



## Development of a Well-being Framework for Ireland

### Stakeholder and Expert Group Minutes

**3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting: Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021 @ 11am. Online via Zoom**

**Attendance:** Seán Ó Conláin, Mike Hogan, Dessie Robinson, Philip Hamell, Sinead O’Flanagan, Paul Donnelly, Liam Delaney, Geriant Ellis, Edgar Morgenroth, Colette Bennett, Jennifer Symonds, Clodagh Harris, Helen Johnston, Denis Duggan, John Sweeney, Emily Whelton, Lena Jacobs.

**Apologies:** Emma Kerins (connection issues)

**Secretariat:** Larry O’Connell, Niamh Garvey and Anne-Marie McGauran

1. **Minutes of last meeting:** Agreed
2. **Discussion on Draft Report:**

A summary of the draft report was presented, including key messages and draft recommendations. Key issues from discussion emphasised:

Overall comments:

- Welcoming of the report, in particular the inclusion of the importance of the work of the PPNs on well-being, and the emphasis on participatory processes. Reflection on nuancing the role of PPNs.
- Framing: the opening section is too focused on environment, it needs to be broader to emphasise the social and economic reasons for doing a WB framework also.
- Frame well-being in a broader and more holistic way, for example ‘what do we value in Ireland’ (and illustrate the breadth and diversity of what we value); also the values and vision is an important part of the framing.
- Mental Health is particularly important to reference.
- Consider the ‘social floor’ of Kate Raworth within ecological limits.
- There is a need for a concise explicit statement that ‘this is the compelling case for a WB framework’
- On the importance of transformation: the vision references ambition; but the paper also needs to address ownership for ambition: what is the role of politicians? Is this a cross-party exercise? How might it extend beyond the lifetime of one government? (Include as questions if not answers).
- To be transformative will also mean leveraging the process of developing the approach: how to use the process to engage and to energise communities and stakeholders: e.g. build on PPNs, extend into Citizen Assembly, and involve schools, universities etc. These diverse stakeholders to be involved in a conversation to articulate values, and specify priorities but also ongoing citizen engagement with implementation in practice – local level empowered to implement at the local level, potentially fiscal decentralisation.
- It is important to emphasise consulting with different age groups: children, young adults in particular, also older people with wisdom of hindsight



- An all Island perspective is missing and good to bring out more. At one level: this can be learning from the experience with Wellbeing in Northern Ireland; but at another level it is about visioning to 'create an Island based on well-being' – common values, community focus.
- This report does not need to have all the answers or set too much in stone. It can identify 'here are the issues that need to be addressed'. For example, the report may not have the answers to how to align local-national, but can include the questions e.g. 'how will local-national be done', 'what is the role of the PPNs', 'how will the WB framework demonstrate impact that we are doing better at local-national?'

#### More specific comments:

- Explore how other frameworks used interlocking principles, inter-linking dimensions – who did this well? How were other frameworks adapted into different cultural contexts – i.e. the areas the OECD didn't pick up on well, or required adaptation across cultures?
- A well-being framework that speaks to policy appraisal could have huge potential (for example: there is new work on wellbeing frameworks in emergency response and how a multi-dimensional approach could have enhanced for example a risk register approach in pandemic response). Perhaps include towards the end of the document what the framework could eventually inform in terms of policy-making and appraisal.
- The OECD framework is not strong on the environment; but the environment is an important component. Trade-offs between equity and environment need to be reflected on.
- Integrating/implementing the framework in practice is a key point under the section 'OECD as starting point'.

### 3. Provisional Survey Responses:

Slides the interim survey results were presented. Discussion included:

- Welcoming the level of responses, and apparent energy/enthusiasm of people to engage.
- The report can showcase what has emerged from consultation so far, and make recommendations to build upon that work with wider engagement.
- Reflection on relatively low level of response from environmental groups – flagged to send a reminder email to organisations ahead of the closing date for the survey.

### 4. Final meeting date reminder

- June 4th @ 11am