Harnessing the Potential of Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship

Ireland: A Healthy Influx of Potential Entrepreneurs

- Over the last 10 years the country’s population has grown by 17% to reach almost 4.24 million people
- Between 2000 and 2006, inward migrants have numbered almost 430,000 people
- 10% of the population from a non-national background
- Represents immense potential to grow entrepreneurial pool.
The Emerge Development Partnership

Exploring ways to develop & expand ethnic minority enterprises and help them to overcome the business obstacles presented by the regulatory & cultural environment.
Emerge Actions

- Reaching out to the target group
- Tailored pre-enterprise training
- Pre-enterprise mentoring
- Start-up & growth-phase training
- Networking opportunities

Outputs & Impacts

- Training, mentoring & networking for 207 participants
- 129 unemployed at start which fell to 47 by course end
- Generated 44 new businesses
- 35 plan to start business during 2008
- Helped sustain & grow 24 businesses
- Allowed us learn how best to help
Enhancing Supports for Ethnic Enterprise

- Proactively promote the enterprise option
- Break down regulatory barriers
- Provide customised early stage supports
- Enhance access to finance
- Support stepping stone networks

EQUAL Additionality

- Proactive outreach
- Appropriate partner organisations
- Early stage developmental supports
- Deciding if enterprise is the right option
- Tailored and flexible training provision
- One-to-one support
- Business networking
- Inter-agency collaboration
- Collaboration and joint service provision.
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Entrepreneurs like me are regularly portrayed in the general media

I know people like me who have started their own business

There are regular events / fairs aimed at potential or early stage entrepreneurs like me

There are networking opportunities for start-up entrepreneurs like me

It is easy for entrepreneurs like me to set up a business bank account

Advice is available to entrepreneurs like me for a period after start-up

Training is available to entrepreneurs like me in the areas required for business expansion (ICT, marketing, financial management…)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perceptions of Ethnic and Migrant EQUAL Users</th>
<th>Average Score (1-4)</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The subject of setting up a business is presented comprehensively &amp; regularly by the general media (TV, radio, papers)</td>
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Thank You