



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

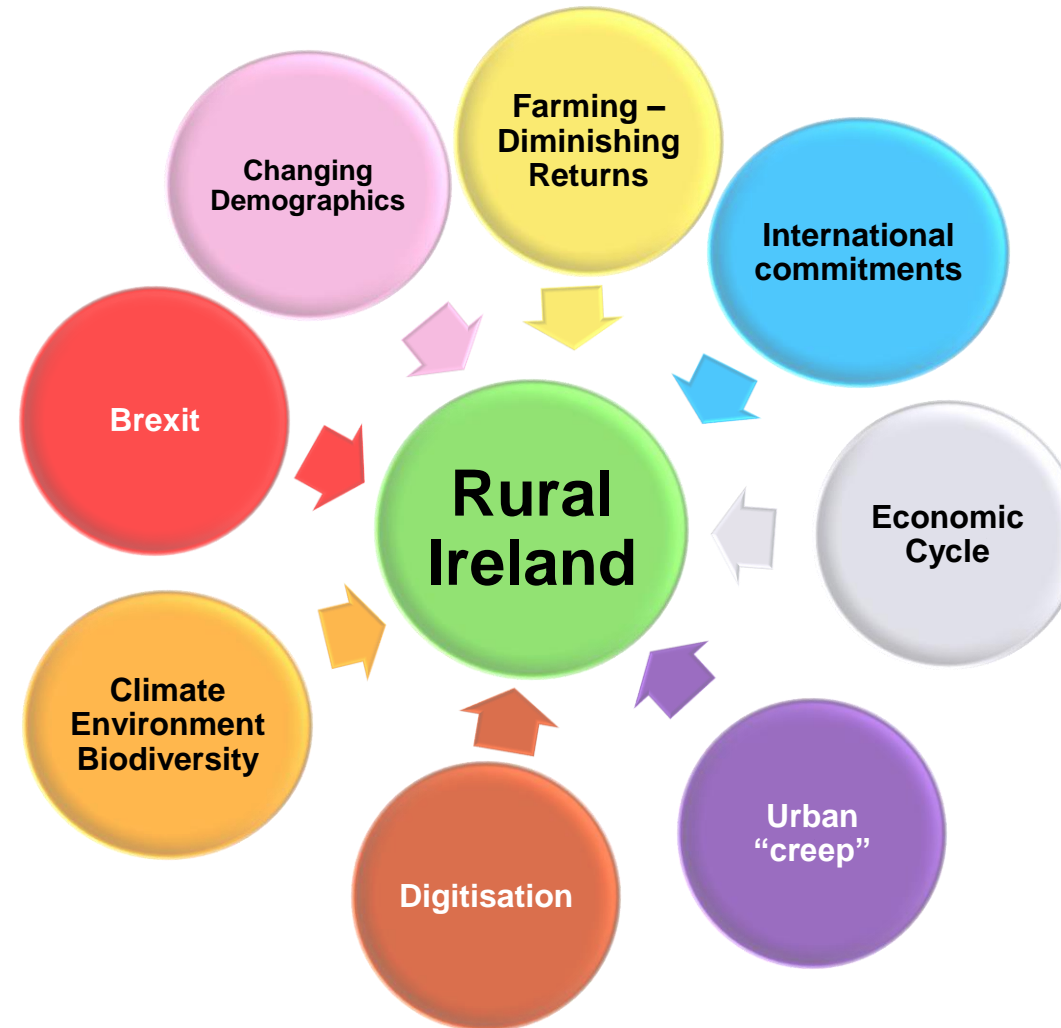
Social Enterprise as a tool for effective rural development

Andrew Forde

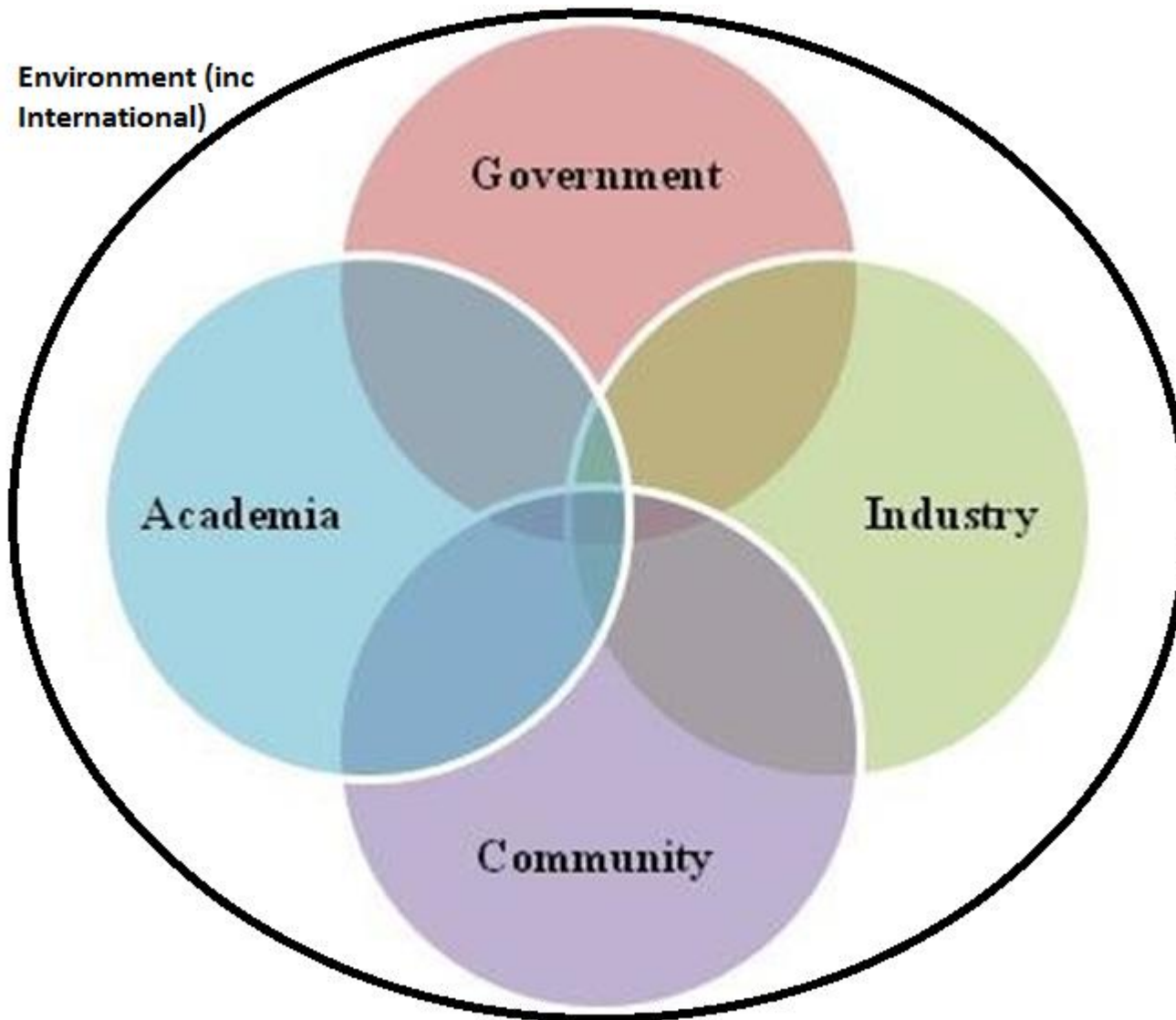
**Head of Rural Strategy & Social Enterprise
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Rural development in Context



Purposeful Partnership





What is a Social Enterprise?



A Social Enterprise is an enterprise whose objective is to achieve a social, societal or environmental impact, rather than maximising profit for its owners or shareholders.



It pursues its objectives by trading on an ongoing basis through the provision of goods and/or services, and by reinvesting surpluses into achieving social objectives.



It is governed in a fully accountable and transparent manner and is independent of the public sector. If dissolved, it should transfer its assets to another organisation with a similar mission.



What do Social Enterprises look like?

- Work Integration Social Enterprises (WISEs)
- Enterprise Development social enterprises
- ‘Deficient Demand’ social enterprises
- Environmental social enterprises
- Social Cooperatives which do not distribute profits
- **Natural SDG Champions**



Social Enterprise – An effective approach?



Community-based

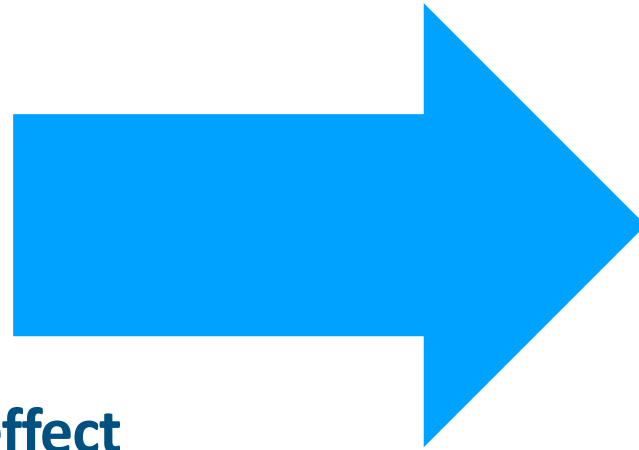
- Understanding local needs
- Proximity to people

Values-based

- Trust
- Equality
- Social cohesion

Ensuring a multiplier effect

- Job creation
- Economic growth
- Social / Environmental Impact



Resilience &
Sustainability



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National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022



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The Policy is based around 3 Objectives:



1

**Building
Awareness
of Social
Enterprise**

2

**Growing and
Strengthening
Social
Enterprise**

3

**Achieving
Better Policy
Alignment**

1

Building Awareness of Social Enterprise



- Develop **Awareness Strategy**
- **Best Practice** examples
- **Annual Social Enterprise Conference**
- Work with **education and research bodies** to support development of Social Enterprise

2

Growing and Strengthening Social Enterprise



- **Enhance availability of business supports** to Social Enterprises
- Provide information on available **funding and financing** supports
- Work to improve capacities and opportunities for **business-to-business and public procurement**

3

Achieving Better Policy Alignment



- Promote **greater understanding of and interaction with** Social Enterprises across Government
- Alignment with **National Policies** (APRD, Future Jobs Ireland, Climate Action)
- Ensure **international engagement** including with the **EU, OECD and British-Irish Council** on Social Enterprise
- **Improve data collection**
- Develop a **Social Enterprise impact measurement methodology**



Rural Social Enterprises – Final thoughts

- Tremendous **opportunity** to generate social and environmental **impact**
- **Opportunity** is most pronounced in rural areas
- **Policy base** and **meaningful partnership** prerequisites for thriving ecosystem
- Complementarity with both **community** and **business sectors**
- **International collaboration** and **sharing of experience**
NB



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Thank You

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