

From: Michael Butler [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 May 2019 20:59
To: DRCD SEConsultation
Subject: National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland. 2019- 2022.

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Submission on Behalf of Craobh Eochaille CCE.Brú na Sí, Cultural Centre,Youghal, Co Cork.

Since its inception Comhaltas Craobh Eochaille has operated as a benefit organization.. As a result, it's social goals are embedded in the organisations cultural objectives, which differentiates it from many other organizations. It's main purpose is to promote, and encourage, a cultural identity through education. The Group has established its own Cultural Centre in Youghal Co Cork. In order to sustain and extend the services that Craobh Eochaille provide, a full time Artistic Director / administrator is required.

The Centre is run on a voluntary basis but with fewer people volunteering in todays society, the likelihood that this trend will self-correct is unrealistic. There is a need for a proactive group like Craobh Eochaille to take a lead role in seeking inclusion in the proposed Social Enterprise Scheme 2019 -2022.

Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Éireann is a registered Charity and Craobh Eochaille is a "Not for Profit" Branch Unit. Craobh Eochaille engages with the local community through a "Bottom up Structure. The Brù na Si Cultural Centre is vested in the National Trustees of Comhaltas and the site is leased from Cork County Council.

Craobh Eochaille fully acknowledges that the delivery of its full potential will not be realized without the support of Government. It is encouraging to hear that the Government is now committed to a collaborative approach with relevant stakeholders such as Craobh Eochaille to develop social enterprise over the period 2019- 2022.

Programmes such as Creative Ireland which is the national strategy for culture and creativity, recognises the important role that culture has in all our lives. Craobh Eochaille believes that a social enterprise is the best means of supporting the themes of the Creative Ireland and promoting culture in its widest sense, including arts, heritage, literary traditions and traditional music, customs, and language.

Craobh Eochaille is commitment to wellbeing and fulfilment both individually and at community level; a commitment to deepening our sense of place and strengthening our connection with one another through culture. The Creative Ireland Programme is based on the following five key themes:

- 1: Enabling the Creative Potential of Every Child
- 2: Enabling Creativity in Every Community
- 3: Investing in our Creative and Cultural Infrastructure
- 4: The Creative Industries including Media Production
- 5: Unifying our Global Reputation

The following is a short consideration if the Question set in the Draft for Publication document:

Raising Greater Awareness.

Craobh Eochaille CCE is acutely aware of the benefits of Social Enterprise. Perhaps the best means of promoting and raising awareness is through Asset Based Community Development (ABCD). In other words to build on existing resources.

Initiating Social Enterprise.

National Policy needs to create a culture of tangible supports at community level through an integration of Stakeholders such as “Not for Profits” Local Authority, State Agencies. In other words an meaningful “ecosystem”

Growing and Strengthening Social Enterprise.

Supports need to embrace community challenges in a timely fashion. In the past supports for community tend to dry up once State Agencies have delivered a series of repetitive consultation and training programs. Resources are needed at community level so that modern governance and compliance’s issues do not impede progress.

Access to Finance and Funding.

It is largely acknowledged that Labour market activation programmes no longer fulfill the skill needs of groups like Craobh Eochaille. A social economy program such as the Community Service Programme (which contribute to the cost of employing staff) is far more likely to deliver real and tangible outcomes. However in meeting the delivery of Cultural Education the staff need to be suitably skilled. The measures and criteria set out by the Department of Rural and Community Development must embrace and facilitate innovation and creativity.

Thank you.

Micheal de Buitléir.

Sent from my iPhone