

NAPS Social Inclusion Forum

Royal Hospital Kilmainham

Wednesday
26th January 2005

9 am – 5.30 pm

conference

“The NAPS Social Inclusion Forum provides those who are not directly involved with the social partnership process with an opportunity to input their views and experiences on the implementation of the NAPS.”

Glossary

NATIONAL ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY (NAPS)

The 10 year plan of the Irish Government aimed at tackling poverty.

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN AGAINST POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION (NAPINCL)

Two-year National Action Plans by EU Member States to work towards greater social inclusion.

POVERTY-PROOFING

The process by which Government departments, local authorities and State agencies assess policies and programmes for their likely impact on poverty.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

Ensuring the marginalised and those living in poverty have greater participation in decision-making which affects their lives.

SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP

Agreements between government, employers, trade unions, farmers and the community and voluntary sector on economic and social policies over an agreed time-frame.

● Conference Overview

Introduction

The National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS) Social Inclusion Forum was established by the Government as part of the new structures to monitor and evaluate Ireland's National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion (2003–2005). Preparation of these plans is a requirement on all EU Member States as part of the European 10-year Social Inclusion Strategy.

The NESF has been given the responsibility by the Government to convene the NAPS Social Inclusion Forum on a regular basis. The Inaugural Meeting of the Forum was held on 30th January 2003 and was attended by well over 200 delegates.

Next Meeting of the NAPS Forum

The next meeting of the NAPS Social Inclusion Forum will be held on Wednesday 26th January, 2005 in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin 8. The Programme for the meeting is opposite.

The basic purpose of this meeting will be to provide organisations and individuals, who are not involved in the social partnership process, with the opportunity to:

- input their views on key policies and implementation issues;
- identify barriers and constraints to progress and how best these can be tackled; and
- provide suggestions and proposals for new developments and more effective policies in the future.

Conference Report

A Conference Report will be prepared. This will be formally submitted to the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion, which is chaired by the Taoiseach, as an input to the evaluation of the NAPIncl that has to be submitted to the European Commission in Brussels by June next. Copies will also be circulated to all members of the Oireachtas as well as to all those who attended the Conference.

● Conference Programme

- 9.00 ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS AND GUESTS**
Registration with tea/coffee
- 9.30 MORNING PLENARY**
- Introductory Remarks by the Forum's Chairperson, Dr. Maureen Gaffney.
 - Address by the Minister for Social & Family Affairs, Séamus Brennan T.D.
 - EU Dimension: Presentation by Mr. Jérôme Vignon, Director, DG Employment and Social Affairs, European Commission.
 - Presentation by Professor Brian Nolan, ESRI.
- 10.25 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**
- 11.00 COFFEE BREAK**
- 11.15 MORNING PRESENTATIONS**
- Mr. Gerry Mangan, Director, Office for Social Inclusion, Department of Social and Family Affairs.
 - Presentation by Mr. Robin Hanan, Director, European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN).
- 11.45 QUESTIONS AND OPEN DISCUSSION**
- 12.15 MEETINGS OF WORKSHOP GROUPS**
(See schedule)
- 1.30 BREAK FOR LUNCH**
- 2.45 CONTINUATION OF WORKSHOP GROUPS**
- FINAL PLENARY**
- 4.00** Feedback from the Workshops – overview presentation, Helen Johnston, Director, Combat Poverty Agency (CPA).
- 4.15 PANEL DISCUSSION**
including Minister, European Commission, Employer and Trade Union representatives, EAPN, CPA.
- 5.15 CONCLUDING REMARKS**
by the Forum's Chairperson, Dr. Maureen Gaffney.

Parallel Workshops

WORKSHOP

● OLDER PEOPLE

Care Services in the Community
CHAIR Dr. Éamon O'Shea, ucg

WORKSHOP

● CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Educational Disadvantage
CHAIR Dr. Anne-Louise Gilligan,
St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra

WORKSHOP

● PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

*Access to Education,
Training and Employment*
CHAIR Mr. Sexton Cahill
IBEC/ICTU Workway Initiative

WORKSHOP

● MINORITY GROUPS

Strategies for Integration
CHAIR Mr. Niall Crowley,
CEO, Equality Authority

WORKSHOP

● WOMEN

Decision-making and Participation
CHAIR Dr. Yvonne Galligan, qub

Registration and Expenses

If you wish to attend, please return the Registration Form opposite to the NESF Secretariat as soon as possible. Attendance at the Conference is free.

A contribution towards expenses will be paid to delegates from the Community and Voluntary Sector, who operate in a voluntary capacity, including the costs of vouched childcare, eldercare or other expenses incurred. Application forms for expenses will be available from the NESF Secretariat at the Registration desk on the day of the Conference.

● The Speakers

Séamus Brennan T.D., Minister for Social & Family Affairs, was first elected to the Dail in 1981 and has held several Ministerial positions including; Minister for Trade & Marketing, Minister for Tourism & Transport, Minister for Tourism, Transport & Communications, Minister for Education, Minister for Commerce & Technology, Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach, with special responsibility as Government Chief Whip, & at the Department of Defence, and Minister for Transport.

Dr. Maureen Gaffney is a well-known psychologist, broadcaster and writer. Since 1993 she has been Chair of the National Economic and Social Forum (NESF), which advises Government on policies in relation to equality and social inclusion. She is also Chair of the Council of the Insurance Ombudsman of Ireland, a member of the Council of the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), and was a Senior Lecturer and Director of the Doctoral Programme in Clinical Psychology in Trinity College Dublin for many years.

Robin Hanan is Coordinator of EAPN Ireland, the Irish network of the European Anti-Poverty Network. EAPN Ireland is made up of about 250 national and local anti-poverty organisations. At European level, he chairs the EAPN's Review Group on Social Inclusion. He previously worked at Comhlámh, a volunteer-based association of 'returned development workers'.

Helen Johnston is the Director of the Combat Poverty Agency, a position she has held for 3 years. Prior to that she worked as Head of Research for 8 years. During her time at Combat Poverty she has been centrally involved in the development,

implementation and analysis of the Irish National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS). Helen has also worked for short spells at the National Disability Authority and the Equality Authority.

Gerry Mangan is Director of the Office for Social Inclusion since December 2002. This Office is charged with promoting and developing actions in support of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy and the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion. He previously served in the EU/International and Planning Units of the Department of Social and Family Affairs and was the first Chief Executive of the Pensions Board.

Brian Nolan is a Research Professor at the Economic and Social Research Institute, Dublin. He is an economist, with a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics and has published widely on income inequality, poverty, public economics, social policy, health economics and health inequalities. He is currently working with colleagues on a programme of research on poverty and related issues based on the European Community Household Panel Survey.

Jérôme Vignon arrived in the European Commission in 1985. Initially a member of Jacques Delors Cabinet, he became Director of the "Forward Studies Unit" on the future of the European integration process. His participation in two white papers of the Commission: in 1993 on "Employment, Competitiveness and Growth", then in 2002 on "European Governance" have prepared him for the key mission of the directorate to contributing to "modernisation and improvement of social protection in Europe".