

## **Request for Tender: Research on Migrant Access to Employment and Support Services in Donegal**

### **Background & Context**

SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme) aims to tackle poverty and social exclusion in Ireland by providing supports to disadvantaged communities. Donegal, like many other counties, is home to a diverse and growing migrant population. Donegal Local Development CLG and other local organisations have an increased focus on understanding and improving access to employment for migrants in the area and have introduced additional supports to help address the barriers that migrants face in finding work. This study will look at migrants' experiences accessing employment, to assess the effectiveness of current services and provide evidence-based recommendations to enhance DLDC's SICAP strategy and annual plan and a key part of this research is the importance of listening to migrants themselves—to find out what's working, what's missing, and what could be done better.

### **Objective**

This research aims to:

- Understand the experiences of migrants in accessing employment opportunities in Donegal.
- Assess the effectiveness of current support services provided by local organisations.
- Examine barriers and challenges faced by migrants in entering the workforce.
- Provide recommendations for improving SICAP services to better meet the needs of migrants.

### **Scope of Work**

The successful applicant will:

- Complete a detailed assessment of migrants' experiences in accessing employment, enterprise supports and educational opportunities in Donegal – this will be achieved by conducting 25+ one-to-one interviews with migrant participants.
- Engage with local organisations and service providers to conduct 5+ focus groups, involving a minimum of 120 individuals, to gather insights into service delivery and client experiences.

- Evaluate the effectiveness of current SICAP offerings and identify gaps in service provision for migrant communities.
- Identify opportunities for improvement, including new ideas for programmes, workshops and community education initiatives to enhance employment support, entrepreneurship development, and lifelong learning pathways for migrants.
- Examine the interest in and access to supports for starting a new business, including awareness of available resources, challenges faced by migrant entrepreneurs, and recommendations for tailored enterprise supports.
- Explore lifelong learning opportunities, such as adult education, upskilling, and continuous professional development, and assess how accessible and relevant they are for migrant communities in Donegal.
- Provide a final report including executive summary, findings, conclusions, and actionable recommendations on how SICAP can improve its approach and better serve migrant populations in Donegal.

### **Requirements**

The successful applicant will demonstrate:

- Experience in conducting research for similar projects
- Knowledge of SICAP and target groups
- An understanding of the challenges faced by migrants in Donegal
- Experience working with a range of stakeholders, including community organisations, service providers, and migrants themselves

### **Application Process**

Interested applicants should submit the following:

- A cover letter (max. 2 pages) explaining how you plan to carry out the study.
- CVs for all individuals involved in the project
- Examples of relevant past research or similar work
- Proof of tax clearance

### **Start Date**

This contract will be for a period of approx. 4 months, to be complete by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025.

Tender submission should be returned no later than 12 noon on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025 via email to [dcampbell@dldc.org](mailto:dcampbell@dldc.org)