

NATIONAL SOCIAL ENTERPRISE POLICY FOR IRELAND 2019-2022

PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

SUBMISSION FROM PHILANTHROPY IRELAND.

OPENING REMARKS

Philanthropy Ireland (PI) welcomes the development of a Social Enterprise Policy and acknowledges the work done by the department and the sector in this regard. We see it as a significant step of support for a sector that plays a vital role in the delivery of services and support for social good.

Acknowledge the definition of social enterprise and the reference to the significant contribution in delivery of social impact across a range of government policy goals.

Social Enterprise is closely linked with and in many ways mirrors the key tenets of philanthropy. A number of our members, including, Social Finance Foundation, Social Entrepreneurs Ireland, Clann Credo, Community Finance Ireland and Social Innovation Fund Ireland are all directly involved in supporting the work of social enterprises. In this regard we would acknowledge their expertise in commenting on the body of detail on the policy and endorse those inputs. Our intent here is to add our voice of support.

REFERENCE TO SECTIONS OF REPORT

1. Introduction

We note the reference to coordination and integration with other Departmental strategies including the Strategy to Support the Community and Voluntary Sectors in Ireland, and the forthcoming National Volunteering Strategy, noting the comment:

'Taken together, the Department's policies will provide a full range of supports to organisations that are providing services to communities or tackling social issues, whether through the established community and voluntary approach, or a social enterprise model.'
(p4)

A further strand will be the development of a policy framework for philanthropy, committed to by the DRCD for 2019.

OUR ASK

As per the policies named, we would like to see Policy on Philanthropy included in this statement of commitment to coordination and integration with Departmental strategies.

2. Understanding Social Enterprises

The close links and synergies with philanthropy are evident a) through the membership of our organisation as referenced above and b) the significant role of philanthropy in supporting the social economy, often playing an integral role in the broader ecosystem of support for social enterprise. For example, SEI was established through philanthropic funding and continues to thrive with philanthropic support; SIFI is a partnership between Government and Philanthropy.

OUR ASK:

Synergy with philanthropy should be noted as per the reference to synergies with the community and voluntary sector (p9-10).

3. Establishing Policy Objectives

Nothing to add.

4. Policy Objective One Creating Awareness of Social Enterprise:

Proposed actions are well placed and considered; actions should achieve desired impact

5. Policy Objective Two: Growing and Strengthening Social Economy

Proposed actions are well placed and considered; actions should achieve desired impact

6. Policy Objective Three: Achieving Better Policy Alignment

As referenced previously, philanthropy has and will continue to play a significant role in support of social enterprise. DRCD has and will continue to play a significant and welcome role in the support and development of philanthropy. In this regard, the proposed development of Policy on Philanthropy should be referenced alongside all other departmental policy strategies (p.23)

OUR ASK:

Inclusion of reference to policy on philanthropy alongside references to other departmental policies (p23).

It is our opinion that data collation against consistent frameworks of understanding is critical to inform the ongoing development of policy and practice.

Proposed actions are well placed and considered; actions should achieve desired impact

7. Policy Implementation and Oversight

Core principles as outlined are welcomed. We also note reference to implementation working group and welcome the collaborative approach for implementation. However, all of this needs to be underpinned by a commitment of resources, personnel and finance, to ensure the policy is actively driven and implemented.

OUR RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend a statement of support to commit adequate resources for the effective implementation of the policy as outlined, underpinning the statement of intent.

ABOUT US

Who Are We?

Philanthropy Ireland (PI) is a not for profit member organisation dedicated to the growth and development of philanthropy in Ireland. Established in 1998, membership comprises grant making trusts and foundations, corporate philanthropy and individual supporters. We work in collaboration and partnership with a cross section of organisations, both national and international and with government. We are supported through funding from DRCD, philanthropic funding and member fees.

What Do We Do

Since our inception we have undertaken a range of activities to both increase the level of giving in Ireland and to promote strategic, planned giving, with a view to maximising impact. We have seen the development of various models of giving, contributing to the development of projects which continue to impact on and benefit our society. We have grown the level of awareness, understanding and support for philanthropy in Ireland. In summary our focus is on the '3 P's':

- **Promotion of Philanthropy**
- **Practice of Philanthropy**
- **Policy for Philanthropy**

Contact:

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THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE.