

Office for Social Inclusion Data Strategy

The Office for Social Inclusion (OSI) has responsibility for ensuring that the necessary data and technical supports are in place to enable development, monitoring and evaluation of the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion, 2007-2016 (NAPinclusion), and of the social inclusion elements of other national strategies, such as the National Development Plan and the national partnership agreement *Towards 2016*. The Office works closely with government departments and other agencies in this regard in order to facilitate improved measurement of policy outcomes and to develop synergies.

A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) assists the OSI in the development and implementation of an appropriate Data Strategy to underpin the NAPinclusion process. The TAG comprises representatives of key Government Departments, the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the Combat Poverty Agency (CPA), the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and the Equality Authority. Membership of this group has been expanded to include technical experts from the social partners in line with the commitments contained in *Towards 2016* and the NAPinclusion.

The terms of reference of the group include advising OSI on:

- (i) identifying current data availability and gaps in the data required for the effective monitoring and evaluation of the NAPinclusion;
- (ii) reviewing the data requirements for the application of appropriate indicators, with particular reference to the measurement of policy outcomes;
- (iii) the most effective approaches for poverty measurement;
- (iv) the potential for policy development and research on poverty and social exclusion in Ireland, taking account of increased utilisation of existing data sources and of the development of new data sources;
- (v) addressing the data requirements of the enhanced poverty impact assessment process.

The agreed work programme for 2008 includes the following tasks:

- Data Availability and Data Gaps - Development and completion of a revised Data Matrix to enable monitoring of progress towards the targets and actions contained in the NAPinclusion. Advising on how remaining gaps identified can be filled, in the shorter and longer term.
- Poverty Measurement and Indicators - Advise the OSI in relation to review of poverty measurement and the use of appropriate indicators, including in the context of developing the social inclusion component of the National Report on Strategies for Social Protection and Social Inclusion.
- Research - Assist the OSI in compiling an index of relevant research, existing and planned, on poverty and social exclusion, which could be made available on the OSI website.