



**Report Compiled by:**  
*Anne Hyland, Kim O'Connor  
 and Sinead Burke*

# Pathfinder III Youth Work Seminar



## Ireland - March 2010

As the name suggests, it was the third in a series of bi-annual seminars. The fourth seminar – Pathfinder IV, will take place in Bulgaria in 2012. The purpose of Pathfinder is to bring together international partners who are involved with youth in order for them to learn from each other.



Navan Travellers' Workshops Ltd.  
 Working with the People of Co. Meath.





## Mediazone

- The younger teenage Travellers were looking to develop their own skills. **National Association of Traveller Centres (NATC)** were developing a Programme to look at the different ways that Travellers are portrayed in the Media, which is in general very negative.
- The Programme facilitated the young people to learn about various types of media, which included meeting a member of the Dail Eireann (Irish Government)



## Glitter Girls Youth Group

- Bodies Exhibition
- Crime Scene Investigation Trip
- Health – Cook-it programme
- Beauty programme
- Causey farm
- Glass work project



- In 2010 the work that Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd is involved in....



- **Youth Work** Feile na Páistí, Youth Clubs, Summer Youth Activities, cultural and educational visits, Cook it Programme, Sporting events, St Patrick's Day Parade
- **Education supports** Pre-School, After School, Navan Travellers Education Centre
- **Health** Primary Healthcare Programme, Men's Healthcare Group, Cook it Programme, Smoking and Alcohol Health Promotion Programme
- **Community Development** Men's Health Programme, Women's Development Group, Men's Development Group, Drama
- **Enterprise and Employment** Skills training programme, Employment and Enterprise Support Programme, Community Employment Programme
- **Information Services** Newsletter, Traveller Information Officer, Outreach Citizen Information Service, Traveller Health Promotions, Workshops
- **Traveller Culture & Heritage** Presentations, Workshops, Cultural Awareness Training, Traveller Heritage Programme including Wagon making, tin smithing, and the collection of photographs, stories, songs and cures

## Conclusion



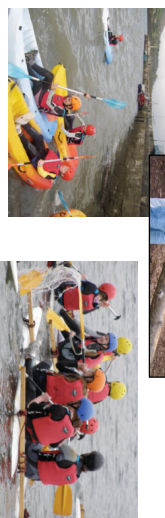
- By interacting on a personal basis, Travellers have learnt about Settled people and realise that their lives are not so different. By Settled people learning about the Travellers culture, they learn that they have very high morals standards and a great sense of 'family'.
- In a multi-cultural society there is prejudice and fear based on myths and beliefs. By the children being encouraged to mix with children from other communities they learn acceptance of people from different cultures and value their own culture.
- We have all learnt that even though we don't always think the same, we all deserve to be respected for our beliefs and customs.
- The different communities will never be as one, but we continue to support and encourage the participation of all members of society in community projects to alleviate prejudice.

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Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd.	



- Carlingford Outdoor Pursuits**
- The older young Travellers were given the opportunity to participate in a Team Building and Personal Development residential weekend to give them the confidence to be leaders within the Community.
  - There were two weekends, one for the young women and one for the young men. This was to give consideration for the Traveller culture where the teenagers, particularly the young women, are often chaperoned. This was appreciated by the families.
  - Focus group meetings were held, which included ice breaking Games, Name Games, Group forming games and the opportunity for the young people to mix and chose their activities in Carlingford. The young women's focus group were encouraged to decide on their room-mates for the two night stay. We were delighted that the girls' choices showed that already they were comfortable to mix outside their own extended families.



## Carlingford Outdoor Pursuits

- Youth Leaders of the Future Programme**
- Following on from Carlingford some participants showed natural leadership skills and they felt that they wanted to develop these skills further.
  - This inspired the development of the Youth Leaders of the Future Programme

## Youth Leaders of the Future Programme

- In summary:-**
- Team Building
  - Youth Leadership Training
  - Developed Cant is Cool Too Programme
  - Delivered Cant is Cool Too Programme
  - Lead the Youth Group in activities with the support of the Youth Worker





Pathfinder III - Irish Conference

The Pathfinder III seminar was held in Navan, Co Meath, Ireland from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2010. It was hosted this year by Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd and visiting participants came from Ireland, Sweden, Finland, Bulgaria, Slovenia, and Scotland. In total 24 people took part in a very successful week.

There were three key themes for the week

- European Citizenship
- Participation of Young People
- Cultural Diversity


Highlights from the week included presentations given by each visiting group explaining their own work, guest lectures focusing on the three themes of the week and taking part in entertaining and cultural activities such as the Navan St. Patrick's Day parade and a traditional Irish music and song evening.

The level of participation was extremely high, with a high degree of energy and enthusiasm shown by all the seminar participants. It was a fantastic week of sharing and learning, and the feedback from the international partners highlights the enjoyment experienced by all who took part.



Pathfinders Participants meet with the Mayor of Navan on St Patrick's Day





Joint ventures  
Local Action by Local People –

- Children's Festival (Feile Na Paisi) – Clogherboy Park
- St Patrick's Day Parade – Irelands National Saints Day



St Patrick's Day Parade

- Navan Travellers Workshops have been involved in the local St Patrick's Day Parade since the 1980's. The first time we took part, the local community were surprised and impressed.
- Since then we have been awarded 'Best Float' three times, which we are very proud of





### Spot the difference?



Not everyone  
here is a  
Traveller, but we  
all live and work  
together

- A brief history of Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd**
- In 1965 a local Traveller organisation was set up to support the Travelling people who were at the time living in harsh conditions.
  - Training became available to Travellers to gain literacy skills which made them less reliant on Settled people reading and interpreting for them. Other training was also available for more practical skills.
  - In 1982 NTV held their first Summer Project (children's summer activities), which is now an annual event looked forward to by everyone. It is the longest running Traveller Summer Project in Ireland.
  - In 1983 the organisation employed a Community Development Worker who was a Traveller and they were invited onto local committees to provide input from a Traveller point of view and be part of the decision making process.



- In 1995 the local Travellers took the initiative to give to those less fortunate than themselves – The Romanian Orphanages. As a result Travellers were seen in a more positive light by the wider community. This event was repeated in 1997.
- In 2004, to celebrate the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the first Summer Project, the Local Travellers worked together to raise funds for a trip for 180 people to go to Euro Disney. This was so successful, the following year fund raising took place for a Pilgrimage to Lourdes – the work was documented in a report entitled 'Conflict and Conflict Resolution'.



### Central Themes of Pathfinders III

*This year there were two central themes for the Irish Pathfinders conference:*

- **European Citizenship – 'What the EU means to Young people'**
- **Cultural Diversity – 'Minority groups and Cultural Awareness in the European Multicultural Society'.**

The participants were actively involved in each stage of the development of the conference. Throughout the preparation stages Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd Youth Work section liaised with the participating groups on preparation for the programme. This resulted in all groups coming fully prepared and ready to participate in the activities to ensure maximum learning and fruitful outcomes.

The planned activities and working methods contributed to the process of non-formal learning and to the promotion of social and personal development of participants involved in the project.

The groups took part in a workshop to prepare for a presentation to the seminar about their own youth work and experiences. The groups also took part in a workshop to create visual ways of representing Youth Work and their country or culture in a creative and artistic way for their participation in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Along with the academic learning and sharing of work practices there were evening activities to experience Irish culture also on the programme. These included a trip to the Hill of Tara, several Irish music nights and of course taking part in the St Patrick's Day Festivities in Navan.

The group discussed the meaning of European Citizenship from a young person's perspective. They also held discussions about the multi-cultural society of today and how Youth work can help to explore this and create an appreciation of cultural diversity.

We hope the participants developed social and personal skills such as presentation skills, discussion led multi-cultural sessions, the broadening of horizons through interaction and discussions with youth workers from all over Europe and a more in depth cultural awareness.

Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd as a community development organisation came into existence because of the work that needed to be done to combat the social, economic and cultural exclusion of Irish Travellers. With its involvement in local, regional, national and international activities, this has given the organisation a deep understanding of these issues and the skills to deal with them in a positive way.

Throughout the seminar there were opportunities to discuss and compare good practice when addressing the issue of multiculturalism that exists in modern day Europe.

The seminar used a plethora of ways to explore and increase cultural awareness. Events such as the participation in the Traveller living history display had a positive impact on the understanding of the group with regard to cultural diversity. The participation in the St Patrick's Day parade also encouraged group interaction, which is an ideal way to overcome barriers: the sharing of a common goal that brings people together to meet that objective.



About the host organisation Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd



Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd.  
Working with the People of Co. Meath

We are a Traveller led community development organisation. Since 1965, we have been working in partnership with Travellers and the settled community improving the situation of the Travellers in Co. Meath. From our busy premises on the Fairgreen in Navan, we run a wide variety of programmes and services, focusing mainly on education and facilitating Travellers to get more involved in their own self-determination.

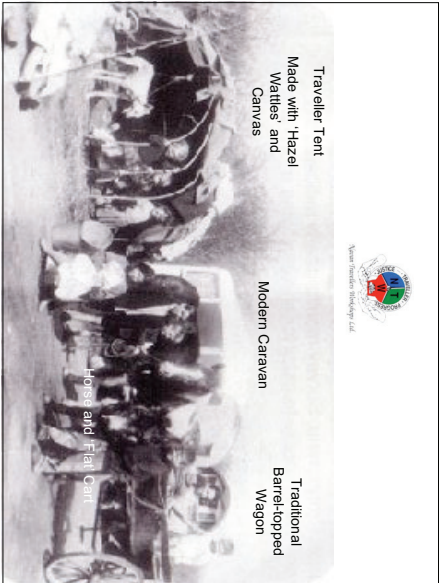
Our programmes include:

- Women’s groups
- Men’s groups
- Heritage programme
- Local Newsletter and website
- Mediation Traveller - Traveller or Traveller - Settled
- Linking into other community groups for Drama and Community Events
- Providing Culture Awareness to Schools and Statutory Organisations
- Supporting smaller community groups



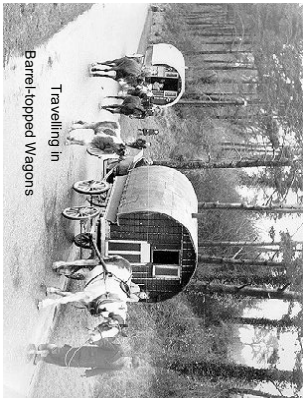
Who are Irish Travellers?

- Irish Travellers come from a nomadic background and live a different cultural lifestyle, within a collection of large extended families.
- Travellers have different traditions around marriage, lifestyle, employment and education
- Travellers make up approximately 0.5% of the population of Ireland.
- Health records show that life expectancy of Travellers is approx. 10 years shorter than the wider Community and the infant mortality rate is twice the national average.



Our presentation Today includes:-

- Who are Irish Travellers?
- Photographs of how Travellers used to live
- Who are 'Settled' People?
- Spot the difference?
- Brief History of Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd
- Joint Ventures – Feile na bPaisit Children's Festival & St Patrick's Day Parade
- Carlingford Outdoor Pursuits
- Youth Leaders of the Future
- Medazone
- Gitter Girls youth group
- Conclusion



Who are 'Settled' People?

- The term 'Settled' people or 'Country' people was used by Travellers to identify Irish people who were not Travellers.
- In this day and age Ireland has become a more multi-cultural society and this term is used for people who are not Travellers.



# Powerpoint Presentation

by  
*Navan Travellers Workshop*

**In addition to these, we are particularly proud of our education and youth services programme. NTW Ltd provides programmes for children aged from 3 years to 16 years. These include:**

## **Pre-School**

“The Little Angels” Pre-School caters for both Traveller and settled children in the 3-5 year age group. It is a well-run and well-equipped facility and is unique in that it is a Traveller led pre-school which strives for an ethos of equality.

## **After-school**

“The Little Angels” after-school runs from 2pm to 6pm, Monday to Friday. The children in our care are supported by a full childcare team. The children get a hot dinner, a snack and help with their homework. We also run a wide variety of activities such as arts and crafts and games.

## **Youth Group**

“The Glitter Girls” youth group is for girls aged between 11 and 16 years. The group meet weekly, go on trips and complete courses.

## **Summer Project**

The NTW Ltd Summer Project is running for nearly 30 years. This week of fun and sports activities for children aged from 3 to 16 years is the highlight of the year for many children in the town.

## ***The aims of Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd are:***

- To prevent the erosion of the economic base of Travellers
- To enable participation of Travellers in the education system
- To develop programmes which will encourage ownership and empowerment
- To promote respect for Traveller identity and culture
- To provide sufficient validation to create an atmosphere of self-determination and reduce dependency

## **Our Credo is as follows:**

*“We recognise that meaningful change for Travellers can only take place when we have both the skills and confidence to organise ourselves and articulate our own needs and this organisation can best achieve this by supporting the appropriate inclusion of Travellers with area-based Programmes of Local, Social & Economic development”.*

## **Mission Statement**

Navan Travellers Workshops is proud to be a Traveller-led community development organisation that is approachable & accessible to all.

We cherish & promote Traveller values & identity, & through partnership, training & education, seek to promote equality for all.



Pathfinders III – Key participants of the Conference

Balkan Youth Festival Sofia

- Country:** Bulgaria

**Represented by:** Ivelina Hristova, Marina Georgieva

We are a non-governmental organisation Balkan Youth Festival, “the Balkan Youth” (BYF) from Sofia, Bulgaria, which is working with young people and is involved with their interests and needs. We produce the BYF by the motto, “The Youth of the Balkans Today – Future for Europe Tomorrow”.  
(www.myspace.com/byfestival)

BYF is the biggest international youth event in South-East Europe and every year it is organised by youngsters. The first event started in 1996. Our main goal is: To assist young people from Bulgaria, the Balkan and European states in the achievement of their aspirations to get to know each other, to exchange information, to expand the network of contacts in various fields related to their interests and problems, skills and opportunities of participation and collaboration. It is motivated by the fact that:

  - Young people are the cornerstone of positive changes
  - Through their joint efforts, they will build up the Balkans with no frontiers
  - In the new era of a United Europe, they will be the ones to build up the future!

Društvo zaveznikov menkega pristanka (DZMP)  
(Society of Allies for Soft Landing)

- Country:** Slovenia

**Represented by:** Dzeni Rostohar, Jana Drasler

DZMP was founded in 1995 by a group of young people who were tired of the lack of cultural events for youngsters. We are active in the areas of youth culture (there are 60-70 young people involved in our activities at the moment). We work with the Roma community through non-formal education, contemporary art and social and humanitarian arts. Our main aims are to encourage young people to actively get involved in their society and to empower marginal social groups through media and education. By training young Roma to engage in making short documentaries and video reports, we have gained many national and international awards through the last years. Roma people are also employed directly by our organisation and we are active on local, national and international levels, exchanging knowledge, experiences, working methods and intercultural perspectives. DZMP presented three short films at the Pathfinders III conference.

Grey Lodge Settlement Dundee

- Country:** Scotland


**Represented by:** Catrina Gourlay, Kerri Louise Sutherland

We are a non profit organisation which works at a local level in Dundee. Grey Lodge Settlement is a charitable and community organisation, working with all ages of the community, to promote leaning, leisure and local action. The organisation has been in existence for over 120 years.

Youth Service for Young Travellers

- A Youth service may have a lot to offer young Travellers. The benefits can include the opportunity to make friends and reduce social isolation/marginalisation, practice skills, be acknowledged for themselves and not stereotyped by their status (Traveller).
- Positively celebrate their Traveller identity and culture, have a break from heavy family responsibilities and have the opportunity to simply enjoy fun activities.
- A quality Youth Service should provide opportunities for all Young people in a inclusive and integrated environment.

Success



“Whether by a healthy child,  
a garden patch or  
a redeemed social condition

To know even one life  
has breathed easier  
because you have lived  
this is to have succeeded.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

End  
Thank You





## Gender Issues ...continued

- Parents can be stricter with young women than young men and might be reluctant to let their daughters attend youth services.
- Young Travellers tend to many at a younger age than the settled community. This leads to added responsibility for young women and can be another factor in the difficulty of retaining young Traveller women in youth services.
- While striving to work in a way that promotes the values and traditions of the Traveller community, it is also important to promote the concepts of equality, identity and diversity.

## Experience of Conflict

- Violence and conflict exist in all sectors of Irish society, including in the Traveller community. Conflict is not the only aspect of being a member of the Traveller community.
- It is often highlighted in Irish media, without the same level of interest shown to positive aspects of the community.
- Conflict between members of the Traveller community can be connected to the strong values attached to family.
- Power struggles relating to defending the family honour and avoiding shame can pressure Travellers to get involved in conflicts. Conflict needs to be addressed in all areas of a young person's life - both personally and socially.
- It is important that the reality of violence and conflict is acknowledged, discussed and challenged in a youth work setting by highlighting the negative aspects of conflict.
- Rules and policies need to be implemented to ensure the safety of the young people and the workers

## Racism and Discrimination Impact on the Traveller Community

- Travellers have been experiencing racism and discrimination in Ireland for decades. Racism is an explicit part of the economic, social, political and cultural exclusion experienced by many Travellers. Members of the Traveller community in Ireland have been subjected to two forms of discrimination:
- 1. Direct discrimination which is mostly experienced by members of the Traveller People 1995 states:  
"Discrimination on an ongoing basis. The task faced by the Travelling People 1995 states:  
"Discrimination at the individual level is most common when a Traveller seeks access to any of a range of goods, services and facilities, to which access is denied purely on the basis of their identity as Travellers.
- 2. Indirect discrimination occurs when policies, practices or initiatives unfairly impact on Travellers and their communities. Indirect discrimination can be seen in the unequal outcomes for Travellers in relation to health, education and employment. National policies have failed to recognise that some groups in society may not be equal in terms of their access to services and facilities. Travellers have been disadvantaged and have made moves to address this issue but the impact of indirect discrimination has already had the affect of further marginalising this group.

## Practical Tips for Working with Young Travellers

- The most important piece of advice for any youth service hoping to engage with young Travellers, like any young people, is to go out and meet and talk to the young people, their parents and others in the community.
- Historically, Irish youth services have focused on the young person as an individual and close contact with parents has often been limited. When engaging with young Travellers it is very important to involve their parents from the outset to allay their fears.
- Explain who you are, where you are from, what you do and why you want to work with young Travellers.
- The key to working meaningfully with young Travellers in your service is through building trusting relationships.

## Practical Tips for Working with Young Travellers

- Find out how many Travellers are living in your local area. You can do this by looking at CSO figures or by doing a community profile.
- Learn more about the Traveller community in Ireland—especially things such as culture and values. Get in touch with some of the National Traveller Organisations for information on the Traveller community in Ireland (NATC, Pavée Point, ITM, National Traveller Women's Forum, Exchange House)
- Contact the local Traveller services in your area
- Engage in site-work. Go and visit where the Travellers in your area live. Get to know them

## Practical Tips for Working with Young Travellers

- Contact the Youth Officer in your county VEC who will have details and information on other local services in your area
- Network with other local youth services, schools and community development organisations as it is likely some of these are already engaging members of the Traveller community in their services
- Consider cultural awareness training or an information session facilitated by a Traveller organisation to ensure staff are aware of, and up-to-date on issues affecting young Travellers. These are available from national and some local Traveller Organisations

## Inga Ungdomsgard Inkoo Nr Helsinki

**Country:** Finland

**Represented by:** Kai Sirvio, Dennis Backman

We are a non profit youth organisation which works at local level in the town of Inga. Inga, (*Inkoo* in Finnish) is a municipality in Southern Finland. Our main activity is running a Youth Club House for over 300 young people every week. The age group we deal with is 12 years to 17 years.

## “Kultur – och Fritidsförvaltningen”, Kalstad Kommun

**Country:** Sweden

**Represented by:** Holger Bryntesson, Pers Anders Persson

We are a cultural and recreational group with responsibility for cultural activities, sports, leisure, recreation and youth work in Kalstad. We run 8 youth clubs, one is for girls only, four adventure playgrounds and one youth centre. Our youth clubs run programmes such as open door activities, group and youth activities and international youth exchanges for teenagers. The playgrounds cater for both children and families. Our Youth Centre is for older young people, it has the same contents as our youth clubs but also focus on cultural activities. We are a member of the Swedish national organisation “Fritidsforum” and the international organisation “ECYC”. We have many years experiences of youth exchanges and volunteer service in the EU programme “Youth in Action”.

## Meath County Council Comhairle Na nOg

**Country:** Ireland

**Represented by:** Cathy Martin and members of the committee

Comhairle Na nOg is Meath's first ever Young People's Council. This council is made up of a group of 12 young people aged between 12 and 17 from areas all over Meath. Comhairle na nOg is about giving children and young people the chance to talk about local and countrywide issues important to them and also to have a say in the future of the County in which they live. The Comhairle Na nOg Committee meets every three weeks and have recently been working on the development of a website.

The Committee has developed a work programme and would be interested in working with other groups/agencies on issues which affect young people. Our important activities include: Youth seminar, Young Social Innovators and Dáil Na nOg

The Comhairle also consult and report on County-Wide issues (i.e. Meath Local Authority Play Policy, Meath Local Sports Partnership Strategic Plan, Meath County Council Heritage Plan etc.)



## National Association of Travellers' Centres

**Country:** Ireland

**Represented by:** Theresa B Ward, Liz Loftus

The National Association of Travellers' Centres (NATC) is a voluntary representative association whose role is vocational, educational, and training. Our main areas of work include:

- **Education and Training.** The National Association of Travellers' Centres is the recognised representative body for the 36 Centres of Education and Training nationwide with the Department of Education and Science.
- **Youth Service.** NATC is the main provider of Youth Services to young Travellers nationally since 1988. Currently, we fund 24 Youth Service Projects and directly employ or fund 18 Youth workers.
- **Voice of the Traveller magazine.** NATC produces and distributes the Voice of the Traveller magazine, a key communications mechanism between the Traveller and settled communities and internally within the Traveller Community.

### Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd

**Country:** Ireland

**Represented by:** Anne Hyland, Kim O Connor, Michael McDonagh, Sinead Burke, Theresa O Leary, John McDonagh, Michael MacDonnachada, Ellen McDonagh and Daphne van Baten.

We are a Traveller led community development organisation. For over 40 years, we have been working in partnership with the settled community improving the situation of the Travellers in Co. Meath. We run a wide variety of programmes and services, focusing mainly on education and facilitating Travellers to get more involved in their own self-determination. Our programmes include women's and men's groups, a heritage programme, information service and employment initiatives and supports. In addition to these, we are particularly proud of our education and youth services programme. NTW Ltd provides programmes for children aged from 3 years to 16 years. These include: a Pre-School, After-school, Youth Group, Children's Summer Project.

### University of Maynooth

**Country:** Ireland

**Represented by:** Maurice Devlin

Maurice Devlin is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Applied Social Studies at NUI Maynooth. Originally from County Derry, he is a graduate of the University of Hull (BA in Drama and English), University College Dublin (MA in English, MSocSc in Sociology), NUI Maynooth (PhD in Sociology) and Trinity College Dublin (MSc in IT in Education). He is a member of the National Youth Work Advisory Committee and Joint Chair of the North South Education and Training Standards Committee (NSETS), the all-Ireland body for the professional endorsement of youth work training. He is the Irish correspondent for the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (European Commission/Council of Europe Partnership Project).

### Education - Practical Tips for Working with Young Travellers

- It is important that youth services promote the importance of remaining in education. Consider having different professionals coming in to talk to the young people about their jobs. In doing this try to be culturally diverse and include a professional from the Traveller community so as to provide young Travellers with role models.
- Work closely with local schools. Youth work aims to complement mainstream education by providing programmes and activities that emphasize the social and personal development of young people. You may find that you can have a role within schools in supporting them on issues for young Travellers and working in partnership to support young Travellers to stay on in education.

### Employment

- The Traveller economy is the term used to describe work that Travellers initiate themselves in.
- Traditional examples of this type of work include scrap metal recycling, market trading and horse dealing.
- In more recent times many members of the Traveller community have set up businesses working in manual labour, manufacturing, retail, building and maintenance, landscaping, childcare and beauty therapy.

### Employment...continued

- There are Travellers working as Gardaí, solicitors, barristers, psychologists, community development workers, youth workers, mentors, counsellors, therapists and public servants, to name but a few of the careers that Travellers have taken on.
- It is important to highlight these positive steps when talking to young Travellers about education.
- While things are improving we cannot forget that four times as many young Travellers as young people in the general population leave school before the age of 15. This presents serious issues for young members of the Traveller community in terms of literacy and other skills.
- Youth services need to respond to this reality by encouraging school retention programmes and supports with schools.

### Recent concerns to young people's health

- It is important to mention two serious and increasing health issues for young Travellers.
  - Drug use. Evidence from recent research suggests that drug use among Travellers is still lower than that of the general population, but evidence shows that it is growing.
  - It is seen as a relatively new problem for Travellers and therefore still has a stigma attached to it. Many Travellers address the issue of drugs as a 'family matter' thus not accessing external supports.
- The stigmatization of drug use can also lead to the Traveller community not accepting drug users within their wider family circle.
- The stigma often attached to drug use can lead to it not being discussed within the Traveller community and therefore not being addressed. Community based drug services and drug related services are a safe space where this issue is discussed in an open and supported way.
- Another barrier to Travellers seeking help and support about drug misuse is a general lack of awareness of services available.
- Youth services need to ensure the awareness of young Travellers of the dangers of drugs and available drug-related services. This information should be displayed and accessible and the stigma of drug misuse should be challenged in youth services.

### Recent concerns to young people's health..continued

- Suicide is three times as high in the Traveller Community than in the general population. It is a serious concern for young Travellers, especially those aged 15-30 years and younger. Suicide is seen to be a recent phenomenon in the Traveller Community.
- There are a number of factors that can lead a young Traveller to commit suicide including family problems, psychiatric illness, alcohol and drug use, unemployment, violence, lack of education, lack of social skills, lack of social support, sexual orientation. Young men are particularly at risk as many leave school early and feel they have no purpose or role in their community.
- Suicide is not something that is discussed openly in the Traveller community or within a lot of Traveller families. Talk to about it.
- It is important for youth services to be safe spaces where young Travellers can explore issues relating to suicide and their mental health. Support services and how that may exist for some young people.

### Gender issues

- Women from the Traveller community play an important role in their immediate family and the wider Traveller community. They generally take on a traditional role of mother and carer with responsibility for the home, family and children. They also are the link with many of the service providers and often take on leadership roles within their own community.
- Young Traveller women can be expected to take on these roles at an earlier age than in the settled community. This can be a factor in young women's lack of attendance in youth services and programmes. They may be needed to remain at home and help to look after younger siblings and with household chores.



### Traveller language

- Traveller language is known as Shelta or Gammon or Cant. The language borrows and adapts words from old and new forms of English and Irish and follows an unwritten tradition.
- However, some Traveller organisations and representatives have begun the process of recording and documenting this ancient language in order to preserve it.

### Religion and Superstition

- Strong religious beliefs are important for the majority of members of the Traveller community. In practice it is usually composed of both a Catholic faith and superstition. They can be a powerful factor in the lives of young members of the Traveller community.
- It is important for the youth worker to blend a person's beliefs and faith into their engagement with the youth service so that young people can benefit from the group while upholding and respecting their religious beliefs.

### Concept of time

- For many Travellers the concept of time differs greatly from that of settled Irish people as stated in the following quotation:
  - "Chronological time is irrelevant since what happened yesterday or what will happen tomorrow are both subordinate to today's search for sustenance. Travellers, therefore, live intensely in the present whether the occasion be one of sorrow or of joy".*
- Youth workers need to be aware of this and to adjust their own approach to accommodate this concept of time when working with young members of the Traveller

### Education

- The 2006 Census shows the stark reality of the educational achievement of members of the Traveller community compared with their settled peers:
  - For 52.7% of all Travellers aged 15 and over, their highest educational achievement was primary level only or no formal education. This is compared with 15.4% of the national population in the same category
  - 3.4% of the Traveller population over 15 years of age have received post-secondary education, for example, degree, higher degree). This is compared with 48.2% of the national population
  - Participation in Higher Education was 0.8% for Travellers compared with 30.2% of the majority population

### Young Travellers' direct experience of school

Imagine what an unfamiliar world the Traveller child encounters when he/she first enters school, where rules and values conflict with the child's experience at home. In school, the authority figure is the teacher, who is not a Traveller, and the child is not a Traveller. The child has to learn the Traveller culture. Teaching staff may have low expectations of Traveller Children before getting to know them and their capabilities

- People from the Traveller community may discover that certain things such as appearance, clothes, possessions, activities, ways of expressing themselves, language etc. are favoured over others, or that certain attitudes (for example, expectations around politeness) are more valued than others. This may lead to Traveller children experiencing the Traveller child realises they are different and in some cases offend in a negative way
- A lack of visibility of Traveller culture within the school system can contribute to feelings of isolation and lead to poor self-esteem. It is very important for all children to feel confident and positive about their own identity in school.
- Youth workers working with young Travellers must make sure that these experiences are not replicated in their youth service

### Recent experience of education

- Improvements have been made recently with the number of young Travellers remaining on in education steadily increasing:
  - In 2006 2,317 Travellers enrolled in post-primary schools compared with 1,165 in 2000
  - In 2005, 63 Traveller students did the Leaving Certificate examination, rising to 82 students in 2007
  - Modest uptake among Travellers of third-level education with the support of access programmes in our universities and colleges

Date and Time	Venue	Event
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> Mar evening	Navan	Arrive Evening walk around Dalegan Park, time to settle in and informal chat
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar am	Dowdstown House	Ice breakers What are we trying to achieve with the Pathfinders Seminar? Keynote Speaker Michael McDonagh Guest speaker: Senior Lecturer in the Department of Applied Social Studies at NUI Maynooth Maurice Devlin Workshop 'Minority groups and cultural awareness in the European multicultural society' Youth work with Irish Travellers: Guest Speaker Liz Loftus from National Association of Traveller Centres
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar pm	Dowdstown House	Workshop on entry into the St Patrick's day Parade and prepare for Presentations
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> Mar am	Dowdstown House	Presentations by the Swedish Finnish and Irish groups
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> Mar pm	Dundalk DKIT	Multicultural Festival food, dance, and music from groups all over the world. This event is based in the Dundalk Institute of Technology and was to be a multi faceted event including academic lectures and workshops on the subject of multicultural societies and cultural diversity. Unfortunately DIT cancelled the planned lectures at short notice but proceeded with the multicultural festival.
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> Mar evening	Dowdstown House	Presentations from some of the participating groups and Showcase entries into the St Patrick's day Parade
Weds 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar am	Navan town	Activities available are:- Historic walking tour of Navan, opportunity to experience Mass as Gaelige, preceded by Navan Forrester's Band. Commarket Fair, and other St Patrick's Day attractions etc.
Weds 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar pm	Navan town	St Patrick's Day Festival taking part in the Parade at 4pm to showcase your Country and European Youthwork
Weds 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar 9pm	Ardboyne Hotel	Ceile Mór in local hotel where the participants get to experience a typical Irish social night
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar am & pm	Dowdstown House	Cultural Diversity Workshop facilitated by Ellen McDonagh Presentations from the remaining participating groups, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Scotland.
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar 5-6.30pm	Meath County Council Chambers	<i>What does being part of the EU mean to young people?</i> This will be approached in the form of discussions and debate. The local Youth Council, Comhairle na Oge, a group of 12-18 year olds will be invited to meet and discuss with the group, their ideas. Comhairle na Oge will prepare and lead a debate with a questions and answer session.
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar am	Dowdstown House	Poster Workshop and Evaluation
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar pm	Dowdstown House	Conclusion to the Conference and ceremony to pass on the Pathfinder symbol to the next host country. Free time to shop for souvenirs
	Hill of Tara	or optional Visit to the Hill of Tara- Though best known as the seat of the High Kings of Ireland, the Hill of Tara has been an important site since the late Stone Age when a passage-tomb was constructed there. Tara was at the height of its power as a political and religious centre in the early centuries after Christ. Attractions include an audio-visual show and guided tours of the site.
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar evening	Rathcairn	Traditional Irish Ceile session to give an opportunity for participants to experience and witness people speaking in As Gaelige (Irish language) and to appreciate Irish music and "The Craic".
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> Mar am	Return to the airport	Groups could decide individually to extend their stay at their own expense to explore all that Ireland has to offer

Pathfinders III – A Diary

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March – Arrival Day!

Groups from Europe and Ireland arrived over the course of the day. Many were tired after their journeys, some had come further than others!

A welcome team from Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd stayed throughout the day at Dowdstown House to make sure a refreshing cup of tea and snack were available to revive the weary travellers. After dinner people were given time to settle in and meet in an informal way.

Dowdstown House is where all participants stayed during the week and also where most of the activities took place. It is an historic house on lovely wooded grounds and gave all of our visitors a taste of how beautiful the Irish countryside is.



Some of the group took refreshing walks in the grounds in between activities.



**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Getting to know each other**  
Michael Mc Donagh, Manager of Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd opened the proceedings formerly by explaining what was planned for the rest of the week and welcoming each group.

The “getting to know you” game took place in the morning which was enjoyed by everyone with many participants vowing to use it themselves with their own groups when they got home. It was a game where you ‘stepped into someone’s shoes’ and named for example what type of food they were, the results were very interesting. Everyone joined in the spirit of the activity.



Why is it important to work with Young Travellers?

- Young Travellers face discrimination on a daily basis through denial of access and verbal and physical abuse, purely on the basis of their identity as Travellers. They experience being followed around shops, and being refused entry to sports halls, cinemas and discos etc.
- This constant discrimination, coupled with the effects of indirect discrimination which affects access to health services, education and employment can lead young Travellers to feel socially unaccepted, inferior to other young people, a lack of pride in their culture, anxiety about their identity and experience low self-esteem.
- Youth services have a lot to offer to young Travellers especially in the areas of building confidence, offering non-formal education opportunities, chances to participate fully, and creating a place of welcome where their culture is recognised and taken into consideration in planning and programme development.

History of the Traveller Community

- The exact origin of Travellers is not conclusively known. Different theories of origin have been proposed, with the most convincing theories confirming the presence of the group before the tenth century AD.
- While Travellers are often associated with a nomadic way of living, over the last 30 years many of them have migrated to urban areas. This is due in part to the trades and activities of their traditional, nomadic, rural existence being rendered obsolete by industrialisation.

Understanding aspects of Traveller Culture

- The needs of young Travellers cannot be viewed in isolation from their life and upbringing and the traditions and history of Traveller culture.
- In order to work effectively with young Travellers it is important to understand some aspects of their culture and to know what constitutes the cultural distinctiveness of this minority social group.
- For young Travellers entering a youth service, where they are the only people from their community, can be daunting and difficult.
- Having Traveller peer leaders, or even better, Traveller youth workers can help to allay these fears. This also has the added benefit of exposing young Travellers to Traveller role models and the opportunity to look up to members of their own community.

History of the Traveller Community...continued

- Another important development that led to Travellers moving into more urban areas is the enactment of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act in 2002. This made trespass - previously a civil offence - into a criminal offence, so that Travellers living on the roadside, awaiting accommodation and with nowhere else to go, became criminalised.
- Nevertheless, Travellers common cultural identity has largely withstood this transition. The extended family remains the basic unit of social organisation with marriages predominantly taking place within the wider family circle.
- The 'nomadic mindset' is also still acknowledged by many in both the Traveller and the settled communities in Ireland to be a core value of Traveller culture.

Families and Kinship

- Travellers organise within family groups. Family bonds are extremely strong and radiate out beyond the immediate or 'nuclear' family group.
- The notion of 'kinship' to the Traveller community is of utmost importance and is reflected in their activities and practices. Relationships within families and aligned with the family name are extremely significant.
- The age of maturity can differ substantially for some members of the Traveller community. Young Travellers of 14 or 15 will frequently take on adult responsibilities such as employment and domestic duties.
- On average members of the Traveller community marry at a younger age than members of the 'settled community' and they tend to have more children but this is not true for all Travellers.

Family

- Despite the adverse conditions faced by members of the Traveller community in Ireland, stemming from social discrimination, racism and racism, Traveller children do have the advantage of growing up in an environment where the extended family generally lives as a community and some of the restriction and restraints experienced by Traveller children are likely to be less than in the settled community.
- However, as young Travellers grow up and become young people this often changes. Tighter restrictions are often placed on young women from the Traveller community in particular.
- Just like other families with teenagers there can often be a clash between a parent's concern for the safety of their child and the need of a young person to develop their own identity and reach independence. This can be intensified amongst some Traveller families because the parents may not trust or have knowledge of Irish social systems.



Terminology

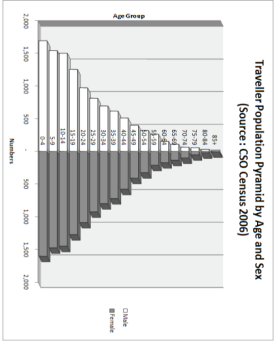
- The terms 'Traveller', 'settled Traveller', or 'member of the Travelling community' are all used. These terms can give rise to certain preconceptions about the lifestyle, culture and practice of this community.
- The majority of Travellers living in Ireland are living in standard housing accommodation. This does not change the identity of Travellers as a distinct group. A Traveller living in a house is still a Traveller - just as an Irish person living in Britain is still Irish.
- It is important for the youth worker to fully understand nomadism and how it's more than simply physical movement – it is a mindset and a particular view on life.

Terminology ....continued

- With this in mind terms such as 'settled Traveller' or 'member of the Travelling community' are not preferred by some Travellers or Traveller organisations.
- At the same time, some Travellers do prefer these terms. Using the terms 'Traveller' (or member of the Traveller Community) however, is broadly acceptable.

Demographics

This shows the age profiles of Travellers. Due to higher birth rates and high rates of mortality, 62% of all Travellers are under the age of 25.



Demographics ....continued

- Despite the relatively small numbers of Travellers in total (0.6% of the general population), the numbers of young Travellers is significantly higher at 1.2%.
- Young Travellers between the ages of 0-14 years represent the second highest number of young people from minority ethnic and cultural backgrounds in Ireland
- Travellers aged 14-25 years represent the fourth highest group (after Polish, UK and Lithuanian young people).

Needs and Issues for Young Travellers

- The needs of young Travellers cannot be determined in isolation from the reality of Traveller lives, from recognition of Traveller culture and an appreciation of what Travellers themselves want.
- Young Travellers must be acknowledged, recognised and embraced by the youth work sector in order for young Travellers to be proud of their identity, have a sense of belonging and have the right to reach their full potential without hiding who they are.

Why is it important to work with Young Travellers?

- Travellers are Irish Citizens and have the same rights and entitlements as the rest of us. This includes a right to quality youth work as specified in the UN convention on the rights of the child which contains a number of social rights for the young, such as the right to participate in leisure, recreational and cultural activities.
- Young members of the Traveller community have contributed to their own community and society as a whole, through their culture, enterprise, sporting excellence, artistic achievements, participatory expertise and their unique history and traditions.
- Youth services can be the place where the contributions made by young Travellers are nurtured and celebrated.

Two lectures were given to the group on Monday. The first was delivered by Senior Lecturer in the Department of Applied Social Studies at NUI Maynooth Maurice Devlin on “European Citizenship”. You can find a copy of this excellent presentation in the back of this report. The presentation provoked a lot of discussion on what makes an active citizen and how minority groups can also participate as national citizens.



*everybody, there was great interest in Traveller culture and the group really got to know each other during the banner making workshop”.*

The second lecture was delivered by Liz Loftus and Teresa B Ward from the National Association of Traveller Centres. Liz and Teresa explained how they carry out youth work both locally and nationally to Traveller young people in Ireland. This exchange is the first time many of the European participants of Pathfinders have met Irish Travellers and they were very interested in learning about Traveller culture and identity.

*“It was great to meet the group and work with*

As part of preparing for the groups’ participation in Navan’s St. Patrick’s Day parade, the participants worked together on producing a banner that would identify them to the parade spectators. It was during the course of the banners preparation, debate took place organically between the group as to what constituted being a European citizen. This promoted an intense discussion on what is Europe and that by being part of the European Union was exclusive, and therefore excluding, and that there were some countries located in Europe but excluded from the Union. This discussion resulted in the banner reading ‘Pathfinder III International Youth Work’





Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March

The day started with presentations by the Swedish, Finnish and Irish groups who impressed everyone with their activities and excellent delivery of their programme – despite some technical difficulties which were beyond their control! There is a copy of the Irish presentation at the back of this pack.



*“It was great to see what the other participants do in terms of activities, how their organisations work and where their funding comes from. Brilliant to see the amount of international exchanges that Finland and Sweden are involved in. Very interesting and entertaining.”*



Some of the group were very new to making presentations, what they lacked in experience they made up for in content and enthusiasm.

The group were due to hear some lectures of Multi-Cultural themes in the Dundalk Institute of Technology. Unfortunately the college had cancelled the planned lectures. However there was still a multi-cultural festival taking place on the campus so the Pathfinders gang was able to enjoy food, dance and music from around the world. This



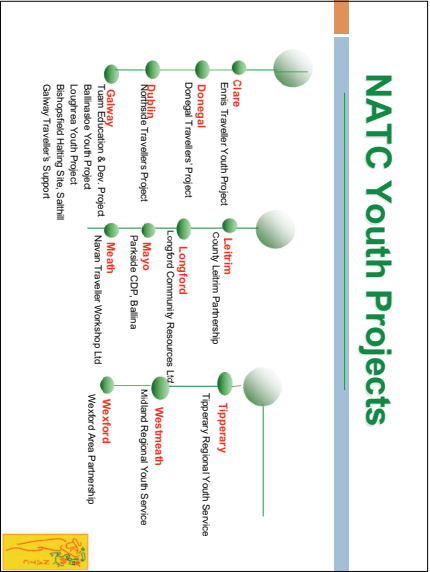
change of plan gave time to fit in some unexpected shopping in the nearby town of Newry, over the border in Northern Ireland before coming back to Navan to meet the Navan Travellers Workshops Girls Youth Group, “The Glitter Girls”.

Meeting “The Glitter Girls” in the evening gave the group a chance to informally hear about life from a young Travellers perspective and also allowed the youth group to share what they get up to every week when they meet up. The young women enjoyed hearing about the countries where the youth workers came from.

	Working with Young Travellers
	Liz Loftus: Development Worker NATC Youth Services Teresa B Ward: Youth Worker NATC Youth Services NATC: The National Association of Travellers' Centres

<b>The National Association of Travellers' Centres NATC</b>
NATC was founded in 1975
NATC is a membership organisation, representing Youth Work Projects nationally and the network of Centres of Education and Training
It is the largest provider of Youth Services to young Travellers nationally.

<b>NATC</b>
<b>Mission Statement</b>
The National Association of Travellers' Centres recognises the equality of the Traveller Community by providing programmes, initiatives and services that promote the participation and inclusion of the Traveller Community in Irish Society.



<b>Topics Covered:</b>
Working with young Travellers Presentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Focus on young people who are members of the Traveller community.</li><li>Explain aspects of Traveller culture</li><li>Discuss the needs and issues that young Travellers may face .</li><li>Offer practical advice on working with young people from the Traveller community.</li></ul>

<b>Introduction: Background to Travellers</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Travellers are an indigenous minority, documented as being part of Irish society for centuries.</li><li>Travellers have a long shared history and value system which make them a distinct group. They have their own language, customs and traditions.</li></ul>



# Powerpoint Presentation

by

*Liz Loftus Development Worker NATC Youth Services*  
*Teresa B Ward Youth Worker NATC Youth Services*  
*NATC: The National Association of Travellers' Centres*

## **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March – St Patrick's Day!**

For many, this day was the highlight of the week. During their stay, Navan town had been running daily events to celebrate its Shamrock Festival. Today, these events culminated in the town's St Patrick's Day Parade. In order to soak up the atmosphere and play a central role in the parade, Pathfinders relocated for the day to the Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd premises in the middle of the town.

After putting the finishing touches to a Pathfinders III banner and decorating each other in national flags and colours of all the participating countries, the Pathfinders group proudly took their place with the other entrants in the parade. Marching through the town and waving to all the spectators was great fun for everyone.

*“Experiencing a real St. Patrick's Day Parade in Ireland was brilliant. It's something I can't wait to tell people about when I get home!”.*



The evening was then spent enjoying all the amusements set up around Navan as part of the holiday, with everyone then experiencing a bit of traditional Irish dancing in a “Ceili Mór” (big party) that was held in a local hotel. During the evening, some of the group enjoyed a very frank and informative informal discussion about different cultures and the multicultural society that we all live in this was great Craic! It had been a long and enjoyable but tiring day, one to be remembered.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March

Cultural Diversity Workshop

This activity highlighted how prejudices effect how we judge other people. Some of the group were given roles to play and they had 45 minutes to decide who to throw off the boat. It seemed like a long time, but in the end the time flew. The ‘actors’ were very protective of their characters flaws which



effected the end decision and also people were making their decisions based on their character rather than their own opinion, this created a wave of discussion. If this exercise was used with young people it would benefit from being more structured i.e. by each person having to reveal a part of their character and everyone decide who is to be thrown off the boat. The activity would continue with a further reveal and a revised decision, and then the final reveal and final decision. This would highlight that depending on what information we have, it would alter our opinion of people. This exercise was enjoyed by everyone, with members of the audience also contributing.

Slovenia, Bulgaria, Scotland Presentations

After lunch the group enjoyed the presentations from the remaining groups. The Slovenia group had been working with Roma in their country and they showed an interesting DVD where a Roma woman talked about her life. The group found this very interesting.



It was clear that there is brilliant work taking place in the Balkans. There is the Youth Eco Happening initiative looking at creative recycling, inspiration in various media such as music, film and the arts.

The Scottish presentation showed how young and old people can work together and learn from each other in a fun way.



*All the presentations during the week had been very thought provoking, and will inspire future youth work in the participating organisations and beyond.....*

Popular awareness/support

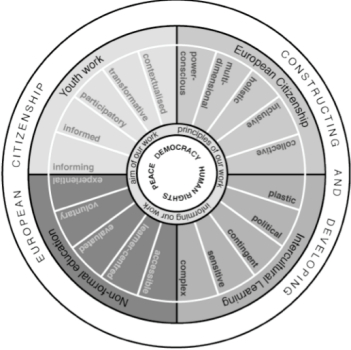
- ‘Although they are understandably vague about its actual contents 78% of people claim familiarity of the term, “citizen of the European Union”, but only 41% claim to know what it means and only 18% actually recognize all the rights they possess. A growing majority of people recognize some degree of European identity, which is particularly true of young people.’ [European Citizenship Action Service]

Popular awareness/support

- ‘Concerns have been expressed by governments that European citizenship could in some way confuse people or detract from the exercise [of] national citizenship. However, research suggests that this is not the case and that greater engagement in local and national political issues and in civic life generally goes hand in hand with greater engagement in Europe and a feeling of European citizenship.’ [ECAS]

Popular awareness/support

- ‘Public opinion research is grounds for optimism showing the gradual emergence, particularly among the younger generation of a new type of European citizen. However, there is also a need for caution since a large section of the population consider themselves only as national citizens. Citizenship of the European Union in terms of its rights and programmes still has to reach the unreachable.’ [ECAS]





## European Citizenship

- 'The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail.'

## European Citizenship

- 'In all its activities, the Union shall observe the principle of the equality of its citizens, who shall receive equal attention from its institutions, bodies, offices and agencies. Every national of a Member State shall be a citizen of the Union. Citizenship of the Union shall be additional to national citizenship and shall not replace it.'

## European Citizenship

- '[Citizens] shall have, inter alia:
  - (a) the right to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States;
  - (b) the right to vote and to stand as candidates in elections to the European Parliament and in municipal elections in their Member State of residence, under the same conditions as nationals of that State;
  - (c) the right to enjoy, in the territory of a third country in which the Member State of which they are nationals is not represented, the protection of the diplomatic and consular authorities of any Member State on the same conditions as the nationals of that State;
  - (d) the right to petition the European Parliament, to apply to the European Ombudsman, and to address the institutions and advisory bodies of the Union in any of the Treaty languages and to obtain a reply in the same language.

## Symbols of citizenship

- Flag
- Passport
- Driving license
- Anthem
- Currency (not everywhere)
- Motto: *United in Diversity*

## Charter of Fundamental Rights

- 'The Union contributes to the preservation and to the development of these common values while respecting the diversity of the cultures and traditions of the peoples of Europe as well as the national identities of the Member States .....

## Charter of Fundamental Rights

- **Article 21 Non-discrimination**
  - Any discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation shall be prohibited.
- **Article 22 Cultural, religious and linguistic diversity**
  - The Union shall respect cultural, religious and linguistic diversity.

### Comhairle Na nOg



On Thursday evening, the group met with the Meath Comhairle Na nOg (Youth Council) in the Council chambers in Navan. The event was launched by Willie Carey, Cathaoirleach (Chairperson) of Meath County Council. The young people gave a presentation followed by a short film they had made about the function of the council and the importance of European Union Membership.



There were questions and answers afterwards, and everyone had a chance to chat informally over tea and biscuits at the end of the session. There were some good discussion, and much was learned by both groups; about different cultures, different countries, European Youthwork, about the youth council and how young people feel about Europe.

### Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March

An evaluation of the week took place in the form of a banner workshop, it was envisaged that the group would design a canvas that would depict the Pathfinder III Youthwork seminar showing their experiences and learning. One of the group, Ivelina, was very good at portraits and offered to draw everyone's faces on the banner, this was a mammoth task, but she achieved her aim. The others added to the canvas showing some of the activities in a visual format. This creation can be seen on page 17. During the workshop the group were also asked to complete a simple written evaluation of the week to inform this report and to help learn for another time. The results are included in the section 'So what did people really think?'



**The Pathfinder symbol has been passed on. Thank you to all the participants for making it a week to remember! We look forward to when our paths will cross again. Hopefully in Bulgaria when the Balkan Youth Festival will be hosting Pathfinder IV in 2012.**



So, what did participants really think?

As part of our overall appraisal of this year’s Pathfinders Conference, we decided to ask the participants to fill in short evaluation forms after each day and also a more comprehensive one at the end of the week.

Both these forms were filled in anonymously to ensure respondents were as honest as possible. The results were a great help to us and hopefully will be of use to future host groups.

We’re including the positive and negative answers to give a true assessment of how the week went for people. We’ve put the answers in order of popularity.

What did you most enjoy about the seminar?

- Eight participants said meeting old friends and making new was the most enjoyable part of the week.
- St Patrick’s Day
- Presentations
- Relaxed atmosphere
- Venue
- Well organised
- Comhairle na nOg

Is there anything you would change about the seminar?

- W could have liked a little more on the future of youth work
- More Traveller participation would have been better
- More time for discussions
- It would have been good to get the group together for a fun activity on the first night

What were the most important learning outcomes for you?

- Every participant said learning from the skills and work of other youth leaders
- Five people said they enjoyed learning information about Irish Travellers

We then asked the participants to rate the following on a scale on 1 – 5 (1 = very poor, 5 = excellent)

Lectures – 4	Intercultural day in Dundalk – 3
Presentations by partners – 4	Food and accommodation - 4
St Patrick’s Day – 5	Comhairle na nOg - 5
Cultural activities including nightlife – 5	

Citizenship and Diversity

Maurice Devlin  
NUI Maynooth

Citizenship – what is it?

- “Citizen” literally means inhabitant (“denizen”) of a city
- Origins in ancient Greek & Roman city states, but the concept was not inclusive – it *excluded* women, children and most men
- Now refers to formal membership of a state

Development of modern citizenship

- T.H. Marshall’s 3 stages (ref. Britain):
- Civil citizenship (18<sup>th</sup> c.): equality before the law, personal liberty, freedom of speech & religion, property rights;
- Political citizenship (19<sup>th</sup> c.): electoral and office-holding rights;
- Social citizenship (20<sup>th</sup> c.): socio-economic welfare and “participation” in society

Models of citizenship

- Type of membership – from *entitlement*, through *belonging*, to *participation*
- Liberal individualism (citizenship as *status*) and civic republicanism (citizenship as *practice*)
- Youth work and community work (and recent social policy) emphasize participation and practice
- Citizenship has not just *legal* but *moral* and *political* dimensions

‘Citizenship’ and ‘nationality’

- Modern citizenship associated with *nation-states*
- Usually has a link with nationality (literally “where you were born”) but also parentage and ‘naturalization’, residence etc
- Different regulations from country to country, even within the EU – what about your own country?
- ‘European citizenship’ the first *transnational* citizenship.

European Citizenship

- Treaty refers to....
- ‘Drawing inspiration from the cultural, religious and humanist inheritance of Europe, from which have developed the universal values of the inviolable and inalienable rights of the human person, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law...’



# Powerpoint Presentation

*by*  
*Maurice Devlin*  
*NUI Maynooth*

## Did the seminar meet your expectations?

- Yes, It was a great learning experience
- Liked having time to chat with others
- We needed an introduction to Pathfinders for new people
- Nice to have a smaller group
- Presentations were very good
- Icebreakers were very good
- Some seminars were not well prepared
- There were some computer problems

## Overall, how would you rate the experience of Pathfinders III?

- It's getting better each year
- It was very interesting
- This was the first one I attended, now I want to go to more
- I really enjoyed learning about other cultures
- It was very useful

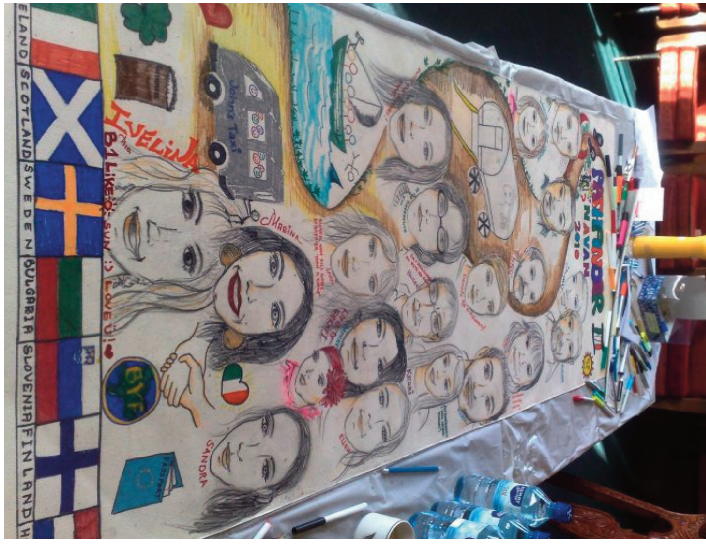
## Is there any other feedback you would like to offer?

- It was a lovely group of participants
- It would be good to try to get more countries involved
- It will be important to maintain new links and friendships

## And finally...

- I really enjoyed the week
- I'm looking forward to taking ideas home to put into practice
- It would be good to have more managers participating
- I was really satisfied with everything

Here you can see the final  
artwork created during  
the Pathfinder III  
evaluation workshop.



Financial Cost of Pathfinders III

Transport	€3556*
Activities	€3169
Accommodation	<u>€7100</u>
	€13,825

*\*The Youth in action Programme provides 70% of the travel costs, the remaining 30% must be sponsored by the partner organisation where the participant originates from.*

*Travel costs are paid by the participating organisation and 70% of the costs refunded during the seminar. All travel documents including boarding cards must be retained by the host organisation and submitted to the funders.*

Pathfinders III Acknowledgements

We feel the success of this programme only came about because of the input of a wide range of people and organisations. In attempting to acknowledge the contribution made by these people is always dangerous, as there are many unsung heroes working behind the scenes. This list does not reflect in any way the order of importance.

<b>Organising Group</b>	
Anne Hyland	Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd
Daphne van Batem	Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd
Eileen McDonagh	Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd
Frances D'Arcy	Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd
Kim O'Connor	National Association of Traveller Centres
Michael McDonagh	Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd
Michael MacDonnachada	Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd
Sandra Hand	Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd
Sinead Burke	Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd
Teresa O'Leary	Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd
<b>Guest Speakers - chronological order</b>	
Maurice Devlin	Senior Lecturer NUI Maynooth
Liz Loftus	National Association of Traveller Centres
Teresa B Ward	National Association of Traveller Centres
Gitter Girls Youth Group	Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd
Cathy Martin	Comhairle na Oig Youth Council
<b>Hosting, entertainment and transport</b>	
Mary and all the staff	Dowdstown House
Larry McKenna	A to B Taxis
Peadar Farrelly & Michael McGoldrick	Irish Social Night in Ardboyne Hotel
Paddy Pryle	Athlumney Tour Guide Service - Hill of Tara
Eamonn McDonagh	Singer and musician Rathcairn Gaelacht Community
Padraig Fitzsimons (Chairperson)	Navan Shamrock Festival Committee
John McDonagh (minibus driver)	Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd
<b>Partner groups participants</b>	
Ivelina Hristova	Balkan Youth Festival Sofia Bulgaria
Martina Georgieva	Balkan Youth Festival Sofia Bulgaria
Dzeni Rostohar	DZMP Slovenia
Jana Drasler	DZMP Slovenia
Catrina Gourlay	Grey Lodge Settlement Dundee Scotland
Keri Sutherland	Grey Lodge Settlement Dundee Scotland
Dennis Backman	Ingo Ungdomsgard Inkoo nr Helsinki Finland
Kai Sivlio	Ingo Ungdomsgard Inkoo nr Helsinki Finland
Holger Brytesson	Kultur - och Fritidsforvaltningen Karlstad Kommun Sweden
Pers Anders Persson	Kultur - och Fritidsforvaltningen Karlstad Kommun Sweden
<b>Additional Participants</b>	
Dave McDonagh	Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd
Elaíne Sherlock	Traveller from Galway
John (Stu) McDonagh	Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd
Laura McDonagh	Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd
Marie McDonagh	Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd
Michael (Dundee) McDonagh	Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd
Nathanya McDonagh	Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd
Ricky McDonagh	Traveller from Dundalk
Shirley Ward	Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd
Elisha McDonagh (baby)	Stephen McDonagh (baby)
<b>Venues</b>	
Dowdstown House	The Hill of Tara Visitor Centre
The Lantern	Meath County Council - Council Chambers
Dundalk Institute of Technology	Newry Shopping Centre Northern Ireland
Navan Travellers Workshops Ltd	The Valley Café
Ardboyne Hotel	Rathcairn Community Centre

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