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| The Advocacy Initiative | | |
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|  | |  | | --- | | **In this issue:** | | [3rd Knowledge Exchange Forum - Christmas Market - Social Justice Advocacy: What Works? →](http://www.advocacyinitiative.ie/common/emails/preview.tmpl?template=adv-vr_html.inc&NLID=1352199679248957308#article1) | | [NEW BLOG - Why are we being criticised for doing advocacy? by Candy Murphy →](http://www.advocacyinitiative.ie/common/emails/preview.tmpl?template=adv-vr_html.inc&NLID=1352199679248957308#article2) | | [Blog - The Community Sector - Lost in Austerity by Niall Crowley & Siobhan O'Dowd →](http://www.advocacyinitiative.ie/common/emails/preview.tmpl?template=adv-vr_html.inc&NLID=1352199679248957308#article3) | | [New Communications Officer at The Advocacy Initiative →](http://www.advocacyinitiative.ie/common/emails/preview.tmpl?template=adv-vr_html.inc&NLID=1352199679248957308#article4) | | [Advocacy around the world →](http://www.advocacyinitiative.ie/common/emails/preview.tmpl?template=adv-vr_html.inc&NLID=1352199679248957308#article5) | |  | |  |

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|  | 3rd Knowledge Exchange Forum - Christmas Market - Social Justice Advocacy:What Works?   |  |  | | --- | --- | | A Christmas Market image |  | |  |  |   [You can read more and register for this event here...](http://www.advocacyinitiative.ie/discuss/events/2012/12/18/3rd-knowledge-exchange-forum-a-christmas-market-on/)  On December 18th The Advocacy Initiative will be hosting our 3rd Knowledge Exchange Forum. The event will provide a unique opportunity for social justice advocates to draw on their own learning and engage with peers on the lessons learned and challenges for the future. It will encourage and allow delegates to address the question of **What Works?** by learning and engaging with five examples of successful case studies captured in The Advocacy Initiative's new research 'Mapping of Social Justice Advocacy in Ireland', which will be launched and presented by Candy Murphy from CMAdvice Ltd. at the event. |  |
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|  | NEW BLOG - Why are we being criticised for doing advocacy? by Candy Murphy   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Candy photo |  | |  |  |   On October 14th The Sunday Times published an editorial questioning the need for state funding of advocacy in the community and voluntary sector. The newspaper argued that..."public money is scarce, and criticism of the government is plentiful, so why should taxpayers fund more of it?" In this blog Candy Murphy, an Economist and Sociologist responds to the editorial and considers what lessons social justice advocates should take from the analysis. [Read her comments here...](http://www.advocacyinitiative.ie/discuss/blog/2012/11/08/why-are-we-being-criticised-for-doing-advocacy/) |  |
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|  | Blog - The Community Sector - Lost in Austerity by Niall Crowley & Siobhan O'Dowd  The current social and economic crisis, and the crisis facing the community sector raises momentous challenges for social justice advocacy. In this joint blog Niall Crowley asks if the community sector is 'lost in austerity'? Siobhán O'Dowd explores these challenges in her response to Niall. Together they explore how the sector should: bring new attention to the challenges of equality and justice; support excellent public services; respond directly to the communities in which they work; while, at the same time, remaining true to their democratic purpose by contributing critical analysis and alternative visions for society and the economy? [Read their comments here...](http://www.advocacyinitiative.ie/discuss/2012/09/19/the-community-sector-lost-in-austerity/) |  |
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|  | New Communications Officer at The Advocacy Initiative  From the start of October, Clodagh O'Brien started as the part-time Communications Officer at The Advocacy Initiative. She previously worked as Communications Officer for the National Youth Council of Ireland and Headway Ireland. You can contact her on 01-685 3291 or e-mail [clodagh@advocacyinitiative.ie](mailto:clodagh@advocacyinitiative.ie) |  |
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|  | Advocacy around the world  **Advocacy Capacity Tool for organisational assessment** A new Advocacy Capacity Tool (ACT) has been developed to help organise advocacy capacity by taking a snapshot of an organisation's skills, knowledge and resources along with providing analysis of the results. Once a database is established comparisons to other organisations will be available. More information is available at: <http://bolderadvocacy.org/tools-for-effective-advocacy/advocacy-capacity-tool>  **US study 'Beyond the Cause' launched** A new US study 'Beyond the Cause - The Art of Science and Advocacy' has been revealed. It is a comprehensive study that identifies five essential approaches to successful advocacy and analyses the effectiveness of advocacy on issues facing the entire non-profit and philanthropic sector.  You can view it here - <http://www.independentsector.org/beyond_the_cause>  **The Wheel reveals research - 'A Portrait of Ireland's NonProfit Sector'** A new report from The Wheel - A Portrait of Ireland's NonProfit Sector is the first in a series they will publish over the coming months based on research with 500 non-profit organisations. The findings revealed that 60% of Irish non-profits have seen a decrease in their income over the past three years while almost one fifth have been forced to drop services.  Read the full report at: <http://www.wheel.ie/content/portrait-ireland-nonprofit-sector>  [Read the full article →](http://www.advocacyinitiative.ie/discuss/newsletter/2012/11/01/advocacy-around-the-world/) |  |
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|  | AI logo | The Advocacy Initiative | Carmichael House | North Brunswick Street | Dublin 7 T: 01 6853291 | E: [connect@advocacyinitiative.ie](mailto:connect@advocacyinitiative.ie) | W: [www.advocacyinitiative.ie](http://www.advocacyinitiative.ie)  [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Advocacy-Initiative/365466873511835)[Twitter](http://twitter.com/amvisser)[YouTube](http://www.youtube.com/AdvocacyInitiative)[Flickr](http://www.flickr.com/photos/77211052@N08/) |  |
| Promoting understanding, awareness and effectiveness of social justice advocacy in Ireland. | | | |