



The Irish Association of Non-Governmental  
Development Organisations

Dóchas  
The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations

## **2011 Annual Report**

*“We are a new org and very much on a learning curve. What the [Dóchas Working Group] gives us is a space that is for learning and reflecting - not only on the specific topics, but more broadly - and certainly our thinking has evolved.”*

## VISION

Our vision is of a world where poverty and inequality are unacceptable, and where every person has the right to live free from fear, free from want and able to fulfil their potential.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of Dóchas is to enhance Ireland's contribution to world development. We achieve this by:

- leading the Development sector towards high standards of practice;
- being an independent representative voice of Ireland's Development sector, in order to influence public debate and decision-making in Ireland and the European Union.

## MISSION

Dóchas is part of a movement working to build a society, in Ireland and in Europe, that actively seeks to eradicate global poverty, injustice and inequality.



Dóchas has signed the Code of Conduct on Images and Messages.  
Please send your feedback to [media@dochas.ie](mailto:media@dochas.ie)



Dóchas adheres to the Irish Development NGO Code of Corporate Governance

[www.dochas.ie](http://www.dochas.ie)  
[twitter.com/Dochasnetwork](https://twitter.com/Dochasnetwork)  
[facebook.dochas.ie](https://facebook.dochas.ie)

## **1. Introduction**

The year 2011 has been a difficult year for Europe, for Ireland, and for our sector. The financial crisis generated a 'sovereign debt crisis' that tested the very foundations of the European Union. At the start of the year, very few would have imagined that international cooperation within the EU, which had been the pillar of the post-war stability and prosperity in Europe, would find itself severely under pressure, and "Europe" losing popularity in pretty much every member state.

The Government is struggling to balance its books, and has embarked on a programme of austerity, leading to hardship in many families, and in turn increasing pressure on the political system. In this environment, Government expenditure for international development will come under pressure.

The crisis also impacts on Dóchas members through falling income from the public. Many Irish non-profits, not just in the Development sector, are struggling to cope in a context of falling income and increased demand for services. State funding for "charities" has been cut sharply over recent years and generally at a faster rate than overall Government cutbacks. As a result, non-profits are more reliant on support from the public – a public which has less money to give.

Interestingly, figures for the non-profit sector show that the Dóchas members are coping relatively better than many domestically focused NGOs, largely due to their well-established fund-raising arms and the immense support in all sections of the population for overseas aid. During the year, Dóchas commissioned an opinion poll from the MRBI, which showed that, although slightly lower than in previous years, support for overseas aid remains very high.

The MRBI survey, which was commissioned by Dóchas, found that 79% of respondents agreed it was important for Ireland's international reputation that the Government keeps its promise to spend 0.7% of national income on overseas aid by 2015 at the latest.

This figure is only slightly down on last year, when 84% of respondents held this view.

This high level of public support also translates in consistently high levels of political support for overseas aid. Despite severe pressure on the public purse, the Government decided, both in Budget 2011 and Budget 2012, to maintain the ODA budget at current levels, when measured in terms of % of Gross National Income (GNI). This is a testament to the cross-party support for Ireland's development cooperation programme, and to the work of Dóchas members, who used the "Act Now on 2015" campaign to draw attention to the strategic importance of international development cooperation for Ireland's own future.

In the context of the "Act Now on 2015" campaign:

- Over 5000 emails were sent to TDs by campaign supporters, in the weeks before Budget 2012;
- Our Vox Pop video, gauging opinions about Ireland's aid programme, was viewed over 1000 times on YouTube;
- 37 TDs asked parliamentary questions about development, including 10 TDs who asked questions about 0.7%.

In May 2011, Dóchas signed a new multi-annual partnership agreement with Irish Aid. Under the terms of the agreement, Irish Aid and Dóchas members will work together to further enhance the effectiveness of the work of Irish Development NGOs, and of Ireland's development cooperation programme in general.

The programme of work agreed by Dóchas and Irish Aid is clustered around four main themes:

- **Facilitating relationships and networking for learning:** Dóchas sets out to create opportunities for exchange of experience and knowledge and to capture the lessons learned by its members, in order to inform the work of its members and of Irish Aid.
- **Capturing, articulating and monitoring NGO quality:** Dóchas members will develop a clear vision of what Effectiveness and Impact mean for Irish Development NGOs, and they will work together to set new professional standards for their work – and account to each other for their application.
- **Enhancing NGO messages about Development:** Dóchas members want to deepen public understanding of, and engagement in, global issues and they will work together to bring greater coherence in the way they collectively, as a sector, communicate about their work.
- **Engaging and mobilising for Development:** Dóchas members will work together to increase their ability to leverage the skills and influence of the Irish Government in the fight against extreme poverty.

In other words: Irish NGOs have agreed to work together through Dóchas to create opportunities for exchange and peer learning, and to collate examples of good practice that can help them improve their own work, or provide advice to others.

In the past year, Dóchas members provided some good examples that this approach works - Examples that are documented in this report.

## **A. Results Achieved**

During the year, Dóchas made good progress in each of its four priority areas.

### ***1. Facilitating relationships and networking for learning***

Key deliverables 2011:

- Publication of “Lessons Learned” documents by the Dóchas Working Groups
- Practical examples of NGO effectiveness shared through seminars

Key results 2011:

- Dóchas hosted well-attended peer support and briefing sessions on the new Irish Aid funding mechanisms under the CSF round and the Programme Funding. Both meetings were followed up by research and briefing materials, and were highly appreciated by members and non-member organisations.
- Dóchas published two “Making Poverty History Together” information sheets, and published several articles on its blog, documenting NGO experiences in areas such as volunteering, responding to famine, disability and Development Effectiveness.
- The “Act Now on 2015” campaign collated examples of the impact of individual NGO projects.

- New task groups were formed, on the issues of the White Paper and the EU Presidency.

During the year, the Dóchas Working Groups continued to form the centre of the activities of the network. The groups constitute the main platform through which members share experience and through which they meet and learn from each other. Currently there are Working Groups on:

- Development Education
- Disability & Development
- Food & Livelihoods Security
- HIV and AIDS
- Humanitarian Aid

In addition, we had more informal Task Groups on the “Act Now on 2015” campaign, the review of the White Paper, the EU Presidency, Development Effectiveness, Human Resources, and Gender.

Dóchas hosted a series of once-off topical seminars to stimulate NGO exchange and shared learning. Themes addressed at these seminars ranged from Development Effectiveness, Ireland’s upcoming EU Presidency and Irish Aid funding mechanisms for NGOs.

In the past year, we organised and hosted 86 meetings (compared to 107 in 2010 and 110 in 2009), attended by 1,146 people from across the International Development sector in Ireland (compared to 993 in 2010 and 1,028 in 2009).

Assuming a cost of €30 per hour in staff time, this means our member organisations invested some €53,000 in Dóchas meetings last year, in addition to the membership fees and other financial contributions to our work (comparable figure for 2009 was €47,000).

For further statistics, please refer to Annex 1.

## **2. Capturing, articulating and monitoring NGO quality**

Key deliverables 2011:

- Partnership Guidelines for NGOs agreed
- Dóchas members agree shared principles of NGO Effectiveness
- Dóchas members agree to reinforce existing Codes by introducing objective criteria and penalty principles

Key results 2011:

- In January, Dóchas members formally adopted the Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness as their guiding principles.
- Dóchas analysis shows improved adherence to the Code of Conduct on Images & Messages on 6 out of 9 core criteria. 23 Signatories scored full marks on the Code’s minimum standards.
- Dtalk delivered trainings on the Code of Conduct on Images & Messages, and The Wheel adopted a corporate governance code based on the Dóchas Code.
- During the year, Dóchas members developed their plans for a national CSO consultation process in the run-up to the Irish EU Presidency. The development of NGO partnership guidelines is included in the programme.
- A task group was formed to work on a review of the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages. The group consulted widely (84 people were involved) and is working on illustrative guidelines.
- Dóchas played a strong role in the Busan summit on Development Effectiveness,

which agreed a new international framework for international development cooperation.

All Dóchas members have to demonstrate adherence to two Dóchas Codes:

- The Code of Conduct on Images and Messages
- The Irish Development NGOs Code of Corporate Governance

Since its adoption in 2007, the number of organisations signed up to the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages has grown considerably, with some 62 signatories currently using the Code when designing and implementing their public communications strategies.

In order to facilitate the reporting on signatories' experiences with the Code of Conduct, Dóchas developed a questionnaire that is sent to signatories annually, to guide them through some of the main issues arising from the Code. Dóchas also organises an annual obligatory feedback meeting to provide an opportunity for signatories to network, discuss the difficulties and challenges in relation to the Code's implementation, and to share best practice.

#### ***Dóchas Code spreads its influence***

*Strictly speaking, the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages only applies to the 62 organisations that have signed on to it. Yet, during 2011, several other organisations applied the Code to their own work. Photivation, for instance, used the Code for its Human Rights Captured photo competition, and the Theatre Group used our code to inspire their own vision and strategy. The Code was also used in training courses provided by Near Media Co-op and Kimmage Development Studies Centre, as well as in initiatives by Dóchas members.*

### **3. Enhancing NGO messages about Development**

Key deliverables:

- Coordinated messaging and communications toolkits for members on Ireland and the MDGs

Key results 2011:

- The "Act Now on 2015" campaign achieved a meaningful result: Though no progress was made towards the 0.7% ODA/GNI target, the small cut to the ODA budget announced in December represents a major victory, in light of the scale of cuts to all areas of Government expenditure.
- Public support for ODA is holding steady, at very high levels (79% in an MRBI poll, compared to 84% in 2010).
- During the year, Dóchas published messaging toolkits on ODA and on Corruption, which were shared with all member organisations.
- Dóchas members were provided with briefings on the Development Effectiveness debate, and the Busan summit.
- The Abara Disability Film Festival, the Dóchas Haiku competition and our involvement in the Pivot Dublin bid were some of the examples of how we used innovative ways to engage with new audiences.
- Through social media (principally our blog, Twitter and Facebook), Dóchas has grown a new audience for its public debate on Development Effectiveness.

*"I really like the work you and your colleagues are doing on the Dóchas blog. You're covering some fascinating issues and pushing the debate forward."*

*"I congratulate you on your excellent contributions to the Monday Frontline programme which I managed to watch. You really did get across the message of the importance of Overseas Aid and the underlying values which underpin such an essential outreach."*

Responses received from members of the public

For statistics about Dóchas' media and social media coverage, please see Annex 1.

#### **4. Engaging and mobilising for Development**

Key deliverables:

- Consultation with members and Irish Aid about NGO funding mechanisms
- Briefings for TDs and Senators
- Close collaboration with Irish Aid on the Busan summit on Development Effectiveness

Key results 2011:

- Dóchas coordinated the NGO participation in the consultation process leading up to a review of the Irish Aid NGO funding mechanisms, and facilitated several meetings, including two peer support meetings.
- Dóchas coordinated NGO input and collated suggestions and feedback, leading to the introduction of a new, results-based mechanism.
- Dóchas published a guide to Development, which was sent to all new TDs following the general elections in 2011.
- Dóchas lobby letters and briefing materials (on Busan and the EU MFF) were quoted by members of the Oireachtas.
- Dóchas research shows that the growth of the number of times key Development issues are mentioned in Dáil and Seanad debates is sustained, indicating continued political interest in global Development.

Looking back at the year, it is clear that the economic downturn has increased pressures on our member organisations. While public support remains high, members have had to work harder to raise funds from the general public and from the private sector, leading to a sharpening of the fundraising climate and increased tensions between fundraising efforts and development education messages.

Political pressure to cut Government expenditure across the board means the threat to the ODA budget continues to increase, in an environment where public support for overseas aid, while still very high, is slowly starting to erode.

Criticism of the not-for-profit sector is starting to increase, in part prompted by the fact that in the past year three major NGOs made the news in relation to weaknesses in their corporate governance and financial transparency. In the general atmosphere of cost cutting and "value for money" debates, questions about the number of NGOs and their perceived overlaps and duplication of efforts will increase in number.

## Activities of the Working Groups

All of the Working Groups actively engaged in the Dóchas submission to the Review of the White Paper on Irish Aid and many held bilateral meetings with Irish Aid. Highlights of the activities of the Working Groups include:

- A survey conducted by the **Development Education Working Group (DEG)** on how the development sector in Ireland engages with the public found that the main target for development education in 2011 is adults (compared to secondary school children in 2003). The survey also revealed that most organisations (78%) allocate less than 19% of their funding to development education and that 85% strongly agree that 'There needs to be stronger focus on development education to foster responsible global citizens for the future'. The DEG also hosted Ireland's first DEEP (Developing Europeans' Engagement for the Eradication of Global Poverty) National Seminar, 'Added Values: Promoting Long Term Public Engagement in Development'. The well attended seminar also resulted in increased awareness of the impact of communication and the need to work more collaboratively within agencies and across the sector.
- The **Disability and International Development Working Group** engaged with the arts and domestic disability organisations to organise the Abara International Disability Film Festival which received positive media attention. A one-day conference hosted with the Centre for Disability Law and Policy (NUI Galway) and CBM Ireland and partners from the disability sector, showcased how international co-operation and global collaboration on disability rights has brought positive change for people with disabilities.
- The **Food and Livelihoods Security Working Group** provided space for learning and sharing. Throughout the year learning meetings were held, including topics on Irish trade with Africa, Value Chains and Cash Transfer Programmes. Concern shared their experience and research findings on 'New Technology Enhancing Humanitarian Cash and Voucher Programming'. The Cash Learning Partnership (CALP) had commissioned Concern and Oxford Policy Management to undertake a review of the current use of new technology in humanitarian aid applied to Cash Transfer Programmes encompassing every stage of the programme cycle.
- The Chairperson of the **HIV and AIDS Working Group**, Enida Friel (Oxfam Ireland), represented Dóchas at the UN General Assembly High Level Meeting in New York, which gathered over 30 Heads of State and Government, along with senior officials, international organisations, civil society and people living with HIV. The meeting took place on 8-10 June, 10 years after the historic 2001 UN GA Special Session (UNGASS) on HIV and AIDS, and the 2006 signing of the Political Declaration where UN Member States committed to universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. Dóchas issued a press release to welcome the Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at the end of the High Level Meeting as "it contains clear and measurable targets for countries, donors, organisations and all those involved in HIV and AIDS response to work towards". The HIV&AIDS WG also held an Annual Learning Day, 'Addressing HIV effectively in Humanitarian Settings', in collaboration with Dtalk. The theme resulted from survey of WG members on their learning needs in relation to HIV and AIDS and resonated with Irish Aids requirements on HIV mainstreaming in 2011 Humanitarian Programme plans.
- The **Humanitarian Aid Working Group (HAWG)** held regular meetings to discuss key issues around developments in the sector. Engagement with Irish Aid focused on Irish Aid's funding through the Humanitarian Programme Plan (HPP) and fed back on the external review of the HPP. Draft Security Protocols developed as a result of a consultancy process of Irish Aid HPP partners on security management emerged as a key theme. The HAWG also organised a meeting in conjunction with the Joint Consortium on Gender Based



Violence and Irish Aid to assess the situation in South Sudan and brief members of the group on best practice in addressing GBV in complex emergencies. The HAWG contributed to Age Action's development of a policy paper on the rights of the elderly in development/emergency response.

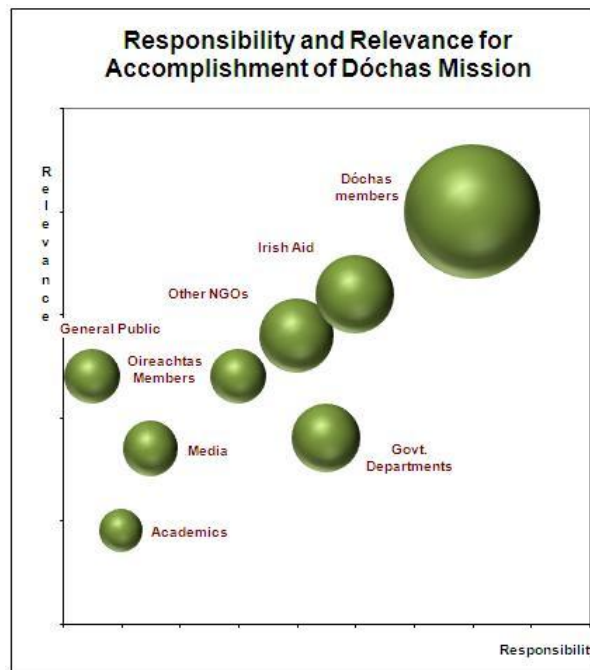
In September, Dóchas organised the first meeting of Working Group Chairpersons. At the meeting, the Chairs exchanged tips and experiences, and were able to situate the work of their own Group better in the context of Dóchas' overall plan of work. It is proposed to continue hosting such meetings twice a year.

## **B. Strategy & Relevance**

Dóchas' work during 2012 was set strongly in the context of the Results agenda: much of our work with members and Irish Aid focused on discussions about the "Development Effectiveness" agenda, and the introduction of a new, results focused funding mechanism for NGOs. In addition, the "Act Now on 2015" campaign aimed to present as much information about the impact of aid from Ireland as possible.

The new Partnership Agreement between Irish Aid and Dóchas, signed in May, also highlights the importance of Results and Outcomes. Under the Agreement, Dóchas is being asked to lead also in practical terms, by developing a high standard for its own Results Frameworks and annual reporting.

One difficulty at the heart of Dóchas' work is its reliance on member organisations for the achievement of its goals. As set out in the Results Framework 2011-2014, the ability and willingness of members to provide the follow-up and implement suggested changes is the main external factor determining the success or failure of Dóchas' work. The members of Dóchas are autonomous organisations, which cannot be compelled. Even with the two Codes of Conduct, Dóchas can only wield a limited amount of pressure.



In 2008, Dóchas tried to formulate the lessons it had learned over the 30+ years of its existence. It found that building an effective network is a function of the network's internal accountability and the quality of the services it provides to members. In addition, the trust among member

organisations is a network’s greatest asset: An effective network is one that, first and foremost, has a clear focus and a clear strategy. Its role, what it does (and what it doesn’t do) are clear to all involved. Secondly, people involved in the network have the right skills, and know what they are doing. And thirdly, an effective network is accountable, and predictable to its stakeholders. It is clear who is in, who is not, and how that came to be the case. Members understand how the network functions, how decisions are made, who decides and who in the end is accountable for decisions made.



Over the years, Dóchas’ attempts to measure members’ satisfaction on these dimensions show that, overall, Dóchas is perceived as being focused, accountable, predictable, professional and skilled. In other words, if there is a lack of progress towards our overall goals, its causes are likely to be found outside the Dóchas network, rather than within it.

This has prompted us to consider the ‘political economy’ in which Irish Development NGOs operate: what are the forces that impact on the behaviour of our members that drive, or impede, change? And this has led us to the realisation that Dóchas’ key role in driving change in the sector relates to our ability to change the incentives for our member organisations.

In our analysis, the funding sources, political climate and public expectations that impact on our members mitigate our members’ efforts to invest in their own organisational capacities and in those elements of programme quality that are likely to be perceived as ‘overheads’ by the general public.

During the year, Dóchas invested a lot of time and energy in our work with politicians and journalists, enabling them to understand the complexities of “Quality” in development work. Our efforts were not merely aimed at maintaining the budget for ODA, but also at showcasing good Development work, and communicating the ethos (and practicalities) of achieving long-term impact.

More directly relevant to our members, in the mean time, was our work with Irish Aid on the new funding mechanism. The key elements of the new CSF, DevEd and Programme Funding schemes (multi-annual, results-based, outcome oriented, programmatic) all should provide strong incentives for our members to invest in programme quality and organisation-wide learning.

However, in our view, the best driver for change is pressure from the general public. Anecdotal evidence suggests that public expectations of ‘charities’ continue to be informed by notions of voluntarism, rather than professionalism and the need to target, research, monitor and assess on the basis of factual evidence. During the year, we were given a number of illustrations of how public (and media) are more likely to focus on issues dealing with NGO salaries and overheads than questions of long-term impact and beneficiary accountability. Even the Dóchas Code of

Conduct on Images and Messages, which is explicitly based on the assumption that members of the public will make complaints to NGOs, is suffering from the low level of feedback signatories receive from the public. All this suggests that much more work is needed in the area of understanding, and influencing, public attitudes to 'charities' and overseas aid.

Another important area of learning from 2011 is that we must support our Working Groups better, to intensify their work in distilling and documenting lessons learned, and members need to be encouraged to pilot those lessons in their own programmes. In addition, there is a clear, and growing, consensus among Dóchas members that the sector must do more in the area of self-regulation and the communication of results and achievements. The absence of meaningful Government initiatives to act on the Charities Act 2009 means that the onus for regulation and quality control in the sector lies on the sector itself.

Finally, feedback from members and from Irish Aid suggests that Dóchas' role as intermediary and facilitator in the consultation process for the new Irish Aid funding mechanism was highly appreciated, and contributed significantly to the successful introduction of the new scheme. Equally, Dóchas' role as facilitator before and during the Busan summit showed the benefits of our representative function. Our coordinating role in NGO presentations to the Oireachtas also helped sustain political support for ODA, in adverse circumstances.

### **C. Management Factors**

One of the key observations for 2011 is the continued high level of participation by Dóchas members (and increasingly by non-members) in our events and Working Groups.

Unfortunately, the other big observation relates to our severely reduced human resources capacity during the year, with gaps in the Policy Officer/Programme Officer position for almost one-third of the year. We used the departure of our Policy Officer to re-focus the human resources in the Dóchas office: The Policy Officer post was created with a view to engendering greater policy capacity in the sector, but we had no evidence that this was happening. In fact, the presence of a Dóchas Policy Officer meant that Dóchas staff ended up undertaking, rather than facilitating, much of the policy and advocacy work for the sector. In light of this, we changed the position to that of Programme Officer, charged with supporting the Working Groups and our work on NGO Quality and Development Effectiveness.

The drop in staffing levels also led to the creation of a budget surplus. Dóchas adopted a Reserves Policy, setting out the desired levels of reserves, but on balance, 2011 ended up increasing, rather than decreasing our reserves. This is not a problem per se, as the coming years are likely to be highly unpredictable for Dóchas and its members, but the Dóchas Board has decided to monitor this issue extra vigilantly in the coming year.

The 2011 AGM admitted 3 new members. However, during the year we lost 3 members (IFDC, ICJSA and CMSI), leaving our total membership to 43. However, there is a small number of significant players in the sector that are not members, either because they do not want to join or because they do not comply with our membership criteria. For the coherence of the sector, and for the credibility of Dóchas, it is important that this issue is addressed. During 2012, a review of our Memorandum and Articles of Association will allow for the introduction of an Associate Membership category, which should open the door to greater involvement of relevant organisations outside our immediate membership.

Finally, to reduce the costs of, and barriers to, participation by organisations not based in the Greater Dublin area, Dóchas is investigating the options for tele-conferencing and remote working. We will also continue to use social media, and alliances with organisations and initiatives outside the Development sector, to try and relate global justice issues more strongly

with domestic initiatives. In particular, we will work with The Wheel and other domestic organisations on the future of the MDGs, with Pivot Dublin on issues of people-centred design and planning, and the Haiku society on public communications. We will continue to work extremely closely with IDEA, on all issues of public engagement with Development and best practice for Development Education.

During the year, Dóchas commissioned the following consultancies:

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Consultant</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
NGO Training	Noel Wardick	Document setting out options for Dóchas work on building capacity in the NGO sector.
CSO Effectiveness	Lorraine O'Rahilly	Istanbul Principles adopted by Dóchas members
NGO Funding	Lorraine O'Rahilly	Dóchas submission to Irish Aid about what aspects of NGO quality to emphasise in funding mechanisms. Posted as blog post; viewed 145 times.
Governance Checklist	Ray McElroy	Template developed and discussed with members and Irish Aid
Article on Corporate Governance	Ciara Aucoin	Not published
Updating TDs listing + MPH Folders	Michael McManus	All new TDs and Senators received briefing pack
AGM Conference - Organisation	Michael McManus	Successful AGM conference
AGM Conference – Video	Michael McManus	Video shown at AGM conference.
ICT + Development	Ciaran O'Brien	Posted as blog post. 761 views
Towards Busan	Grainne O'Neill	
Funding	Michael McManus	Report on funders and foundations with potential interest in the work of Dóchas
White Paper	Michael McManus	Creation of Task Group to draft Dóchas submission to the White Paper Review.
IA Funding	Lorraine O'Rahilly	Peer support meetings on CSF and Programme Funding
Corporate Funding Policy	Michael McManus	Policy adopted by Dóchas Board
CEO Change Workshop	Toby Scott	Group of senior managers engaged with issues of change management
Income Options	Ray McElroy	Recommendations to Dóchas Board informing Dóchas' multi-annual income strategy.
EU Presidency	Michael McManus	Concept note presented to European Commission; Task Group formed to coordinate Dóchas EU Presidency programme.
Code on Images & Messages	Eilish Dillon	Report to Dóchas Board, providing options for strengthening the Code of Conduct on Images & Messages
Members Survey	Niall O'Keeffe	Survey under way. Aims to present baseline data for Dóchas work.
Busan Blog	Abdul Ilal	Posted on blog.
EU Presidency	Richeal Drumgoole	EU Presidency proposal submitted to the European Commission, and received

		very positive feedback.
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## **D. Future Plans**

The Dóchas Work Plan for 2012 builds explicitly on the achievements from 2011, and the Partnership Agreement with Irish Aid. In addition, we will use opportunities in the official calendar, such as the upcoming Irish EU Presidency and the Rio +20 Summit, to promote greater public debate about Ireland's role in the world.

Our key strands of work for 2012 will be:

### **1. Documenting and Applying Quality Standards:**

- Dóchas will intensify its support for our Working Groups, to maximise shared learning and to promote the active documenting, and application, of that learning; and
- We will also agree guidelines for NGO partnerships, aid worker security and financial reporting by NGOs.

### **2. Championing Development Cooperation:**

- We will lead a concerted effort to use the White Paper Review process to strengthen Ireland's development cooperation programme;
- We will promote a national civil society dialogue about the post-MDG framework for development cooperation, and relate it to the priorities for Ireland's 2013 EU Presidency; and
- We will coordinate a public campaign in favour of Ireland's ODA commitment.

### **3. Strengthening the sector:**

- We will work with Irish Aid and philanthropists to encourage funding mechanisms that incentivise impact and quality; and
- We will introduce an Associate Membership category for the Dóchas network and work to ensure greater quality and relevance of Dóchas' services.

New elements, that were not foreseen at the time of the signing of the Partnership Agreement with Irish Aid, include:

- A greater role in training: Following a successful training on fundraising, Dóchas is planning two training sessions for finance managers, and is exploring the potential for the setting up of a Working Group on Finance.
- During the year, we will explore the possibilities for greater NGO collaboration on Child Rights, Joint Fundraising, and Education.

Our plans for the year are set out in greater detail in our Work Plan 2012 and our updated Results Framework.

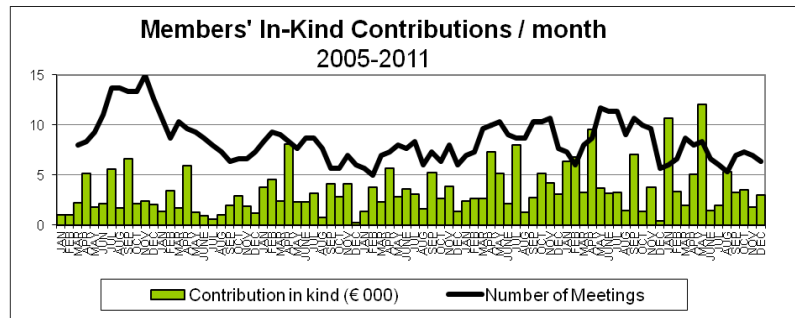
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## ANNEX 1 – Statistics

**Figure 1:**

Dóchas members' in-kind contributions: Number of meetings attended and estimated value of staff time dedicated to participation in those meetings.

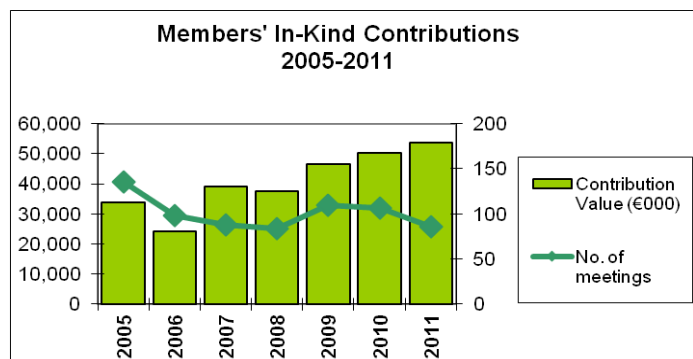
- **86 meetings organised during the year** (compared to 107 in 2010, 110 in 2009 and 84 in 2008);
- **Over one thousand people (1,146)** attended Dóchas events during 2010 (compared to 993 in 2010, 1,028 in 2009 and 840 in 2008).



**Figure 2:**

Dóchas members' in-kind contributions:

- Fewer meetings organised by Dóchas during the year, but with more people participating.
- **Estimated value of staff time in meetings €53,670** (up from € 50,300 in 2010, €47,000 in 2009 and €37,500 in 2008)

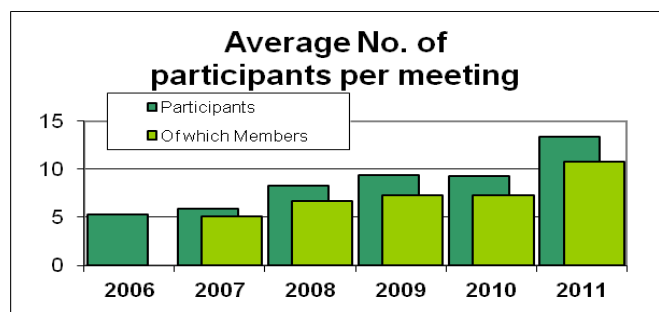


NB: this figure includes meeting hours only; time spent by members on Dóchas work outside meetings is not quantified. The figure assumes a per-person hourly cost of attendance of €30.

**Figure 3:**

Average number of participants:

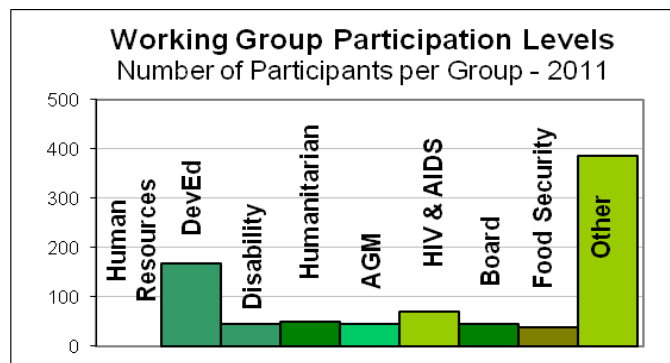
- The average number of participants for Dóchas hosted meetings climbed to 13.3, up from 9.3 in 2010 and 8.3 in 2008.
- More than three-quarters of participants (78%) are from Dóchas member organisations.



**Figure 4:**

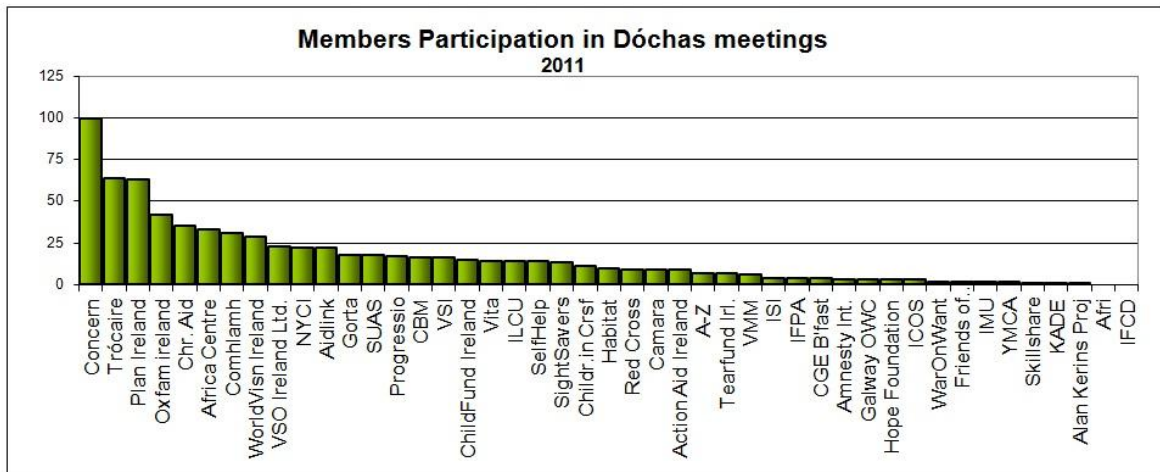
Participation in Working Groups:

- Most participants attended stand-alone seminars, on specific Task Groups (eg. the We Do Care coordination meetings and the Aid Effectiveness seminars).
- These figures exclude participants from non-member organisations.



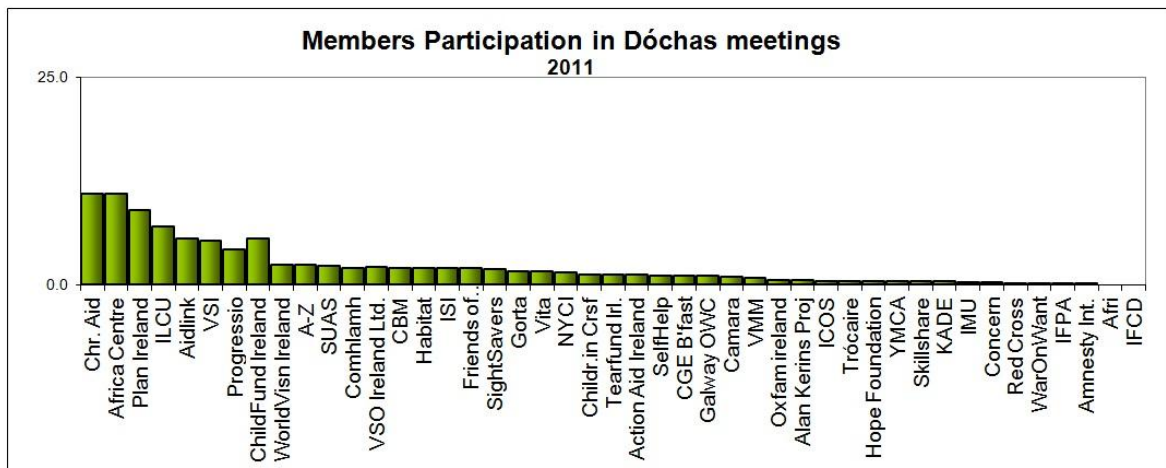
**Figure 5:**  
Members' participation in Dóchas meetings.

- Two organisations did not participate in any Dóchas event during the year (down from three last year and six in 2009).



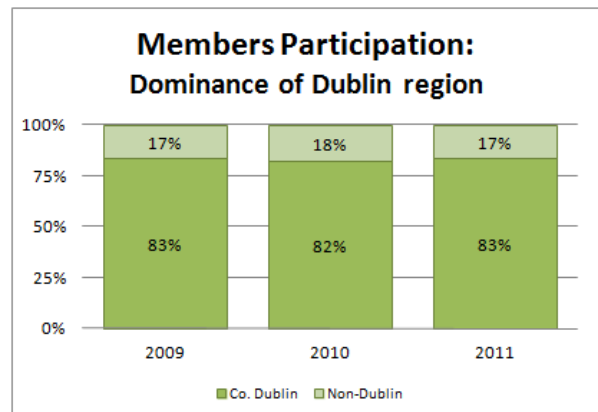
**Figure 6:**  
Members participation in Dóchas meetings, in comparison to staff size.

- Although the biggest organisations participate in more meetings than others, there are many examples of small organisations participating very heavily, and – inverse – medium-sized organisations being less active.



**Figure 7:**  
Members participation in Dóchas meetings, by location.

- Participation levels by member organisations outside Dublin remains stable at ca. 17%.

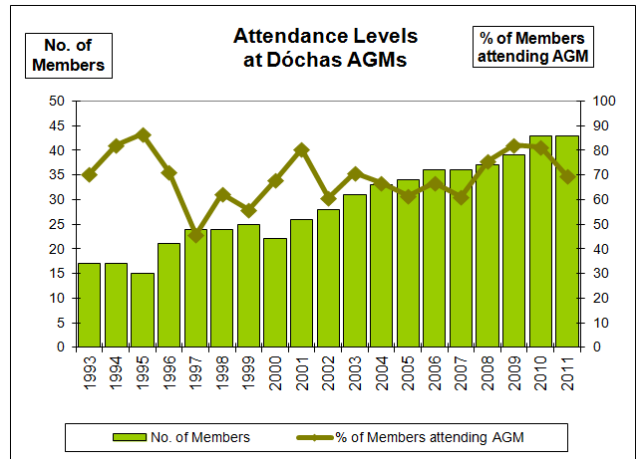




**Figure 8:**

Attendance levels at Dóchas AGMs: Overall participation levels at the AGMs are relatively stable at ca. two-thirds of member organisations.

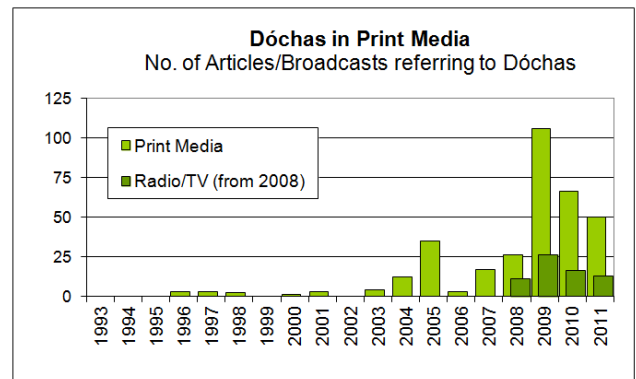
- 70% of members (30 out of 43) attended this year's AGM, down from 81% last year.



**Figure 9:**

Dóchas public profile: Number of articles in the print media, and broadcasts on radio or TV, referring to the work of Dóchas.

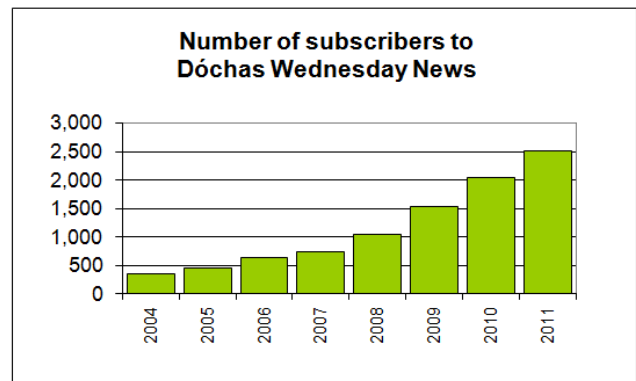
- During the year, 50 articles in print media (down from 66), and 13 broadcasts (down from 22) featured references to Dóchas.



**Figure 10:**

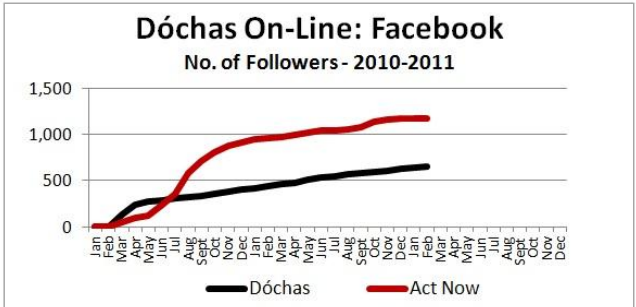
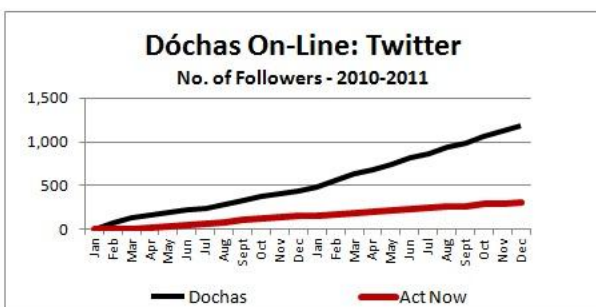
Dóchas public profile: Number of subscriptions to Wednesday News

- Over 2,500 people receive the "Wednesday News" email service every week.



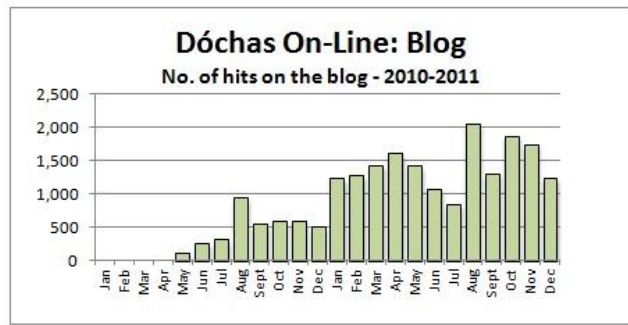
**Figure 11:**

Dóchas public profile: Social media

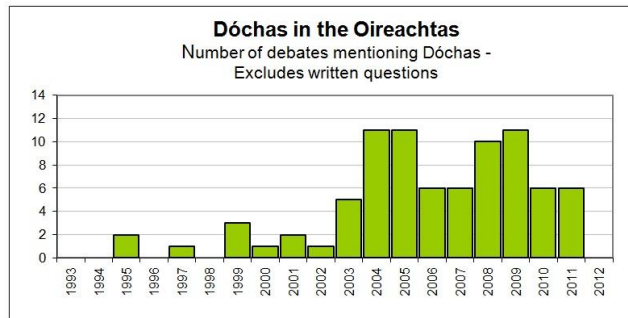




**Figure 12:**  
Dóchas blog: views per month.



**Figure 13:**  
Dóchas public profile: References in the Oireachtas



**Figure 14:**  
Political interest in Development issues

