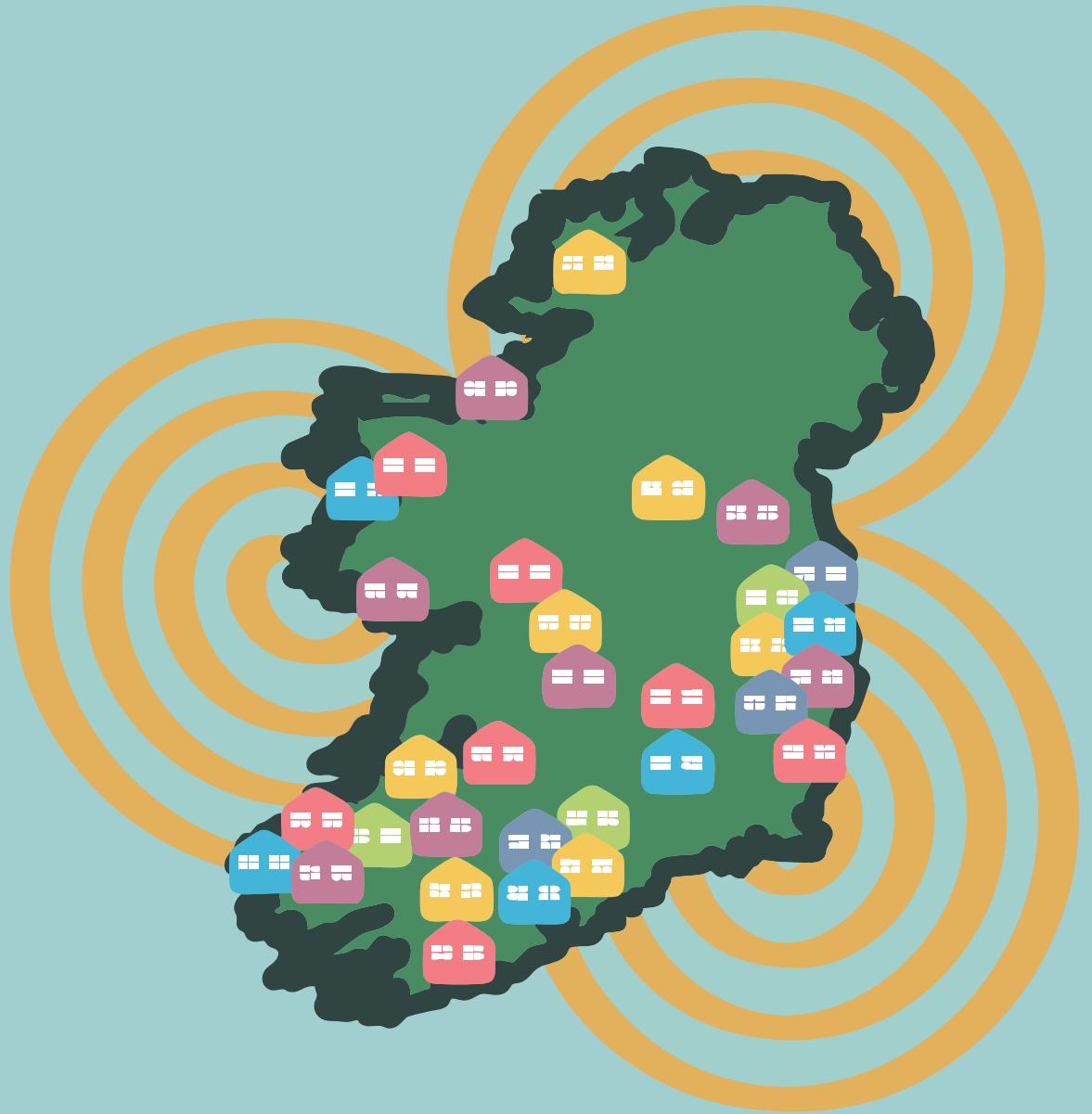


People in Motion:

Different Paths
Shared Journeys





Foreword

Welcome to the Co-operative Housing Ireland "People in Motion: Different Paths, Shared Journeys" booklet. CHI is dedicated to helping communities flourish and believes that cooperation is the key to achieving this goal. The hope of this booklet is to foster awareness, understanding, and inclusivity within diverse communities by providing a blend of historical, cultural, and social insights.

The booklet not only showcases our diverse community but also emphasises the seven co-operative principles, such as 'concern for community' and 'democratic member control,' and their significance. While some principles may be more applicable than others, the true measure of a co-operative's success lies in its commitment to all seven. Achieving this may not always be possible, but striving for it is certainly worthwhile.

Since our foundation in 1973, CHI has supported the delivery of 8,750 homes through home-ownership, shared ownership and social rented co-operatives. With our membership of democratically controlled local co-operatives, we now manage almost 5,750 homes across Ireland.

This booklet aspires to promote cultural sensitivity and encourage readers to reflect on Ireland's multicultural identity by highlighting the various nationalities, faiths, and cultural traditions that shape Ireland's fabric. It supports shared journeys by framing diversity as a journey of mutual enrichment, where individuals can learn from one another while sharing their experiences.



Kieron Brennan

CEO, Co-operative Housing Ireland

Introduction

Welcome

In 2022 we published 'It takes a Village- A Mental health and Wellbeing toolkit'. Following this, we worked within CHI's community to learn more about race, ethnicity, diversity, and inclusion.

Our Community Engagement team invited you (our members) to help create this booklet. We reached out to as many of you as possible via text, email, in person and on social media. We offered a choice of ways for you to share your ideas and experiences:

- **Online Survey** - offered in 6 languages
- **Online Focus Group** - facilitated by the Irish Centre for Diversity
- **2 Members' Forums** - facilitated by Black and Irish
- **2 Focus Groups** - facilitated by the Irish Centre for Diversity

During this consultation process, we listened to and valued the experiences, ideas, and feedback you shared with us. Your voices have been heard, and we are grateful for your contributions.

Ireland is a vibrant and multicultural community, with people from all over the world calling it home. It is important for us to be aware of diversity in our society. We hope this booklet can be a stepping stone towards supporting inclusive communities.



Mission & Values

Our CHI Vision

Our Vision is of a society where everyone has access to housing delivered co-operatively.

Our CHI Mission

Providing homes co-operatively to meet the needs of our communities by working in partnership:

- to enable vibrant and sustainable communities
- to be a voice for delivering housing co-operatively and for those in housing need
- to support co-operative and other community-led housing initiatives

Our CHI Values

Set of core beliefs held by the organisation which guide our behaviours as an organisation and what we expect of our staff, suppliers, partners and collaborators with whom we work.

- Co-operative
- Respect and professional
- Inclusion
- Sustainability
- Passion

Co-operative commitment: We collaborate to achieve our goals and foster leadership, recognising that working together allows us to achieve more.

Respect and professional: We treat people with professionalism and dignity.

Inclusion: We acknowledge and value differences in everyone and how these differences contribute positively to our culture and outcomes.

Sustainability: We seek innovative solutions to help promote environmental, social and financial sustainability and resilience for our organisation.

Passion: We are enthusiastic about our work and strive to do our best and achieve success. We are committed to excel in service delivery.

Cooperative Principles

As a CHI Member, you are part of a larger co-operative. As with all our work, the booklet follows the same principles that all co-operatives follow:

- Voluntary and Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Member Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training, and Information
- Co-operation among Co-operatives
- Concern for Community

Thank You

Thank You for Your Support!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each member who took the time to support this project, whether it was in an online group, a survey or in person. Your dedication and involvement have been invaluable.

A special thank you to the Community Engagement Team for their unwavering support and to CHI for their generous contributions. Your efforts have made a significant impact on our work.

Together, we are making a difference!



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Our Worldwide Community

Everyone starts the journey to cultural sensitivity at different times in their life. For many, this resource could be the starting point, for others it may be part of a journey they have been on for some time. In any event, we would like to begin by highlighting how Ireland is made up with a rich tapestry of cultures. We would also like to show where Irish people have emigrated to and settled over the years.

The population of Ireland recorded in the 2022 Census was just over 5 million people. 4.3 million individuals reported to have Irish or Dual Irish citizenship. This census also recorded that the number of non-Irish citizens rose, making up 12% of the population. The largest non-Irish groups consisted of Polish and UK citizens, with Indian, Romanian, and Lithuanian citizens following closely behind. Brazilian, Italian, Latvian and Spanish citizens were also among non-Irish groups.

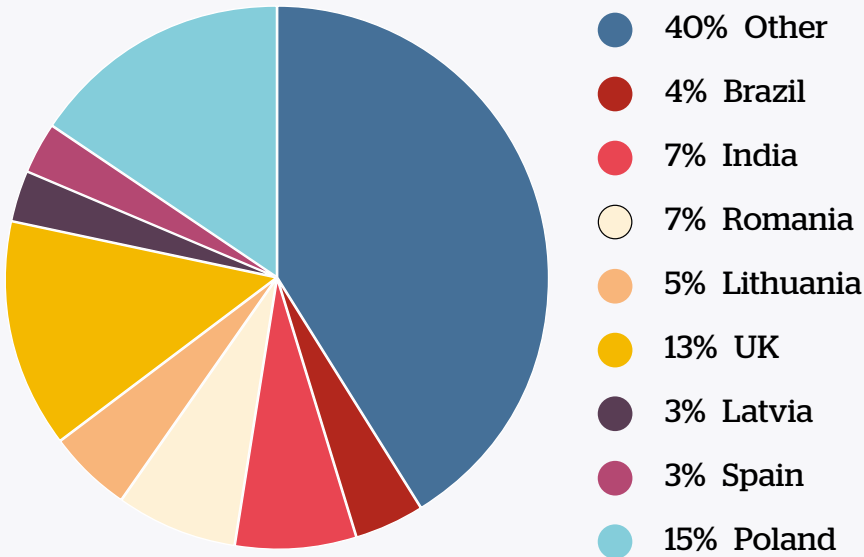
"A nation is a very complex thing. It never does consist; it never has consisted solely of men of one blood or one single race - it is like a river, rising in the hills with many sources, many converging streams, that become one great stream."

Roger Casement, 1905

There are over 5 million people living in Ireland

12% of these are non-Irish citizens.

Results percentage breakdown



Mary Robinson's "Light in the Window" and Its Significance

In 1990, Mary Robinson made history as the first female President of Ireland, vowing to be a leader for change who would promote inclusivity and community throughout her presidency. In her acceptance speech, she affirmed this commitment, stating:

"I am not just a President of those here today, but of those who cannot be here; and there will always be a light on in Áras an Uachtaráin for our exiles and our emigrants."

The tradition of placing a lit candle in a window has deep roots in Irish culture, symbolizing a welcome for travelers seeking shelter, often associated with Christmas. In this context, the candle represented a warm welcome home for returning emigrants.

Through this gesture, President Robinson sparked an important conversation about Ireland's long history of emigration and exile. By redefining emigrants as part of the Irish diaspora, she encouraged a broader recognition and embrace of those abroad who feel a connection to Ireland.



Since 1800 almost 10 million Irish people have left our shores. Some for a short time and others to settle down in new countries.



Almost 70 million people around the world claim to have Irish heritage. That is almost fourteen times the population of Ireland.

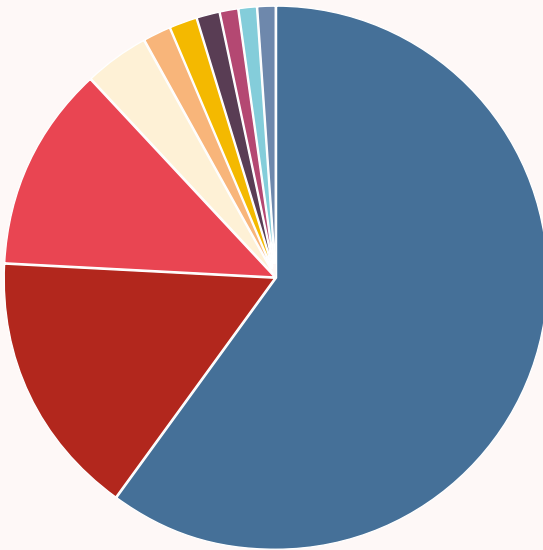


The top three countries the Irish have migrated to are the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia.

Where the Irish call home

In 2016, US News and World Report wrote the article '10 Countries with the most Irish Immigrants'. This information is a snapshot of where Irish citizens and Irish born migrants lived at that time. It is worth mentioning that worldwide, approximately 70 million people claim Irish heritage (who are not Irish citizens).

Approximate breakdown of Irish migrants



- 503,288 UK
- 132,280 USA
- 101,032 Australia
- 33,530 Canada
- 14,651 Spain
- 13,009 South Africa
- 11,373 Germany
- 9,828 France
- 9,398 New Zealand
- 7,592 Poland

Faith and Belonging



The word religion comes from a Latin word that means “to tie or bind together.” Belonging to a religion often means more than just sharing its beliefs and taking part in its rituals. A large part may be, being part of a community and, at times, a culture.



Religions in the world are similar in many ways. In every religion there are rituals, scriptures, sacred days and gathering places. In every religion, the congregation is guided on how people should act towards each other.



The five most predominant religions in the world are Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism.



Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, have a shared origin, they all trace their roots back to the biblical figure of Abraham.

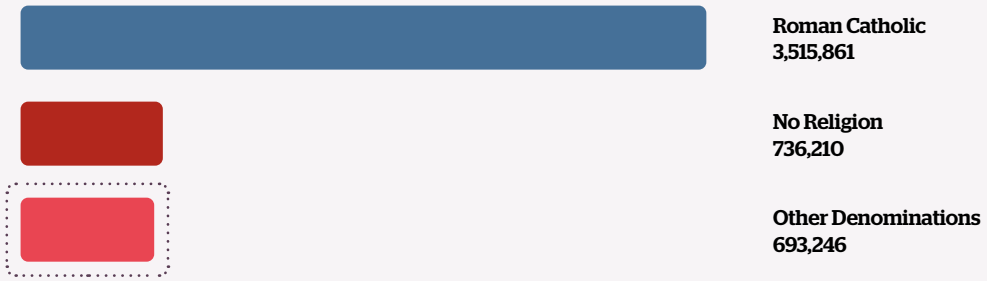


Some governments show bias towards one religion over others. While other governments, like in Ireland, uphold citizens' rights to practice any religion without discrimination.

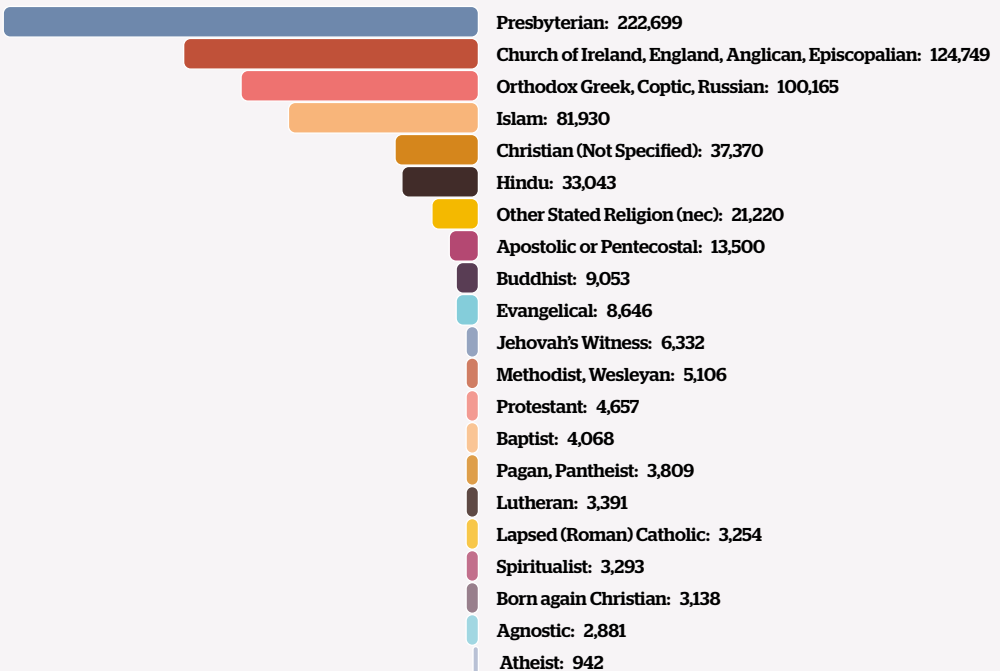


In 2022 the census showed that the largest religious group in Ireland was Roman Catholic, representing 78.3% of the population. Other Religious groups include Church of Ireland, Muslim, Orthodox Christian, and Hindu.

Faiths represented in Ireland



Breakdown of all other religious denominations



Source: [Religion: Central Statistics Office \(CSO\)](#)

Cultural Calendar 2025

January

First Fortnight (Nationwide):

A celebration of contemporary arts across Ireland, featuring theater, dance, music, and visual arts.

6th

Nollaig na mBan or

Women's Little Christmas:

Traditionally celebrated in the West and South of Ireland, marking the end of the Christmas season. In recent years, Nollaig na mBan has become a revived and energised celebration. It is now more of a celebration and acknowledgment of the fantastic women in our lives.

7th

Orthodox Christmas Day:

Marking the birth of Christ in the Julian calendar. These celebrations include family gatherings and festive meals, while reflecting on spiritual traditions and celebrating cultural heritage.

19th

World Religion Day

A day established to highlight the most common values amongst the world's major religions. Aimed at promoting global peace and unity.

29th

Chinese New Year

Celebrations (Dublin & Cork)

Lively parades with lion dances and firecrackers, festive meals, and cultural performances to usher in the Lunar New Year. Celebrations are held to foster good luck and prosperity for the year ahead.



February

1st

Lá Fhéile Bríde or St Brigid's Day:

It marks the beginning of spring and honours St. Brigid of Kildare, one of Ireland's 3 patron saints. It is celebrated by making St. Brigid's crosses and visiting holy wells.

21st

Mother Tongues Festival:

Ireland's largest celebration of linguistic and cultural diversity, celebrating the many languages spoken across the country. The festival includes workshops, performances, and creative activities.

28th

Ramadan:

Marking the beginning of a Holy month celebrated by Muslims worldwide. This includes fasting from dawn to sunrise, alongside prayer and reflection. This is a time for spiritual growth and prepares for the festive celebration of Eid al-Fitr.

March

5th

Ash Wednesday:

Marking the start of Lent, a 40-day period of fasting, penance and prayer leading up to Easter. Celebrated by many Western Christian denominations and known for the symbol of ashes they receive on their foreheads, in the shape of a cross.

17th

**St. Patrick's Day,
Lá Fhéile Pádraig:**

A religious and cultural holiday in honour of Saint Patrick. In Ireland it is a public holiday and widely celebrated across the globe; with parades, wearing green clothing, traditional Irish music, and dance.

20th

Nowruz:

A secular holiday celebrated by all faiths, including Christians and Muslims. Initially began as an Islamic holiday in ancient Persia (modern day Iran) but evolved. It is seen as the Iranian New Year and means "New Day," marking the first day of spring.

30th and 31st

Eid al-Fitr Islam:

Marking the end of Ramadan and celebrated by community get togethers featuring festive meals, gifts, and prayers. This is a time for families and communities to come together and express gratitude.



April

8th

International Roma Day:

A cultural event to celebrate Roma culture and heritage, while bringing awareness to the challenges faced by the Roma community. A key feature is the promotion of equality and combatting discrimination.

20th

Polish Easter Festival:

Polish communities celebrate Wielkanoc, the Easter holiday. Celebrations include decorating eggs, preparing a special Easter basket with food to be blessed, attending church services, and enjoying festive meals with family and friends.

12th-30th

Passover - Judaism:

This holiday typically lasts for 8 days and emphasizes freedom, renewal, and the importance of family. It commemorates the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and is celebrated with a Seder meal including symbolic food, and the retelling of the liberation story.

May

1st

Bealtaine (or Beltane):

A traditional Gaelic festival that marks the start of summer. Historically observed in Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man and celebrated with customs and rituals, such as lighting bonfires, using May Flowers to make decorations, making may bushes and visiting holy wells.

20th - 21st

Traveller Pride Week:

This is an annual event that celebrates the culture, heritage, and the contributions of the Traveller Community. It is celebrated through various events including art exhibitions, music performances and workshops.

20th

Gawai Dayak:

A Malaysian celebration within the Dayak marking the end of the harvesting season. By brewing rice wine, making traditional food, and decorating homes. At midnight, the community toasts and wishes each other 'Long Life, Health, and Prosperity.



June

20th

World Refugee Day:

Dedicated to honoring the courage and resilience of refugees worldwide while raising awareness and advocating for their rights. These celebrations highlight the contributions of refugees to society and promote global solidarity.

24th

Inti Raymi:

An Inca celebration “the feast of the sun” celebrated by Peruvians for the winter solstice, to welcome the sun back.

July

10th

Dharma Day Buddhism:

Marks the day the Buddha attained enlightenment and is celebrated by visiting temples, making offerings, meditation and listening to sermons.

13th

Fast of Tammuz, Judaism:

This Jewish fast day commemorates the breach of Jerusalem's walls before the destruction of the Second Temple.

August

4th-11th

The Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann:

The All-Ireland Fleadh, is the culmination of a series of regional competitions held throughout Ireland and abroad. The event features a variety of activities, including competitions, concerts, céiliú, parades, and spontaneous music sessions in pubs and on the streets. Musicians, dancers, and singers compete for the prestigious All-Ireland titles.

9th

International Day of the Indigenous People:

Raising awareness about the rights and needs of indigenous populations worldwide. Each year the day focuses on a theme to promote indigenous people's rights and well-being.

16th-24th

Belfast Mela (Belfast):

Northern Ireland's largest multicultural festival. Highlighting a vibrant mix of music, dance, arts, and food representing over 20 nationalities.

September

4th-5th

Mawlid an Nabi:

Islams celebration of the birth of the prophet. This community comes together through sharing food and prayer ceremonies

22nd- 24th

Rosh Hashanah:

The Jewish New Year is celebrated with festive meals, prayer and blowing the Shofar, blowing a rams horn to mark the new year. Rosh Hashanah also marks the start of a ten-day period, culminating in Yom Kippur, the day of atonement.

19th

Culture Night or Oíche Chultúir:

An annual event that celebrates culture, creativity, and the arts. Cultural institutions, including museums, galleries and historic sites, open their doors for free offering a range of workshops tours, and activities.

October

3rd- 5th

Dingle Food Festival:

Celebrating local cuisine with food tastings, cookery demonstrations and a farmers' market.

25th Sept- 12th October

Dublin Theatre Festival:

Showcasing a wide range of theatrical performances, including plays, musicals, and experimental theatre.

24th-27th

Cork Guinness Jazz Festival:

One of Europe's top jazz events, featuring performances by international and local jazz artists.

31st

Halloween/Samhain:

Halloween has ancient Celtic roots and is celebrated with bonfires, pumpkin carving, spooky costumes, and trick-or-treating.





November

15th October- 23rd November Belfast International Arts Festival:

A diverse programme of music, theatre, dance, visual arts, and literature.

1st Diwali

The Hindu Festival of Diwali will be celebrated. It is part of a 5- day celebration.

6th-9th Listowel Food Fair:

One of Ireland's longest- running food festivals. Celebrating food and drink with food tastings, workshops, and competitions.

December

December is a popular time for pantomimes, Christmas markets and the turning on of Christmas lights in cities, towns, and villages across the Country.

14th-22nd

The Jewish community observes Hanukkah, an eight-day festival of lights, which may fall in late November or December. It is marked by lighting candles, eating traditional foods, and playing games.

25th Christmas Day

Celebrated by the Majority of Christians and a secular event. For Christians it marks the birth of Jesus Christ with traditions including setting up nativity scenes, singing carols and attending church services. Secular customs include, gift giving, decorations, festive meals, and Santa Claus.

Heritage Highlights

There are books written all over the world telling stories filled with food, folklore, music, and dance from each country. Far too many for us to capture in a few short pages. We picked 3 countries and found a little taster from each to share with you.

International Stew Sampler



Brazil

Feijoada is a hearty Brazilian stew made with black beans and various cuts of pork, often served with rice and collard greens.



Ireland

Irish Stew is a traditional Irish dish made with lamb or beef, potatoes, carrots, and onions, simmered slowly to create a rich, comforting meal.



Poland

Bigos, a hunter's stew, made from sauerkraut, cabbage and various meats - pork, beef, and sausage. It is slow cooked for hours and flavoured with spices.

Epic Legends

Brazil: The Enchanted Serpent of São Luís

Legend says there lives a serpent who grows without stopping, in the underground canals of São Luís. An enormous Serpent whose head can be found underneath the Ribeirão Fountain. Its belly is below the Carmelite Convent, and its tail is underneath the Church of Pantaleão. The serpent is believed to grow continuously and possess mystical powers. It is said, if the serpent ever fully awakens or grows so big that its head meets its tail, it could cause the city to collapse and sink.

Ireland: Cúchullain

The legend of Cúchullain begins with a young boy named Setanta, who protected the home of a blacksmith named Cullan, from a pack of wolves. To honour him for this, Cullan gave Setanta the new name of Cúchullain - meaning 'hound of Cullan.'

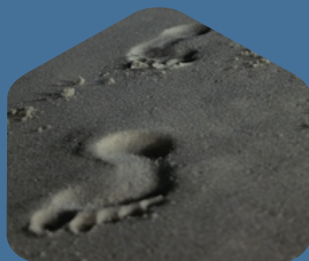
Queen Medbh of Connacht wanted to steal a prized brown bull from the kingdom of Ulster. She cursed the Ulster warriors with weakness so they could not fight.

Cúchullain fought Ulster's battle against Connacht and defended the province on his own. This battle was called the ríastrad. Thereafter, Cúchullain became known as a fierce and unstoppable warrior.

Poland: The Legend of Smok Wawelski (Wawel Dragon)

A long time ago, the Wawel dragon terrorized the city of Krakov, causing great destruction and demanding sacrifices of livestock and young maidens. The dragon was feared by all. The king of Krakov offered his daughters hand in marriage to anyone who could defeat the dragon. Many brave knights attempted to slay the dragon, but all failed. Skuba, (also called Krav) a poor shoemaker, tricked the dragon, by filling sheep skin with sulfur, and leaving it outside the dragon's lair. The dragon ate the sheep skin and became very thirsty. He drank from the Vistula River until he burst from over-drinking. Once the dragon was slain, the city of Krakov became free. Skuba married the king's daughter and everybody lived happily ever after.

Mythical Beings



Brazil

In Brazilian folklore, the Curupira is a forest guardian with bright red hair and backward-facing feet. It protects the forest and its creatures by confusing and misleading hunters and those who harm the environment.



Ireland

Leprechauns can be found in Irish folklore. Often described as mischievous fairies who dress in green, with a red beard and hat. They are best known for hiding a pot of gold, which is said to be hidden at the end of a rainbow.



Poland

In Polish folklore, the Leshy is known as a forest guardian, protecting animals and trees. They have been known to confuse travelers and make them lose their sense of direction. Their hair and beard are known to be long grey, green or red.

Steps of Heritage



Brazil

Brazilian samba is a lively and rhythmic dance that comes from Brazil. It is known for its fast, energetic steps and straight body posture. It is often performed solo and in ballroom samba.



Ireland

Irish dancing is known for energetic and synchronized steps. It is known for its rapid leg movements while keeping the upper body still. It is often performed as a stepdance, and as a group dance.



Poland

Oberek is a lively, fast-paced Polish dance, with rapid spins and energetic footwork. Traditionally performed in couples, with both partners taking part in spirited movements.

Words we use

Ally

An ally is someone who supports and stands up for another person or group, often in the context of social justice or mutual benefit.

Culture

The shared beliefs and behaviours of a group.

Diversity

Having many different types of people and experiences.

Equality

Everyone has the same rights and opportunities.

Equity

Giving people what they need to succeed.

Identity

Who you are, including your characteristics and beliefs.

Inclusion

Making sure everyone feels welcome and valued.

Racism

Treating people unfairly because of their race.

Intent

What you mean or plan to do.

Impact

The effect or result of an action.

Xenophobia

Fear or dislike of people from other countries.

Stereotype

A fixed, oversimplified idea about a group of people.

**Unconscious
Bias**

Automatic judgments we make about others without realising it.

Privilege

Special advantages some people have over others.

Empathy

Understanding and sharing someone else's feelings.

Respect

Treating others with consideration.

Support and Information

First Fortnight Festival

www.firstfortnight.ie

Fleadh Cheoil

<https://fleadhcheoil.ie>

Central Statistics Office

www.cso.ie

Culture Night

<https://culturenight.ie>

Irish Refugee Council

www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie

Irish Traveller Movement

<https://itmtrav.ie>

Doras (Migrant Support Organisation)

<https://doras.org>

Citizens Information Service

www.citizensinformation.ie/en/

Pavee Point (Traveller and Roma Centre)

www.paveepoint.ie

Discover Ireland

www.discoverireland.ie

Irish Network Against Racism

<https://inar.ie>



Connecting with CHI

Tenancy, Lettings and Estate Management

All tenancy related matters i.e., application to reside, transfers etc. or any estate management issues, you can reach out to your Neighbourhood Specialist.

Anti-Social Behaviour and Domestic Abuse

For any issues relating to anti-social behaviour or concerns about domestic abuse, please contact your Safer Neighbourhood Specialist.

Income and Financial Inclusion

Should you need to speak to someone about rent or rent arrears management, please contact your Income Specialist

Community Engagement

Should you like to become involved in your community or our online communities, please contact your Community Engagement Specialist. And join us on Facebook:



CHI Repairs:

To report a repair, you must ring our helpdesk on **01-640 3074** or email repairs@cooperativehousing.ie

Should you wish to contact us at any time the helpline number is **01-640 3074**.

You can log your repair on the CHI website [https://www.cooperativehousing.ie/](https://www.cooperativehousing.ie/members-area) members-area under 'Log a repair'

Join Us for Exciting Opportunities in 2025!

We are thrilled to offer a variety of engaging activities and programs throughout the year.

Online groups and workshops

- CHI online Book Club
- International Women's Day online event
- Autism Awareness Workshops
- Social Entrepreneur Training
- Creative writing course

Competitions

- Garden competition
- Traditional Dish photo competition
- Community Champion Award

Education Scholarship

Annual Scholarship for first time entrants into an Undergraduate Degree who meet the scholarship criteria.

Members Associations

If you would like to become involved in your community, there are many different ways, for example, community clean ups, neighbours' day events and much more.

The Community Engagement Team can support you to establish a Members Association in your community.

Co-operative Housing Ireland Community Fund

Community groups/ Member Associations can apply for funding towards projects or initiatives that will benefit their neighbourhoods.

You will receive more information on each of these throughout the year. If you would like to learn more about any of our initiatives, please contact us at members@cooperativehousing.ie

Discover Your Community

We are looking for communities to participate in a unique project where you can map out your neighbourhood and discover all the valuable resources it has to offer. From essential services to social hubs, help us create a detailed map that highlights everything your community provides, including connections to your neighbours. This is a great opportunity to learn more about what is available in your area and share it with others!

Contact us today to be part of this exciting mapping project and make a difference in your community!

Sign up here:



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Fax: +353 (1) 6614462

Email: info@cooperativehousing.ie

www.cooperativehousing.ie

