

Seminar

Promoting social inclusion for
people with disabilities:
National and European
perspectives

Wednesday, 21st September, 2011
(9am to 12.30pm)

Venue:

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



Context and Purpose of the Seminar

People with disabilities have a high risk of poverty, are more likely to be unemployed and are excluded from a range of everyday activities. Improving the social situation of people with disabilities is a key theme in the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016 and is also relevant to the Europe 2020 Strategy. The Social Inclusion Division in the Department of Social Protection, the National Disability Authority and the Economic and Social Research Institute are organising a national seminar to review the social and living conditions of people with disabilities and to debate policy responses at National and European levels. In particular, the seminar will consider labour market barriers for people with disabilities and current policy responses to improve access to employment.

Programme

08:30	Registration and Coffee	
09.00	Welcome	Frances Ruane , Director, Economic and Social Research Institute
09.15	Opening Address	Joan Burton TD , Minister for Social Protection
Session 1: The social inclusion challenge for people with disabilities Chair: Deirdre Carroll , Inclusion Ireland		
09.30	<i>The social and living conditions of people with disabilities</i>	Dorothy Watson , Economic and Social Research Institute
09.50	<i>European perspectives on the social inclusion of people with disabilities</i>	Mark Priestley , University of Leeds/Academic Network of European Disability Experts (ANED)
10.15	Questions and Answers	
10.30	Coffee	
Session 2: Improving access to employment for people with disabilities Chair: Peter McKeivitt , National Disability Authority (NDA)		
10.50	<i>Overcoming labour market barriers for people with disabilities</i>	Shruti Singh , Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
11.15	<i>Supporting people in receipt of disability benefits into employment</i>	Eoin O'Seaghda , Department of Social Protection
11.40	Questions and Answers	

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Session 3: Stakeholder perspectives on social inclusion for people with disabilities

11.55	James McClean , People with Disabilities in Ireland John Dolan , Disability Federation of Ireland
12.10	Open discussion
12.25	Closing remarks Siobhan Barron , National Disability Authority (NDA)
12.30	Light lunch

Organising Bodies

The [Social Inclusion Division](#) is based in the Department of Social Protection. The Division is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the *National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016*. The division has a specific remit to monitoring poverty trends, including progress on national poverty targets, and to analyse the impact of policies on poverty and social exclusion. The Division has supported a series of studies on poverty and social exclusion for the various lifecycle groups, including a new study on the social and living conditions of people with disabilities.

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 policymaking and civil society in Ireland and throughout the European Union. The ESRI undertook the study titled *Social Portrait of People with Disabilities* for the Social Inclusion Division.

The [National Disability Authority](#) (NDA) is the independent state body providing expert advice on disability policy and practice to the Minister for Justice and Equality and promoting Universal Design in Ireland. In addition to its policy remit, the NDA work includes research and analysis of issues related to disability; advice on standards and codes of practice for use in service provision to people with disabilities; monitoring standards and recognising achievement through awards schemes, and working with service providers to support them in delivering high quality service standards for people with disabilities.

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 the waiting list.

To book a place, see our [booking form](#), and register by Wednesday 7th September, 2011 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, Elaine O'Neill, by email to: social.inclusion@welfare.ie or by telephone at +353 1 7043886.

Venue

The seminar takes place in the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) which is located at:-

Whitaker Square

Sir John Rogerson's Quay

Dublin 2.

Telephone +353 1 8632000

web site: www.esri.ie

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 below indicate the wheelchair accessible pedestrian entry points.

There will be stewards positioned at all the main pedestrian entry points to the venue on the morning of the seminar.

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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 Custom House, 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.

Accommodation

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

Participants' Biographies: In order of listing on programme



Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton TD Minister Burton was appointed Minister for Social Protection on 9th March 2011. First elected to the Dáil in 1992 and again in 2002, 2007 and 2011. Elected Deputy Leader of the Labour Party in 2007 and was first woman to become finance spokesperson for a major party in Ireland. Minister of State in the Department of Foreign Affairs (1994 -1997) and in the Department of Social Welfare 1993-1994. Formerly a chartered accountant and senior lecturer in the Dublin Institute of Technology. [More bio. information here.](#)

Frances Ruane Professor Ruane has been Director of the [ESRI](#) since December 2006. Prior to this, she was an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics, Trinity College Dublin, where she was Director of the Policy Institute and of the MSc programme in Economic Policy Studies. Frances is a member of the Royal Irish Academy, the Council of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, the Council of Economic and Social Studies. She has published extensively and her current research interests centre on exploring innovation and trade. [More bio. Information here.](#)



Deirdre Carroll is Chief Executive of [Inclusion Ireland](#) – the national association for people with an intellectual disability – since 2001. She has worked in the voluntary disability sector for over 20 years. She is a lay member for Mental Health Tribunals and is on the HIQA's External Reference Group. She was a member of the HSE Steering Committee on Congregated Settings and the Department of Health Value for Money Policy Review Group.

Dorothy Watson is an Associate Research Professor at the [ESRI](#) and the Department of Sociology, Trinity College Dublin. She is the ESRI Programme Co-ordinator for Research on Social Inclusion and her current research projects include work on the measurement of income poverty in an international context, subjective well-being in Europe, workplace organisation / participation and gender and mental health in Ireland.



Mark Priestley is Professor of Disability Policy at the Centre for Disability Studies, University of Leeds (GB) and Scientific Director of the European Commission's Academic Network of European Disability experts (ANED). The work of ANED involves collection and synthesis of evidence from research teams in 29 European countries, with a specific focus on topics relevant to implementation of EU2020 and the European Disability Strategy. [More bio. information here.](#)



Peter McKevitt On developing his management skills in industry Peter has, for the past 28 years worked in a senior management capacity within the RehabGroup, as a Regional Director of Vocational Training Services and as General Manager Midlands/North East for [RehabCare](#) (provides health and social care services). Peter has served as a board member of Independent Living Community Services, Disability Federation of Ireland, The Combat Poverty Agency and is currently Chairperson of the NDA.

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Shruti Singh is an Economist in the [OECD's Employment Analysis and Policy Division](#). Her work includes the new review: Challenges for labour market inclusion of people with mental health problems. She joined OECD's disability policy team in late 2009 as a co-author for the Synthesis Report of the Sickness, Disability and Work review. She also co-authored OECD's Active Labour Market Policy reviews in selected Member countries. Prior to joining the OECD, Shruti was a policy analyst at the Department for Work and Pensions in United Kingdom.

Eoin O'Seaghdha is an assistant principal in the Illness & Disability Policy division in the Department of Social Protection (DSP). Eoin was responsible for the completion of the Department's Value for Money Review of the Disability Allowance Scheme (2010) and is currently involved in the introduction of the Partial Capacity Benefit scheme in 2011. He is among the Department's representatives on the Disability Cross Sectoral Group which is concerned with the employment of people with disabilities. More about the Department's Illness & Disability Schemes [here](#).



James McClean is National Chairperson of People with Disabilities in Ireland (PwDI), the cross disability organisation set up by the Government to represent all People with disabilities, their families and carers. James represents PwDI on the European Disability Forum (EDF). He is employed as a Job Coach within the FÁS funded Employment Response North West Supported Employment service, assisting People with disabilities to attain and maintain paid employment in the open Labour market.



John Dolan, is Chief Executive of the [Disability Federation of Ireland](#) since 2000 – a period coinciding with the development and implementation of the National Disability Strategy (NDS). DFI has also led the drive, through effective social partnership, to embed better governance and collaborative working to increase organisational capacity across the voluntary disability sector. John serves on Boards such as the NDA, HEA, ERHA, The Wheel and EASPD.



Siobhan Barron is the Director of the [National Disability Authority](#) (NDA) since 2006. The NDA is an independent statutory body which was established to provide information and advice to government on disability matters. The NDA's roles include supporting and monitoring the National Disability Strategy and providing advice to promote independence and quality of daily life for people with disabilities. Prior to this Siobhan worked in the Disability Equality area of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.