

From: Patricia Keane [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 May 2019 18:03
To: DRCD SEConsultation
Subject: National Social Enterprise Policy Document Public Consultation.

Categories: Acknowledgement sent

Dear Sir/Madame,

I have just found out about the Public consultation on the National Social Enterprise Policy document 2019-2022.

I know your definition used covers the EU/OECD definition however I believe that "a one size fits all approach" is not the right approach. Ireland has a different socio-economic history. Non-profit organisations and their history differ in all EU countries. Social Enterprises are set up because the Private Market and the State have failed/cannot provide a solution to a common problem. Social Enterprises solve Economic/ Social or Socio-Economic needs. They are not solely organisation that are used to solve social problems using economic means. This is a vital difference in your definition that you are ignoring and it is essential that this is looked at again. Please refer to John Pearce (2003) "Anytown".

Social Enterprises are set up because a group of people have a need- be that economic or social and they need to pool their resources in order to find a solution. Social Enterprises should not be used as a vehicle for the State to pass on their services/ responsibility- the relationship between Social Enterprises and the State in Ireland is already compromised in Ireland, as the funding dependant relationship means that Social Enterprises are being set up because the funding exists/ not because the need exists. This is a very fundamental difference.

I refer to Paul Teague's 2009 article on this- read it, its very interesting.

Social Enterprises are not a new phenomenon in Ireland. People in communities have been organising themselves in Ireland for over a century- the Cooperative Society was the first Social Enterprise in Ireland where groups of people pooled resources to meet common needs- these needs are sometimes economic as well as social, this is missing from your definition. Please refer to a document published in 1996 by ADM Ltd which is entitled "Community Business in Ireland- its Status and Pitfalls.

The deadline for feedback has already passed and I am asking where you advertised this Consultation Process? I would like to have the chance to respond to this call,

I look forward to hearing from you,
Thank-you in advance,

Patricia Keane