

# “Who’s Listening”

## Workshop

# “Increasing Community Participation”



Ireland's European Structural and  
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# “The Model County”?



# Wexford the “Model County”

Wexford became known as the Model County during the 1800s as a result of progressive farming methods.

The County has a history of thriving agriculture and innovative industrial practices.

This provided employment and prosperity for its population.

The story since 1980s however has been one of decline.....



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# Wexford a County in Decline

Census 2011 was carried out after the worst of the post Celtic tiger recession had hit.

- Co. Wexford became the **3<sup>rd</sup> most disadvantaged county**
- Between 2006 and 2011 the unemployment rate for males trebled from **9.5% to 28.5%**.
- For females the unemployment rate increased from **9.1% to 18.1%**.
- Youth unemployment in 2011 **rose to 47%** - the third highest rate in the country.
- **19.1% of adults in Co. Wexford have primary level education only** - the national figure is 16%.
- Only **22% of adults have third level education** vs. 31% nationally



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# Communities the Challenges

**Employment:** 17.2% of people employed commute out of Wexford rising to 30% in parts of the County.

High proportion of jobs in low end manufacturing, overdependence on construction.

Few large scale employers.

**Unemployment:** 12,032 on the live register(-15%)

**Youth:** Lack of employment opportunities and educational choices resulting in further loss of our young population.

**Population:** Ageing population



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# Communities the Challenges

**Families:** 7,300 lone parent families in Wexford representing **26.4%** of families with children in Wexford.

**Transport:** Poor public transport infrastructure. **70%** of trips to work are using private transport. **1.2%** of work trips public transport.



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# #MakeADifferenceTogether

- We worked with over **4,000 individual clients** helping them access training, education, employment, work placement and enterprise supports.
- **50%** of our clients came from **jobless households**.
- We provided **5,000 training places**
- **400 community based work placement opportunities**
- Local Employment Services worked with **3,000 job seekers**, **679** moved in to **employment/self employment**.
- **Warm Project insulated 200 homes**



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# #MakeADifferenceTogether

- **139 community groups** supported through SICAP
- **207 individuals started up their own business.**
- **2631 children** participated in after-schools and youth programmes last year.
- **WLD's Little Jobs Service completed over 1700 jobs last year for older people.**
- In the past year **118 community projects** have responded to calls for funding.
- **206 businesses supported** in enterprise development through LEADER.



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# Why Participate?

- **Have your voice heard.**
- **We know the problems in our communities.**
- **We know that voluntary and community groups can influence decisions, allocation of resources for the better.**
- **We can ensure decisions, services, resources are socially inclusive**
- **Not doing so means bad decisions in our absence..**
- **Community development can work**



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# Community Participation

## Discussion:

1. What are the benefits of getting involved?
2. How can we encourage more engagement with our target audience?
3. Who is really listening?
4. Who do we want to engage with and How?
5. Examples of what worked?



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**#MakeADifferenceTogether**