



An Fóram Náisiúnta Eacnamaíoch agus Sóisialta  
National Economic & Social Forum



An Rannán um Chuimsiú Sóisialta  
Social Inclusion Division

## Social Inclusion Forum

Croke Park, Jones's Road, Dublin 3

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Wednesday  
4 November 2009

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8.30am – 5pm

conference

An Oifig Náisiúnta um Fhorbairt Eacnamaíoch agus Shóisialta  
National Economic & Social Development Office **NESDO**

## ● Conference Overview

### **Introduction**

The Social Inclusion Forum was established by the Government as part of the new structures to monitor and evaluate Ireland's National Action Plans for Social Inclusion (NAPinclusion). The National Economic and Social Forum (NESF) has been given the responsibility by the Government to convene the Social Inclusion Forum on a regular basis. The NESF is assisted in this work by the Social Inclusion Division of the Department of Social and Family Affairs and the European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland (EAPN).

### **Next Meeting of the Forum**

The 5th meeting of the SIF will be held on Wednesday 4th November 2009 in The Hogan Suite, Croke Park, Dublin 3. Entrance to the Conference Hall is on Jones's Road; directions are listed on the back of this brochure. The Programme for the meeting is opposite.

### **Main Focus**

The main focus of this Forum meeting will be on preparing for the unique EU Year (2010) devoted to Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, with reference in particular to the major challenges for social inclusion from the economic downturn. The new Social Inclusion Division in the Department of Social and Family Affairs and its strategic plan will also be formally launched at the Forum.

### **Themes for discussion**

The themes for discussion at this year's Forum reflect the four cross cutting themes outlined in the Irish national programme for the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010, namely Child Poverty, Access to Quality Work and Learning Opportunities, Access to Services for Older People and Access to Services for People with Disabilities. They mirror the priorities for social inclusion set down in the National Strategy for Social Protection and Social Inclusion Report for the EU. Account will also be taken in the discussions of the principles underlying the EU Year.

### **Conference Report**

A Conference Report will be prepared. This will be formally submitted for attention to the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion, Children and Integration which is chaired by the Taoiseach. Copies of the Report will be circulated to all members of the Oireachtas as well as to all those who attended the Conference.

## ● Conference Programme

- 8.30 ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS AND GUESTS**  
Registration with tea/coffee
- 9.15 MORNING PLENARY**  
— Welcoming Remarks by the Forum's Chairperson, Dr. Maureen Gaffney  
— Address by Minister for Social & Family Affairs, Ms. Mary Hanafin, T.D.  
— Presentation by Ms. Anna Visser, Director and Ms. Karen Fitzpatrick, Member of EAPN Ireland  
— Presentation by Dr. John Sweeney, Senior Social Policy Analyst of NESF
- 10.45 COFFEE BREAK**
- 11.15 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS TO THE PANEL**
- 11.45 MEETINGS OF WORKSHOP GROUPS ON:**  
— Child Poverty – children and their families  
— Access to Quality Work and Learning Opportunities – People of working age, especially young people and migrants  
— Older People – Access to services  
— People with Disabilities – Access to services
- The main focus in each workshop will be 'How best to support vulnerable households through access to services and employment'
- 1.00 BREAK FOR LUNCH**
- 2.15 CONTINUATION OF WORKSHOP GROUPS**
- 3.30 PANEL DISCUSSION ON EU YEAR FOR COMBATING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION (2010), AND HOW SOME OF THE ISSUES RAISED AT THE SIF WILL BE ADDRESSED THROUGHOUT THAT YEAR'S EVENTS**
- 4.30 CONCLUDING REMARKS**  
By the Forum's Chairperson, Dr. Maureen Gaffney

### Parallel Workshops

*The following themes are for discussion, focusing on 'How best to support vulnerable households through access to services and employment':*

#### WORKSHOP A

- **CHILD POVERTY – CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES**

#### WORKSHOP B

- **ACCESS TO QUALITY WORK AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES – PEOPLE OF WORKING AGE, ESPECIALLY YOUNG PEOPLE AND MIGRANTS**

#### WORKSHOP C

- **OLDER PEOPLE – ACCESS TO SERVICES**

#### WORKSHOP D

- **PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES – ACCESS TO SERVICES**

## Registration and Expenses

If you wish to attend, please return the registration form opposite to the NESF Secretariat as soon as possible. Attendance at the Conference is free.

A contribution towards expenses will be paid to delegates from the Community and Voluntary Sector, who operate in a voluntary capacity, including the costs of childcare, eldercare or other expenses incurred (e.g. public transport, private transport where public is not available, and limited subsistence) **PAYMENT OF EXPENSES IS CONDITIONAL ON RECEIPTS BEING PROVIDED.** Application forms for expenses will be available at the registration desk on conference day.

## Glossary

### EUROPEAN YEAR (2010) FOR COMBATING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

The European Union has chosen 2010 as the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The overall aim is to reaffirm and strengthen the political commitment made by the European Council at Lisbon in 2000 to make 'a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty' by 2010. The European Commission in its website on the year states that "A key value of the European Union is solidarity. As a Union we are facing the (economic) crisis together, and this solidarity creates a safety net for each and all of us". The actions envisaged for the year across all EU countries include:

- Encourage involvement and political commitment from each and every segment of society to participate in the fight against poverty and social exclusion, from the European to the local level, whether public or private;
- Inspire each and every European citizen to participate in the fight against poverty and social exclusion;
- Give voice to the concerns and needs of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion;
- Engage with civil society and non-governmental organisations that fight poverty and social exclusion;
- Help deconstruct stereotypes and stigmas attached to poverty and social exclusion;
- Promote a society that sustains and develops quality of life, social well being and equal opportunities for all; and
- Boost solidarity between generations and ensure sustainable development.

### NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION 2007 – 2016 (NAP INCLUSION)

The 10 year plan of the Irish Government aimed at tackling poverty.

#### SOCIAL INCLUSION

Ensuring marginalised people and those living in poverty have greater participation in decision making which affects their lives.

#### SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP

Agreements between government, employers, trade unions, farmers and the community and voluntary sector on economic and social policies over an agreed time frame.

### LIFE CYCLE APPROACH

This approach places the individual at the centre of policy development and delivery by taking into account the risks facing him/her and the supports available at each life cycle stage (children, people of working age, older people and people with disabilities). It offers a comprehensive framework for implementing a streamlined, crosscutting and visible approach to tackling poverty and social exclusion.

By adopting the life cycle approach, the NAPinclusion supports the development of a more joined up and multidisciplinary approach to policy making, with coordinated inputs from a wide range of actors.

### SOCIAL INCLUSION DIVISION

The Social Inclusion Division in the Department of Social and Family Affairs was formed from the integration of the Combat Poverty Agency and the Office for Social Inclusion in July 2009. The role of the Social Inclusion Division is to support the Minister and Government in developing and implementing Government strategies for preventing, reducing and ultimately eliminating poverty and social exclusion, and in promoting greater social inclusion and social cohesion in collaboration with other stakeholders including, in particular, people experiencing poverty.

### THE EUROPEAN ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK IRELAND (EAPN IRELAND)

The European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland is a network of groups and individuals working against poverty. EAPN Ireland is the Irish link to the European Anti-Poverty Network which brings together civil society organisations from all over the European Union in order to put the fight against poverty at the top of the EU, national and local agenda.

### NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FORUM (NESF)

The NESF provides advice to government on policies to achieve greater equality and social inclusion. It is the largest and the most representative of the social partnership institutions and comprises: members of the Oireachtas, employer/business/trade unions/farm bodies, the voluntary and community sector and central government, local government and independents.

# ● How to get to Croke Park

## Train

The closest railway station is Drumcondra at the intersection of Drumcondra Road (N1) and Clonliffe Road, a 5 minute walk from the stadium. This station is served by Arrow trains from Connolly Station. The closest DART stations are Connolly and Clontarf. Connolly is a 15-20 minute walk and Clontarf a 20-25 minute walk to the stadium. The closest Intercity Rail stop is also at Connolly Station, visit [www.ianrdeireann.ie](http://www.ianrdeireann.ie)

## Bus

From the city centre to Drumcondra Road – No 3, 11, 11a, 16, 16a, and 41, visit [www.dublinbus.ie](http://www.dublinbus.ie)

## Luas

The closest Luas stop is Connolly which is approximately a 15-20 minute walk from the stadium, visit [www.luas.ie](http://www.luas.ie)



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16 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, Ireland

T 353.1.814 63 61 F 353.1.814 63 01

LOCALL 1890.203 006 E [info@nesf.ie](mailto:info@nesf.ie) W [www.nesf.ie](http://www.nesf.ie)