

Annual Report 2013



Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais
National Disability Authority

Annual Report 2013	1
Director's statement	3
Overview and policy context	6
Strategic priority 1: National Disability Strategy	10
Strategic priority 2: Living independently in the community	17
Strategic priority 3: Universal Design of the environment.....	23
Strategic priority 4: Effective and efficient organisation.....	30
Appendix 1: Authority and other committees in 2013	34
Appendix 2: Representation on external bodies in 2013.....	36
Appendix 3: Publications in 2013	39
Appendix 4: Policy advice papers in 2013	40
Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2013	42
Ráiteas an Stiúrthóra.....	44
Forbhreathnú agus comhthéacs an bheartais	47
Tosaíocht straitéiseach 1: An Straitéis Náisiúnta um Míchumas	51
Tosaíocht straitéiseach 2: Ag maireachtáil go neamhspleách sa phobal	59
Tosaíocht straitéiseach 3: Dearadh Uilíoch den chomhshaol.....	65
Tosaíocht straitéiseach 4: Eagraíocht éifeachtúil agus éifeachtach.....	73
Aguisín 1: An tÚdarás agus coistí eile in 2013	77
Aguisín 2: Ionadaíocht ar chomhlachtaí seachtracha in 2013.....	79
Aguisín 3: Foilseacháin in 2013	82
Aguisín 4: Páipéir chomhairle um beartas in 2013	83

Director's statement

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the National Disability Authority for 2013 to the Minister for Justice and Equality. This report outlines the activities and outputs of the National Disability Authority, the independent state body providing expert advice on disability policy and practice to the Minister, and promoting Universal Design in Ireland.

The National Disability Authority has a statutory duty to provide information and evidence-informed advice to the Minister on policy and practice relevant to the lives of persons with disabilities and to assist the Minister in the co-ordination of such policies. It also has a statutory function, through its Centre for Excellence in Universal Design, to promote the universal design of the built environment, products, services, information and communication technologies so that they are accessible, easy to use and understand by everyone regardless of their age, size, ability or disability.

As the National Disability Authority's role covers many policy areas it engages with most Government Departments and the agencies under their aegis, and much of its work is focused on cross-departmental and cross-agency issues. In addition to the research that the NDA commissions and conducts, it also gathers learning from the wide range of stakeholders it engages with, including learning from the lived experience of those with disabilities.

Through its role in universal design, the NDA's Centre for Excellence in Universal Design engages with stakeholders in bodies including in the areas of planning, design and education, professional bodies, as well as national and international standards bodies and the industry sector generally. Since its establishment the Centre has developed a range of research resources, guidelines and standards, and education curricula. These are informed by research, and by an understanding of how the diversity of abilities may affect whether a place, product, service or technology can be used with ease.

The National Disability Authority delivered a full work programme in 2013 under the first year of Strategic Plan 2013–2015. The focus of our work has therefore been

1. continued support for the implementation of the National Disability Strategy

2. guiding policy to ensure effective supports for independent living in the community
3. promoting the universal design of ICT, goods, services, and places.

The National Disability Authority was asked to facilitate the development of a comprehensive employment strategy for people with disabilities, working with key government departments, and this is a key action under the national Disability Strategy Implementation Plan. The work of the National Disability Authority has included research and advice to guide implementation of new approaches to support people with disabilities to live a good quality of life in the mainstream community. An important project was research on models of resource allocation for disability supports, which could deliver a better matching of resources to need, and facilitate the introduction of personal budgets.

The NDA has also included continued research and work to guide on the universal design of homes and of other aspects of the built environment. An important project was on the universal design of in-home displays associated with smart meters, that could enable people monitor usage of energy in real time. This project produced a lot of transferable learning that can inform the design of other components for the home. We were particularly pleased to be able to produce a national standard on the universal design of customer services in tourism, in partnership with the National Standards Authority of Ireland and the Equality Authority. This was launched during the Irish Presidency along with the supporting toolkit. An important part of this project was the engagement of the hotel and restaurant sector, who have been implementing the toolkit and reporting back on the benefits they are realising.

We also continued to work to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the NDA.

Over the course of the year, we continued to achieve greater efficiencies and effective working, as required by the relevant Public Service Agreements. This included applying an extension to hours worked and applying further pay reductions as required under the Public Service Stability Agreement 2013–2016 from July 2013.

I would like to thank the staff of the National Disability Authority for the commitment and energy they brought to delivering on our work programme for 2013, including meeting the additional demands that arose over the course of the year in their dedication to ensure we seize every

opportunity to influence policy and practice that can enable better lives for persons with disabilities. I would also like to thank the Chairman and the members of the Authority for their strategic guidance, vision, and support to the executive in delivering on this programme in line with the National Disability Authority's strategic objectives over the course of 2013.

Siobhan Barron
Director

Overview and policy context

Each year the National Disability Authority's work programme is informed by the strategic priorities and key performance indicators in its Strategic Plan and opportunities to impact on policy developments. In 2013, this was set against a backdrop of the continued challenging fiscal environment but also a degree of growth in the economy and job market. Ireland also held the Presidency of the European Union for the first six months of the year.

National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan

One of the key developments which informed the National Disability Authority's work in 2013 was the approval and publication by the Government in July 2013 of the National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan 2013 to 2015. This sets out actions to be delivered by every Government Department and public body over that period to improve access to information, services and supports by persons with disabilities. It also provides for the development of a comprehensive employment strategy to address the limited opportunities and low participation by people with disabilities in employment in the open labour market. The NDA worked with the Department of Justice and Equality in guiding on the overall Plan, and with individual Departments to guide them on specific actions for the Plan.

The implementation of the Plan will be monitored and guided by a national steering group chaired by the Minister for Disability, Equality, Mental Health and Older Persons. The National Disability Authority is a member of this group and has responsibility for producing reports analysing progress. Other members include senior officials from the relevant departments, the local authorities and the Disability Stakeholder Group which includes representatives of disability organisations and members who bring the lived experience to guide input to national policy.

Employment of people with disabilities in the public sector

The National Disability Authority produced its statutory report for 2012 to the Minister in relation to its responsibility for monitoring employment levels of staff with disabilities in the public sector. For 2012, the data supplied by Government Departments and public bodies indicate that 3.3% of public sector staff are people with disabilities. The NDA continued to advise specific individual bodies who had failed to achieve the statutory 3% target over the 2 consecutive years 2011 and 2012.

Comprehensive Employment Strategy

In 2013 the National Disability Authority was requested by the Minister for Disability, Equality, Mental Health and Older Persons to work with relevant Departments to develop a national comprehensive employment strategy for persons with disabilities. These include the Departments of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation; Social Protection; Education and Skills; and Health. The strategy will take account of relevant developments including the establishment of SOLAS under the Department of Education and Skills and the INTREO service under the Department of Social Protection further to the dissolution of FÁS.

Consultation was undertaken with a range of stakeholders in the relevant departments and agencies, with disability representatives and with employer and union bodies to identify views on key areas for attention. The vision and high-level goals to achieve pathways to work for those who have or acquire disabilities were agreed, and will inform the further development of this important strategy in 2014.

New models of disability support services

The Minister for Disability, Equality, Mental Health and Older Persons has appointed the National Disability Authority to a national steering group to oversee the implementation of the Value for Money and Policy Review of Disability Services. This signals a major policy shift towards organising services and supports around individuals rather than fitting individuals into existing services, with a focus on supporting people to live ordinary lives in ordinary places.

The National Disability Authority has been given specific roles in the implementation framework agreed by Government, through its independent work on resource allocation models and on outcomes measurement,

Throughout 2013, the NDA continued its programme of work in this regard including its research to inform a more effective model of aligning the allocation of resources for disability services through a resource allocation tool.

Through the NDA's participation in a range of HSE committees and groups, it also worked on the development of national guidelines, setting standards for a new model of supports in the move away from centre-based adult day services.

Lifecycle focus on Transitions

The National Disability Authority recognises the value of effective systems and supports at key life stages and points of transition for those with disabilities. With this in mind its Annual Conference focused on this theme including a focus on key learning for transition within and from education into training and employment and from residential institutions to living in the community.

The National Disability Authority also published research and advice in relation to the role of pre-school care and hosted a seminar on the transition into and from pre-school for children with disabilities. This work is particularly relevant to the education sector, health sector and pre-school sector.

Ireland's Presidency of the European Union 2013

In line with the Irish Presidency the NDA hosted events to share knowledge and information with key stakeholders with a view to guiding national policy and practice as well as improving services and facilities.

The events included:

- A seminar on civic engagement to guide accessibility in elections and voting, as well as promoting participation by those with disabilities in political life.
- A joint seminar with the European Disability Forum on making websites and on line services accessible.
- A seminar and launch of new national standards for universally designed customer services focused on the tourism sector and supporting toolkit. This highly successful event demonstrated how the standards and toolkit were being effectively across the tourism sector.

Universal Design

The Centre for Excellence in Universal Design continued to deliver a full programme of work to advance standards and guidelines, and curricula in universal design, with all this work underpinned by appropriate research. This included work on standards at international level achieving the adoption of a universal design focus.

It also included in 2013 the publication and launch of research and technical guidelines for the Universal Design of In-Home Displays. This work was undertaken in collaboration with the Commission for Energy Regulation. The guidelines are helpful in relation to the design and also

procurement of meters that enable the public to easily monitor the usage levels of utilities such as energy.

Engagement took place with a number of 3rd-level colleges, focussing on integrating Universal Design into the curriculum. Another key development was in the new awards in Universal Design in partnership with the RIAI (Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland) and the IDI (Institute of Designers in Ireland)

Strategic priority 1: National Disability Strategy

To support the effective delivery of the National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan through our research, advice and guidance to Government Departments and public bodies and to monitor the outcomes for people with disabilities.

1. Implementation of the National Disability Strategy

The National Disability Authority worked with the Department of Justice and Equality, with senior officials of Government Departments and agencies, and with disability stakeholders, in developing the National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan 2013–2015, which was launched by the Government in July 2013.¹

The National Disability Authority, in addition to guiding on the overall implementation strategy and analysing progress, is responsible for delivering on a number of specific action items. These include development of a partnership programme to promote positive public attitudes to people with disabilities, and engagement with the justice system to promote its accessibility for people with disabilities.

Employment strategy

The National Disability Authority, along with Christy Lynch,² was asked to facilitate development of a ten year Comprehensive Employment Strategy for people with disabilities, to be published in 2014, working with the relevant Government Departments.

The National Disability Authority developed a strategy outline and undertook a public consultation around the strategy to guide specific areas for action. This consultation took the form of circulating individual

¹

http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/NDS_ImplementationPlan_FINAL.pdf/Files/NDS_ImplementationPlan_FINAL.pdf

² Christy Lynch is CEO of KARE, founder member of the Irish Association of Supported Employment, and Chairperson in 2013 of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies. He is also a former board member of the National Disability Authority.

disability stakeholders; an on-line consultation period; and a consultation session with focus groups from disability interests. Meetings were held with employer and trade union bodies and with relevant state agencies to inform the strategy. The NDA also engaged with key Departments and state agencies to develop a suite of actions to be delivered under the strategy.

Further education and training

Solas is the new state agency given responsibility for further education and training, replacing FÁS and incorporating further education into its remit. The NDA provided input into the research and consultation undertaken by Solas to inform its five-year strategy. The NDA also advised on the review of apprenticeship, which could become a key entry point for a person with a disability into a career.

Vocational Education Authority Seminar

The NDA in collaboration with the Irish Vocational Education Association (now the Educational Training Boards Ireland) and the National Council for Special Education held a joint seminar in May. The purpose of the seminar was for this sector to come together to share good practice examples of how learners with disabilities are currently being supported. The NDA presented on the importance of education for future prospects for people with disabilities. Eight Vocational Educational Colleges showcased the models of good practice they use to support people with disabilities to participate in further education and training.

Advice in different sectoral areas

Health and disability support services

The National Disability Authority continued in 2013 to support the Department of Health and the Health Services Executive on implementation of the major programme of reforms underway for disability services, following publication of the Value for Money and Policy Review of Disability Services in 2012.

The NDA's activities included:

- Advising on the overall process of reform and on individual elements, via membership of the Value for Money and Policy Review implementation advisory group and the HSE's National Consultative Forum
- Membership of the implementation team for New Directions – reform of adult day services

- Drafting of national standards for day services in line with the New Directions model
- Membership of the committee to implement the report 'Time to move on from Congregated Settings', on phased closure of residential centres and campuses, and transfer of residents to live in the community
- Continued research to underpin a model of resource allocation to better match assessed needs, and facilitate introduction of personal budgets
- Advice on a framework for assessment of needs of individuals with disabilities
- Preparation of a briefing paper on commissioning of services
- Work to guide on outcome measures for disability services

Transport

Transport assistance scheme

The National Disability Authority was a member of the Project Review Group to advise the Department of Health on a replacement transport assistance scheme, following the termination of Mobility Allowance and Motorised Transport Grant schemes for new applicants. The National Disability Authority also contributed as a member of the steering group led by the Department of the Taoiseach which built on the work of the project group.

The National Disability Authority also provided specific inputs to this process:

- Preparation of a questionnaire template for public consultation to guide on key issues
- Arranging for analysis of the responses to the questionnaire to be processed
- Focus groups held with relevant stakeholders as part of the consultation process
- Research paper on transport supports for people with disabilities in other jurisdictions
- Analysis of National Disability Survey microdata on transport usage by people with disabilities
- Advice papers

National Transport Authority

The National Disability Authority provided advice and assistance to the National Transport Authority on a pilot project in Cork of a dedicated wheelchair-accessible vehicle dispatch operator system.

The NDA also provided advice on a project to implement Wi-Fi in taxis.

Bus Service Contracts

In response to the public consultation on the proposal to put a number of public bus services out to tender for operation by the private sector, the National Disability Authority advised on the importance of building requirements on the accessibility of services into any tendering process, to maintain accessible public bus services.

Communications, Energy and Natural Resources

The National Disability Authority responded to a number of requests for public consultation:

- Commission for Communications Regulation, on proposed measures to ensure equivalent access and choice for disabled end-users in electronic communication
- Public service broadcasting charge

Representation of people with disabilities in broadcast media

The Broadcasting Authority of Ireland and the National Disability Authority established a Steering Committee of broadcasters, industry networks, organisations representing the interests of people with disabilities and other relevant groups and individuals to advise on the development of broadcast guidelines concerning the portrayal and representation of people with disabilities in the broadcast media. The Committee met on three occasions in 2013.

Social Protection

The National Disability Authority advised the Department of Social Protection on the **Workplace Supports for Employees with Disabilities** section of their new Employment Pack.

2. Monitoring the impact of the National Disability Strategy

The Implementation Plan is being monitored by the National Disability Strategy Implementation Group, chaired by the Minister of State for Disability, on which the NDA is represented.

The NDA has been assigned the role to prepare, prior to each meeting of the Implementation Group, a paper that synthesises the progress updates reported by Departments and state bodies, alongside identification of key issues and themes to inform discussion.

Following adoption of the Implementation Plan, the National Disability Strategy Implementation Group held two thematic meetings in 2013. The NDA presented a paper on recognition of sign languages in other jurisdictions to the thematic meeting in November on issues affecting the Deaf community. The NDA presented a synthesis of progress to date and a discussion paper to the thematic meeting on housing held in December.

Outcome indicators

The NDA has also developed a suite of outcome indicators for monitoring progress on the Plan, which were adopted by the Implementation Group. The NDA commissioned a survey to provide data relating to a number of these indicators on which there is no readily available data from the Central Statistics Office or other official sources. The topics covered include use of transport, accessibility of streets and public places, contact with neighbours, friends and family, and access to and use of everyday technologies. Similar surveys were carried out by the NDA in 2009 and 2011, and the report on 2013, to be published in 2014, conducts a comparative analysis with earlier years.

Disability Stakeholders Group

The Director of the National Disability Authority is the independent chairperson of the Disability Stakeholders Group. The Group consists of representatives of the main disability umbrella bodies, alongside a number of individuals with lived experience of disability, and its role is to input into and monitor implementation of the National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan.

The National Disability Authority provides the secretarial support to the Disability Stakeholders Group, and collates its submission documents. In 2013, these submissions in the main were on successive drafts of the Implementation Plan.

3. Employment of people with disabilities in the public service

The National Disability Authority has the statutory duty to monitor compliance by public bodies with their obligations, as set out in Part 5 of the Disability Act 2005, in relation to employment of people with

disabilities. This Act obliges public bodies to promote and support employment of people with disabilities in the public service, and unless there are good reasons to the contrary, to achieve a statutory minimum 3% target of employees with disabilities.

3% overall employment target exceeded

The National Disability Authority compiled and in November 2013 published its report on compliance during 2012. This showed that across the public service as a whole the reported proportion of staff with disabilities reached 3.3% in 2012, up from 3.1% in 2011. This is the second time the 3% jobs target for people with disabilities has been achieved across the public sector as a whole.

The number of staff reported with a disability in 2012 was 6,611, an increase of 440 compared with 2011. These increases were achieved despite the fact that the overall number of staff employed in the public sector dropped again, by around 3,700 in 2012. The continued achievement of the 3% target in 2012 confirms the impact of better systems to record and report the number of staff with disabilities as well as the impact of positive steps taken across the public service to support and retain staff with disabilities.

The National Disability Authority updated its standard guidance to public bodies, and also issued tailored advice to public bodies that were below the target.

The 3% target was first introduced, on a non-statutory basis, in 1977, and many of those recruited via special competitions at that time are coming up towards retirement. The National Disability Authority has advised that as recruitment resumes across the public sector, there must be a particular effort to ensure the employment rate of people with disabilities is maintained.

4. Promoting positive attitudes to disability

Further analysis was carried out on the series of NDA attitudes surveys 2001, 2006 and 2011, to derive new insights into the underlying pattern of changing attitudes to people with disabilities.

A consultative seminar was held in May to inform priorities for a national programme to promote positive attitudes towards people with disabilities.

A session was held in Cork in November with a number of focus groups, as the year's Your Voice Your Choice event, to further explore the theme

of attitudes towards people with disabilities. The report of these focus groups will also inform the national action plan.

Awareness re Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence

The NDA, as a member of the Cosc National Advisory Committee, advised on a funding stream for projects raising awareness and increasing recognition of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence among people with disabilities, and on the selection of projects for funding by COSC.

Disability Equality Training via eLearning

The National Disability Authority continued to provide the online Disability Equality Training module to public bodies and other groups. The NDA worked closely with the Local Authority Access Officer Network to make the module available to Transition Year students as part of the Enabling Access Across Generations programme. 2,247 people used the Disability Equality Training module in 2013, including staff from 11 public bodies including local authorities and Government departments.

5. UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Legal research

The NDA, on behalf of the Department of Justice and Equality, commissioned legal research to identify any outstanding issues to be addressed as part of Ireland's preparation to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This research is informing the Department of Justice and Equality, which is co-ordinating Ireland's preparations in this regard.

Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Bill 2013

The NDA provided advice to the Department of Justice and Equality on preparation of the Bill and made a written submission proposing a number of changes to the text of the Bill. The NDA made a presentation and facilitated discussion at the Department's consultation event on the Bill held in Dublin Castle on September 25th. The enactment of the Bill will be an important milestone towards Ireland's compliance with Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and towards Ireland's ratification of the Convention.

Strategic priority 2: Living independently in the community

To undertake and collaborate on research and data collection, and to provide information, advice and guidance to guide policy, systems and service changes to ensure that people with disabilities can live independently and participate in the community as active citizens.

1. Supporting transition to new models

Commissioning framework for disability services

The National Disability Authority prepared a draft discussion framework on commissioning for disability services, drawing on the consultation exercise conducted in 2012. The framework was presented for discussion to the Department of Health and the Health Services Executive.

Conference on supporting transitions

The National Disability Authority held its Annual Conference on 6 November 2013, on “Supporting transitions for people with disabilities”. The conference programme covered key life stages and points of transition. About 200 people were in attendance. The Conference’s plenary session focused on international and Irish examples of good practice that supported people with disabilities in an effective way in transitioning:

- from residential institutions into the community
- from primary to post-primary education
- from further education/training to employment
- adapting to life with an acquired disability

In addition 10 organisations presented posters at the Conference. Conference presentations are available at www.nda.ie.

2. Transition to individualised funding

The work on resource allocation systems, described in section 3 below, is a key building block in facilitating a move towards individualised funding, as addressed in the Value for Money and Policy Review of Disability Services.

3. Resource allocation systems

The National Disability Authority continued its programme of research work to inform a more effective model of aligning the allocation of resources for disability services to individuals' needs, and to support the introduction of personal budgets. This programme of work has looked at different models for assessing needs, scoring those needs, and using those scores to generate appropriate support budgets.

An evaluation of the field trial undertaken in 2012 with 112 participants with a disability, to compare the Supports Intensity Scale and the RAS 5 needs assessment systems, was published in early 2013. The evaluation was conducted by an external contractor. The results showed strong similarities between the rankings achieved using the simpler instrument (RAS 5) and the more in-depth instrument, the Supports Intensity Scale. The evaluation of this phase was published in early 2013.

At the request of the Department of Health and the HSE, a second field trial, with forty participants from the original study sites, was conducted of a further two assessment and allocation systems. These were FACE (Functional Analysis of Care Environments) which used by many local authorities in the UK, and InterRai, which has been selected by the HSE as the single assessment tool for older person's services.

The results have been evaluated in-house, and a comparison across all four instruments will be completed in 2014. This work was supported by an Advisory Committee comprised of nominees of key disability representative bodies, along with members of the Department of Health and the Health Service Executive.

4. Demographic change

Preliminary in-house preparatory work was undertaken to inform a wider programme of research on the implications of demographic change for services for people with disabilities. The first stage in this programme is to look at the implications of the changing structure of the population for spending on social welfare disability payments, holding other aspects unchanged. This first stage is an in-house project.

5. Identification of key issues across the lifecycle

Transitions around pre-school

The National Disability Authority hosted a seminar on the transition into and on from pre-school for children with disabilities. Attendees from the statutory education sector, health sector and pre-school sector discussed good practice in supporting children and families to make these key transitions. Further to the event, the key learning will be captured in a paper to be circulated to participants and key stakeholders.

Early Childhood Care and Education scheme

The National Disability Authority was asked by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to undertake research to guide on the duration of free pre-school for children with disabilities, and to examine the evidence base on this topic. The NDA paper concluded there is very little hard evidence on the impact of increased duration spent in mainstream pre-schools by young children with disabilities and special educational needs. Overall, the available evidence suggests that participation in good quality mainstream pre-school programmes contributes positively to outcomes for these children. The paper notes the strong evidence around the impact of good quality pre-school on outcomes for children at risk of developing special educational needs. Based on this evidence, the National Disability Authority advised that a priority should be to get the current pre-school year working well for children with disabilities, before turning attention to extending the duration.

Anti-bullying interventions

The National Disability Authority, under the Department of Education and Skills' Action Plan on Bullying, began research in 2013 on good practice and effective interventions in Irish schools for the prevention of bullying of children with special educational needs.

Analysis of key data sets

The National Disability Authority commissioned a number of pieces of research drawing on the microdata from the National Disability Survey 2006. This is the first survey of its kind in Ireland, which contains a wealth of information on a representative sample of some 14,500 people with disabilities. The research studies were:

- Research on use of different modes of transport by people with disabilities, and how this varies by the degree of urbanisation. This research was published in 2013

- Research on the findings in relation to people with emotional, psychological and mental health impairments, to be published in 2014
- Research on children with disabilities, with a particular focus on education, to be published in 2014
- Research on the level of use of assistive technology, and the need for such assistance as identified by individuals, to be published in 2014

Data on children

The Growing Up in Ireland Survey is a longitudinal study of children in Ireland which will follow the same children at different stages of their lives. The first wave looked at children in the first year of life, and nine-year olds, and the data on 9 year olds includes information on their disability status and special education needs. The National Disability Authority published a paper, based on an analysis of the microdata for this 9-year old age cohort, to profile children with disabilities.

Children with complex disabilities

The NDA prepared a paper for the informal meeting of Health Ministers held in March 2013 during the Irish EU Presidency. This covered policy and service provision across the European Union relating to children with complex disabilities.

Stroke survivors living in the community

The Research Promotion Grant Scheme 2013 funded research highlighting the issues for stroke survivors in Ireland. Conducted by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, this included a literature review and a survey of about 200 survivors. Key findings were:

- Over half returned to driving after their stroke
- Half of respondents needed help with personal care after the stroke. Families provided much of this help
- Most experienced emotional distress and fatigue after the stroke, but over half of these said they received little or no treatment
- Levels of successful return to work after stroke were low
- Finances were affected by lower incomes and higher expenditures
- One third paid privately to source physiotherapy or speech and language therapy

People in the community with acquired brain injury

A research contract was awarded to University College Cork under the Research Promotion Grant Scheme 2013 to look at barriers and supports for people with acquired brain injury. This research is due to be completed in 2014.

Needs assessment in other jurisdictions

In 2013 the NDA reviewed the current systems of needs assessment for children with disabilities in seven jurisdictions. The resulting internal briefing paper described the seven systems and identified common themes across them.

Participation in Public and Political Life

The National Disability Authority hosted a conference on Participation in Public and Political Life at Croke Park on 24th May 2013, in partnership with the European Parliament Information Office.

The conference focused on current challenges to political participation for people with disabilities, including standing for elections, involvement in political parties, and voting. The keynote speaker was Rt Hon David Blunkett MP.

A further seminar on 'Reaching Voters with Disabilities' was held at the European Parliament offices in Dublin on 2nd December 2013. This seminar helped support staff to ensure that the campaigns for the 2014 local and European elections reach all voters, including voters with disabilities.

6 Quality assurance framework and standards

Interim Standards for Adult Day Services

The review of HSE Adult Day Services entitled New Directions was published in February 2012. This envisages a new model of service which emphasises support for people with disabilities to engage in mainstream activities in the community. The National Disability Authority is represented on the implementation group. Under the implementation plan, the National Disability Authority was requested to develop draft Interim Standards for the new model set out in New Directions, in collaboration with a sub-group of the implementation group. This work included a series of regional focus groups with people who use current adult day services to inform the development of the draft Interim Standards. It is expected that draft Interim Standards will be published for public consultation in first half of 2014.

Health Information and Quality Authority Draft Corporate Plan 2013–2015

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) published their Draft Corporate Plan 2013–2015 for public consultation in 2013. The National Disability Authority made a submission to HIQA in response to this public consultation.

Draft Health Act 2007 (Care and Support of Residents in Designated Centres for Persons (Children and Adults) with Disabilities) Regulations 2013

The National Disability Authority made a submission in 2013 to the Department of Health in response to their consultation on the Draft Health Act 2007 (Care and Support of Residents in Designated Centres for Persons (Children and Adults) with Disabilities) Regulations 2013.

7. Telecare and telehealth

Work continued in relation to research commissioned to look at national and international experiences, systems and policies in relation to telehealth and telecare, and to draw the learning for Ireland. A report is due to be published in 2014.

Strategic priority 3: Universal Design of the environment

“To promote excellence in universal design to facilitate maximum participation in Irish society”

Promoting universal design principles in an Irish context

Research on Universal Design of Shared Educational Campuses

Work continued on the research commissioned by the NDA in relation to contemporary national and international best practice on Educational Campuses with a focus across the Life-Cycle, investigating how Universal Design informs the design of such campuses in Ireland for people of any age, size, ability or disability. The output of the research is to guide national policy and inform practical design guidance. The centre is working closely with Department of Education on this work. This research has been commissioned in 2012 and is due to be completed in 2014.

Research of Shared spaces and Surfaces

A report on the research commissioned by the NDA on contemporary national and international practices and thinking on shared spaces, shared surfaces and “home zones” was published in September 2012. The National Disability Authority’s Centre for Excellence in Universal Design (CEUD) advised the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport about the learning from the research in relation to the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets. The work will also inform continued discussions with local authorities for a pilot study from a shared space perspective.

Universal Design product and process engineering research

The focus of the joint funded (National Disability Authority & Irish Research Council) doctoral research is on defining a Universal Design rating system for buildings. A Trinity College Dublin architectural researcher investigation in this area and in particular, how it may work similar to the Building Energy Rating system already in place in Ireland, continued in 2013. This work was completed in September 2013 and was forwarded for examination in Trinity College. The result of the thesis will be delivered in 2014.

Universal Design Audit Tool for Roads and Streets

The National Disability Authority commenced planning for a project of work to guide the development of a Universal Design Audit Tool for Roads and Streets in late 2013. This Audit Tool is intended to be used with the recently published Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. This entailed a tender competition. The NDA is continuing to engage with the DMURS team and the Roads Division of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to progress this development work in 2014.

Advising and assisting in the development of standards on universal design

Completion and launch of Universal Design in Customer Engagement Standards and Toolkits

The National Disability Authority's Centre for Excellence in Universal Design in collaboration with the Equality Authority worked with the National Standards Authority, Fáilte Ireland and key stakeholders in the Transport and Tourism sector (Government Departments, state agencies, private sector and end users) in developing NSAI, IS 373 Universal Design for Customer Engagement in Tourism Services standard. This world first standard of this nature was launched at a seminar hosted in association with Ireland's Presidency of the EU in May, 2013. The standard was made available free of charge to over 18,000 Tourism Service Providers and is accompanied by a set of Toolkits. The centre developed the series of toolkits to inform both the energy supply sector and tourism sector on how to implement a Universal Design approach to improve customer engagement in their services. The toolkits provide practical examples, tips, checklists and other tools for use by energy and tourism suppliers. The guidance shows how to make communication easier to access, understand and use by all customers. They cover written communication such as forms and leaflets, face-to-face and telephone communication as well as electronic and web based communication systems.

In the energy sector, Airtricity presented at the NDA's annual Access Conference on the business benefits they have realised in following a Universal Design approach. For example, Airtricity have redesigned the menuing system on their Interactive Voice Response (IVR) customer service phone system. That has reduced by 60% the time to reach an agent and significantly improved customer satisfaction regarding their customer phone service.

The Toolkits are available to download for free at:

- <http://UniversalDesign.ie/Energy>
- <http://UniversalDesign.ie/Tourism>

International guidelines on standards — Guide 71

The National Disability Authority's Centre for Excellence in Universal Design continued its work as an expert on the Joint Technical Advisory Group which is updating and rewriting the key international document on accessibility for standards developers, Guidelines for Addressing Accessibility in Standards, known as ISO/IEC Guide 71. In particular, the National Disability Authority has integrated content on Universal Design, the World Health Organization International Classification of Functioning (ICF), and anthropometry (human size).

European Standard (EN) and Procurement Toolkit for Accessible ICT

The National Disability Authority's Centre for Excellence in Universal Design continued to contribute to the development of the first European Standard (EN) on accessible technology, EN 301 549 'Accessibility requirements suitable for public procurement of ICT products and services in Europe'. As the name suggests, the Standard is optimised for use in specifying accessibility requirements in the public procurements of ICT. The Centre for Excellence in Universal Design's contribution focused on the development of an online Toolkit that provides structured access and advises on the use of the Standard.

EN 301 549 "Accessibility requirements suitable for public procurement of ICT products and services in Europe" is already referenced as a 'harmonised standard' in the draft European Commission proposal on web accessibility and is expected to be referenced in the upcoming European Accessibility Act to be published by the European Commission.

EN 301 549 'Accessibility requirements suitable for public procurement of ICT products and services in Europe' is available for download at <http://www.etsi.org/news-events/news/754-new-european-standard-on-accessibility-requirements-for-public-procurement-of-ict-products-and-services>

European standard: Mandate M/473

The National Disability Authority's Centre for Excellence in Universal Design was elected as chair for the European Commission's Mandate M/473 Design for All in 2013. The part of the Mandate M/473 that the NDA will chair involves development of a new standard (or other adequate deliverable) that would address the design, development and

production process of goods manufacturing and service provision in the priority areas that would describe how to consider accessibility for persons with disabilities and older persons following a Design for All (Universal Design) approach.

Producing guidelines to support the achievement of universal design to enhance quality of life and to promote independence

In-home displays for smart metering systems

In 2012, the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) announced the planned deployment of electricity and gas smart meters across Ireland between 2016 and 2019. As part of this smart meter rollout, all household customers will receive an In-Home Display capable of displaying near real-time information on their energy consumption.

The National Disability Authority commissioned research and the development of technical guidelines for the Universal Design of In-Home Displays. A three-stage research process was undertaken comprising a literature review, usability testing and consultation with key stakeholders. The research report and technical guidelines were launched in 2013 and published on <http://UniversalDesign.ie>.

Universal design homes guidelines

The commissioned work to develop guidelines for universal design homes—“Guidelines for Universal Design Homes for Ireland”—homes that are suited to people of different age, size, ability or disability and are readily adaptable to the different life stages continued and was completed in 2013. It is intended that these guidelines would be appropriate for all houses and apartments. The next phase entailing the Cost Assessment of Universal Design Homes commenced in 2013 and is due to be completed in 2014.

Home design for people living with dementia

Work continued on research and design guidance commissioned by the NDA in relation to design of the home for people living with dementia.

The Research, Recommendations and Design Guidance will address the needs of families and carers of those living with dementia. This work was commissioned in late 2012 and will be completed in 2014.

Engaging with education and accreditation bodies to embed universal design in their courses

Roll-out of Universal Design module for third-level curriculum

Work commenced on a programme of rolling out curriculum materials on Universal Design developed for use in relevant third level engineering, architecture, technology and design courses. Activities included giving a number of guest lectures on Universal Design to students and presentations on the module to educators at relevant educational events. Engagement was undertaken with a number of schools of engineering, computer science, architecture and product design to explore ways of incorporating Universal Design into relevant courses and modules. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Department of Computing and Mathematics in Dundalk Institute of Technology, which has commenced to incorporate Universal Design at a thematic level in its computer science courses.

A sample of curriculum materials can be viewed on the National Disability Authority's YouTube channel:

<https://YouTube.com/user/NatDisabilityAuth>. Entitled “Meet the Normals”, this animation provides students with an overview of the rationale for, and process of, Universal Design.

Universal Design for second-level curriculum

The National Disability Authority's Centre for Excellence in Universal Design continued working toward development of a Universal Design curriculum module for use in second-level schools. The curriculum will introduce second level students to design problem-solving based on user-centred Universal Design practices. A project is underway to prepare and rollout a Short Course on Universal Design for second level that will align with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, revised Junior Cycle Framework.

Promoting awareness and understanding of universal design

Awards work

RIAI Universal Design Award

The National Disability Authority's Centre for Excellence in Universal Design collaborated with the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) to launch the RIAI Universal Design Award as part of the annual

RIAI Irish Architecture Awards. There were seven entries and the award was co-presented by the Director of the National Disability Authority and the President of the RIAI at the RIAI 2013 Awards event. UCD Student Centre by Fitzgerald Kavanagh and Partners won both the Universal Design and Public Choice Award. The jury for the award was chaired by Belgian architect and Emeritus Professor, Hubert Froyen.

Award schemes — Universal Design IDI Award 2013

The National Disability Authority's Centre for Excellence in Universal Design collaborated with an Institute of Designers in Ireland (IDI) exhibition to highlight achievements by Irish designers with an exhibit titled "Making an Impact with Universal Design". NDA co-presented the national IDI Universal Design Award 2013. The IDI Universal Design Award was selected by an international jury using design criteria based on the 7 Principles and 29 guidelines of Universal Design.

Access City award

The National Disability Authority supported Irish local authorities to participate in this European Commission award scheme by hosting a workshop in July 2013 for local authorities of eligible Irish cities. Five of the six eligible cities attended the workshop, and were briefed by NDA and European Commission presenters on the details of the award scheme. South Dublin County Council briefed attendees on their successful participation with Tallaght in 2012.

"Making public services accessible" conference

Our "Making public services accessible" conference took place in October in Dublin. Ben Terrett (Head of Design) and Joshua Marshall (Developer and Accessibility Lead) from the UK Cabinet Office's Government Digital Service described their award-winning "gov.uk" website and new "Assisted Digital" project. Fiona Hannon discussed how Airtricity used Universal Design principles to improve how they serve customers. National Disability Authority staff presented their "Procurement and Accessibility" guidance document and "Universal Design toolkits for customer engagement". Bernie McNally, Director General in the Office of the Ombudsman, explained how public bodies can better inform citizens about their rights and complaints procedures under the Disability Act 2005.

Seminar on Web Accessibility with the European Disability Forum

On Saturday 23rd February 2013 the National Disability Authority in conjunction with the European Disability Forum held a joint seminar

entitled “Accessibility of Public Websites – legislative and practical perspectives”. The seminar marked the occasion of the EDFs annual general meeting held in Dublin as well as Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU). It focused on web accessibility in the context of the proposal for an EU directive on the accessibility of public sector websites published by the European Commission. The seminar was opened by Mr. Pat Rabbitte, TD, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

As a follow on to the seminar, the National Disability Authority commissioned research into the preparedness of Member States to meet the requirements as defined in the current draft of the Directive. This report will be published in 2014 to coincide with the reading of the draft proposal by the Council of the European Union.

“Reaching voters with disabilities” seminar

National Disability Authority staff presented at the “Reaching voters with disabilities” seminar in the European Parliament’s Information Office in Dublin. Our topics included “Election planning and print materials”, “Social medial and online communications”, and “Broadcast TV/video — reaching the widest audience”. The seminar was for people responsible for getting messages to voters, through election materials, websites, social media, political broadcasts and other communication tools. The seminar aimed to teach political parties how to make sure that the one-in-seven voters who has a disability would be able to access their materials and messages.

Presenting at conferences and seminars

The National Disability Authority’s Centre for Excellence in Universal Design hosted a series of seminars and presented at various seminars/conferences to create awareness and understanding of universal design and promote its adoption by stakeholders including presentations on Universal Design and the built environment. Organisations included Engineers Ireland, ABX Expo Boston 2013 (at the invitation of the Institute of Human Centred Design), the Irish Council for Social Housing, Irish Building Control Institute, and the School of Architecture University of Limerick.

Strategic priority 4: Effective and efficient organisation

“To develop an environment, supports, policies and systems to enable the National Disability Authority to effectively deliver on its strategic objectives.”

During 2013, the NDA continued to maintain and work to develop its capacity as an effective organisation to deliver a full work programme in line with strategic priorities and to comply with statutory and regulatory requirements.

The implementation of the Public Service Stability agreement 2013–2016 meant significant changes for staff mid-2013. This included the application of extensions to hours of work for staff and changes in pay rates.

Ensuring effective and efficient systems and communications to deliver objectives to a high standard

Website Research

Work continued in 2013 to inform the further development of the NDA’s websites — www.nda.ie and www.UniversalDesign.ie — so that they will be exemplars of accessibility and usability. This included research with users to guide design for the sites which will be launched in 2014.

Managed Print Service

The NDA has been availing of the shared financial support service and shared IT support service from the Department of Justice and Equality for many years. During 2013, the NDA also availed of the new managed print service being implemented under the Department as part of the ongoing measures to identify savings. This involved the staged installation of new print/copy devices in the organisation, resulting in an overall more streamlined and cost-effective print management system.

Ensuring effective external communications

Newsletter

The NDA published a quarterly newsletter over the course of 2013 which was emailed to over 2,000 subscribers each quarter. The newsletter provided information on work developments in the areas of policy,

research, standards and universal design. Copies of the newsletter can be accessed on our website www.nda.ie.

Maintaining a library to guide disability and universal design research and policy

Our library holds over 50,000 items on disability, accessibility and related subjects. The collection includes books, e-journals, print journals, newsletters, DVDs, videos and CD-ROMs. It supports the development of evidence-based advice through literature searches for staff. The library is open most Thursdays for the general public to attend. Over 2013, library staff responded to over 400 queries, including literature searches for staff, requests for articles, loans, renewals and queries from staff and the general public. Training was also delivered to staff on conducting literature searches.

Implementing the Human Resources Strategy and complementary policies, to support staff in delivering on the strategic plan and annual work programmes and to nurture a positive work culture

Human Resources Strategy

Under the commitment in the strategy to “foster high morale amongst staff” a series of lunchtime seminars was hosted on topics including personal finances, mental health awareness, eating for energy and work life balance. The sessions were well attended and feedback from staff was extremely positive.

Training and Development

Early 2013 saw the completion of the leadership development training for senior and middle managers and the line management training. The delivery of this training, and a training session for staff on attendance management, enabled the final implementation of the attendance management policy which had been enhanced in line with public sector reforms.

Partnership Committee

Our partnership committee met 6 times over 2013. The committee’s work included a review of a pilot Staff Suggestion Scheme and establishing a scheme for 2014, producing and issuing a Partnership Bulletin for Staff, assisting the identification of social initiatives under a staff morale

programme and consideration of NDA work in relation to energy, access, customer action plan and project management enhancement.

Ensuring the effective delivery of statutory and regulatory responsibilities

Finance and governance

In line with the National Disability Authority Act 1999, the NDA prepared and submitted financial accounts for 2012 to the Comptroller and Auditor General. The accounts were approved and accordingly submitted to the Minister as part of the Annual Report in September 2013.

In line with good governance the Authority's appointed Finance and Audit Committees met at regular intervals over the course of 2013. The Audit Committee met 3 times over the course of 2013. It presented its report to the Authority in December 2013 in relation to its work in reviewing progress by the Executive in implementing recommendations of independent audits of financial controls, project management and fixed assets. During 2013, it also advised on its review of NDA risk management register. The Finance Committee met 7 times over 2013 and continued to monitor and report on expenditure by the Executive.

Accommodation

The NDA lodged an application for planning permission for retention of use for 2 floors in the back building of its offices as appropriate, which was approved by year end subject to any appeals.

Energy

The NDA is committed to ensuring energy savings and in 2013 engaged with Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI) in relation to its Public Sector Energy Management Partnership Programme.

This entailed access to a SEAI Advice, Mentoring and Assessment Programme expert who consulted with the NDA's nominated Energy Officer and support team in relation to energy use assessments as well advising on the development of an Energy Management Action Plan and an Energy Awareness Campaign to be advanced in 2014.

The Energy Officer and support staff attended SEAI Monitoring & Reporting training and NDA has registered its energy use with the SEAI Monitoring & Reporting programme. Savings have already been achieved from the implementation of a cost savings programmes involving energy use, transport and IT systems.

Overview of Energy Usage in 2013

The National Disability Authority is in an office building that uses gas and electric energy.

In 2013, National Disability Authority consumed 576844 MWh of energy, consisting of:

- 114060 MWh of electricity;
- 334615 MWh of fossil fuels;
- 000000 MWh of renewable fuels.

Actions Undertaken in 2013

In 2013 National Disability Authority undertook a range of initiatives to improve our energy performance, including:

- Improving its energy monitoring and management practices

Altogether, these and other energy saving measures are saving the National Disability Authority 23500 MWh annually.

Actions Planned for 2014

In 2014–2015 the National Disability Authority intends to further improve our energy performance by undertaking the following initiatives:

- Implementing energy awareness programme(s)
- Improving the energy performance of its lighting system(s)
- Improving the energy performance of its ICT system(s)

Access Officer

The NDA's Access Officer, appointed in line with the Disability Act, continued to guide and arrange appropriate assistance for persons with disabilities who accessed the NDA's facilities, events and website in 2013. Details of how to contact the Access Officer are set out on the home page of the NDA's websites.

Appendix 1: Authority and other committees in 2013

National Disability Authority members in 2013

Member	Number of meetings attended (9 meetings held)
Peter Mc Kevitt (Chair)	9
Caroline Burrell	9
Frank Cunneen	9
Tara Cunningham	5
James O'Grady	7
Fiona Duignan	4
Linda Grealy	6
Shane Hogan	8
David Joyce	7
Des Kenny	7
Mary Lavelle	8
Joanne McCarthy	3
Donie O'Leary (appointed January 2013)	7

Audit Committee

- Donal Lawlor (Chair)
- Robert Cashell
- Frank Cunneen
- Des Kenny

Finance Committee

- Frank Cunneen (Chair)
- Caroline Burrell
- David Joyce
- Des Kenny

- David Scott
- Pat Fitzsimons (appointed March 2012)

National Disability Strategy Sub-committee

- Shane Hogan (Chair)
- Tara Cunningham
- James O'Grady
- David Joyce
- Mary Lavelle
- Joanne McCarthy

Appendix 2: Representation on external bodies in 2013

Public sector:

Department of Children and Youth Affairs

- National Children's Advisory Council

Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources

- Sectoral Plan and Part 5 Monitoring Committee

Commission for Communications Regulation

- Consumer Advisory Panel
- Industry Forum on Services for People with Disabilities

Department of Education and Skills

- National Council for Special Education
- National Council for Special Education consultative forum

Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government

- Monitoring group on implementation of Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities

Irish Water

- Stakeholder Forum

Department of Health

- Implementation group for Value for Money and Policy Review of Disability Services
- Project Review Group on Mobility Allowance and Motorised Transport Grant
- National Disability Databases steering group

Health Service Executive

- National Consultative Forum

- Implementation group for report ‘Time to move on from Congregated Settings’
- Implementation group for New Directions

Department of Justice and Equality

- Part 5 Monitoring Committee

Cosc

- National advisory body on domestic, gender-based and sexual violence against women
- National Steering Committee on violence against women

Department of Social Protection

- Disability Consultative Forum
- Domiciliary Care Allowance Review Group

National Advocacy service for People with Disabilities

- Board of National Advocacy Service
- Advisory Group to National Advocacy Service

Department of the Taoiseach

- Inter-Departmental Group on Mobility Allowance and Motorised Transport Grant

Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

- Accessibility Consultative Committee
- Public Transport Accessibility Committee

National Transport Authority

- Taxi Advisory Committee

Other

- European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) — Project Team for Mandate 376
- European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) — Project Team for Mandate 473
- National Standards Authority Working Group
- RIAI (Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland) Universal Design Task Force

- International Standards Organisation (ISO) Guide 71 Working Group

Appendix 3: Publications in 2013

- Annual Report 2012
- Introducing personal budgets — what we can learn from other countries
- National Survey of Stroke Survivors 2013
- Strategic Plan 2013–2015

Appendix 4: Policy advice papers in 2013

Policy advice papers submitted:

- Assisted Decision-Making Bill 2013
- Paper to Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice and Equality, on domestic violence
- Assessment of the merits of a second pre-school year for children with disabilities
- Response to consultation on apprenticeships
- Mobility Allowance and Motorised Transport Grant
- Public Bus Contracts
- Public Service Broadcasting Charge
- Smart Metering Project
- Electronic Communications

NDA

National Disability Authority

25 Clyde Road, Dublin 4

Telephone: (01) 608 0400

Fax: (01) 660 9935

www.nda.ie

National Disability Authority is the independent state body providing expert advice on disability policy and practice to the Minister, and promoting Universal Design in Ireland.

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2013



Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais
National Disability Authority

Ráiteas an Stiúrthóra

Tá áthas orm Tuarascáil Bhliantúil an Údaráis Náisiúnta Míchumais do 2013 a chur i láthair an Aire Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais. Tugtar breac-chuntas sa tuarascáil seo ar ghníomhaíochtaí agus ar aschuir an Údaráis Náisiúnta Míchumais, an comhlacht neamhspleách stáit a sholáthraíonn sainchomhairle maidir le beartas agus cleachtas míchumais don Aire, agus a chuireann Dearadh Uilíoch chun cinn in Éirinn.

Tá dualgas reachtúil ag an Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais faisnéis agus comhairle bunaithe ar fhianaise a chur ar fáil don Aire maidir le beartas agus cleachtas a bhaineann le saolta daoine faoi mhíchumais agus cuidiú leis an Aire beartais dá leithéid a chomhordú. Tá feidhm reachtúil aige chomh maith, trína Lárionad Sármhaitheasa i nDearadh Uilíoch, dearadh uilíoch na timpeallachta tógtha, táirgí, seirbhísí agus teicneolaíochtaí faisnéise agus cumarsáide a chur chun cinn ionas go mbeidh fáil orthu, go mbeidh siad éasca lena n-úsáid agus go dtuigfidh gach duine iad beag beann ar a n-aois, a méid, a gcumas nó a míchumas.

Ós rud é go gcumhdaíonn ról an Údaráis Náisiúnta Míchumais a lán réimsí beartais oibríonn sé le formhór na Ranna Rialtais agus leis na gníomhaireachtaí atá faoina gcoimirce, agus díríonn sé a lán dá chuid oibre ar cheisteanna tras-rannacha agus trasghníomhaireachta. Chomh maith leis an taighde a choimisiúnaíonn agus a dhéanann an NDA, bailíonn sé foghlaim ón raon leathan páirtithe leasmhara lena n-oibríonn sé, lena n-áirítear foghlaim ó thaithí saoil na ndaoine faoi mhíchumais.

Trína ról i ndearadh uilíoch oibríonn Lárionad Sármhaitheasa i nDearadh Uilíoch an NDA le páirtithe leasmhara i gcomhlachtaí lena n-áirítear comhlachtaí sna réimsí um pleanáil, dearadh agus oideachas, comhlachtaí gairmiúla chomh maith le comhlachtaí náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta caighdeán agus an earnáil tionscail go ginearálta. Ó bunaíodh é tá raon acmhainní taighde, treoirlínte agus caighdeán, agus curaclaim oideachais forbartha ag an Lárionad. Cuirtear bonn eolais fúthu sin le taighde agus tuiscint ar an dóigh a bhféadann éagsúlacht cumas tionchar a imirt ar an féidir áit, táirge, seirbhís nó teicneolaíocht a úsáid go héasca.

Sheachaid an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais clár iomlán oibre in 2013 faoin gcéad bhliain dá bPlean Straitéiseach 2013-2015. Dá bhrí sin bhí fócas ár n-oibre ar

- I. tacaíocht leanúnach do chur i bhfeidhm na Straitéise Náisiúnta Míchumais

2. beartas treorach chun tacaí éifeachtúla i gcomhair maireachtáil neamhspleách sa phobal a chinntiú
3. dearadh uilíoch, agus dearadh uilíoch TFC, earraí, seirbhísí, agus áiteanna a chur chun cinn.

Iarradh ar an Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais forbairt straitéis fostaíochta chuimsitheach do dhaoine faoi mhíchumais a éascú, ag obair le príomhranna rialtais, agus is príomhghníomhaíocht é seo faoin bPlean Chur i bhFeidhm na Straitéise Náisiúnta Míchumais. Cuimsíodh taighde agus comhairle in obair an Údaráis Náisiúnta Míchumais chun treoir a thabhairt do chur i bhfeidhm cineálacha úra cur chuige chun tacú le daoine faoi mhíchumais dea-cháilíocht beatha a bheith acu sa phobal príomhshrutha. Tionscadal tábhachtach a bhí ann ná taighde ar shamhlacha leithdháilte acmhainní maidir le tacaí míchumais, a d'fhéadfadh oiriúnú acmhainní le riachtanas níos fearr a sheachadadh, agus tabhairt isteach buiséad pearsanta a éascú.

Chuimsigh an NDA taighde agus obair leanúnach chun dearadh uilíoch tithe agus gnéithe eile den timpeallacht thógtha a threorú. Bhain tionscadal tábhachtach le dearadh uilíoch taispeántí intí a bhaineann le méadair chliste, a chuirfeadh ar chumas daoine monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar idiú fuinnimh i bhfíor-am. Táirgeadh a lán foghlama inaistrithe sa tionscadal seo a d'fhéadfadh bonn eolais a chur faoi chomhpháirteanna eile don bhaile. Bhíomar thar a bheith sásta a bheith ábalta caighdeán náisiúnta a tháirgeadh maidir le dearadh uilíoch seirbhísí custaiméirí i dturasóireacht, i gcomhpháirtíocht leis an Údarás um Chaighdeán Náisiúnta na hÉireann agus an Údarás Comhionannais. Lainseáladh é sin le linn Uachtaránacht na hÉireann mar aon le foireann uirlisí tacaíochta. Cuid thábhachtach sa tionscadal seo a bhí i rannpháirtíocht na earnála óstán agus bialann, a bhfuil an fhoireann uirlisí á cur i bhfeidhm acu agus a bhí ag tuairisciú faoi na buntáistí atá á mbaint amach acu.

Leanamar ag obair chomh maith chun feabhas a chur éifeachtúlacht agus éifeachtacht an NDA.

Le linn na bliana, leanamar d'éifeachtúlacht níos fearr agus obair éifeachtúil a bhaint amach, mar a cheanglaítear faoi Chomhaontuithe ábhartha na Seirbhíse Poiblí. Áiríodh air sin na huaireanta a oibríodh a shíneadh agus tuilleadh laghduithe pá a chur i bhfeidhm mar a cheanglaítear faoi Chomhaontú Cobhsaíochta na Seirbhíse Poiblí (2013-2016) ó Iúil 2013 i leith.

Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil le foireann an Údaráis Náisiúnta Míchumais as an tiomantas agus as an bhfuinneamh a thug siad agus ár gclár oibre do 2013 á ullmhú, lena n-áirítear freastal ar na héilimh bhreise a tháinig chun cinn i rith na bliana ina ndíograis a chinntiú go nglacaimid gach deis chun tionchar a imirt ar bheartas agus ar chleachtas trínar féidir saolta níos fearr do dhaoine faoi mhíchumais a chumasú. Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil fosta leis an gCathaoirleach agus le comhaltaí an Údaráis as a dtreoir straitéiseach, a bhfís, agus a dtacaíocht don fheidhmeannach maidir leis an gclár seo a sheachadadh ar aon dul le cuspóirí straitéiseacha an Údaráis Náisiúnta Míchumais i rith 2013.

Siobhan Barron
Stiúrthóir

Forbhreathnú agus comhthéacs an bheartais

Gach bliain cuireann tosaíochtaí straitéiseacha agus príomhtháscairí feidhmíochta ina Phlean Straitéiseach agus deiseanna dul i gcion ar fhorbairtí beartais bonn eolais faoi chlár oibre an Údaráis Náisiúnta Míchumais. In 2013, tharla sé sin i dtimpeallacht fhioscach dhúshlánach leanúnach ach bhí méid áirithe fáis sa gheilleagar agus sa mhargadh post chomh maith. Bhí seilbh Uachtaránacht an Aontais Eorpaigh ag Éirinn le linn an chéad sé mhí den bhliain chomh maith.

Plean Chur i bhFeidhm na Straitéise Náisiúnta Míchumais

Ceann de na príomhfhorbairtí a chuir bonn eolais faoi obair an Údaráis Náisiúnta Míchumais in 2013 ná gur fhaomh agus gur fhoilsigh an Rialtas Plean Chur i bhFeidhm na Straitéise Náisiúnta Míchumais 2013 go 2015 in Iúil 2013. Tá gníomhaíochtaí leagtha amach ann atá le seachadadh ag gach Roinn Rialtais agus gach comhlacht poiblí thar an tréimhse sin chun feabhas a chur ar rochtain ar fhaisnéis, ar sheirbhísí agus ar thacaí ag daoine faoi mhíchumais. Déanfar soláthar ann chomh maith i leith forbairt straitéis fostaíochta straitéiseach chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar na deiseanna teoranta agus an rannpháirtíocht íseal ag daoine faoi mhíchumais san fhostaíocht agus sa mhargadh saothair oscailte. D'oibrigh an NDA leis an Roinn Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais maidir le treoir a thabhairt do chreat an Phlean iomláin, agus leis na Ranna aonair chun treoir a thabhairt dóibh maidir le gníomhaíochtaí sainiúla don Phlean.

Déanfaidh grúpa stiúrtha náisiúnta a bheidh faoi chathaoirleacht an Aire Míchumais, Comhionannais, Meabhairshláinte agus Daoine Scothaosta monatóireacht ar chur i bhfeidhm an Phlean. Is comhalta é an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais den ghrúpa seo agus tá an fhreagracht aige as tuarascálacha ina ndéantar anailís ar dhul chun cinn a tháirgeadh. Áirítear ar chomhaltaí eile oifigigh shinsearacha ó na ranna ábhartha, na húdaráis áitiúla agus ón nGrúpa Faireacháin Páirtithe Leasmhara ar a gcuimsítear ionadaithe ó eagraíochtaí míchumais agus comhaltaí a thugann an taithí saoil chucu chun ionchur sa bheartas náisiúnta a threorú.

Fostaíocht daoine faoi mhíchumais san earnáil phoiblí

Tháinig an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais a thuarascáil reachtúil do 2012 don Aire i dtaca lena fhreagracht as monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar leibhéal fostaíochta na mball foirne faoi mhíchumais san earnáil phoiblí. Le haghaidh 2012, léiríodh sna sonraí arna soláthar ag na Ranna Rialtais agus comhlachtaí poiblí go bhfuil 3.3% d'fhoireann na hearnála poiblí ina ndaoine faoi mhíchumas. Leanann an NDA le comhairle a thabhairt do sainchomhlachtaí aonair ar theip orthu an sprioc reachtúil 3% a bhaint amach thar an 2 bhliain as a chéile 2011 agus 2012.

Straitéis Fostaíochta Chuimsitheach

In 2013 d'iarr an tAire Míchumais, Comhionannais, Meabhairshláinte agus Daoine Scothaosta ar an Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais oibriú le Ranna ábhartha chun straitéis fostaíochta chuimsitheach do dhaoine faoi mhíchumais a fhorbairt. Áirítear orthu sin an Roinn Post, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta; an Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí; an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna; agus an Roinn Sláinte. Cuirfear forbairtí ábhartha san áireamh sa straitéis lena n-áirítear bunú SOLAS faoin Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna agus seirbhís INTREO faoin Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí i ndiaidh dhíscaoileadh FÁS.

Tionóladh comhairliúchán le raon páirtithe leasmhara sna ranna agus sna gníomhaireachtaí ábhartha, mar aon le hionadaithe míchumais agus comhlachtaí fostóirí agus ceardchumann chun dearthaí maidir le príomhréimsí ar cheart aird a thabhairt orthu a shainaithint. Comhaontaíodh an fhís agus na spriocanna ardleibhéal chun bealaí a fháil le hoibriú leo siúd atá faoi mhíchumais nó faoi mhíchumais fhaighte, agus cuirfidh siad bonn eolais faoi thuilleadh forbartha ar an straitéis thábhachtach seo in 2014.

Samhlacha úra um sheirbhísí tacaíochta míchumais

Cheap an tAire Míchumais, Comhionannais, Meabhairshláinte agus Daoine Scothaosta an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais ar ghrúpa stiúrtha náisiúnta chun maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar chur i bhfeidhm Athbhreithniú Luach ar Airgead agus Beartais na Seirbhísí Míchumais. Léiríonn sé sin mór-aistriú beartais i dtreo seirbhísí agus tacaí a eagrú thart ar dhaoine aonair seachas daoine a luí isteach sna seirbhísí reatha, agus fócas ar thacaíocht a thabhairt do dhaoine chun gnáthshaolta a chaitheamh i ngnáth-áiteanna.

Tugadh róil shainiúla don Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais maidir le cur i bhfeidhm an chreata um chur i bhfeidhm a d'aontaigh an Rialtas, trína obair neamhspleách ar shamhlacha leithdháilte acmhainní agus maidir tomhas torthaí,

I rith 2013, lean an NDA lena chlár oibre maidir leis seo lena n-áirítear a thaighde chun bonn eolais a chur faoi shamhail níos éifeachtaí chun leithdháileadh acmhainní a ailíniú i gcomhair seirbhísí míchumais trí uirlis leithdháilte acmhainní.

Trí rannpháirtíocht an NDA i raon coistí agus grúpaí FSS, d'oibrigh sé fosta ar fhorbairt treoirlínte náisiúnta, ag leagan síos caighdeáin i gcomhair samhail úr tacaí san aistriú ó sheirbhísí lae aosach bunaithe in ionaid.

Fócas Saolré ar Aistrithe

Aithníonn an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais an luach a bhaineann le córais agus tacaí éifeachtacha ag príomhchéimeanna na beatha agus pointí aistrithe do dhaoine faoi mhíchumais. Agus é sin ar a intinn díriodh a Chomhdháil Bhliantúil ar an téama seo chomh maith le fócas ar phríomhfhoghlaim maidir le haistriú laistigh den oideachas agus ón oideachas go hoiliúint agus fostaíocht agus ó institiúidí cónaithe go dtí maireachtáil sa phobal.

D'fhoilsigh an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais taighde agus comhairle chomh maith maidir leis an ról atá ag an gcúram réamhscolaíochta agus thionóil sé seimineár ar an aistriú isteach sa réamhscolaíocht agus ar aghaidh ón réamhscolaíocht do pháistí faoi mhíchumais. Baineann an obair seo go háirithe leis an earnáil oideachais, an earnáil sláinte agus an earnáil réamhscolaíochta.

Uachtaránacht na hÉireann ar an Aontas Eorpach 2013

Ar aon dul le hUachtaránacht na hÉireann d'óstáil an NDA imeachtaí chun eolas agus faisnéis a roinnt le príomhpháirtithe leasmhara d'fhonn treoir a thabhairt do beartas agus do chleachtas náisiúnta chomh maith le feabhas a chur ar sheirbhísí agus ar shaoráidí.

I measc na n-imeachtaí sin bhí:

- Seimineár ar rannpháirtíocht shibhialta chun treoir a thabhairt d'inrochtaine i dtoghcháin agus i vótáil, agus rannpháirtíocht na ndaoine faoi mhíchumas sa saol polaitiúil a chur chun cinn.
- Comhsheimineár le Fóram Míchumais na hEorpa maidir le suíomhanna gréasáin agus seirbhísí ar líne a dhéanamh inrochtana.

- Seimineár agus lainseáil caighdeán náisiúnta úr le haghaidh seirbhísí custaiméirí de dhearadh uilíoch a dhíríonn ar an earnáil turasóireachta agus an bhfoireann uirlisí tacaíochta. Léiríodh an dóigh a raibh na caighdeáin agus an fhoireann uirlisí á gcur i bhfeidhm go héifeachtach san earnáil óstán san imeacht an-rathúil.

Dearadh Uilíoch

Lean an Lárionad Sármhaitheasa i nDearadh Uilíoch de chlár iomlán oibre a sheachadadh chun caighdeáin agus treoirlínite, agus curaclaim i ndearadh uilíoch a chur chun cinn, agus an obair seo ar fad buntacaithe ag taighde cuí. Áiríodh air sin obair ar chaighdeáin ar leibhéal idirnáisiúnta lenar baineadh amach glacadh fócas dearaidh uilíoch.

Áiríodh air fosta in 2013 foilsíú agus lainseáil taighde agus treoirlínite teicniúla le haghaidh Dearadh Uilíoch Taispeántí Intí. Rinneadh an obair i gcomhar leis an gCoimisiún um Rialáil Fuinnimh. Tá na treoirlínite cuidiúil i dtaca le dearadh agus soláthar na méadar lena gcuirtear ar chumas an phobail monatóireacht a dhéanamh go héasca ar na leibhéil úsáide fónas amhail fuinneamh.

Tosaíocht straitéiseach 1: An Straitéis Náisiúnta um Míchumas

Tacú le seachadadh éifeachtúil Phlean Chur i bhFeidhm na Straitéise Náisiúnta Míchumais trína dtaighde, trínár gcomhairle agus trínár dtreoir do Ranna Rialtais agus do chomhlachtaí poiblí agus monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar na torthaí do dhaoine faoi mhíchumais.

1. Cur i bhfeidhm na Straitéise Náisiúnta Míchumais

D'oibrigh an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais leis an Roinn Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais, le hoifigh shinsearacha Ranna Rialtais agus gníomhaireachtaí, agus le páirtithe leasmhara um míchumas, le Plean Chur i bhFeidhm na Straitéise Náisiúnta Míchumais 2013-2015 a fhorbairt, a lainseáil an Rialtas in Iúil 2013. 3

Tá an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais, chomh maith le treoir a thabhairt ar chur i bhfeidhm foriomlán na straitéise agus anailís a dhéanamh ar dhul chun cinn, freagrach as líon sainmhíreanna gníomhaíochta a sheachadadh. Áirítear orthu sin forbairt clár comhpháirtíochta chun dearcthaí dearfacha ón bpobal ar dhaoine faoi mhíchumais a chur chun cinn, agus gníomhú leis an gcóras ceartais chun a inrochtaine do dhaoine faoi mhíchumais a chur chun cinn.

Straitéis fostaíochta

Iarradh ar an Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais, agus Christy Lynch,⁴ forbairt Straitéis Fostaíochta Chuimsitheach deich mbliana do dhaoine faoi

3

http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/NDS_ImplementationPlan_FINAL.pdf/Files/NDS_ImplementationPlan_FINAL.pdf

⁴ Tá Christy Lynch ina POF ar KARE, ball bunaidh de Chumann na hÉireann d'Fhostaíocht faoi Thacaíocht, agus bhí sé ina Chathaoirleach in 2013 ar Chónaidhm Náisiúnta na gComhlachtaí Deonacha. Bhí sé ina chomhalta boird roimhe seo chomh maith ar an Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais.

mhíchumais a éascú, a fhoilseofar in 2014, ag obair leis na Ranna Rialtais ábhartha.

D'fhorbair an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais achoimre straitéise chomh maith agus thug siad faoi chomhairliúchán poiblí maidir leis an straitéis, agus chun treoir a thabhairt do shainréimsí maidir le gníomh. Rinneadh an comhairliúchán tríd an méid seo a leanas a scaipeadh ar pháirtithe leasmhara aonair: tréimhse chomhairliúcháin ar líne ann; agus seisiún comhairliúcháin le grúpaí fócais ó leasanna míchumais. Tionóladh cruinnithe le comhlachtaí fostóirí agus ceardchumann agus le gníomhaireachtaí stáit ábhartha chun bonn eolais a chur faoin straitéis. Ghníomhaigh an NDA le príomh-Ranna agus príomhghníomhaireachtaí stáit chomh maith chun sraith beart a sheachadfar faoin straitéis a fhorbairt.

Breisoideachas agus oiliúint

Is é Solas an ghníomhaireacht stáit úr dá bhfuil an freagracht tugtha as breisoideachas agus oiliúint. Cuireadh in ionad FÁS é agus ionchorpraíonn sé an breisoideachas ina shainchúram. Sholáthair an NDA ionchur sa taighde agus sa chomhairliúchán a rinne Solas le bonn eolais a chur faoina straitéis cúig bliana. Thug an NDA comhairle chomh maith maidir le hathbhreithniú ar phrintíseacht, a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ina phríomhphointe iontrála i ngairm amach anseo do dhuine faoi míchumas.

Seimineár an Údaráis Ghairmoideachais

Thionóil an NDA, i gcomhar leis an gCumann Gairmoideachais in Éirinn (ar a dtugtar Bord na hÉireann um Oiliúint san Oideachas anois) agus an gComhairle Náisiúnta um Oideachas Speisialta comhsheimineár i mí na Bealtaine. Ba é ba chuspóir leis an seimineár go dtiocfadh an earnáil seo le chéile chun samplaí dea-chleachtais a roinnt maidir leis an dóigh a bhfuil tacaíocht á tabhairt d'fhoghlaimoirí faoi mhíchumais faoi láthair. Rinne an NDA cur i láthair ar an tábhacht a bhaineann le hoideachas le haghaidh ionchais amach anseo do dhaoine faoi mhíchumais. Chuir ocht gColáiste Gairmoideachais na samhlacha dea-chleachtais a úsáideann siad chun tacú le daoine faoi mhíchumais páirt a ghlacadh i mbreisoideachas agus in oiliúint a shárthaispeáint.

Comhairle i réimsí earnála éagsúla

Seirbhísí tacaíochta um shláinte agus míchumais

Lean an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais in 2013 le tacú leis an Roinn Sláinte agus Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláine maidir le cur i bhfeidhm an mhórchláir athchóirithe atá á ndéanamh le haghaidh seirbhísí míchumais, i

ndiaidh fhoilsiú Athbhreithniú Luach ar Airgead agus Beartais na Seirbhísí Míchumais in 2012.

I measc ghníomhaíochtaí an NDA bhí:

- Comhairle a thabhairt ar phróiseas foriomlán athchóirithe agus ar ghnéithe aonair, trí bhallaíocht ghrúpa comhairleach um chur i bhfeidhm Athbhreithniú Luach ar Airgead agus Beartais na Seirbhísí Míchumais agus Fóram Comhairleach Náisiúnta an FSS
- Ballraíocht ar fhoireann forfheidhmithe ‘New Directions’ - athchóiriú ar sheirbhísí lae aosach
- Dréachtú caighdeán náisiúnta le haghaidh seirbhísí lae ar aon dul leis an tsamhail ‘New Directions’
- Ballraíocht ar an gcoiste chun an tuarascáil ‘Time to move on from Congregated Settings’ ar dhúnadh céimnithe na n-ionad agus na gcampas cónaithe agus aistriú na gcónaitheoirí chun cónaí sa phobal a chur i bhfeidhm.
- Taighde leanúnach chun bonn taca a chur faoi shamhail leithdháilte acmhainní chun riachtanais mheasúnaithe a oiriúnú níos fearr, agus tabhairt isteach buiséad pearsanta a éascú.
- Comhairle maidir le creat um measúnú riachtanais daoine aonair faoi mhíchumais
- Páipéar faisnéisithe a ullmhú ar choimisiúnú seirbhísí
- Obair le treoir a thabhairt do bhearta torthaí le haghaidh seirbhísí míchumais

Iompar

An scéim cúnaimh iompair

Bhí an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais ina chomhalta ar an nGrúpa um Athbhreithniú Tionscadail chun comhairle a thabhairt don Roinn Sláine maidir le scéim cúnaimh iompair d'iarratasóirí úra in ionad na scéimeanna um Liúntas So-aistritheachta agus um Dheontas Iompair Mótair ar cuireadh deireadh leo. Thug an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais rannchuidiú chomh maith mar chomhalta ar an ngrúpa stiúrtha arna stiúir ag Roinn an Taoisigh a bhain leas as obair an ghrúpa tionscadail.

Chuir an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais ionchuir shainiúla ar fáil don phróiseas seo fosta:

- D'ullmhaigh sé teimpléad ceistneora do chomhairliúchán poiblí chun treoir a thabhairt do phríomhcheisteanna.
- D'eagraigh sé anailís maidir leis na freagrachtaí ar an gceistneoir a bhí le próiseáil
- Thionóil sé grúpaí fócais leis na páirtithe leasmhara ábhartha mar chuid den phróiseas comhairliúcháin
- Rinne sé páipéar taighde ar thacaí iompair do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas i ndlínsí eile
- Rinne sé anailís ar mhicreosonaí an tSuirbhé Náisiúnta Míchumais maidir le húsáid iompair ag daoine faoi mhíchumais
- Páipéir chomhairle

An tÚdarás Náisiúnta Iompair

Sholáthair an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais comhairle agus cúnaimh don Údarás Náisiúnta Iompair maidir le treoirthionscadal i gCorcaigh i dtaca le córas tiomanta oibreoir seachadta d'fheithiclí oiriúnach do chathaoir rothaí.

Sholáthair an NDA comhairle chomh maith maidir le tionscadal chun WiFi a chur i bhfeidhm i dtacsaithe.

Conradh Seirbhís Busanna

Mar fhreagairt don chomhairliúchán poiblí ar an togra chun líon seirbhísí busanna poiblí a chur amach ar thairiscint lena n-oibriú ag an earnáil phríobháideach, thug an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais comhairle maidir leis an tábhacht a bhaineann le riachtanais ar inrochtainte seirbhísí a chur in aon phróiseas tairisceana, chun seirbhísí busanna poiblí inrochtana a choinneáil.

Cumarsáid, Fuinneamh agus Acmhainní Náidúrtha

D'fhreagair an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais ar líon iarratas maidir le comhairliúchán poiblí:

- An Coimisiún um Rialáil Cumarsáide, maidir le bearta beartaithe chun rochtain agus rogha chomhionann a chinntiú d'úsáideoirí deiridh faoi mhíchumais i gcumarsáid leictreonach
- Muirear craolacháin seirbhíse poiblí

Ionadaíocht daoine faoi mhíchumais sna meáin chraolacháin

Bhunaigh Údarás Craolacháin na hÉireann agus an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais Coiste Stiúrtha craoltóirí, líonraí tionscail, eagraíochtaí a dhéanann ionadaíocht do leasanna daoine faoi mhíchumais agus grúpaí agus daoine aonair ábhartha eile chun comhairle a thabhairt maidir le treoirlínte craolacháin a fhorbairt i dtaca le léiriú agus ionadaíocht daoine faoi mhíchumais sna meáin chraolacháin. Tháinig an Coiste le chéile trí huair in 2013.

Cosaint Shóisialta

Thug an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais comhairle don Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí maidir leis an gcuid **Tacaí san Ionad Oibre d'Fhostaithe faoi Mhíchumas** ina bPaca úr d'Fhostaíocht.

2. Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar thionchar na Straitéise Náisiúnta Míchumais

Tá monatóireacht á déanamh ag an nGrúpa um Chur i bhFeidhm na Straitéise Náisiúnta Míchumais, faoi chathaoirleacht an Aire Stáit um Míchumas, ar a bhfuil ionadaí ar son an NDA.

Sannadh an ról don NDA páipéar a ullmhú, roimh gach cruinniú de chuid an Ghrúpa um Chur i bhFeidhm, ina ndéantar tuairiscí chun dáta ar dhul chun cinn a thuairiscíonn na Ranna agus na gníomhaireachtaí stáit a shintéisiú, mar aon le príomhcheisteanna agus príomhthéamaí a shainaithint le bonn eolais a chur faoi phlé.

I ndiaidh glacadh leis an bPlean Cur i bhFeidhm, thionóil Grúpa um Chur i bhFeidhm na Straitéise Náisiúnta Míchumais dhá chruinniú théamacha in 2013. Chuir an NDA páipéar ar aitheantas na dteangacha comharthaíochta i ndlínsí eile i láthair ag an gcruinniú téamach maidir le ceisteanna a bhaineann le pobal na mBodhar. Chuir an NDA sintéis dul chun cinn go dáta agus páipéar plé i láthair ag an gcruinniú téamach maidir le tithíocht a tionóladh i mí na Nollag.

Táscairí maidir le torthaí

D'fhorbair an NDA sraith táscairí torthaí chomh maith chun monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar dhul chun cinn an Phlean, agus tá siad sin glactha ag an nGrúpa um Chur i bhFeidhm. Choimisiúnaigh an NDA suirbhé chun sonraí a chur ar fáil maidir le roinnt áirithe de na táscairí sin nach bhfuil sonraí ar bith ar fáil go héasca ón bPríomh-Oifig Staidrimh nó ó fhoinse oifigiúla ar bith eile maidir leo. I measc na dtopaicí a cumhdaíodh bhí úsáid iompair, inrochtaine ar shráideanna agus ar áiteanna poiblí, teagmháil

le comharsana, cairde agus teaghlach, agus rochtain agus úsáid maidir le gnáth-theicneolaíochtaí. Rinne an NDA suirbhéanna comhchosúla in 2009 agus 2011, agus sa tuarascáil ar 2013, atá le foilsiú in 2014, déantar anailís chomparáideach le blianta roimhe.

Grúpa Páirtithe Leasmhara um Míchumas

Tá Stiúrthóir an Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais ina chathaoirleach neamhspleách ar an nGrúpa Páirtithe Leasmhara um Míchumas. Cuimsíonn an Grúpa ionadaithe ó na príomh-bhratchomhlachtaí míchumais, i gcuideachta le líon daoine aonair a bhfuil taithí saoil ar mhíchumas acu, agus is é a ról ionchur a dhéanamh ar chur i bhfeidhm Phlean Chur i bhfeidhm na Straitéise Náisiúnta Míchumais agus monatóireacht a dhéanamh air.

Soláthraíonn an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais tacaíocht rúnaíochta don Ghrúpa Páirtithe Leasmhara um Míchumas, agus comhordaíonn sé a dhoiciméid aighneachtaí. In 2013, bhain na haigneachtaí sin go príomha le dréachtaí leanúnacha den Phlean Cur i bhFeidhm.

3. Fostaíocht daoine faoi mhíchumais sa tseirbhís phoiblí

Tá dualgas reachtúil ag an Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar chomhlíonadh comhlachtaí poiblí maidir lena n-oibleagáidí, arna leagan amach i gCuid 5 den Acht um Míchumas 2005, i dtaca le daoine faoi mhíchumais. Faoin Acht cuirtear oibleagáid ar chomhlachtaí poiblí fostaíocht daoine faoi mhíchumais sa tseirbhís phoiblí a chur chun cinn agus tacú leis, agus mura bhfuil cúiseanna maithe ar bith acu gan é sin a dhéanamh, an íos-sprioc reachtúil 3% de daoine faoi mhíchumais a bhaint amach.

An sprioc fostaíochta iomlán 3% sáraithe

Thiomsaigh an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais a thuarascáil ar chomhlíonadh le linn 2012 agus d'fhoilsigh sé í i mí na Samhna 2013. Léirigh sé seo gur shroich céatadán tuairiscithe na bhfostaithe faoi mhíchumais 3.3% in 2012, suas ó 3.1% in 2011 ar fud na seirbhísí poiblí ina hiomláine. Is é seo an dara huair gur baineadh amach an sprioc fostaíochta 3% do dhaoine faoi mhíchumais ar fud na earnála poiblí ina hiomláine.

Ba é 6,611 an líon baill foirne faoi mhíchumas a tuairiscíodh in 2012, méadú 440 i gcomparáid le 2011. Baineadh na méaduithe sin amach d'ainneoin gur tháinig laghdú thart ar 3,700 ar líon foriomlán na mball foirne a bhí fostaithe san earnáil phoiblí in 2012. Dearbhaíonn baint amach leanúnach

na sprice 3% in 2012 an tionchar atá ag córais níos fearr chun líon na mball foirne faoi mhíchumais a thaifeadadh agus a thuairisciú chomh maith le tionchar na mbeart dearfach a rinneadh ar fud na seirbhíse poiblí chun tacú le baill foirne faoi mhíchumas agus chun iad a choinneáil.

Thug an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais a threoir chaighdeánach do chomhlachtaí poiblí chun dáta, agus d'eisigh sé comhairle shaincheaptha do chomhlachtaí poiblí nár bhain an sprioc amach.

Tugadh an sprioc 3% isteach ar dtús, ar bhonn neamhreachtuil, i 1977, agus bhí a lán díobh siúd a earcaíodh trí chomórtais speisialta ag an am sin ag druidim lena n-aois scoir. Thug an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais comhairle nach mór iarracht faoi leith a bheith ann a chinntiú go gcoinnítear ráta fostaíochta daoine faoi mhíchumais de réir mar atá earcaíocht ag filleadh ar fud na hearnála poiblí.

4. Dearcthaí dearfacha ar mhíchumas a chur chun cinn

Rinneadh tuilleadh anailíse ar an tsraith de suirbhéanna ar dhearcthaí an NDA 2001, 2006 agus 2011, chun léargais úra a dhíorthú maidir leis an bpatrún bunaidh dearcthaí atá ag athrú faoi dhaoine faoi mhíchumais.

Tionóladh seimineár comhairliúcháin i mí na Bealtaine le bonn eolais a chur faoi thosaíochtaí le haghaidh clár náisiúnta chun dearcthaí faoi dhaoine faoi mhíchumais a chur chun cinn.

Tionóladh seisiún i gCorcaigh i mí na Samhna le roinnt grúpaí fócais, mar imeacht na bliana 'Your Voice Your Choice', chun tuilleadh scrúdaithe a dhéanamh ar an téama maidir le dearcthaí faoi dhaoine faoi mhíchumais. Cuirfidh tuarascáil na ngrúpaí fócais sin bonn eolais faoin bplean gníomhaíochta náisiúnta chomh maith.

Feasacht maidir le Foréigean Teaghlaigh, Gnéis agus Inscne-bhunaithe

Thug an NDA, mar chomhalta ar Choiste Comhairleach Náisiúnta Cosc, comhairle maidir le sruth maoiniúcháin le haghaidh tionscadal ag spreagadh feasachta agus ag méadú aitheantas an fhoréigin teaghlaigh, gnéis agus inscne-bhunaithe i measc daoine faoi mhíchumais, agus maidir le roghnú tionscadal le haghaidh maoiniú ag COSC.

Oiliúint ar Chomhionannas Daoine faoi Mhíchumais trí Ríomhfhoghlaim

Lean an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais de mhodúl um Oiliúint ar Chomhionannas Daoine faoi Mhíchumais ar líne a chur ar fáil do chomhlachtaí poiblí agus do ghrúpaí eile. D'oibrigh an NDA go dlúth le Líonra Oifigeach Rochtana an Údaráis Áitiúil chun an modúl a chur ar fáil do mhic léinn na hIdirbhliana mar chuid den chlár um Rochtain a Chumasú ar Fud na nGlúinte. Bhain 2,247 duine leas as an modúl um Oiliúint ar Chomhionannas Daoine faoi Mhíchumais in 2013, lena n-áirítear baill foirne ó 11 chomhlacht poiblí, údaráis áitiúla agus ranna Rialtais san áireamh.

5. Coinbhinsiún na Náisiún Aontaithe ar Chearta Daoine faoi Mhíchumais

Taighde dlíthiúil

Choimisiúnaigh an NDA, thar ceann na Roinne Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais, taighde dlíthiúil chun ceistanna ar bith a raibh aghaidh le tabhairt orthu fós a shainaithint mar chuid d'ullmhú na hÉireann chun Coinbhinsiún na Náisiún Aontaithe ar Chearta Daoine faoi Mhíchumais a dhaingniú. Tá bonn eolais á chur ar fáil ag an taighde seo don Roinn Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais, a bhfuil ullmhúcháin na hÉireann maidir leis seo á gcomhordú acu.

An Bille um Chinnteoireacht Chuidithe (Cumas), 2013

Thug an NDA comhairle don Roinn Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais maidir leis an mBille a ullmhú agus rinne sé aighneacht i scríbhinn ag moladh roinnt athruithe a dhéanamh ar théacs an Bhille. Rinne an NDA plé a chur i láthair agus a éascú ag imeacht comhairliúcháin na Roinne maidir leis an mBille a tionóladh i gCaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath an 25 Meán Fómhair. Beidh achtú an Bhille ina gharsprioc thábhachtach i dtreo chomhlíonadh na hÉireann maidir le hAirteagal 12 de Choinbhinsiún na Náisiún Aontaithe ar Dhaoine faoi Mhíchumais, agus i dtreo dhaingniú na hÉireann maidir leis an gCoinbhinsiún.

Tosaíocht straitéiseach 2: Ag maireachtáil go neamhspleách sa phobal

Chun taighde a dhéanamh agus a chomhordú maidir le sonraí a bhailiú, agus faisnéis, comhairle agus treoir a thabhairt chun treoir a thabhairt d'athruithe beartais, córas agus seirbhíse lena chinntiú gur féidir le daoine faoi mhíchumais maireachtáil go neamhspleách agus páirt a ghlacadh sa phobal mar shaoránaigh ghníomhacha.

1. Tacú le haistriú go samhlacha úra

Creat coimisiúnaithe le haghaidh seirbhísí míchumais

D'ullmhaigh an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais dréachtchreat plé maidir le coimisiúnú le haghaidh seirbhísí míchumais, ag baint leas as cleachtadh comhairliúcháin a rinneadh in 2012. Cuireadh an creat i láthair na Roinne Sláinte agus Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte lena plé.

Comhdháil maidir le tacú le haistrithe

Thionóil an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais a Chomhdháil Náisiúnta an 6 Samhain 2013, maidir le 'Tacú le haistrithe do dhaoine faoi mhíchumais'. Cumhdaíodh roinnt de phríomhchéimeanna na beatha agus pointí aistrithe sa chomhdháil. D'fhreastail thart ar 200 duine uirthi. Díríodh i seisiún iomlánaíoch na Comhdhála ar shampla idirnáisiúnta agus Éireannach um dhea-chleachtas inar tacaíodh le daoine faoi mhíchumais ar mhodh éifeachtúil in aistriú:

- ó institiúidí cónaithe go dtí an pobal
- ó bhunoideachas go dtí an t-iar-bhunoideachas
- ó bhreisoideachas/oiliúint go dtí fostaíocht
- oiriúnú don saol le míchumas faighte

Ina theannta sin chuir 10 n-eagraíocht póstaer i láthair ag an gComhdháil. Tá cur i láthair na Comhdhála ar fáil ag www.nda.ie.

2. Aistriú go maoiniú ar bhonn aonraic

Tá an obair ar chórais leithdháilte acmhainní, mar atá curtha síos orthu i gcuid 3 thíos, ina príomhbhloc tógála maidir le haistriú i dtreo maoiniú ar bhonn aonraic a éascú, mar atá pléite in Athbhreithniú Luach ar Airgead agus Beartais na Seirbhísí Míchumais.

3. Córais leithdháilte acmhainní

Lean an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais lena chlár obair thaighde chun bonn eolais a chur faoi shamhail níos éifeachtaí chun leithdháileadh acmhainní a ailíniú i gcomhair seirbhísí míchumais le riachtanais daoine aonair, agus chun tacú le buiséid phearsanta a thabhairt isteach. D'fhéachadh sa chlár oibre ar shamhlacha éagsúla chun measúnú a dhéanamh ar riachtanais, na riachtanais sin a scóráil, agus na scóir sin a úsáid chun buiséid tacaíochta chuí a ghiniúint.

I dtús 2013, foilsíodh measúnú ar an triail allamuigh a rinneadh in 2012 le 112 rannpháirtí faoi mhíchumas, chun comparáid a dhéanamh idir an Scála Déine Tacaí agus córais mheasúnaithe riachtanas an RAS 5. Rinne conraitheoir seachtrach an measúnú. Taispeánadh roinnt cosúlachtaí sna torthaí idir na ranguithe a baineadh amach agus úsáid á baint as an uirlis níos simplí (RAS 5) agus an uirlis níos grinne, an Scála Déine Tacaí. Foilsíodh an measúnú ar an gcéim seo i dtús 2013.

Ar iarratas ón Roinn Sláinte agus an FSS, rinneadh an dara triail allamuigh, ina raibh ceathrach rannpháirtí ó na bunláithreáin staidéir, ar dhá chóras eile measúnaithe agus leithdháilte. Ba iad sin FACE (Anailís Fheidhmiúil ar Thimpeallachtaí Cúraim) a d'úsáid a lán údarás áitiúil sa RA, agus InterRai, a roghnaigh an FSS mar an uirlis mheasúnaithe aonair do sheirbhísí daoine scothaosta.

Rinneadh na torthaí a athmheasúnú go himheánach, agus cuirfear comparáid trasna na gceithre uirlis i gcrích in 2014. Thacaigh Coiste Comhairleach ina raibh ainmnithe ó phríomhchomhlachtaí ionadaíoch míchumais, mar aon le comhaltaí ón Roinn Sláinte agus ó Fheidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte.

4. Athrú ar dhéimeagrafaíocht

Rinneadh réamhobair ullmhúcháin inmheánach chun bonn eolais a chur faoi chlár níos leithe taighde maidir le himpleachtaí athraithe ar dhéimeagrafaíocht do sheirbhísí do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas. Is í an chéad chéim den chlár seo féachaint ar na himpleachtaí a bheidh ag an athrú ar

struchtúr an daonra maidir le caitheamh ar íocaíochtaí míchumais leasa shóisialaigh, agus gach gné eile gan athrú. Is é tionscadal inmheánach an chéad chéim.

5. Sainaithint príomhcheisteanna ar fud na saolré

Aistrithe réamhscolaíochta

Thionóil an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais seimineár ar an aistriú isteach sa réamhscolaíocht agus ar aghaidh ón réamhscolaíocht do pháistí faoi mhíchumais. Phléigh lucht freastal ón earnáil oideachais reachtúil, ón earnáil sláinte agus ón earnáil réamhscolaíochta dea-chleachtas maidir le tacú le páistí agus le teaghlaigh agus na príomhaistrithe seo á ndéanamh acu. Maidir leis an imeacht, cuirfear an phríomhfhoghlaim ar pháipéar a scaipfear ar rannpháirtithe agus príomhpháirtithe leasmhara.

Scéim um Chúram agus Oideachas na Luath-Óige

D'iarr an tAire Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige ar an Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais taighde a dhéanamh chun treoir a thabhairt maidir leis an tréimhse réamhscolaíochta saor in aisce do pháiste faoi mhíchumais, agus scrúdú a dhéanamh ar an bhfianaise atá bunaithe ar an ábhar seo. Thángthas ar an gconclúid i bpáipéar an NDA go bhfuil beagán fianaise cinnte ann ar an tionchar atá ag tréimhse níos faide a chaitheann páistí óga faoi chumais agus a bhfuil riachtanais oideachais speisialta de dhíth orthu i réamhscoileanna príomhshrutha. Ar an iomlán, tugtar le tuiscint san fhianaise atá ar fáil go bhfaightear torthaí dearfacha ón rannpháirtíocht i gclár réamhscolaíochta príomhshrutha de chaighdeán mhaith do na páistí sin. Sonraítear an fhianaise láidir sa pháipéar maidir leis an tionchar atá ag réamhscolaíocht de chaighdeán maith ar thorthaí do pháistí atá i mbaol riachtanais oideachais speisialta a fhorbairt. Bunaithe ar an bhfianaise seo chomhairligh an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais gur cheart tús áite a thabhairt don bhliain réamhscolaíochta reatha a chur ag oibriú go maith do pháistí faoi mhíchumais, sula dtabharfar aird ar an tréimhse a shíneadh.

Idirghabhálacha frithbulaíochta

Thosaigh an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais, faoi Phlean Ghníomhaíochta na Roinne Oideachais agus Scileanna ar Bhulaíocht, taighde in 2013 ar dea-chleachtas agus idirghabhálacha éifeachtúla i scoileanna Éireannacha maidir le cosc ar bhulaíocht páistí a bhfuil riachtanais oideachais speisialta acu.

Anailís ar phríomhthacair shonraí

Choimisiúnaigh an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais líon píosaí taighde ag baint leas as micreashonraí ón Suirbhé Náisiúnta Míchumais 2006. Is é seo an chéad suirbhé dá chineál in Éirinn, ina bhfuil saibhreas faisnéise ar shampla

ionadaíoch thart ar 14,500 duine faoi mhíchumais. Ba iad seo a leanas na staidéir thaighde:

- Taighde maidir le húsáid córacha iompair éagsúla ag daoine faoi mhíchumais, agus an dóigh a n-athraíonn sé sin de réir chomh uirbeach is atá na ceantair. Foilsíodh an taighde seo in 2013.
- Taighde maidir leis na torthaí i dtaca le daoine atá faoi lagú mothúchánach, síceolaíoch agus sláinte meabhrach, a fhoilseofar in 2014.
- Taighde maidir le páiste faoi mhíchumais, agus fócas faoi leith ar oideachas, a fhoilseofar in 2014.
- Taighde ar leibhéal úsáid na teicneolaíochta cúnta, agus an gá atá le cúnaimh dá leithéid arna shainiú ar daoine aonair, a fhoilseofar in 2014.

Sonraí maidir le páistí

Staidéar fadaimseartha is ea an Suirbhé Fás Aníos in Éirinn (Growing Up in Ireland Survey) ina leanfar na páistí céanna ag céimeanna éagsúla dá saolta. Breathnaíodh sa chéad sruth ar pháistí ina gcéad bhliain dá saol, agus ar pháistí naoi mbliana d'aois, agus áirítear ar na sonraí ar na páistí naoi mbliana d'aois faisnéis maidir lena stádas míchumais agus riachtanais speisialta oideachais. D'fhoilsigh an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais páipéar, bunaithe ar anailís ar na micreashonraí le haghaidh an chohóirt sin de pháistí naoi mbliana d'aois, chun páistí faoi mhíchumais a phróifiliú.

Páistí faoi mhíchumais chasta

D'fhoilsigh an NDA páipéar do chruinniú neamhfoirmiúil na nAirí Sláinte a tionóladh i Márta 2013 le linn Uachtaránacht na hÉireann ar an AE. Cumhdaíodh beartas agus soláthar seirbhíse sa pháipéar seo ar fud an Aontais Eorpaigh i dtaca le páistí faoi mhíchumais chasta.

Daoine a tháinig slán as stróc ag maireachtáil sa phobal

Maoiníodh taighde sa Scéim Deontais um Chur chun Cinn Taighde 2013 inar dtugadh ceisteanna maidir le daoine a tháinig slán as stróc in Éirinn chun suntais. Arna dhéanamh ag Coláiste Ríoga na Máinlianna in Éirinn, chuimsigh sé seo athbhreithniú litríochta agus suirbhé ar thart ar 200 duine a tháinig slán as stróc. Ba iad na príomhthorthaí:

- Thosaigh níos mó ná leath díobh ag tiomáint arís i ndiaidh a stróc
- Bhí cuidiú de dhíth ar leath na bhfreagróirí lena gcúram pearsanta i ndiaidh an stróc. Chuir teaghlaigh a lán den chuidiú sin ar fáil

- Bhí a lán díobh faoi anacair mhothúchánach agus faoi thuirse i ndiaidh an stróc, ach dúirt os cionn leath díobh nach bhfuair sin mórán cóir leighis nó nach bhfuair siad cóir leighis ar bith
- Bhí na leibhéil maidir le filleadh ar an obair i ndiaidh stróc íseal
- Chuaigh ioncain níos ísle agus caiteachas níos airde i gcion ar chúrsaí airgid
- Bhí trian díobh ag íoc go príobháideach ar fhisiteiripe nó ar theiripe urlabhra agus teanga

Daoine sa phobal faoi lot inchinne faighte

Dámhadh conradh taighde ar an gColáiste Ollscoile, Corcaigh faoin Scéim Deontais um Chur chun Cinn Taighde 2013 chun breathnú ar bhacainní agus ar thacaí do dhaoine faoi lot inchinne faighte. Tá an taighde seo le críochnú in 2014.

Measúnú riachtanas i ndlínsí eile

In 2013 rinne an NDA athbhreithniú ar na córais reatha maidir le measúnú a dhéanamh ar riachtanais do pháistí faoi mhíchumais i seacht ndlínse. Sa pháipéar faisnéisithe inmheánach a bhí mar thoradh air sin cuireadh síos ar na seacht gcóras agus saináithníodh téamaí coitianta iontu.

Rannpháirtíocht sa Saol Poiblí agus Polaitiúil

Thionóil an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais comhdháil maidir le Rannpháirtíocht sa Saol Poiblí agus Polaitiúil ag Páirc an Chrócaigh an 24 Bealtaine 2013, i gcomhpháirtíocht le hOifig Eolais Pharlaimint na hEorpa.

Díríodh sa chomhdháil ar na dúshláin reatha maidir le rannpháirtíocht pholaitiúil do dhaoine faoi mhíchumais, lena n-áirítear seasamh i dtoghcháin, bainteacht i bpáirtithe polaitiúil, agus vótáil. Ba é an Ró-Onórach David Blunkett, Teachta Parlaiminte an príomhchainteoir.

Tionóladh seimineár eile ar ‘Teacht ar Vótálaithe faoi Mhíchumais (Reaching Voters with Disabilities) ag oifigí Parlaimint na hEorpa i mBaile Átha Cliath an 2 Nollaig 2013. Thacaigh an seimineár le tacú le baill foirne lena chinntiú go mbeadh rochtain sna feachtais le haghaidh na dtoghchán áitiúil agus Eorpach 2014 ar gach vótála, lena n-áirítear vótálaithe faoi mhíchumais.

6. Creat agus caighdeán dearbhaithe cáilíochta

Caighdeán Eatramhacha le haghaidh Seirbhísí Lae Aosach

Foilsíodh athbhreithniú Seirbhísí Lae Aosach an FSS dar Teideal ‘New Directions’ i mí Feabhra 2012. Is éard atá beartaithe leis seo samhail úr seirbhíse ina gcuirtear béim ar thacaíocht do dhaoine faoi mhíchumais a bheith rannpháirteach i ngníomhaíochtaí príomhshrutha sa phobal. Déantar ionadaíocht ar son an Údaráis Náisiúnta Míchumais ar an ngrúpa um chur i bhfeidhm. Faoin bplean cur i bhfeidhm, iarradh ar an Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais dréacht-Chaighdeán Eatramhacha a fhorbairt don tsamhail úr atá leagtha amach in ‘New Directions’, i gcomhar le foghrúpa de chuid an ghrúpa um chur i bhfeidhm. Áiríodh ar an obair sin sraith grúpaí fócais réigiúnacha le daoine a úsáideann seirbhísí lae aosach le bonn eolais a chur faoi fhorbairt na ndréacht-Chaighdeán Eatramhach. Táthar ag súil go mbeidh an dréacht-Chaighdeán Eatramhacha foilsithe don chéad leath de 2014.

Dréacht-Phlean Corparáideach an Údaráis um Fhaisnéis agus Cáilíocht Sláinte 2013–2015

D’fhoilsigh an tÚdarás um Fhaisnéis agus Cáilíocht Sláinte 2013–2015 a nDréacht-Phlean Corparáideach 2013-2015 le haghaidh comhairliúchán poiblí in 2013. Rinne an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais aighneacht leis an Údarás um Fhaisnéis agus Cáilíocht Sláinte mar fhreagairt don chomhairliúchán poiblí seo.

Na dréacht-Rialacháin um an Acht Sláinte 2007 (Cúram agus Tacaíocht Cónaitheoirí i Lárionaid Ainmnithe do Dhaoine (Leanaí agus Aosaigh) faoi mhíchumais) 2013

Rinne an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais aighneacht in 2013 leis an Roinn sláinte mar fhreagairt dá gcomhairliúchán ar na dréacht-Rialacháin um an Acht Sláinte 2007 (Cúram agus Tacaíocht Cónaitheoirí i Lárionaid Ainmnithe do Dhaoine (Leanaí agus Aosaigh) faoi mhíchumais) 2013

7. Teileachúram agus teileashláinte

Leanadh le hobair i dtaca le taighde a choimisiúnú chun breathnú ar chórais agus ar bheartais eispéireas náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta i dtaca le teileachúram agus teileashláinte, agus leas a bhaint as an bhfoghlaim d’Éirinn. Tá tuarascáil le foilsiú in 2014.

Tosaíocht straitéiseach 3: Dearadh Uilíoch den chomhshaol

“Sármhaitheas i ndearadh uilíoch a chur chun cinn chun rannpháirtíocht uasta i sochaí na hÉireann a éascú”

Prionsabail um dhearadh uilíoch a chur chun cinn i gcomhthéacs Éireannach

Taighde ar Dhearadh Uilíoch Campais Oideachais Chomhroinnte

Leanadh le hobair ar an taighde a choimisiúnaigh an NDA i dtaca leis an dea-chleachtas náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta comhaimseartha ar Champais Oideachais agus fócas trasna na Saolré, ag scrúdú an dóigh a gcuireann Dearadh Uilíoch bonn eolais faoi dhearadh na gcampas sin in Éirinn do dhaoine d’aois, de mhéid agus de chumas nó de mhíchumas ar bith. Is é aschur an taighde treoir a thabhairt do bheartas náisiúnta agus bonn eolais a chur faoi threoir dearaidh phraiticiúil. Tá an lárionad ag obair go dlúth leis an Roinn Sláinte ar a chuid oibre. Coimisiúnaigh an taighde sin in 2012 agus tá sé seo le críochnú in 2014.

Taighde maidir le spásanna agus Dromchlaí Comhroinnte

Foilsíodh tuarascáil ar an taighde a choimisiúnaigh an NDA maidir le cleachtais agus smaointeoireacht náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta chomhaimseartha ar spásanna comhroinnte agus dromchlaí comhroinnte agus “criosanna baile” i Meán Fómhair 2012. Chuir Lárionad Sármhaitheasa i nDearadh Uilíoch (LSDU) an Údaráis Náisiúnta Míchumais an Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt ar an eolas faoin bhfoghlaim ón taighde i dtaca leis an Lámhleabhar Dearaidh faoi Bhóithre agus faoi Shráideanna Uirbeacha. Cuirfidh an obair bonn eolais faoin bplé leanúnach le húdaráis áitiúla fosta maidir le treoirthionscadal ó pheirspictíocht spáis chomhroinnte.

Taighde um innealtóireacht táirge agus próiseas Dearaidh Uilíoch

Tá fócas an taighde dochtúireachta cómhaoinithe (an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais agus Comhairle na hÉireann um Thaighde Fuinnimh) ar chóras rátála Dearaidh Uilíoch a shainiú. Rinne taighdeoir ailtireachta ó Choláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath scrúdú ar an réimse seo agus go sonrach,

an dóigh a bhféadfadh sé oibriú cosúil leis gcóras Rátála Fuinnimh Foirgnimh atá i bhfeidhm in Éirinn cheana in 2013. Cuireadh an obair sin i gcrích i Meán Fómhair 2013 agus cuireadh ar aghaidh í lena scrúdú i gColáiste na Tríonóide. Seachadfar toradh an tráchtais sin in 2014.

Uirlis Iniúchóireachta Dearaidh Uilíoch le haghaidh Bóithre agus Sráideanna

Chuir an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais tús le planáil le haghaidh tionscadal oibre chun treoir a thabhairt d'fhorbairt Uirlis Iniúchóireachta Dearaidh Uilíoch le haghaidh Bóithre agus Sráideanna i ndeireadh 2013. Tá sé beartaithe an Uirlis Iniúchóireachta a úsáid in éineacht leis an Lámhleabhar Dearaidh le haghaidh Bóithre agus Sráideanna (LDBS) a foilsíodh le déanaí ón Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt. Bhí próiseas tairisceana i gceist leis sin. Tá an NDA ag leanúint d'oibriú leis an bhfoireann LDBS agus Rannán Bóithre na Roinne Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt chun an obair fhorbartha seo a chur ar aghaidh in 2014.

Comhairle agus cúnaimh a tabhairt maidir le caighdeán um dhearadh uilíoch a fhorbairt

Cur i gcrích agus lainseáil an Dearaidh Uilíoch i gCaighdeán agus Foirne Uirlis um Bainteacht Custaiméirí

D'oibrigh Lárionad Sármhaitheasa i nDearadh Uilíoch an Údaráis Náisiúnta Míchumais i gcomhar leis an Údarás Comhionannais leis an Údarás um Chaighdeán Náisiúnta, Fáilte Éireann agus príomhpháirtithe leasmhara san earnáil Iompair agus Turasóireachta (Ranna Rialtais, gníomhaireachtaí stáit, an earnáil phríobháideach agus úsáideoirí deiridh) i nDearadh Uilíoch NSAI, IS 373 le haghaidh an chaighdeán um Bainteacht Custaiméirí i Seirbhísí Turasóireachta a fhorbairt. Lainseáladh caighdeán an chéad domhain seo den chineál seo ag seimineár arna óstáil i gcomhar le hUachtaránacht na hÉireann ar an Aontas Eorpach i mí na Bealtaine, 2013. Cuireadh an caighdeán seo ar fáil saor in aisce do os cionn 18,000 Soláthraí Seirbhíse Turasóireachta agus tá sraith Foirne Uirlisí ag gabháil leis. D'fhorbair an lárionad an tsraith foirne uirlisí le bonn eolais a chur faoin earnáil soláthair fuinnimh agus faoin earnáil turasóireachta ar an dóigh leis an gcur chuige Dearaidh Uilíoch a chur i bhfeidhm chun feabhas a chur ar bhainteacht custaiméirí lena seirbhísí. Soláthraítear samplaí praiticiúla, leideanna, seicliostaí agus uirlisí eile d'úsáid soláthraithe fuinnimh agus turasóireachta san fhoireann uirlisí. Taispeánann an treoir an dóigh le cumarsáid a dhéanamh níos éasca le rochtain, le tuiscint agus le húsáid ag gach custaiméir. Cumhdaítear cumarsáid i scríbhinn iontu amhail foirmeacha

agus bileoga, cumarsáid duine le duine agus cumarsáid teileafóin chomh maith le córais chumarsáide bunaithe ar an ngréasáin.

San earnáil fuinnimh, rinne Airtricity cur i láthair ag Comhdháil Rochtana Bhliantúil an NDA maidir leis na tairbhí gnó atá bainte amach acu i ndiaidh cur chuig Dearaidh Uilíoch. Mar shampla, rinne Airtricity an córas roghchláir a athdhearadh ar a gcóras teileafón seirbhíse custaiméirí um Fhreagairt Gutha Idirghníomhaigh (IVR). Laghdaigh sé sin an méid ama a ghlac sé le labhairt le gníomhaire 60% agus chuir sé feabhas suntasach ar shásamh custaiméirí maidir lena seirbhís teileafóin do chustaiméirí.

Tá na Foirne Uirlisí ar fáil lena n-íoslódáil saor in aisce ag:

- <http://UniversalDesign.ie/Energy>
- <http://UniversalDesign.ie/Tourism>

Treoirlínte idirnáisiúnta maidir le caighdeán — Treoir 71

Lean Lárionad Sármhaitheasa i nDearadh Uilíoch an Údaráis Náisiúnta Míchumais lena chuid oibre mar shaineolaí ar an gComhghrúpa Comhairle Theicniúil a bhfuil an príomhdhoiciméad idirnáisiúnta maidir le hinrochtaine d'fhorbróirí caighdeán, Treoirlínte chun Inrochtaine i gCaighdeáin a Phlé, ar a dtugtar Treoir ISO/IEC 71 á thabhairt chun dáta agus á athscríobh aige. Go sonrach, rinne an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais ábhar ar Dhearadh Uilíoch, Aicmiú Idirnáisiúnta na hEagraíochta Sláinte Domhanda um Fheidhmiú (ICF), agus antrapaiméadracht (ar mhéid an duine) a chomhtháthú.

An Caighdeán Eorpach (EN) agus an Fhoireann Uirlisí Soláthair le haghaidh TFC Inrochtana

Lean Lárionad Sármhaitheasa i nDearadh Uilíoch an Údaráis Náisiúnta Míchumais le cion a chur le forbairt an chéad Chaighdeáin Eorpaigh (EN) maidir le teicneolaíocht inrochtana, EN 301 549 'Ceanglais inrochtaine oiriúnach do sholáthar poiblí táirgí agus seirbhísí TFC san Eoraip'. Mar a thugann an t-ainm le tuiscint tá an Caighdeán barrfheabhsaithe lena úsáid chun ceanglais inrochtaine a shainiú i soláthairtí poiblí TFC. Dhírigh cion an Lárionaid Sármhaitheasa i nDearadh Uilíoch ar fhorbairt Foireann Uirlisí ar líne ina soláthraítear rochtain agus comhairle struchtúrtha maidir leis an gCaighdeán a úsáid.

Déantar tagairt don EN 301 549 "Ceanglais inrochtaine oiriúnach do sholáthar poiblí táirgí agus seirbhísí TFC san Eoraip" cheana mar 'caighdeán comhchuibhithe' i ndrúcht-togra an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh maidir le hinrochtaineacht an ghréasáin agus táthar ag súil go ndéanfar tagairt de san

Acht Eorpach um Inrochtaineacht (European Accessibility Act) arna fhoilsiú ag an gCoimisiún Eorpach.

Tá EN 301 549 ‘Ceanglais inrochtaine oiriúnach do sholáthar poiblí táirgí agus seirbhísí TFC san Eoraip’ ar fáil le híoslódáil ag <http://www.etsi.org/news-events/news/754-new-european-standard-on-accessibility-requirements-for-public-procurement-of-ict-products-and-services>

Caighdeán Eorpach: Sainordú M/473

Toghadh Lárionad Sármhaitheasa i nDearadh Uilíoch an Údaráis Náisiúnta Míchumais mar chathaoirleach ar Shainordú M/473 an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh um Dhearadh do Chách in 2013. Baineann an chuid den Sainordú M/473 a bheidh faoi chathaoirleacht an NDA le caighdeán úr (nó táirge insoláthartha imleor) a fhorbairt ina dtabharfaí aghaidh ar phróiseas deartha, forbartha agus táirgthe na déantúsaíochta earraí agus soláthair seirbhíse sna réimsí tosaíochta ina gcuirfí síos ar an dóigh a mbreathnófaí ar inrochtaine do dhaoine faoi mhíchumais agus do dhaoine scothaosta i ndiaidh cur chuige um Dhearadh do Chách (Dearadh Uilíoch).

Treoirlínte a tháirgeadh chun tacú a thabhairt le dearadh uilíoch a bhaint amach chun feabhas a chur ar an gcáilíocht beatha agus chun neamhspleáchas a chur chun cinn

Taispeántí intí le haghaidh córais mhéadráithe chliste

In 2012, d’fhógair an Coimisiún um Rialáil Fuinnimh (CER) go bhfuil sé beartaithe méadair chliste leictreachais agus gáis a chur i bhfeidhm ar fud na hÉireann idir 2016 agus 2019. Mar chuid d’fheidhmiú céimneach na méadar cliste seo, gheobhaidh gach custaiméir tí Taispeánt Intí a bheidh ábalta faisnéis gar don fhíor-ama a thaispeánt maidir lena n-ídiú fuinnimh.

Choimisiúnaigh an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais taighde agus forbairt treoirlínte teicniúla le haghaidh Dearadh Uilíoch Taispeántí Intí. Tugadh faoi phróiseas trí chéim inar cuimsíodh athbhreithniú litríochta, tástáil inúsáidteachta agus comhairliúchán le príomhpháirtithe leasmhara. Lainseáladh tuarascáil an taighde agus na treoirlínte teicniúla in 2013 agus tá siad foilsithe ar <http://UniversalDesign.ie>.

Treoirlínte tithe dearaidh uilíoch

Leanadh den obair choimisiúnaithe chun treoirlínte a fhorbairt do thithe dearaidh uilíoch— “Treoirlínte do Thithe Dearaidh Uilíoch d’Éirinn”—

tithe atá oiriúnach do dhaoine d'aoiseanna éagsúla, de mhéideanna éagsúla, de chumais éagsúla nó de mhíchumais éagsúla agus atá éasca le hoiriúnú do chéimeanna beatha éagsúla agus cuireadh i gcrích í in 2013. Tá sé beartaithe go mbeadh na treoirlínte sin oiriúnach do gach teach agus do gach árasán. Cuireadh tús leis an gcéad chéim eile a bhaineann le Measúnú Costais ar na Tithe Dearaidh Uilíoch in 2013 agus tá sé le críochnú in 2014.

Dearadh baile do dhaoine a bhfuil néaltrú orthu

Leanadh le hobair ar thaighde agus ar threoir um dhearadh a choimisiúnaigh an NDA maidir le dearadh tí do dhaoine a bhfuil néaltrú orthu.

Tabharfar aghaidh sa Treoir um Thaighde, Moltaí agus Dearadh ar riachtanais teaghlaigh agus cúramóirí daoine a bhfuil néaltrú orthu. Coimisiúnaigh an obair seo i ndeireadh 2012 agus críochnófar í in 2014.

Taighde Tacaithe

Tá tionscadal taighde iar-dhochtúireachta agus dochtúireachta á mhaoirsiú agus á thacú ag an Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais faoin scéim “Taighde Comhpháirtíocht Fiontraíochta” de chuid Chomhairle na hÉireann um Thaighde.

Gníomhú le comhlachtaí oideachais agus creidiúnaithe chun dearadh uilíoch a leabú ina gcúrsaí

Feidhmiú céimneach modúil ar Dhearadh Uilíoch don churaclam tríú leibhéal

Cuireadh tús le hobair ar chlár um fheidhmiú céimneach ábhair churaclaim maidir le Dearadh Uilíoch a forbraíodh lena úsáid i gcúrsaí tríú leibhéal innealtóireachta, ailtireachta, teicneolaíochta agus dearaidh. Áiríodh ar na gníomhaíochtaí roinnt aoi-léachtaí a thabhairt ar Dhearadh Uilíoch do mhic léinn agus cur i láthair ar an modúl d'oideoirí ag imeachtaí oideachais ábhartha. Oibríodh le roinnt scileanna innealtóireachta, eolaíocht ríomhaireachta, ailtireachta agus dearadh táirgí chun scrúdú a dhéanamh ar an dóigh le Dearadh Uilíoch a chuimsiú i gcúrsaí agus i modúil ábhartha. Síníodh Meabhrán Tuisceana leis an Rannóg Ríomhaireachta agus Matamaitice in Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Dhún Dealgan, a bhfuil tús curtha aici le Dearadh Uilíoch a chuimsiú ina cúrsaí eolaíocht ríomhaireachta ar leibhéal téamach.

Is féidir féachaint ar shampla d'ábhair churaclaim ar chainéal YouTube an Údaráis Náisiúnta Míchumais: <https://YouTube.com/user/NatDisabilityAuth>. Dar teideal “Meet the Normals”, cuireann an bheochan seo léargas ar fáil do mhic léinn maidir leis an réasúnaíocht le haghaidh Dearadh Uilíoch, agus maidir le próiseas an Dearaidh Uilíoch.

Dearadh Uilíoch don churaclam dara leibhéal

Lean Lárionad Sármhaitheasa i nDearadh Uilíoch an Údaráis Náisiúnta Míchumais ag obair i dtreo modúl curaclaim Dearaidh Uilíoch a fhorbairt lena úsáid i scoileanna dara leibhéal. Tabharfar tús eolais sa churaclam do mhic léinn dara leibhéal maidir le cleachtais um Dhearadh Uilíoch réitithe fadhbanna úsáideoir-lárnach a dhearadh. Tá tionscadal ar siúl chun Cúrsa Gairid ar Dhearadh Uilíoch a ullmhú agus a fheidhmiú go céimneach don dara leibhéal a bheidh ailínithe le Creat Sraithe Sóisearaí na Comhairle Náisiúnta Curaclaim agus Measúnachta.

Feasacht agus tuiscint i leith cleachtadh ar dhearadh uilíoch a chur chun cinn.

Obair ghradam

Gradam um Dhearadh Uilíoch IRAÉ

Chomhoibrigh Lárionad Sármhaitheasa i nDearadh Uilíoch an Údaráis Náisiúnta Míchumais le hInstitiúid Ríoga Ailtirí na hÉireann (IRAÉ) chun Gradam um Dhearadh Uilíoch IRAÉ a lainseáil mar chuid de Gradaim bhliantúla Ailtireachta na hÉireann de chuid an IRAÉ. Bhí seacht n-iontráil ann agus comhbhronn Stiúrthóir an Údaráis Náisiúnta Míchumais agus Uachtarán an IRAÉ an gradam ag imeacht Gradam 2013 an IRAÉ. Bhuaigh Lárionad Mic Léinn an Choláiste Ollscoile, Bhaile Átha Cliath le Fitzgerald Kavanagh and Partners an Gradam Dearaidh Uilíoch agus Rogha Poiblí araon. Bhí an t-ailtire agus Ollamh Emeritus Hubert Froyen ón mBeilg ina chathaoirleach ar an gcoiste don ghradam.

Scéimeanna gradam — Gradam an IDÉ um Dhearadh Uilíoch 2013

Chomhoibrigh Lárionad Sármhaitheasa i nDearadh Uilíoch an Údaráis Náisiúnta Míchumais le tionscadal de chuid Institiúid Dearthóirí Éireann (IDÉ) chun gnóthachtálacha atá bainte amach ag dearthóirí Éireannacha a thabhairt chun suntais le taispeántas dar teideal “Tionchar a Imirt le Dearadh Uilíoch”. Chomhbhronn an NDA Gradam náisiúnta an IDÉ um Dhearadh Uilíoch 2013. Ba é coiste idirnáisiúnta a roghnaigh Gradam an IDÉ um Dhearadh Uilíoch ag baint leas as critéir dhearaidh bunaithe ar na 7 bprionsabal agus 29 treoirínite maidir le Dearadh Uilíoch.

Gradam um Rochtain Chathrach

Thacaigh an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais le húdaráis áitiúla Éireannacha chun páirt a ghlacadh i scéim ghradam an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh trí cheardlann a óstáil in 2013 d'údaráis áitiúla cathracha Éireannacha incháilithe. D'fhreastail cúig cinn de na sé chathair incháilithe ar an gceardlann, agus thug láithreoirí an NDA agus an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh mionteagasc díobh maidir le sonraí na scéime gradam. Thug Comhairle Contae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas mionteagasc don lucht freastail ar a rannpháirtíocht rathúil le Tamhlacht in 2012.

An chomhdháil maidir le “Seirbhísí Poiblí a dhéanamh inrochtana”

Tionóladh ár gcomhdháil maidir le “Seirbhísí Poiblí a dhéanamh inrochtana” i nDeireadh Fómhair i mBaile Átha Cliath. Chuir Ben Terrett (Ceann um Dhearadh) agus Joshua Marshall (Ceann Forbartha agus Inrochtaine) ó Sheirbhís Dhigiteach Rialtais Oifig an Caibinéid síos ar a suíomh gréasáin “gov.uk” agus a dtionscadal úr “Assisted Digital” a bhfuil duaiseanna buaite ina leith. Phléigh Fiona Hannon an dóigh a n-úsáideann Airtricity Dearadh Uilíoch chun feabhas a chur ar an dóigh a bhfreastalaíonn siad ar chustaiméirí. Chuir foireann de chuid an Údaráis Náisiúnta Míchumais a dhoiciméad treorach “Soláthar agus Inrochtaine” agus foirne uirlisí “Dearaidh Uilíoch le haghaidh rannpháirtíocht custaiméirí” i láthair. Mhínigh Bernie McNally, an tArd-Stiúrthóir in Oifig an Ombudsman, an dóigh a bhféadann comhlachtaí poiblí saoránaigh a chur an eolas níos fearr faoina gcearta agus faoi nósanna imeachta gearán faoin Acht um Míchumas 2005.

Seimineár ar Inrochtaineacht an Ghréasáin faoi Fhóram Míchumais na hEorpa

Dé Sathairn an 23 Feabhra 2013 thionóil an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais i gcomhair le Fóram Míchumais na hEorpa comhsheimineár dar teideal “Inrochtaineacht Suíomhanna Gréasáin Poiblí - peirspictíochtaí reachtaíochta agus praiticiúla”. Shonraigh an seimineár ócáid chruinniú ginearálta bliantúil an EDF i mBaile Átha Cliath chomh maith le hUachtaránacht na hÉireann ar Chomhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh (AE). Díríodh ann ar inrochtaineacht an ghréasáin i gcomhthéacs an togra le haghaidh treoir AE ar inrochtaineacht suíomhanna gréasáin poiblí a d'fhoilsigh an Coimisiún Eorpach. Ba é an tUas. Pat Rabbitte, T.D., an tAire Cumarsáide, Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nádúrtha a d'oscail an seimineár.

Ag leanúint ar an seimineár, choimisiúnaigh an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais taighde maidir le hullmhacht na mBallstát na ceanglais arna

sainiú i ndrucht reatha na Treorach a chomhlíonadh. Foilseofar an tuarascáil seo in 2014 le comhtharlú le léamh an drucht-togra ag Comhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh.

An seimineár “Rochtain ar vótálaithe faoi mhíchumais”

Chuir foireann de chuid an Údaráis Náisiúnta Míchumais an seimineár “Rochtain ar vótálaithe faoi mhíchumais” i láthair in Oifig Eolais Pharlaimint na hEorpa i mBaile Átha Cliath. I measc topaicí eile tá “Ábhair phleanála agus phriontála toghcháin”, “Cumarsáid mheánach shóisialta agus ar líne”, agus “Teilifís/fís chraolacháin - rochtain ar an lucht éisteachta/féachana is leithne”. Bhí an seimineár do dhaoine atá freagrach as teachtaireachtaí a chur chuig vótálaithe, trí ábhair thoghcháin, suíomhanna gréasáin, na meáin chumarsáide, craolacháin pholaitiúla agus uirlisí eile cumarsáide. Bhí sé d’aidhm leis an seimineár an dóigh lena chinntiú go mbeadh an vótálaí amháin as seacht vótálaí atá faoi chumais ábalta á n-ábhair agus a dteachtaireachtaí a rochtain a theagasc do pháirtithe polaitiúla.

Cur i láthair ag comhdhálacha agus seimineáir

D’óstáil Lárionad Sármhaitheasa i nDearadh Uilíoch an Údaráis Náisiúnta Míchumais sraith seimineár agus thug siad cur i láthair ag seimineáir/comhdhálacha éagsúla chun feasacht agus tuiscint a chruthú maidir le dearadh uilíoch agus a ghlacadh ag páirtithe leasmhara a chur chun cinn lena n-áirítear cur i láthair ar Dhearadh Uilíoch agus an timpeallacht thógtha. I measc na n-eagraíochtaí bhí Engineers Ireland, ABX Expo Boston 2013 (ó chuireadh ón Institute of Human Centred Design), Comhairle na hÉireann um Thithíocht Shóisialta, Institiúid Rialála Tógála na hÉireann, an Scoil Ailtireachta, Ollscoil Luimnigh.

Tosaíocht straitéiseach 4: Eagraíocht éifeachtúil agus éifeachtach

“Timpeallacht, tacaí, beartais agus córais a fhorbairt lena chur ar chumas an Údaráis Náisiúnta Míchumais a chuspóirí straitéiseacha a sheachadadh go héifeachtúil.”

Le linn 2013, lean an NDA lena chumas a choimeád agus oibriú chun é a fhorbairt mar eagraíocht éifeachtúil chun clár oibre iomlán a sheachadadh ar aon dul le tosaíochtaí straitéiseacha agus cloí le ceanglais reachtúla agus rialála.

De dheasca chur i bhfeidhm Chomhaontú Cobhsaíochta na Seirbhíse Poiblí (2013-2016) bhí athruithe suntasacha ann don fhoireann i lár 2013. Áiríodh air sin cuireadh síneadh ar uaireanta oibre don fhoireann agus athruithe i rátaí pá.

Córais agus cumarsáid éifeachtúil agus éifeachtach a chinntiú chun cuspóirí a sheachadadh ar ardchaighdeán

Taighde Suíomhanna Gréasáin

Leanadh le hobair in 2013 chun bonn eolais a chur faoi fhorbairt shuíomhanna gréasáin an NDA — www.nda.ie agus www.UniversalDesign.ie — ionas go mbeidh siad ina n-eiseamláirí inrochtaineachta agus úsáidteachta. Áiríodh air sin taighde a dhéanamh le húsáideoirí chun treoir a thabhairt do dhearadh na suíomhanna a lainseálfar in 2014.

Seirbhís Phriontála Bhainistithe

Tá leas á bhaint ag an NDA as an tseirbhís roinnte tacaíocht airgeadais agus an tseirbhís roinnte tacaíocht TF ón Roinn Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais ar feadh na mblianta. Le linn 2013, bhain an NDA leas as an tseirbhís phriontála bhainistithe úr atá á cur i bhfeidhm faoin Roinn mar chuid de na bearta leanúnacha chun coigiltis a shainiú. Bhain sé sin le suiteáil chéimnithe gléasanna priontála/cóipeála úra san eagraíocht, ar a raibh córas bainistíochta priontála níos cuíchóirithe agus níos cost-éifeachtúla ar an iomlán mar thoradh air.

Cumarsáid sheachtrach éifeachtúil a chinntiú

Nuachtlitir

D'fhoilsigh an NDA nuachtlitir ráithiúil thar 2013 a seoladh ar an ríomhphost chuig thar 2,000 síntiúsóir gach ráithe. Chuir an nuachtlitir faisnéis ar fáil maidir le forbairtí oibre sna réimsí beartais, taighde, caighdeán agus dearaidh uilíoch. Is féidir cóipeanna den nuachtlitir a fháil ar ár suíomh gréasáin www.nda.ie.

Leabharlann a choimeád chun treoir a thabhairt do thaighde agus do bheartas míchumais agus dearaidh uilíoch

Tá os cionn 50,000 mír inár leabharlann maidir le míchumas, inrochtaine agus ábhair ghaolmhara. Áirítear ar an mbailiúchán leabhair, ríomhírisí, irisí cló, nuachtlitreacha, DVDanna, físeáin agus CD-ROManna. Tacaíonn sé le forbairt chomhairle bunaithe ar fhianaise trí chuardach litríochta don fhoireann. Tá an leabharlann ar oscailt beagnach gach Déardaoin don phobal i gcoitinne. Thar 2013, d'fhreagair foireann na leabharlainne os cionn 400 fiosrú, lena n-áirítear cuardach litríochta don fhoireann, iarratais ar airteagail, iasachtaí, athnuachan agus fiosruithe ón bhfoireann agus ón bpobal i gcoitinne. Seachadadh oiliúint don fhoireann fosta maidir le cuardach litríochta a dhéanamh.

An Straitéis Acmhainní Daonna agus beartais chomhlántacha a chur i bhfeidhm, chun tacú leis an bhfoireann leis an bplean straitéiseach agus cláir oibre bhliantúla a sheachadadh agus cultúr oibre dearfach a chothú

Straitéis Acmhainní Daonna

Faoin tiomantas sa straitéis chun “ardmheanma i measc na foirne” a chothú agus óstáladh sraith seimineáir am lóin ar ábhair lena n-áirítear cúrsaí pearsanta airgid, feasacht ar shláinte mheabhrach, ithe le haghaidh fuinnimh agus cothromaíocht oibre is saoil. D'fhreastail a lán daoine ar na seisiúin sin agus bhí an t-aiseolas ón bhfoireann an-dearfach.

Oiliúint agus Forbairt

I dtús 2013 cuireadh an oiliúint um fhorbairt ceannaireachta do bhainisteoirí sinsearacha agus láir agus an oiliúint um bainistíocht líne i gcrích. De dheasca sheachadadh na hoiliúna sin, agus seisiún oiliúna ar bhainistíocht freastail, cumasaíodh cur i bhfeidhm deiridh an bheartais um

bainistíocht freastail ar a cuireadh feabhas ar aon dul le hathchóirithe na hearnála poiblí.

Coiste Comhpháirtíochta

Bhuail ár gcoiste comhpháirtíochta le chéile 6 huairé in 2013. Áiríodh ar obair an Choimisiúin athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar an Scéim phiólótach um Moltaí don Fhoireann do 2014, Feasachán Comhpháirtíochta don Fhoireann a tháirgeadh agus a eisiúint, cuidiú le haitheantas tionscnamh sóisialta faoi chlár meanma na foirne agus breithniú ar obair an NDA i dtaca le fuinneamh, rochtain, plean gníomhaíochta custaiméirí agus feabhas a chur ar bhainistíocht tionscadal.

Seachadadh éifeachtúil freagrachtaí reachtúla agus rialála a chinntiú

Airgeadas agus rialachas

Ar aon dul leis an Acht um Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais, 1999, rinne an NDA cuntais airgeadais do 2012 a ullmhú agus a chur isteach iad chuig an Ard-Reachtair Cuntas agus Ciste. Faomhadh na cuntais agus dá réir sin cuireadh isteach chuig an Aire iad mar chuid den Tuarascáil Bhliantúil i mí Mheán Fómhair 2013.

Ar aon dul le dea-rialachas bhuail Coistí Airgeadais Iniúchóireachta ceaptha an Údaráis le chéile go rialta le linn 2013. Bhuail an Coiste Iniúchóireachta le chéile 3 huairé le linn 2013. Chuir sé a thuarascáil i láthair an Údaráis i mí na Nollag 2013 i dtaca lena chuid oibre ar athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar an dul chun cinn a bhí déanta ag an Feidhmeannach maidir lena moltaí ar iniúchtaí neamhspleácha ar rialuithe airgeadais, bainistíocht tionscadal agus sócmhainní seasta a chur i bhfeidhm. Le linn 2013, thug sé comhairle chomh maith maidir lena athbhreithniú ar chlár bainistíochta riosca an NDA. Bhuail an Coiste Airgeadais le chéile 7 n-uairé i rith 2013 agus lean siad le monatóireacht agus tuairisciú a dhéanamh ar chaiteachas ag an bhFeidhmeannach.

Cóiríocht

Chuir an NDA iarratas isteach ar chead pleanála le 2 urlár ar fhoirgneamh cúil a chuid oifigí a choinneáil lena n-úsáid mar is cuí. Faomhadh é sin faoi dheireadh na bliana faoi réir achomhairc ar bith.

Fuinneamh

Tá an NDA tiomanta do choigiltis fuinnimh a chinntiú agus in 2013 d'oibrigh sé le hÚdarás Fuinnimh Inmharthana na hÉireann (ÚFIÉ) i dtaca lena Chlár Comhpháirtíocht Bainistíochta Fuinnimh Earnála Poiblí.

Bhain sé sin le rochtain ar shaineolaí de chuid Chlár Comhairle, Meantóireachta agus Measúnaithe an ÚFIÉ a chuaigh i gcomhairle le hOifigeach Fuinnimh ainmnithe agus foireann tacaíthe an NDA i dtaca le measúnuithe ar ídiú fuinnimh chomh maith le comhairle a thabhairt maidir le forbairt Plean Gníomhaíochta um Bainistíocht Fuinnimh agus Feachtas um Fheasacht Fuinnimh a chuirfear chun cinn in 2014.

D'fhreastail an tOifigeach Fuinnimh agus an fhoireann tacaíochta ar oiliúint Monatóireachta agus Tuairiscithe an ÚFIÉ agus chláraigh an NDA a ídiú fuinnimh le clár Monatóireachta agus Tuairiscithe an ÚFIÉ. Bhí coigiltis bainte amach cheana ó chur i bhfeidhm cláir coigilte costais maidir le hídiú fuinnimh, iompar agus córais TF.

Bearta a Rinneadh in 2013

In 2013 rinne an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumas raon gníomhaíochtaí chun feabhas a chur ar ár bhfeidhmíocht fuinnimh, lena n-áirítear:

- Feabhas a chur ar a chleachtais um monatóireacht agus bainistíocht fuinnimh

Leo seo agus bearta sábhála fuinnimh eile le chéile, tá 23500 MWh á shábháil ag an Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumas gach bliain.

Bearta atá Beartaithe le haghaidh 2014

In 2014 – 2015 tá sé beartaithe ag an Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumas tuilleadh feabhais a chur ar ár bhfeidhmíocht fuinnimh trí na tionscnaimh seo a leanas a dhéanamh:

- Clár (cláir) um fheasacht fuinnimh a chur i bhfeidhm
- Feabhas a chur ar fheidhmíocht fuinnimh a chórais (a chóras) soilsiithe
- Feabhas a chur ar fheidhmíocht fuinnimh a chórais (a chóras) TFC.

Oifigeach Rochtana

Lean Oifigeach Rochtana an NDA, a ceapadh ar aon dul leis an Acht um Míchumas, le cúnamh cuí a threorú agus a eagrú do dhaoine faoi mhíchumais a raibh fáil acu ar shaoráidí, imeachtaí agus suíomh gréasáin an NDA in 2013. Tá sonraí maidir le conas teagmháil a dhéanamh leis an Oifigeach Rochtana leagtha amach ar leathanach baile shuíomhanna gréasáin an NDA.

Aguisín 1: An tÚdarás agus coistí eile in 2013

Comhaltaí den Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais in 2013

Comhalta	Líon na gcruinnithe ar ar freastalaíodh (tionóladh 8 gcruinniú)
Peter Mc Kevitt, Cathaoirleach	9
Caroline Burrell	9
Frank Cunneen	9
Tara Cunningham	5
James O'Grady	7
Fiona Duignan	4
Linda Grealay	6
Shane Hogan	8
David Joyce	7
Des Kenny	7
Mary Lavelle	8
Joanne McCarthy	3
Donie O'Leary (arna cheapadh in Eanáir 2013)	7

An Coiste Iniúchóireachta

- Donal Lawlor (Cathaoirleach)
- Robert Cashell
- Frank Cunneen
- Des Kenny

An Coiste Airgeadais

- Frank Cunneen (Cathaoirleach)
- Caroline Burrell
- David Joyce

- Des Kenny
- David Scott
- Pat Fitzsimons (ceaptha Márta 2012)

Fochoiste na Straitéise Náisiúnta Míchumais

- Shane Hogan (Cathaoirleach)
- Tara Cunningham
- James O'Grady
- David Joyce
- Mary Lavelle
- Joanne McCarthy

Aguisín 2: Ionadaíocht ar chomhlachtaí seachtracha in 2013

An earnáil phoiblí:

An Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige

- An Chomhairle Chomhairleach Náisiúnta um Leanaí

An Roinn Cumarsáide, Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nádúrtha

- Coiste Monatóireachta an Phlean Earnála agus Chuid 5

An Coimisiún um Rialáil Cumarsáide

- Painéal Idirchaidrimh Tomhaltóirí
- Fóram Tionscail ar Sheirbhísí do Dhaoine faoi Mhíchumas

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna

- An Chomhairle Náisiúnta um Oideachas Speisialta
- Fóram Comhairleach na Comhairle Náisiúnta um Oideachas Speisialta

An Roinn Comhshaoil, Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil

- Grúpa monatóireachta ar chur i bhfeidhm na Straitéise Tithíochta do Dhaoine faoi Mhíchumais

Uisce Éireann

- Fóram Páirtithe Leasmhara

An Roinn Sláinte

- Grupa um Chur i bhFeidhm ar Athbhreithniú um Luach ar Airgead agus Beartais na Seirbhísí Míchumais
- Grúpa Athbhreithnithe Tionscadal maidir le Liúntas So-áistritheachta agus Deontas Iompair Mótair
- Grúpa Stiúrtha um Bunachair Shonraí Náisiúnta Míchumais

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte

- Fóram Náisiúnta Comhairleach

- Grúpa um chur i bhfeidhm ar “Time to move on from Congregated Settings’
- Grúpa um chur i bhfeidhm ar ‘New Directions’

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais

- Coiste Monatóireachta Chuid 5

Cosc

- Comhlacht náisiúnta comhairleach maidir le foréigean baile, inscne-bhunaithe ar inscne agus gnéis in éadan ban
- Coiste Stiúrtha Náisiúnta maidir le foréigean in éadan ban

An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí

- Fóram Comhairleach Míchumais
- Grúpa Athbhreithnithe um Liúntas Cúram Tí

Seirbhís Náisiúnta Abhcóideachta do Dhaoine faoi Mhíchumais

- Bord na Seirbhíse Náisiúnta Abhcóideachta
- Grúpa Comhairleach ar an tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Abhcóideachta

Roinn an Taoisigh

- Grúpa Idir-Rannach maidir le Liúntas So-aistritheachta agus Deontas Iompair Mótair

An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt

- An Coiste Comhairleach um Inrochtaine
- An Coiste um Inrochtaine Iompair Phoiblí

An tÚdarás Náisiúnta Iompair

- An Coiste Comhairleach um Thacsaithe

Eile

- An Coiste Eorpach um Chaighdeánú (CEN) — Foireann Tionscadail do Shainordú 376
- An Coiste Eorpach um Chaighdeánú (CEN) — Foireann Tionscadail do Shainordú 473
- Grúpa Oibre an Údaráis um Chaighdeáin Náisiúnta na hÉireann

- IRAÉ (Institiúid Ríoga Ailtirí na hÉireann) an Tascfhórsa um Dhearadh Uilíoch
- Grúpa Oibre Threoir 71 Eagraíocht Idirnáisiúnta na gCaighdeán (ISO)

Aguisín 3: Foilseacháin in 2013

- Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2012
- Buiséid phearsanta a thabhairt isteach - cad is féidir linn a fhoghlaim ó thíortha eile
- Suirbhé Náisiúnta ar Dhaoine a Tháinig Slán as Stróc 2013
- Plean Straitéiseach 2013–2015

Aguisín 4: Páipéir chomhairle um beartas in 2013

Páipéir chomhairle um beartas a cuireadh isteach:

- An Bille um Chinnteoireacht Chuidithe 2013
- Páipéar do Chomhchoiste an Oireachtais maidir le Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais, ar fhoréigean baile
- Measúnú ar fhiúntais an dara bliana réamhscolaíochta do pháistí faoi mhíchumas
- Freagraí ar an gcomhairliúchán ar phrintísigh
- Liúntas So-aistritheachta agus Deontas Iompair Mótair
- Conarthaí Busanna Poiblí
- Muirear Craolacháin Seirbhíse Poiblí
- Tionscadal maidir le Méadrú Cliste
- Cumarsáid Leictreonach

An tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais

25 Bóthar Chluaidh, Baile Átha Cliath 4

Guthán: (01) 608 0400

Facs: (01) 660 9935

www.nda.ie

Is é an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Míchumais an comhlacht neamhspleách a thugann sainchomhairle ar bheartas agus chleachtas míchumais don Aire, agus a dhéanann Dearadh Uilíoch a chur chun cinn in Éirinn.