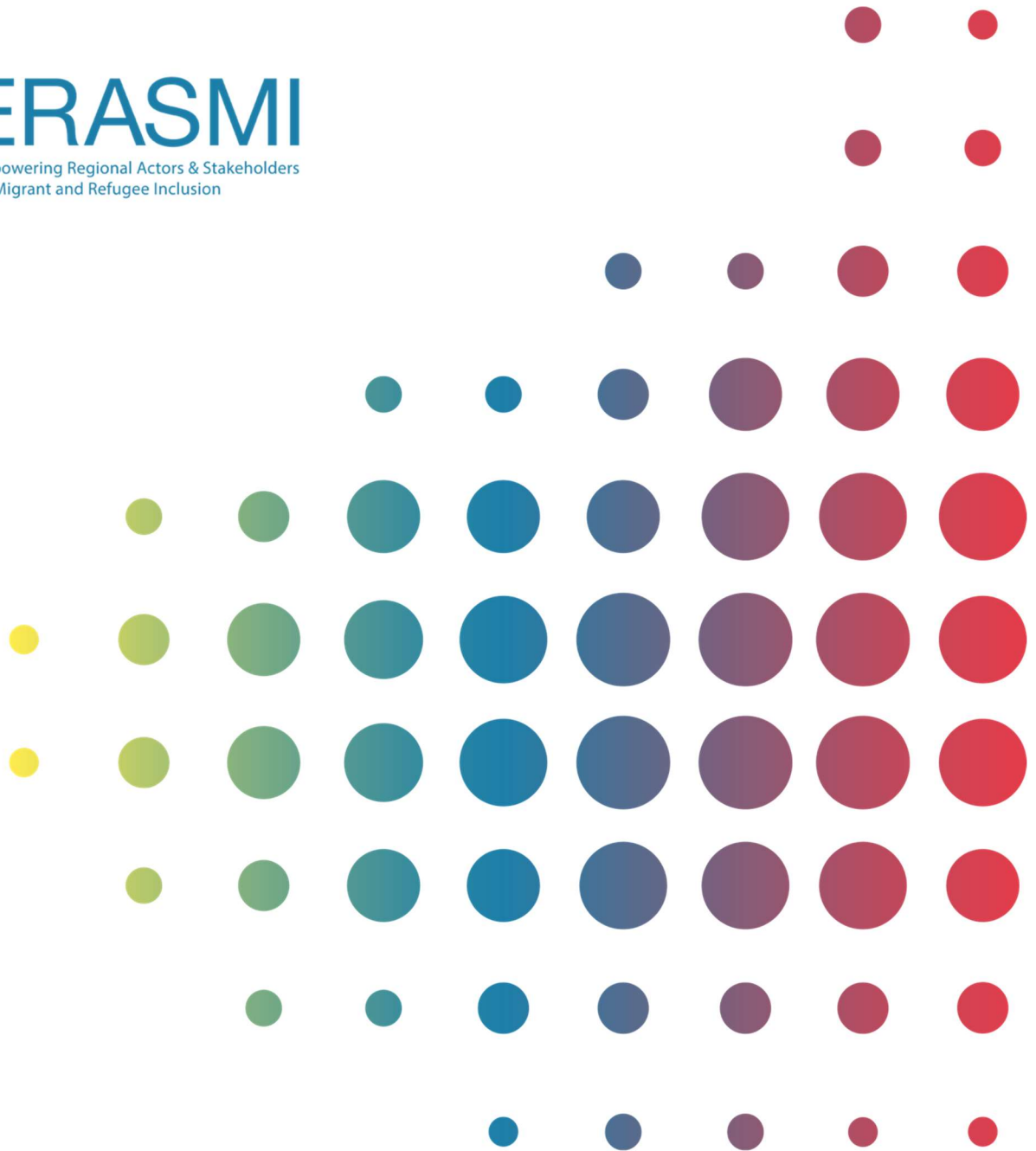




ERASMI

Empowering Regional Actors & Stakeholders
for Migrant and Refugee Inclusion



Good Practice: SLIGO GLOBAL KITCHEN

Status of information: December 2020

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of the network	Sligo Global Kitchen
Founding year	2014
Location	Sligo / County Sligo / Ireland
Coordinating Organisation	An individual volunteer
Degree of formalisation	Some formal and some informal agreements (depending on the event)
Members	Locals of Sligo; Migrants; Refugees (especially asylum seekers)
Field(s) of action	Inclusion / Integration in general; Education and training
Target group(s)	Refugees; Migrants; Volunteers
Type of network	Informal Group

2. NETWORK PROFILE

Brief description	<p>The vision and mission of Sligo Global Kitchen is to integrate asylum seekers into local society and connect them with members of the community of Sligo by cooking together and sharing the love of good food. In housing facilities for asylum seekers usually no cooking facilities are provided. Therefore, Sligo Global Kitchen encourages all asylum seekers to participate in cooking events hosted by an informal group of various locals of Sligo and asylum seekers of different nationalities. At each event representatives of at least two countries cook food from their home countries. At the end of the first year, they shared in flavours from 11 countries. By the second year, they had flavours from 15 countries and till date they have shared in recipes from over 15 countries including countries of people who are not asylum seekers themselves but love and support the Idea. A country and a theme are chosen for each event, e.g. "The Cameroonian Story". It is tried to match it to the country's independence month to give the people from that country a platform to celebrate, though far away from home.</p>
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The network has been supported in various ways by different local organisation • Generous donations from everyone who share in the table at every siting • Free mentorship on community structuring has been offered by the Sligo community
Internal Communication & Facilitation techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network meetings • Video telephony (Zoom) • Instant messaging (WhatsApp) • E-mails
External Communication & Event formats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to spread the word of their events)



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local media • Collect feedback from each event by email
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3. SUCCESS FACTORS AND MAIN CHALLENGES

Success factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooking as a low-threshold opportunity to bring together and network locals and asylum seekers • A lot of support by local organisations and the local community in Sligo • Trained members and being able to get funding to train members, as a result more than half of the members work in local restaurants • Members from all parts of the community of Sligo coming to the events
Challenges & Lessons learnt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not having all the skills necessary to expand the project and make it formal • Restrictive migration law is a challenge regarding what asylum seekers could do as they are only allowed to work on the project if they already have their residency • High turnover, constantly training new people
Evaluation & Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback is collected from each event by mail • Although the network is recognised on a national level (e.g. by being awarded the Irish Food Writers Guild award in 2018), the future is uncertain. The network is voluntary and funded by donations, so it is hard to sustain.
Impact, Innovation & Transferability	<p>The specific target group is catered by this approach: the migrants that come to the country under such circumstances that make it extremely hard to integrate and make it illegal to work. This group has more specific problems such as living in housing solution where they share space and have no option to cook their own meals. This project is an example how to address a specific problem of a niche target group of migrant community in an innovative way, while including multiple stakeholders from the local community and beyond in a low-threshold manner. Sligo Global Kitchen works well with integrating asylum seekers with society. It is attractive to new people and members as it gives them an opportunity to cook. This model can be easily replicated and used for similar or different target groups. It has proven to be popular with local community and the inclusive and action directed method makes it appreciated by the target group.</p>



4. FURTHER INFORMATION

Homepage, Social Media	Further information: https://sligohub.com/sligo-global-kitchen-2/ Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/foodsies/
E-Mail-Address	/

