

From: Grainne Kelliher [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 May 2019 17:40
To: DRCD SEConsultation
Subject: Social Enterprise Policy Consultation

Hi

I am submitting the following observations in relation to the recently published draft National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland on behalf of Airfield Estate:

1. The definition: In my view a social enterprise tends to make a profit from its commercial activities in order to fund its social and environmental impact work. Both a commercial enterprise and a social enterprise makes a profit or a surplus and they just do different things with the surplus. A commercial enterprise reinvests it in the business or pays it out to investors whereas a social enterprise uses the surplus to deliver positive social or environmental benefit/impact. Surplus may be a better word to use than profit in the definition.
2. The policy doesn't address the confusion between a social enterprise, a commercial enterprise and a charity. Perhaps an appendix or a commitment in the policy to produce a table outlining the different corporate structures/governance/compliance requirement and tax/vat/reserves procedure/treatment etc for each type of entity would be worth considering.
3. Education in Soc Enterprise is required at Schools/third level, with policy makers/Gov depts, with the general public and with people that are thinking about setting up a Soc Enterprise. The policy doesn't address the basics of how one might consider setting up a Soc Enterprise and what the benefits would be over a charity or a commercial for profit business. Should there be a commitment in the policy to creating a Soc Enterprise tool box with templates for things like MOUs, contracts etc to make it attractive and easy to set up Soc Enterprises. Corporates should also be educated on the impact of Soc Enterprise so that they may consider supporting them as part of their CSR programmes.
4. Will there be a requirement to register a Soc Enterprise and will there be a Soc Enterprise regulator in the same way there is for charities. Would it be worth considering a 'Social Enterprise' brand or certification that would allow the public to recognise an enterprise as a Social one?
5. It should be stated where the Soc Enterprise stakeholder reps for the Implementation Group would typically come from.
6. Some of the other benefits that accrue from Soc Enterprises are education and cultural engagement.
7. Might be worth including a short course in the new Junior Cycle on Social Enterprise and possibly prompt a placement in TY in a Social Enterprise. May be worth presenting successful Soc Enterprise case studies at the annual forum, have Soc Enterprise annual awards and run 3rd level Soc Enterprise Innovation awards for 3rd level students which could all take place at the forum.
8. Public tender selection criteria should include social impact and put a value on it so that Soc Enterprises have some chance of being shortlisted or selected to provide services.
9. Soc Enterprise Impact data could be presented every 12 mths at the annual forum.

Should you wish to discuss any of the above in greater detail, please do not hesitate to mail or call me.

Regards,
Grainne

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