



Dublin Community Forum welcomes launch of DCTV

Dublin Community Television, Ireland's first democratically-run, advert-free TV channel switches on at 1pm on July 16th

The Dublin Community Forum has welcomed the arrival of Dublin's new and only community television station, Dublin Community Television (DCTV), which will be launched with the help of Communications Minister Eamon Ryan at 1pm on Wednesday July 16th. DCTV will be Ireland's first co-operatively-owned, only democratically-run station and only advert-free TV station.

The Forum's Co-ordinator, Criostoir O Loingsigh, said: "The Dublin Community Forum believes there is huge potential benefit for communities around Dublin City in the launch of this exciting new television station."

Úna Uí Lachtnáin, secretary of The Forum said " Over the past five years The Dublin Community Forum has given considerable financial support to a number of research projects, publicity material, seminars and training, all of which have contributed in one way or another towards the setting up and launch of DCTV. We see DCTV as playing a vital role in both encouraging and highlighting community involvement throughout Dublin while, at the same time, giving a real voice to the community."

Manager of DCTV, Ciaran Moore, said: "Many of the key elements of DCTV came from work by the Community Media Focus Group of the Dublin Community Forum. Without the ongoing support of the Forum, it would have been much more difficult to develop such an inclusive, representative and innovative approach to broadcasting."

The Community Media Focus Group is one of the many focus groups / forums that make up the Dublin Community Forum. The Dublin Community Forum was set up to represent the Community & Voluntary Sector of Dublin City on citywide participative structures such as the Dublin City Development Board and Strategic Policy Committees. It is also a tool for Community & Voluntary input into strategic plans for Dublin City.

DCTV will broadcast 24-hours-a-day at Channel 802 on the Chorus ntl digital cable network, reaching 200,000 households across Dublin, Limerick, Cork, Galway and Waterford. The new channel will air drama, documentaries, arts shows, magazine programmes, current affairs, adult education and more – some made by experienced producers, others by community organizations jumping into TV production for the first time, availing of DCTV's broadly "open access" ethos.

DCTV was awarded Ireland's first Community Television license in May 2006 and has been broadcasting on a pilot basis since September 2007 on the Chorus ntl digital cable network. The station is run by a not-for-profit, democratic co-operative, of which membership is open to all – both individuals and not-for-profit organizations. The station is controlled by its members, and most of the programming is created and produced by members.

Speaking in advance of the launch, Minister Ryan welcomed the arrival of DCTV. "I am delighted to launch Dublin Community Television. I am particularly pleased to see that the channel will be an additional outlet for programming made with the assistance of the Sound and Vision fund,

providing increased viewing options to the people of Dublin. The use of innovative digital technology to assist the station's low-cost operation is remarkable and I have no doubt the channel will be a success."

DCTV chairperson Seán Ó Siochrú said: "DCTV represents a much-needed and radical new departure in television in Ireland. The channel is part of an growing global movement that brings media closer to people and communities, using new technologies to create more varied, alternative and community-focused broadcasting."

The arrival of DCTV on Ireland's airwaves is the culmination of years of organizing, planning and lobbying by a diverse network of community media, residents' groups, ethnic minority organizations and arts organizations, with support from the Dublin Community Forum and in conjunction with the Broadcasting Commission of Ireland (BCI).

Chief Executive of the BCI, Michael O'Keeffe, said: "The launch of DCTV marks the culmination of significant work and effort on the part of many people, underpinning the essence of community television; the provision of a service which is founded on participation, inclusion and a developmental approach. The Commission is delighted to see the launch of this unique service for the people of Dublin and wishes DCTV every success in the years ahead."

DCTV's unique mission is to serve, empower and promote Dublin communities, their activities and their right to be seen and heard. DCTV does this by providing affordable access to transmission, training, basic production equipment and facilities for a broad range of individuals, community groups and activists broadcasting a wealth of innovative, creative, educational and entertaining programmes that focus on real people and communities in all their diversity.

DCTV is funded by membership fees and a variety of other sources: Dublin Community Forum, Dublin City Council and other Dublin councils. Many of the programmes made for DCTV are funded by the BCI's Sound and Vision fund, which is generated from the TV license fee.

Programming on DCTV

Already, DCTV has more than 100 member organizations and individuals, many of whom have devised and created programming that is ready to air. DCTV secretary Ciaran Murray explained: "DCTV does not see its role as a gatekeeper for what the community wants to broadcast, but rather as a facilitator of as diverse a range of programmes as possible."

"DCTV will broadcast a wide range of programme types, some unusual, some familiar. Some content – magazine shows or current affairs – will be of a format that is recognizable to viewers of mainstream television, but with the crucial difference that, rather than a camera crew swooping in for an hour, instead the people whom the stories are about will own the programme. They will decide which aspects of their localities and their lives will be featured and they decide how their stories are told, right down to camera angle, editing, narration and graphics."

"Some content is of a kind that no other broadcaster in Ireland will air, whether because it's considered too local in focus or because it takes an anti neo-liberal stance or because it's of minority interest, such as certain sports. Even

books seem to be regarded by other broadcasters as too much of a minority interest. DCTV is planning a book programme that we will air in prime time. Currently no Irish TV station has a book programme – at any hour. Radical in the context of the Irish media isn't very radical at all."

About Dublin Community Television Dublin

Community Television (DCTV) is Ireland's newest TV broadcaster, having secured a 10-year Community License from the Broadcasting Commission of Ireland (BCI). It is also Ireland's only TV station run by a co-operative and Dublin's only community TV station. With offices in Temple Bar and the Digital Hub, DCTV has plans to base small-scale production facilities around the city, making video and television production and transmission as accessible as possible. Using new, low-cost, all-digital technology, DCTV is part of a global growth in alternative, community-focused media. The organization itself is a member's cooperative, with schedules, programme commissioning and all other decisions being taken by members of the cooperative. There is no standard advertising: instead the channel has a number of innovative revenue models supporting the very low-cost operation of the station.

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Alternatively you can log onto Dublin Community Television at - dctv.ie