Co-producing Justice: International Social Economy Network Event, 17th December, 2018, Glasgow, Scotland.

Dr. Mary O'Shaughnessy

Cork University Business School, CUBS,

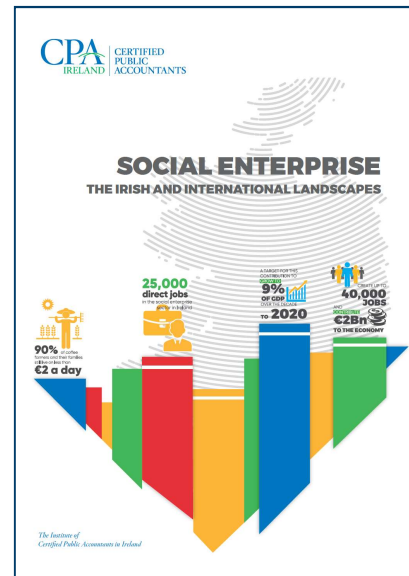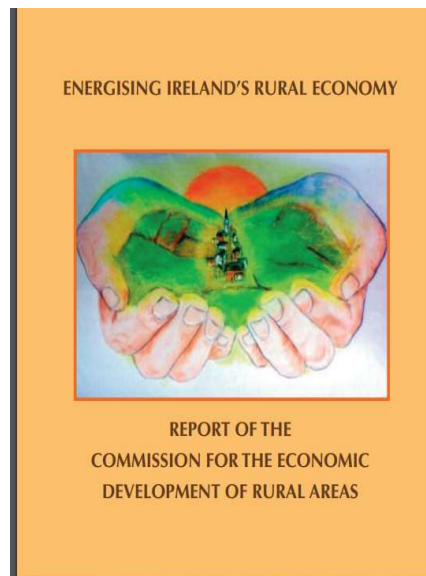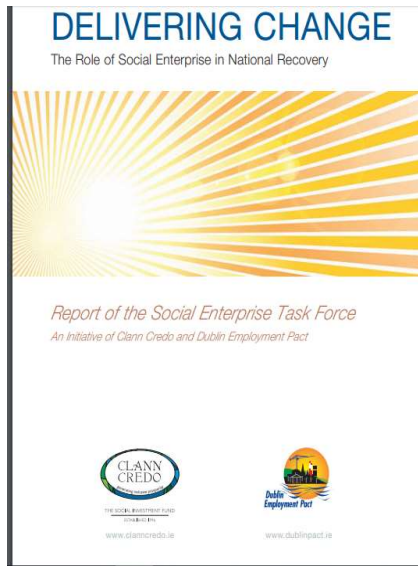University College Cork, Ireland

A TRADITION OF
INDEPENDENT
THINKING

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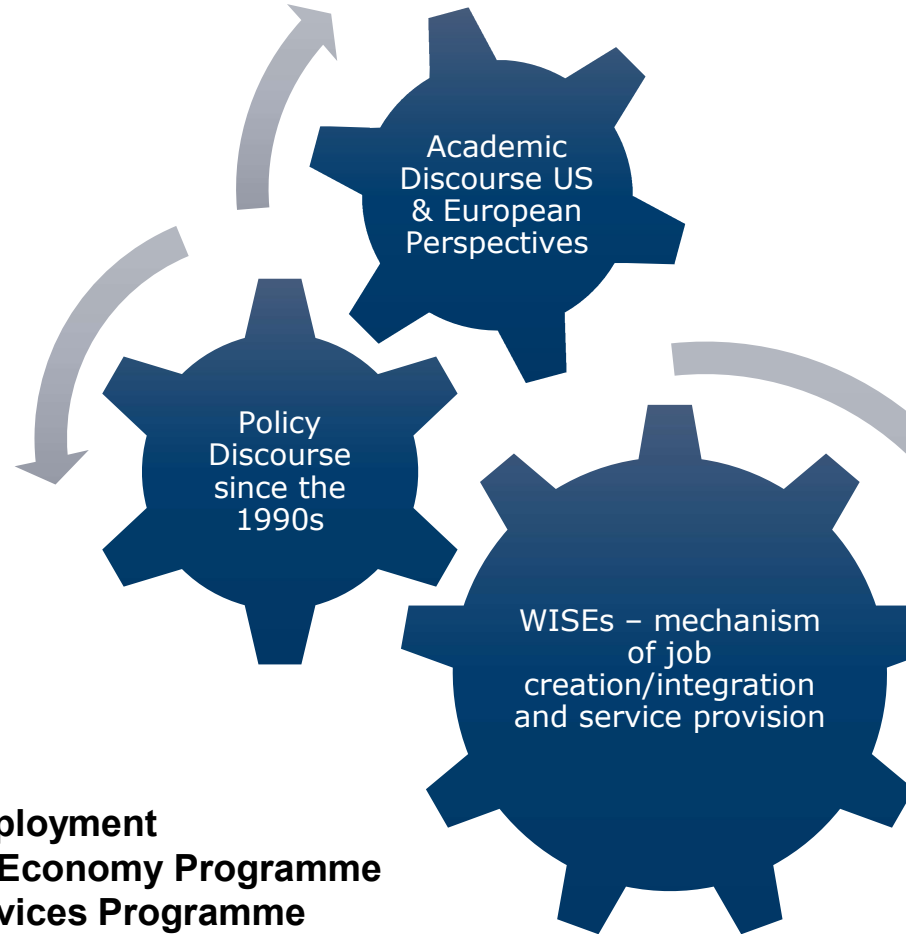
Understanding and Placing Ireland

- Social enterprise sector in Ireland under-developed and under-supported in international terms

- Progress on recommendations from Forfas report on Social Enterprise in Ireland (2013) slow to date

- Lacking specific legislation for social enterprise

- Orientation? Third sector or 'for profit' social enterprise, 'social economy' or 'business' derived (governance and stakeholder engagement)

- Lacking up to date data on size and scale of sector but there is clearly significant potential for growth and development

- Sector is notably under-commercialised, tending to complement and/or fill gaps in public/private sector infrastructure and service provision

- Overall, in a classification provided by Galera and Salvatori (2015), Ireland hovers between *Progressive Emergence* and *Gradual Consolidation*

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Policy and Academic discourse

DELIVERING CHANGE
The Role of Social Enterprise in National Recovery

Report of the Social Enterprise Task Force
An Initiative of Clann Credo and Dublin Employment Pact

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE IN IRELAND
SECTORAL OPPORTUNITIES AND POLICY ISSUES

Forfás

SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SECTOR IN IRELAND

Submission to:
The Irish Local Development Network

Produced by:
Dr Briga Hynes
Kemmy Business School
University of Limerick

June 2016

ENERGISING IRELAND'S RURAL ECONOMY

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
THE IRISH AND INTERNATIONAL LANDSCAPES

An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and Community Development

WISEs – dominant model

Academic Discourse US & European Perspectives

Policy Discourse since the 1990s

WISEs – mechanism of job creation/integration and service provision

Community Employment
National Social Economy Programme
Community Services Programme

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Research report prepared for DCRD on comparative models 2017 - Overall Learning for Ireland?

- There is no simple formula for the development of a vibrant and successful social enterprise sector, context is all

- Even important factors (such as legal recognition, funding) are not sufficient; they are just components of an overall eco-system

- There must also be a strong impetus from the bottom up, a demonstrable need for which the social enterprise model provides the best solution

- It is a long-term process, that it involves an element of trial and (sometimes) error

- Certain common factors which seem to be associated with the creation of a successful and vibrant SE sector

- These factors are both **exogenous** (i.e. associated with the legal, policy and funding environment) and **endogenous** (i.e. internal to the social enterprise sector itself and how it organises, manages and promotes itself

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Factors to consider

Create an enabling environment:

- Government support and formal recognition
- Specific political responsibility for development of SE
- National policy and strategy on social enterprise development
- Appropriate flexible legislation
- Public procurement - service level agreements, insertion of social clauses, taxation issues …

Help social enterprise to do 'better (social) business':

- Business training
- Capacity for self - governance
- Building consortia and network for economy of scale
- Financing and funding

Establish the value of social enterprise:

- Research to deepen understanding and widen knowledge base
- Determine most appropriate model of social enterprise in an Irish context
- Learn from best practice (nationally and internationally)

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Emerging strategic questions – WISEs

As their role as labour market intermediary and potential site of community based employment generation increases:

1. What is the best market niche for selling goods and services that matches the needs for employment, training and ultimate transition into broader labour market?

2. WISE models for labour market preparation... do they actually deliver? And what do they deliver?