



An Chomhairle Náisiúnta Eacnamaíoch agus Shóisialta
National Economic & Social Council

Finnish Local Development Delegation

Glas Haus Hotel, Tallaght
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The National Economic and Social Council (NESC)

- **Established in 1973**
- **Contains employers, trade unions, farm organisations, government departments and independents – community and environmental added in 1990s & 2000s – 30 in total**
- **Chaired by the Secretary General of the Prime Minister's Department**
- **Meets once per month**
- **Focuses on strategic issues and principles**
- **Discusses analytical drafts by the secretariat (6 analysts)**
- **Seeks consensus, and produces reports**

LANDMARK NESC PROJECTS

- **Developmental Welfare State (2005)**
 - how to combine income supports, services and innovative measures
- **Ireland's Five Part Crisis (2009, 2015)**
 - Banking, Fiscal, Economic, Social & Reputational
- **Well-being Matters (2009)**
 - Sets out a wellbeing framework for Ireland

CURRENT NESC PROJECTS

- **Housing**
 - Social, home ownership, private rental, land supply
- **Environmental Policy**
 - Wind energy, environmental data, aquaculture, sustainable development
- **Infrastructure**
- **Funding Higher Education**



NESC SOCIAL PROJECTS

- **Social Implications of the Crisis**
- **Jobless Households**
- **People and Places (OECD project)**

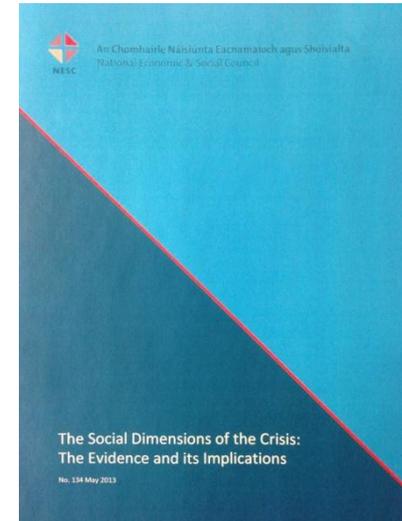


Social dimensions of the Crisis – Austerity context

- **Great Global Recession**
 - Most severe and synchronised global recession since WW2
 - European dimension ... Saving the €
 - Crash in Ireland early and very severe
 - 5 part crisis: banking, fiscal, economic, social, reputation
- **Impact for Ireland**
 - Ireland an IMF-ECB-EU (Troika) Programme Country
 - Banking: debt, lack of credit
 - Fiscal: tax increases, pay cuts, reductions in government spending
 - Economic: job losses, business failure, competitiveness
 - Reputation: over-stretched, but taking the medicine & resilient
 - Social: unemployment, poverty, services, community

SOCIAL IMPACTS - OVERVIEW

- **Unemployment has increased**
- Income and wealth have fallen
- Pensions – mixed impact
- **Income inequality has fluctuated**
- **Identifiable patterns of economic vulnerability**
- **Increase in poverty**
- Household consumption has fallen
- **Over-indebtedness has increased**
- Importance of public services – some increases but mainly reductions and reform
- The community and voluntary sector severely impacted
- Population changes alongside the economic crisis
- Spatial dimensions of the economic crisis
- Impacts on psychological and physical health
- **Budgetary impacts have been broadly progressive**



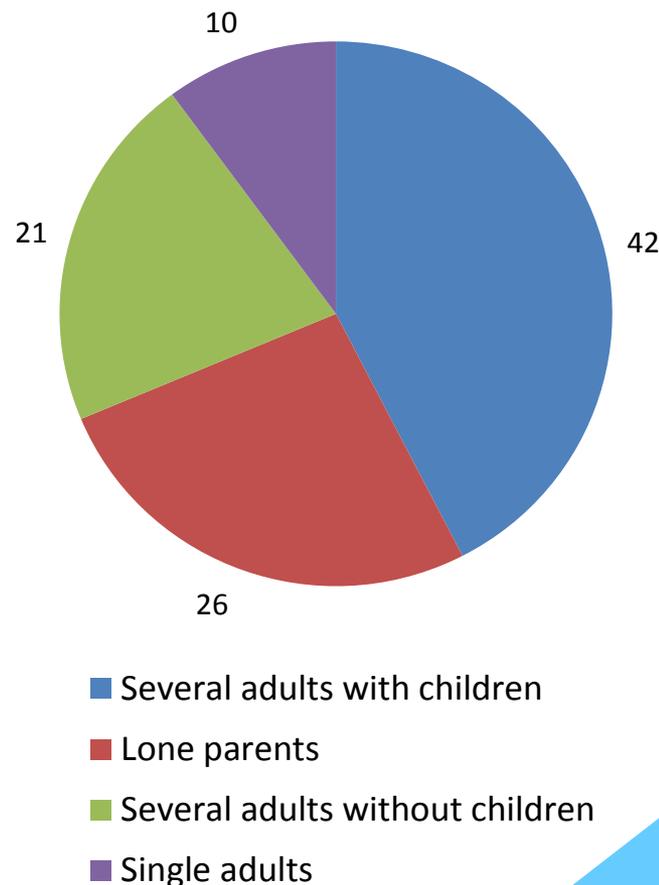


Overall Implications

1. Most people have been impacted, at least to some extent by the crisis
2. Those who were least well off prior to the economic crisis remain so
3. Those who have lost jobs, had business failures, seen large falls in income or wealth, or who carry a large excess debt burden, are experiencing an effect of a different order
4. Policies and institutions matter

Jobless Households - Overview

- 13.2% of persons aged 0-59 in jobless households (June 2015)
- Down from 17.2% in Q2 2012
- EU-15 average in 2015 = 11%
- 68% of jobless households contain children
- Not the same as unemployment attachment to the world of work seen as important in exiting unemployment
- Risk factors
 - Has never worked
 - Unskilled manual/service social class
 - No educational qualifications
 - Living in rented accommodation
 - Has a disability



Jobless Households - Overview

Explanations

- **Operation of the tax and welfare system**
- **State of the labour market**
- **Characteristics of jobless households**
 - Age
 - Level of education
 - Age and number of children
 - Health status

Impact

- **Risk of poverty**
- **Cost to the social welfare system**
- **Cost to society**

Jobless Households – Current Study

Purpose of Study – To Understand Better

- The circumstances of households where no-one is working regularly and their decision-making processes
- The interaction between jobless households and front-line service providers
- The decision-making structures and delivery mechanisms within service providers
- The decision-making and implementation processes of national policy
- The extent of integrated service provision

With a view to making appropriate suggestions for policies on joblessness

Jobless Households – Current Study

- **Qualitative study in West Tallaght**
- **Theoretical framework**
 - employment, poverty, families, networks and institutions
- **Profile of the area**
 - Socio-economic, institutional
- **Interviews (and follow-up focus groups/roundtables)**
 - Jobless households – 29 done, 3 more to do
 - Front line service providers
 - Managers of service providers
 - National decision makers
 - Other relevant parties
- **Report by year end**



People and Places:

Weaving Together Policies for Social Inclusion in Ireland

- **OECD study carried out in 2014**
- **To examine how economic and social disadvantage is being addressed in the wake of the economic crisis**
- **Case study approach**
 - Blanchardstown RAPID area (15,000)
 - North County Meath (3,000)
- **Focus on:**
 - Accessibility
 - Asset-building
 - Multi-level governance



People and Places:

Weaving Together Policies for Social Inclusion in Ireland

Conclusions and Recommendations

- **Improve governance and build capacities**
 - Strengthen an integrated services approach
 - Build capacities at local level
 - Establish a ‘what works’ centre
- **Leverage community assets better**
 - Support social enterprises
- **Increase accessibility to economic opportunity**
 - Re-invest in career guidance
 - Expand and improve apprenticeship offerings
 - Consider the development of migrant one-stop shop centres
 - Invest in early years education and care



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