

Global Irish Civic Forum

The second Global Irish Civic Forum took place on 4-5 May 2017 in Dublin Castle, with the theme “Communities, Connections, Conversations”. Irish community leaders from around the world, drawn from emigrant and diaspora communities, came together to discuss the challenges facing the Irish abroad. The Forum brought together over 230 attendees, representing 150 organisations, including welfare organisations, organisations aimed at promoting Irish culture abroad, Irish-focused business networks and campaign groups for emigrants. The Forum allowed organisations, many of them funded by the ESP, to share their experience and provided an opportunity to recognise the work they undertake to support Irish emigrants abroad.

Panel discussions and workshops were organised on topics such as the Review of the Implementation of *Global Irish: Ireland’s Diaspora Policy* and Voting Rights in Presidential Elections. A feedback survey was circulated to participants in recent weeks and feedback was overwhelmingly very positive.

A summary report of the Forum, which outlines key themes and future actions is currently being finalised, and is expected to be ready for publication by the Minister (on-line version only) before the end of June.