



Integration and Identities in Europe

The City of Dublin Forum

Featuring the
European Works Photography Exhibition

“As Europeans, we have common interests – interests that we must learn to advance together. Beyond interests, we must be able to meet the challenges of memory and to build a common vision. To know our origins can better enable us to found this common vision. It is through the dialectic between ideal and necessity, between memory and reasoned discernment, between recognition of what was and the invention of what will be, that Europe is being built”

Jacques Delors, **Founding President of Notre Europe**

Nearly twenty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, and five years after the enlargement of May 2004, the transformations across Europe have acquired unprecedented dimensions. Hundreds of thousands of Europeans have been able to uproot themselves from their familiar surroundings and to cross borders in order to go live, work, or study elsewhere. Within the new frames posed by the unification of Europe, they establish novel links; they re-negotiate their primary identities; they form and transform themselves. What are the implications in terms of our relationship to the other? How do these changes affect our senses of belonging? To what extent do they alter our vision of the past and our views for the future?

In conjunction with **Notre Europe** (a European think-tank founded by Jacques Delors), the **Office for Integration of Dublin City Council** will host a discussion forum entitled “**Integration and Identities in Europe – The City of Dublin Forum**”, on **11th March 2009**. It will commence with an informed exchange of views on the making of contemporary European identity, followed by a session which addresses the issue of integration in our city.

Contemporary forms and meanings of European belonging

The Forum will be introduced by **Dr. Garret FitzGerald, Chancellor of the National University of Ireland and former Taoiseach**. It will proceed with a series of lectures which discuss the shifting forms and contemporary meanings of European belonging, as seen from Ireland. This morning session will be held in the **Chester Beatty Library, Dublin Castle from 9am – 12.30 pm**.

This discussion will be followed by the **formal opening of the European Works photography exhibition** by the **Lord Mayor of Dublin, Eibhlin Byrne**, at **1pm, at the City Hall, Dame Street**. This exhibition presents images and stories collected in six emblematic European cities by the researchers of *Notre Europe* and the photographers of *Agence VU*. Thus Dublin is one of the six milestones of a European journey which also takes us to Łódź, Malmö, Timișoara, Turin, and Belgrade.

Integration: A City Dialogue

The **Office for Integration of Dublin City Council** will then hold a round table aimed at fostering the dialogue on integration at the city level (**2.30pm – 4.30pm, Chester Beatty Library, Dublin Castle**). It will gather all the stakeholders who are facilitating the integration of the immigrant population in Dublin city.

This roundtable will outline the progress made to date on the development of integration policy at city level within the overall strategy “Towards Integration – A City Framework”; it will also be an occasion to listen to and explore a range of issues through which together we can further develop and strengthen this process.

The topic's relevance is only heightened, with the economic and social vulnerability of our country now evident, and protectionist temptations potentially re-surfacing. It is appropriate to tackle these issues in the week of the St. Patrick's Festival, which celebrates our national identity and gives expression to the new diversity of Dublin – a city which is today home to Poles, Chinese, Lithuanian, and Nigerians amongst others.

Provisional programme

Wednesday 11th March 2009

PART 1

- 9.00am Register of Participants at Chester Beatty Library, Dublin Castle
- 9.15am Welcome of guests and speakers
- 9.25am **Introduction of the Forum by Dr. Garret FitzGerald**
- 9.50am Chair introduces the speakers
- 9.55am **Michael D. Higgins**
Culture, memory, imagination, migration and the city
- 10.15am **Dr. Karolina Szmagalska Follis – NUI Maynooth**
In or out? – Shifting senses of belonging on Europe's Eastern borderlands
- 10.35am **Fintan O'Toole**
Lecture's title to be confirmed
- 10.55am **Hugo Hamilton**
Outsiders and insiders
- 11.15am Tea / Coffee Break
- 11.30am Chair opens the discussion to the floor
- Panel**
Chair, Aziliz Gouez (*Notre Europe*), 5 speakers
- 12.20am Chair wraps up and closes the Forum
- 12.30pm Guests travel from Chester Beatty Library to the City Hall
[5 minutes walk]

PART 2

- 1.00pm Welcome of guests at the *European Works* photography exhibition
City Hall, Dame Street
- 1.05pm Marc Prüst (Agence VU') introduces the exhibition
- 1.10pm Gilles Favier, Photographer, presents his work
- 1.20pm The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Eibhlin Byrne, formally opens the exhibition
- 1.30pm Light Lunch

PART 3

- 2.30pm Opening of Integration – A City Dialogue
Chester Beatty Library
- Chair**
Maria Hegarty (Equality Strategies)
- Panel**
Gerry Folan, Office for Integration, Dublin City Council, and invitees (TBC)
- 3.30pm Tea/Coffee Break
- 4.30pm Conclusion and close