

National Conference

Social Transfers and Poverty Alleviation: National and International Perspectives

11 December 2013

Venue:

The Economic and Social Research Institute
Whitaker Square
Sir John Rogerson's Quay
Dublin 2



Seminar Purpose

The conference will feature the publication of a new research report for the Department of Social Protection on Social Transfers and Poverty Alleviation in Ireland. The report examines the role of social transfers in Ireland, particularly assessing their effectiveness and efficiency. It provides insights on why social transfers played a greater role in alleviating poverty and deprivation in Ireland between 2004 and 2011. It assesses the impact of social transfers across different life-cycle groups and provides a comparative analysis of social transfers in Ireland with other EU countries. The conference will also examine international research on social expenditure and poverty. It will consider the implications for policy, drawing on international and national learning. The conference will conclude with a panel discussion with national stakeholders.

Organising Bodies

The [Department of Social Protection](#) has overall responsibility for developing, co-ordinating and driving the Government's National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016. Its [Social Inclusion Division](#) has a specific remit to monitor poverty trends, including progress on national poverty targets, and to analyse the impact of policies on poverty and social exclusion.

The [Economic and Social Research Institute \(ESRI\)](#) is one of Europe's leading research centres in the social sciences. Its main focus is research on economic and social change in Ireland in the new global context. The ESRI produces research that contributes to understanding economic and social change and that informs public policy-making and civil society in Ireland and throughout the European Union.

Closing Date for Registration: 6 December 2013

Programme

09.00 Registration and tea / coffee

09.30 Welcome

[Frances Ruane](#), Director, Economic and Social Research Institute

09.40 Opening Address

[Joan Burton](#) T.D., Minister for Social Protection

Session 1: Social transfers and poverty alleviation in Ireland and across the OECD

Chair: [Larry Tuomey](#), Chair of the Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice

10.00 Social transfers and poverty in Ireland in Boom and Bust

[Dorothy Watson & Bertrand Maître](#), Economic and Social Research Institute

10.20 Redistribution policy after the crisis: Challenges in the context of longer-term trends

[Herwig Immervoll](#), Senior Economist, Head of Employment-Oriented Social Policies, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

10.40 Questions and Answers

11.00 Tea / coffee break

Session 2: Social transfers and the life-course

Chair: Chair: [John Conlon](#), Assistant Secretary, Department of Social Protection

11.20 Tax/Transfer Impacts in the Great Recession: National and Cross-National Evidence

[Tim Callan & Claire Keane](#), Economic and Social Research Institute

11.40 Comparing Social transfers for children across OECD countries issues for poverty alleviation & well-being

[Dominic Richardson](#), Social Policy Division, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

12.00 Questions and Answers

Session 3: Panel Discussion

Chair: [Ita Mangan](#), Chair of the Advisory Group on Tax and Social Welfare

12.20 [John Sweeney](#), Senior Policy Analyst, National Economic and Social Council

12.30 [Orla O'Connor](#), Director, National Women's Council of Ireland

12.40 Open Discussion

13.00 Close of seminar

Booking

Attendance at the event is free but must be pre-booked. There are a limited number of places available so early booking is advised. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. In the event of a high demand, late-booking participants may be placed on a waiting list.

To book a place, see our **booking form**, and register by **12.00 pm on 6th December, 2013** at the latest.

If you have any special requests or needs, please specify these on the booking form and we will try to accommodate you, subject to receiving sufficient notice. If you have any queries about booking, please contact our bookings manager, Adrienne Jinks, by email to: conference@esri.ie or by telephone at +353 1 8632000

Venue

The conference takes place in the **ESRI** which is located at:-
Whitaker Square
Sir John Rogerson's Quay
Dublin 2.
Telephone +353 1 8632000
Web site: www.esri.ie

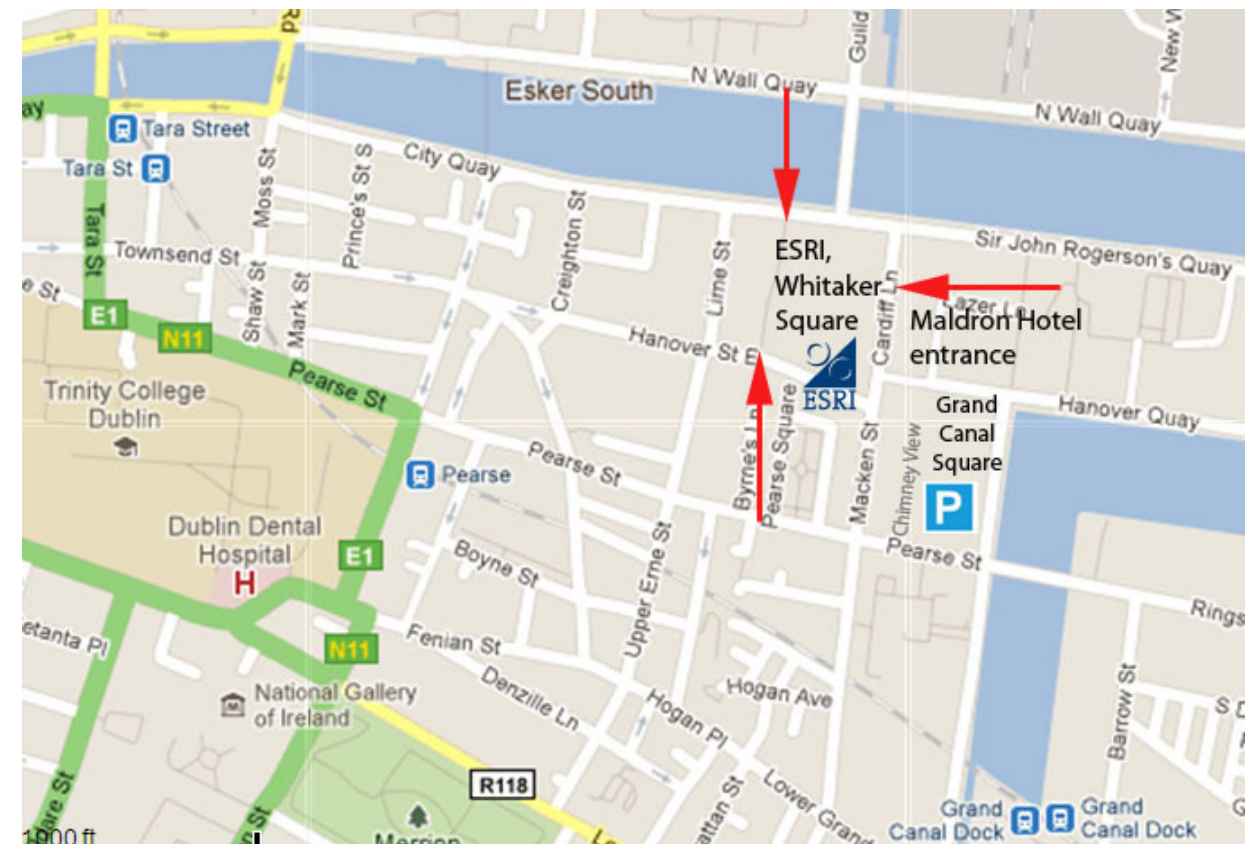
Accommodation

The nearest hotel is the [Maldron Hotel Cardiff Lane](#). Accommodation must be booked directly with the hotel and will be at the expense of the delegate.

Websites for Seminar Publications

The main seminar documents and speakers' presentations will be available online after the event. It will be possible to download copies of the report, research briefing and presentations from www.socialinclusion.ie and www.esri.ie.

Map



Getting there

The ESRI is located at Whitaker Square, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2. This is a pedestrian only Square that is not immediately visible from the surrounding streets. There are pedestrian entrances, all of which are wheelchair accessible, from Sir John Rogerson's Quay (beside the large white O2 building), from Cardiff Lane (directly beside the Maldron Hotel) and from Hanover Street East (just east of the junction with Lower Erne Street). The red arrows on the map above indicate the wheelchair accessible pedestrian entry points.

Public Transport

The nearest Dart is Pearse Station in Westland Row and the nearest Luas (red line) is Mayor Square. The Dublin Bus routes 1, 2, 3, 50, 56a, 77 and 77a all operate to either Pearse Street or Grand Canal Dock, which are close by. See the [Dublin Bus website](#) for details of accessible bus routes and timetables.

Parking

There is on-street paid parking in Cardiff Lane, Hanover Street East and Erne Street. There are some public parking spaces reserved for accessible parking in the Dublin 2 area, see this list for details. The nearest public car park is the Q-Park at Grand Canal Square. The entrance is on Chimney View, just off Pearse Street. Other car parks are available at: Connolly Station, Jury's Inn Dublin Custom House, and the National College of Ireland. Unfortunately, as all parking spaces in the area are public spaces, we cannot guarantee the availability of parking spaces on the day.

Participants' Biographies

(In order of listing on conference programme – click on participants name for more bio information)

Frances Ruane has been director of the ESRI since December 2006. Her previous position was as Associate Professor in the Department of Economics in Trinity College Dublin, where she also held the posts of Director of the Policy Institute and Director of the MSc programme in Economic Policy Studies. Frances is currently a member of the Councils of the Royal Irish Academy, the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, and Economic and Social Studies. She has published extensively and her current research interests centre on exploring innovation and trade.

Joan Burton T.D. was appointed Minister for Social Protection in March 2011, having been the first T.D. re-elected in the 2010 general election. She was first elected to the Dáil in 1992 and is Deputy Leader of the Labour Party since 2007. As Minister for Social Protection, her main priority is to transform the system of social protection to encourage unemployed people back to work, education or training e.g. JobBridge. As Minister of State in Social Welfare ('93 to '94) she initiated a series of Welfare to Work and Education initiatives for lone parents and families on Social Welfare. Formerly a chartered accountant and senior lecturer in the Dublin Institute of Technology.

Larry Tuomey is Chair of the Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice and a member of the world governing council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. He is a Director of a number of Irish NGO's concerned with homelessness, community development and migrants.

Dorothy Watson is an associate research professor at the ESRI and adjunct at the Department of Sociology, Trinity College Dublin. She is the ESRI programme co-ordinator for research on social inclusion. Her research interests include comparative international studies of poverty, income distribution and subjective wellbeing. Her current research projects include work and poverty, the intra-household distribution of resources, subjective well-being in Europe, and people with disabilities in the labour market.

Bertrand Maître is a senior research officer at the Economic and Social Research Institute, Dublin and adjunct at Trinity College Dublin. His main research interests focus on multi-dimensional approaches to poverty, social exclusion and quality of life. Working on these issues throughout various projects, he has gained extensive experience in the use of a wide range of large European (ECHP, EU-SILC, European Quality of Life Survey) and Irish data sets.

Herwig Immervoll is Senior Economist and Head of Employment-Oriented Social Policies, OECD, Paris. He joined the OECD in 2003 and was previously Senior Economist and Social Protection Specialist at the World Bank (2011-2013) and Research Associate at the University of Cambridge (1998-2003), where he had a major role in developing EUROMOD, the EU-wide tax-benefit model. His research interests include social, fiscal and labour-market policies, and their effects on inequality, poverty and employment. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the Foundation of International Studies on Social Security (FISS), and a Research Fellow/Associate at ISER, University of Essex, at NATSEM, Canberra and at IZA, Bonn. He is lead author of OECD reports on topics including social policies during and after the crisis, as well as on redistribution trends, minimum-income benefits and activation policies. He has also contributed numerous book chapters and academic articles including in Journal of Public Economics, International Tax and Public Finance, Journal of Economic Inequality, and the Economic Journal.

John Conlon is Assistant Secretary General in the Department of Social Protection with responsibility, inter alia, for Finance and Budget Estimates. He previously worked for over 20 years with the Departments of Public Expenditure and Reform and Finance and was Assistant Secretary to the Commission on Taxation. During his career he has also worked in the Office of the Ombudsman and with the Constitution Review Group. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce from University College Galway, a Bachelor of Laws (LLB), also from UCG, a Master of Laws (LLM) from Trinity College as well as an MA in Public Management from the Institute of Public Administration. He is a former member of the Advisory Group on Tax and Social Welfare.

Tim Callan is programme co-ordinator of [Taxation, Welfare & Pensions research](#) at the ESRI. His main areas of interest are income tax and welfare policy, the labour market, pension policy and poverty and income distribution. He has a particular interest in the design and use of microsimulation models. Tim obtained his primary degree in economics at Trinity College Dublin, and undertook his graduate studies at Nuffield College, Oxford, leading to the degrees of M. Phil. and D. Phil.

Claire Keane joined the Social Policy division of the ESRI in September 2007. She holds a Bachelor of Business Studies degree (specialising in economics and finance), a Masters degree in Economics and completed a PhD in Economics at University College Dublin in 2012. Her research interests include labour economics, income tax, welfare and pension policy as well as poverty and income distribution analysis. She works mainly in the area of taxation, welfare and pensions working on the ESRI tax-benefit model, SWITCH.

Dominic Richardson has been working at the OECD Social Policy Division since May 2007. Dominic's work at the OECD has focused on issues of child and family well-being, in particular analysing social welfare policies and expenditure across the child's lifecycle, and designing a framework through which policy amenable indicators of child well-being outcomes can be compared internationally. Prior to joining the OECD, Dominic worked as a research fellow at the Social Policy Research Unit at the University of York (UK) where he undertook work on welfare benefit take-up. Dominic has also contributed to the background research for UNICEF Innocenti Report Cards 7 and 9 on child well-being in rich countries, and has recently completed a joint EC OECD project evaluating large international child and family surveys in developed countries. Presently, Dominic is managing two on-going projects at the OECD: an evaluative report of the efficiency and effectiveness of cash versus social service benefits for family and child outcomes, and a comparative report on the integration of social service for vulnerable populations across OECD countries.

Ita Mangan is a barrister who has specialised in welfare and citizens' rights. She is currently the Chair of the Advisory Group on Tax and Social Welfare.

John Sweeney first joined the NESC as an economist in 2002. He had previously been a lecturer in economics and human development at St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, and worked as a consultant on a wide range of economic and social issues. He obtained his PhD in labour market economics from Leuven University in 1998 for a study of low skilled workers in EU economies. His research interests include the design of social protection systems to meet changing employment patterns, human capital formation, changes to the family and in household living, the knowledge economy and social cohesion, and public policy and children's well-being.

Orla O'Connor is Director of National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCi). She holds a Masters degree in European Social Policy from NUIM and a degree in Social Science from UCD. Orla has worked in senior management in NGOs in Ireland for over 15 years. She was previously the Head of Policy of NWCi, and has led campaigns on a wide range of issues on women's rights, including social welfare reform, pension reform and for the introduction of quality and affordable childcare. Orla has worked in local community based projects developing services for the unemployed, lone parents and young people.

