**An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail**
Department of Rural and
Community Development

Social Enterprise Policy in Ireland.

Presentation for MESMER+

Mapping European Social Economy:

Employment, Wynns Hotel, Dublin

Richard Gavin

Rural Strategy & Social Enterprise

27th September 2023

Social Economy

- Cooperatives
- Mutual benefit societies
- Associations (including charities)
- Foundations
- Social Enterprises

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland
2019-2022

Department of Rural and Community Development
gov.ie

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities

A five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland
2019-2024

Prepared by the Department of Rural and Community Development supported b
Cross Sectoral Group on Local and Community Develop

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

National Volunteering Strategy 2021-2025

Prepared by the Department of Rural and Community Development
gov.ie

What is a social enterprise?

- Social enterprises are **businesses** that work primarily to improve the lives of people. Their core objective is to achieve a social, societal, or environmental impact.

- pursue their objectives by **trading in goods and services**, on an ongoing basis.

- **surpluses generated are re-invested** into achieving their core social objectives.

- They frequently work to **support disadvantaged groups** such as the long-term unemployed, people with disabilities, the Traveller community, etc., or to address issues such as food poverty, social housing, or **environmental matters.**

Some examples

More examples !

FoodCloud

G.I.Y – Grow It Yourself

The Cottage Shop and Tea Rooms

Irish Government's rationale for Social Enterprise Policy

To increase the scale and impact of social enterprise in Ireland

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The Policy is based around 3 Objectives:

1 Building Awareness of Social Enterprise

2 Growing and Strengthening Social Enterprise

3 Achieving Better Policy Alignment

Development of New Policy

Building on the progress made since 2019

Development of New Social Enterprise policy 2022 - 2023

- Consultation with key stakeholders. (National Representation and Support orgs)
- Six Regional Consultation Workshops
- Cross Department Engagement
- OECD Review of Social Enterprise in Ireland
- Baseline Data Collection
- Government Memo

Commitment to review policy

- Independent Review
- International Perspective

OECD Review 2022

- Desk Based research
- On-Site Visit, met over 60 stakeholders
- Case Studies
- Key challenges to overcome

Key Challenges Addressed

- Access to Business Supports
- Social Impact Measurement - Framework
- Lack of unity in Sector Representation
- Awareness
- Access to markets/tendering
- Skills
- Knowledge Sharing/peer learning opportunities

OECD Review → Key Data → Consultation → New Social Enterprise Policy

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Thank You !