



# South East Regional Gathering Review Report



This project is part funded by the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. Making management of migration flows more efficient across the European Union.

## Section 1 Event Details



Event Title	South East Regional Gathering
Event organised by	Regional Integration Coordinator (South East)
Event Venue	Central Hall, Edinburgh
Event Date	Saturday 26th October 2019
Event Start – End times	11.30 – 3.30pm



## Section 2 Event Agenda Regional Gathering in Edinburgh, 26th of February 2019

Time	Activity
12.00 – 12.30 30 mins	Welcome and two concerts
12.30 – 13.30 1 hour	Workshop 'Entrepreneurship'
12.30 – 15.00 2 hrs 30 mins	Stalls, Art, science and children activities, lunch, consultation
14.00 – 15.00 1 hour	Workshop 'Social Entrepreneurship'
15.00 – 15.30 30 mins	Event end with Dabke Performance

“Community groups and providers engaged in very useful conversations and reported back that they had made useful new contacts and were looking forward to working more closely with their peers.”

“While eight people reported that they understand their status in the UK and what they can do and can't do in Scotland, five reported that they do not understand.”

## Section 3 Attendees

Organisations /Groups present	Attendees
• Scottish Refugee Council	11
• Multicultural family base	10
• The Welcoming	2
• ELREC	1
• Skills Development Scotland	1
• Voice Ambassadors (Red Cross)	10
• Edinburgh Printmakers	3
• COLOURS of Edinburgh	8
• City of Sanctuary	1
• Linknet Mentoring	2
• MEHIS	2
• SCOREscotland	3
• Science Ceilidh	5
• Cyrenians	1
• Bikes for Refuges	1
• West Lothian Council	2
• Midlothian Council	1
• Caterer	1
• Musicians/Performers/ Face painter/Henna/Child play	10
Group from Livingston:	approx. 33
Group from Galashiels:	approx. 20

## Section 4 Event Reporting

The Gathering was organised with a number of core aims:

1. Raise awareness about the New Scots integration strategy (within New Scots and community groups) and engage people in a consultation process
2. Create connections between community groups, service providers and New Scots
3. An additional focus was given to offering information on pathways towards entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship
4. Create an opportunity for New Scots from the different SE regions to meet each other and spend a lovely day.

The day started with two performances by New Scots musicians from Edinburgh and the Scottish Borders. While one of the musicians has been a popular, professional musician, for the other one this was a much-appreciated opportunity to premier his art in front of an audience.

Afterwards, a number of individuals attended the Entrepreneurship workshop facilitated by a member of Scottish Refugee Council's Refugee Advisory Group. Meanwhile, individuals and community groups met each other, learnt about each other and engaged in conversations. A volunteer group conducted 15 surveys around the core themes of the strategy, Printmakers offered art activities and people were motivated to write wishes on the wish tree. There were child activities, henna and face painting.

Caterer in collaboration with the Multicultural family base Women's Group 'Mums and Spices' had prepared the lunch served from 1pm.

After a workshop on 'Social Entrepreneurship' attending community groups had the opportunity to quickly introduce their work on stage.

The event finished with a performance by the local Syrian Dabke Group 'Levant Dabke'.

## Section 5 Key messages/outcomes

### 1. Raise awareness about the New Scots integration strategy (within New Scots and community groups) and engage people in a consultation process.

Through a loop presentation with English and Arabic quotes from the New Scots Integration Strategy as well as the Scottish Refugee Council consultation table New Scots and community groups were made aware of the Strategy and were able to share their opinions and thoughts on the core themes.

The small survey conducted by volunteers showed that of the 14 people interviewed no one had been part of a consultation on the strategy before and with many attending families having newly arrived in Scotland, we were able to put the Strategy on their radar.

Some people visited the table and shared experiences which were recorded by Scottish Refugee Council staff.

### 2. Create connections between community groups, service providers and New Scots

Community groups and providers engaged in very useful conversations and reported back that they had made useful new contacts and were looking forward to working more closely with their peers. One BME organisation expressed that they had previously felt ignored having never been invited to any such event and that they very much appreciated finally being able to engage with their peers as well.

### 3. An additional focus was given to offering information on pathways towards entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship

The entrepreneurship workshop was intended to give very basic information on pathways into entrepreneurship to New Scots. It was attended by approximately 15 participants and was received well. Participants said that they had not been aware of the term/concept "Entrepreneur" before and that they would appreciate more information in the future.

### 4. Create an opportunity for New Scots from the different SE regions to meet each other and spend a lovely day

There was a social and chatty atmosphere throughout the day with people catching up with old friends and making new friends. New Scots from different regions were able to connect and share experiences. The feedback received was very positive (see Section 7).

**“The entrepreneurship workshop was intended to give very basic information on pathways into entrepreneurship to New Scots.”**

## Section 7 Attendee Evaluation

### Attending New Scots gave the following feedback during the event:

- Very good looking for more.
- I learn about important Syrian figures.
- I joined in the songs and the activities
- The meeting was beautiful & fantastic
- It was very beautiful
- The meeting was very beautiful
- “we met many people who could help us in finding a job”
- “Everyone has a story worth sharing and there are many helpful resources.”

One woman resettled in Midlothian shared that she had stopped creating arts when she arrived in Scotland but having met an Art project at the Gathering she had exchanged contacts and was looking forward to creating art again.

Community organisations have since given very positive feedback and Westlothian Council staff shared: “It was a great event we all enjoyed it, so many thanks for your effort and for inviting us a long.”



## Section 8 Actual Expenditure

The actual expenditure was significantly outwith the budget.

Anticipated Number of Delegates: 250

	Estimated cost
Food and Catering	£700.00
Focus Group planning meetings, travel costs, survey time/costs	£0.00
Delegate Travel Expenses (Coach Hire/Train Ticket)	£500.00
Venue Hire	£1,289.60
Catering (including tea/coffee/biscuits etc)	£974.96
Materials	£0.00
Facilitator	£450.00
Creche/Childcare	£0.00
Interpreters	£210.00
Performers (Music, Entertainment, Stalls etc)	£210.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3,406.18</b>

“Everyone has a story worth sharing and there are many helpful resources.”



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Scottish Refugee photography by: Scott Preston