



Believe in it. Act on it.

**YOUNG SOCIAL INNOVATORS** are invited to join forces with young Europeans to participate in the 2010 European Year to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion.

Almost 80 million Europeans live at risk of poverty, which means they face insecurity, and go without what most people often take for granted.

The European Council and the European Commission have designated 2010 as the European Year for combating poverty and social exclusion. The designated year is intended to reaffirm and strengthen the initial political commitment of the EU at the start of the Lisbon strategy, March 2000, to making "a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty"

Four main objectives lie at the heart of the European Year

- **Recognition** of the right of people in poverty and social exclusion to live in dignity and to play a full part in society
- An increase in the **public ownership** of social inclusion policies, emphasising everyone's responsibility in tackling poverty and marginalisation
- A more **cohesive society**, where no one doubts that society as a whole benefits from the eradication of poverty
- **Commitment of all actors**, because real progress requires a long-term effort that involves all levels of governance.

The guiding principle of the 2010 European Year to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion is to give voice to the concerns of people who have to live with poverty and social exclusion, and to inspire every European citizen and other stakeholders to engage with these important issues.

2010 European Year to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion also aims to challenge stereotypes and collective perceptions of poverty.



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## Ireland's National Programme

### The broad structure of the Irish National Programme to support the implementation of the EU Year involves:

- **Cross cutting themes** reflecting the priorities for social inclusion set down in the National Strategy for Social Protection and Social Inclusion (NSSPSI) Report for the EU namely: Child Poverty, Access to quality work and learning opportunities, access to services for Older People and People with Disabilities. This element of the programme may include a combination of regional seminars and national conferences, with one international conference.
- **Specific themes** relating to marginalised groups and areas such as urban and rural disadvantage, migration and ethnic minorities, Travellers and homelessness and on technical themes related to monitoring and evaluating processes including Poverty Impact Assessment, measuring poverty, Indicators and data availability and research. This part of the programme will be addressed through once off seminars/roundtable discussions.
- **Locally based activities** which will mainly take place during specially designated "Social Inclusion Weeks" in May and October and will be organised primarily by Local Authorities.
- **Non-funded events** in which various stakeholders including employer organisations, trade unions and sporting and cultural organisations will be encouraged to organise events during the year on poverty and social inclusion related themes.

### The National Implementing Body

The Social Inclusion Division in the Department of Social and Family Affairs has been designated as the National Implementing Body for the Irish National Programme for the EU Year.

The National Advisory Committee (NAC), with representatives of all the main stakeholders, advises the NIB on all aspects of the programme for the year and its implementation. The NAC comprises representatives of Government Departments, NGOs, trade unions, employer and farming bodies, independent funders, European Commission and statutory bodies.

### Timetable for Events

The 2010 European Year to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion will be launched by the EU in Madrid on January 21<sup>st</sup> 2010.

An international conference entitled: *Making real progress after 2010* will be organised on February 5<sup>th</sup> by the European Anti-Poverty Network, with both European and national stakeholders participating.

The Irish programme for the year will be officially launched on February 19<sup>th</sup> in Croke Park.



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