



Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed

2017 is a momentous year for the INOU in that it marks the 30th anniversary of the founding of the organisation.

In 1987 a group of concerned individuals – unemployed activists, trade unionists and others came together against a backdrop of high unemployment, low participation rates, long-term unemployment and mass emigration. At the time, the scale of the unemployment crisis was such that collective action was needed both to bring forward potential solutions and to ensure that unemployed people had access to programmes and services and reasonable social welfare payments whilst unemployed.

From its fledgling roots, the organisation has developed over the last 30 years and now has over 215 member groups including community based resource centres, Citizens Information Services, Money Advice and Budgetary Services, national NGOs, trade unions and the General Branch of unemployed people.

The aims of the INOU are to:

- Seek to represent the interests and views of all unemployed people and their dependents at a national level;
- Campaign for an acceptable standard of living for all unemployed people and their dependents;
- Campaign towards the achievement of full employment at an acceptable rate of pay;
- Assist the establishment and development of local unemployed groups;
- Develop close liaison with the Trade Union movement while ensuring the autonomy of the INOU;
- Build on the common interest between the unemployed and employed;
- Build links with other national and international bodies that share the same interests.

We would like to thank all of the many hundreds of individuals and groups that have been associated with the organisation since its foundation and whose support, assistance and dedication to the fight against unemployment has been critical in enabling the organisation to develop and grow over the last 30 years.