



43 groups around Ireland receive funding as part of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

To mark the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 43 community and voluntary organisations around Ireland have received grants totaling over €120,000. The funds are to support locally based activities and initiatives to raise awareness of the issues in Ireland regarding poverty and social exclusion. The scheme has been co-financed by the European Commission and the Department of Social Inclusion.

The successful groups were announced at a ceremony on the 21st of April 2010 by the Minister for Social Protection Éamon Ó Cuív. Over 580 applications for funding were received from organisations around Ireland.

Speaking at the launch Minister O'Cuiv said, "The initiatives for which funding is being provided include sporting activities, local radio broadcasting campaigns, seminars, art and photographic exhibitions and education and information initiatives. These activities will involve people experiencing poverty and will, for wider society, raise awareness of the European Year and poverty and social exclusion issues."

One such funded initiative is Mental Health Ireland. They are holding an art and poetry exhibition by service users of the mental health services in Galway City and County. The Exhibition will be launched by the Minister for Social Protection Éamon Ó Cuív on Monday 20th September in Galway County Hall, Prospect Hill, Galway City.

This project aims to tackle the negative attitudes that exist towards people with mental health problems by creating a greater awareness of their talents and abilities. It also provides an opportunity for service users to see that their work is valued not only by them, but by the community and the public at large. It brings these achievements into the heart of the community and allows the public to benefit from the wonderful art work and poetry created.



The guiding principle of the 2010 Year is to give a voice to those who live with poverty and social exclusion, and to inspire European citizens to engage with these important issues. Through the 43 co-financed events, the Government in association with the European Commission is engaging with people at a grass-roots level.