



European Network of Social Integration Enterprises

ENSIE's contribution to National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022

(May 2019)

ENSIE, the European Network of Social Integration Enterprises, represents European national and regional networks of Work Integration Social Enterprises – WISEs. These enterprises aim to integrate disadvantaged people in the labour market through both economic activity and a pedagogic approach that enables their social and professional inclusion.

ENSIE welcomes the initiative for the development of the National Social Enterprise Policy led by the Irish government and the Department of Rural and Community Development and also the opportunity to comment it.

ENSIE strongly supports this social enterprise policy because this will assist the social enterprises in Ireland to grow and contribute to their social and economic progress but ENSIE stresses also on the importance of the implementation plan of the Policy. The implementation plan should also be implemented following the participative principle, including social enterprises in its definition, and all the principles listed in page 26.

ENSIE supports the comments made by its Irish member, ISEN (Irish Social Enterprise Network), in particular:

Social enterprises **are 'profit seeking'**. Social enterprises need to generate revenue and profit from those causes to divert that profit to a social mission. Infact one important principle is the reinvestment of most of the benefits/surpluses to carry out sustainable development objectives, services of interest to members or of general interest (see Social Economy Europe principles).

The board of social enterprises **may** be voluntary but they can be remunerated for work that they undertake in the organisation and can work for the organisation. The policy needs to allow for this.

It's important to define this policy and its implementation plan **in partnership with the social enterprises and their representatives**. The social enterprises and their representative have to be included in the Implementation Group. Also the annual Social Enterprises Forum has to be organised with ths social enterprises and its representatives.

ENSIE also suggests an **annual Review of the policy** (not after three years). The policy needs to be updated following the development on the ground and without waiting for too much time.

ENSIE thanks the Irish government for this opportunity and with its Irish member, ISEN, **stay at its disposal**.

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The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Commission.

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