

Introduction

The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016 (NAPinclusion), identified a wide range of targeted actions and interventions to support the overall objective of achieving the National Social Target for Poverty Reduction (NSTPR). The Plan adopted a life-cycle approach with goals set for each group: children; people of working age; older people and communities.

The Plan was updated for the period 2015 - 2017 to reflect the current issues and interventions to tackle poverty. There was a greater focus on modernising the social protection system, improving effectiveness and efficiency of social transfers and strengthening active inclusion policies. The Updated Plan contained 14 reformulated goals which include a focus on early childhood development, youth exclusion, access to the labour market including measures for people with disabilities, migrant integration, social housing and affordable energy.

The Programme for Partnership Government includes a commitment to develop a new Integrated Framework for Social Inclusion, to tackle inequality and poverty.

http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/eng/Work_Of_The_Department/Programme_for_Government/A_Programme_for_a_Partnership_Government.pdf

The purpose of this consultation exercise is to gather views as to how the new National Action Plan/Integrated Framework should look.

Please click OK to participate in this consultation.

* 1. I am responding

- As an individual
- On behalf of a voluntary or community organisation
- On behalf of a service provider
- Other

If a member of an organisation or service provider, please give the name of the organisation/ provider and position in the organisation:

* 2. I have already taken part in a different aspect of the consultation process:

	Taken Part	Have Not Taken Part
Social Inclusion Forum 2017	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regional Workshop organised by EAPN or CWI	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bi-lateral meetings (with stakeholder Departments, local authorities, technical experts)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other – please specify	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify max 500 characters)



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Timeframe

It is proposed that the new plan will be for a four year period, 2018-2021. This will align with the Programme for a Partnership Government 2016-2021, with other national strategies that have been developed in recent years and with Ireland’s contribution towards the EU poverty target under the EU2020 Strategy.

The longer timeframe of the 2007-2016 Plan included the end of the boom period and the economic recession. As a result, many of the goals and actions contained in the Plan, and the assumptions upon which they were based in 2007, became unrealistic or unachievable as the country fell into severe fiscal crisis. A shorter timeframe could help ensure the goals and actions under the new plan remain realistic and achievable during its lifetime and less vulnerable to national and international fluctuations.

* 3. Do you think a 4 year timeframe, 2018-2021, is sufficient to achieve tangible results?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Other.

If other, please state the timeframe you think the plan should cover and why? (please specify max 500 characters)



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Active Inclusion Approach

It is proposed that the new National Action Plan for Social Inclusion will take an active inclusion approach. Active inclusion means enabling each person, notably the most disadvantaged, to fully participate in society including having a job.

It has three main components which all relevant goals and actions in the plan would be categorised under:

Adequate Minimum Income: adequate income support together with help to get a job.

Inclusive Labour Markets: making it easier for people to join the workforce, tackling in-work poverty, avoiding poverty traps and disincentives to work.

Access to Quality Services: helping people participate actively in society, including getting back to work.

* 4. For each group, please select the theme that is **most important/relevant**.

	Young people (18-24 years)	People of working age (25-64 years)	Older people (65+ years)	Ethnic minorities and migrant workers	People with disabilities	Lone parents	Children (0-17years)	Unemployed people	Members of the Traveller Community
Adequate Minimum Income	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inclusive Labour Markets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to Quality Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Any other group ((please specify max 500 characters))

* 5. Based on the current economic climate and the challenges and opportunities facing Ireland and its citizens, do you think the active inclusion approach is more appropriate than the previous life-cycle approach (max. 500 characters)?



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Scope of Commitments

Similar to the 2007-2016 plan, it is proposed that the new plan will take a ‘whole of Government’ approach to improve outcomes for vulnerable and marginalised groups. There will be a shared responsibility across Government Departments to implement actions to achieve the overall objectives of the plan.

As part of this ‘whole of Government’ approach, the plan will incorporate existing commitments identified in other national strategies. Examples include the child poverty target set in the Better Outcomes Brighter Futures: the national policy framework for children and young people 2014-2020; actions relating to the reduction of poverty in female-headed households in the National Strategy for Women & Girls 2017-2020 etc.

6. Do you think a 'whole of Government' approach will be effective in delivering tangible results over the lifetime of the new plan?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

7. Do you agree with a 'whole of Government' approach that incorporates existing actions and commitments from other relevant national strategies?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

* 8. How do you think 'whole of Government' implementation might be improved? (please be concise, max. 500 words):



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Supporting Structures

Appropriate supporting structures will help ensure the delivery of tangible results by the relevant Government Departments; track the progress of the plan during its lifetime and ensure that work on the plan and related outcomes will be reported at appropriate levels, including Cabinet level. The following structures were put in place for the previous strategy.

Institutional structures: *Departmental Social Inclusion Liaison, Senior Officials Group for Social Protection & Public Sector Reform and Cabinet Committee on Social Protection & Public Sector Reform, Local Authority Social Inclusion Officers*

Monitoring and reporting on implementation and progress: *Social Inclusion Report*

Consultation on implementation and progress: *Social Inclusion Forum, Social Inclusion Monitor*

Poverty Impact Assessment and other proofing mechanisms

Poverty measurement: *national and EU indicators*

Poverty research

European and international cooperation - *Social Protection Committee, Indicators Sub-Group,*

UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals

* 9. The above structures were established under the 2007-2016 plan. For each one, please indicate whether you would like it to

(a) continue in the new Plan as it is (keep);

(b) continue in the new Plan but with some amendments (amend); or

(c) be removed (stop)

	Keep	Amend	Stop
Institutional structures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Monitoring and reporting on implementation and progress	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Consultation on implementation and progress	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Poverty Impact Assessment and other proofing mechanisms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Poverty measurement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Poverty research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
European and international cooperation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What other supporting structures do you think would be effective in delivering and/or monitoring and/or reporting on the new Plan?

Please be concise, max. 500 characters:

* 10. The Programme for Partnership Government includes a commitment to develop the process of budget and policy proofing as a means of advancing equality, reducing poverty and strengthening economic and social rights.

Do you think that enough consideration is given to poverty proofing by Government Departments when policy is being developed?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

How would you improve the process of poverty proofing? Comment (please be concise, max. 500 characters) :



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Targets

Following a review of the national poverty target in 2011/12, a revised National Social Target for Poverty Reduction was adopted by Government. The overall aim of the target is to reduce *consistent poverty* to 4% by 2016 and to 2% or less by 2020, from a baseline rate of 6.3% in 2010. There are two other components of the NSTPR:

The Irish contribution to the EU2020 poverty target is to reduce by a minimum of 200,000 of the population in *combined poverty* between 2010 and 2020.

The child-specific poverty target is to lift over 70,000 children (aged 0-17 years) out of *consistent poverty* by 2020, a reduction of at least two-thirds on the 2011 level.

The most recent Social Inclusion Monitor (using data from the 2015 Survey of Income & Living Conditions) reports that consistent poverty was essentially unchanged at 8.7% in 2015 (this has reduced slightly to 8.3% in the 2016 data), leaving a gap of over 4 percentage points to meet the 2016 interim target of 4%. Reducing the rate now by over 75% to reach the 2020 target of 2% may be seen as being very ambitious and unlikely to be achieved.

The official measure of poverty in Ireland is *consistent poverty*. People are in consistent poverty if their income is below 60% of the median income and they are deprived of 2 or more of the 11 basic deprivation items because they could not afford them. *Combined poverty* is the combination of at-risk-of-poverty and/or basic deprivation.

* 11. Do you think that we should continue to measure progress against targets that are ambitious and challenging but which may also be seen as unrealistic and/or unachievable (**retain target**)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Comment (please specify max 500 characters)

* 12. Do you think that we should revise the existing targets in order to achieve a balance between being sufficiently ambitious while also remaining realistic (**revise target**)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Comment (please specify max 500 characters)

* 13. If consideration was given to revising the target for the reduction of consistent poverty in the new plan, what would you regard as the most appropriate, using the 2015 rate of 8.7% as a baseline?

- Remain unchanged at 2% or less by 2020
- Amend to 4% or less by 2020
- Other

If other, please provide details of the proposed target and a concise rationale in less than 500 characters:



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Outcomes – what would you like to see?

The Programme for a Partnership Government commits to developing a new social inclusion strategy to tackle poverty as an integrated plan across government departments. The Plan should represent a whole-of-government approach to improve outcomes for vulnerable and marginalised groups, while recognizing a shared responsibility to implement actions to achieve the revised National Social Target for Poverty Reduction.

But in practical terms what does that mean for you or the people that your organisation/group represents?

Please use the following box to outline the top three outcomes that you would like to see by 2021 as a result of the new plan (over and above the targeted reduction in consistent poverty).

* 14. Top Three Outcomes (please be concise, max. 500 characters)



An Roinn
Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of
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Thank you for taking part in this consultation. Your time and your opinions are appreciated.