



Taighde, Idirphlé, Comhairle
Research, Dialogue, Advice

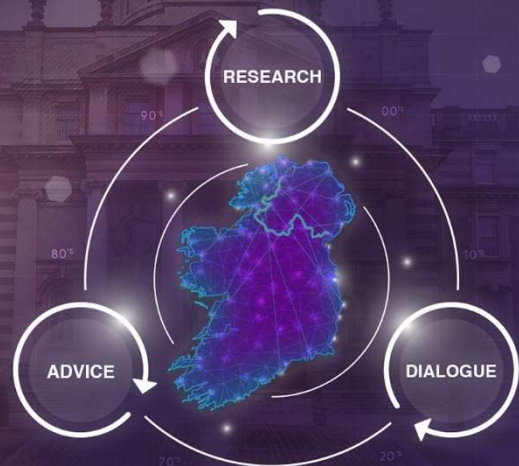
A Thriving Ireland: Foundations & Actions

NESC@50 Conference

Venue | The Printworks | Dublin Castle

Date | Thursday, 23rd November 2023

Time | 09.00 | Registration | 08.30



Conference Contributors



Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, T.D., will address the conference on NESC's role in shaping policy and shaping Ireland over five decades.

Mr Varadkar became Taoiseach for the second time on 17 December 2022. He was born and raised in Dublin. He is a qualified medical doctor and a graduate of Trinity College Dublin. First elected Taoiseach in June 2017, Mr Varadkar was a member of Fingal County Council (2003-2007) and elected to Dáil Éireann for the Dublin West constituency on his first attempt in 2007 and was re-elected to a fourth term in 2020. As Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (2011-2014) he connected Dublin's light rail system (the Luas), helped restore growth to the tourism industry and led the 'Gathering Ireland 2013'. As Minister for Health (2014-2016), he brought in free GP care for children under the age of 6 and adults over 70, launched Ireland's first National Maternity Strategy and published the Public Health Alcohol Bill which is now law. As Minister for Social Protection (2016-2017) he increased pensions, social welfare payments for carers, people with disabilities and lone parents. He introduced paid paternity benefit for the first time in Ireland and extended new social insurance benefits and protections to the self-employed and farmers. He is parliamentary leader and President of the Fine Gael party (EPP affiliate) and led the party into a historic third term in government in coalition with Fianna Fáil and the Green Party.



Professor Anton Hemerijck, European University Institute, is going to share his thoughts on why it is important to challenge the perceived trade-off between a strong welfare state and a successful economy.

Anton is Professor of Political Science and Sociology at the Department of Political and Social Sciences at the European University Institute. Trained as an economist at Tilburg University in the Netherlands, he took his doctorate from Oxford University. In his capacity of Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam, together with Jonathan Zeitlin, he founded the Amsterdam Centre for Contemporary European Studies. He also directed the Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR), the principle think tank in the Netherlands. Between 2014 and 2017, Anton Hemerijck was Centennial Professor of Social Policy at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Most recently, he was a member of European Commission's newly formed High-Level Group on the Future of Social Protection and of the Welfare State in Europe, which published its report this year.



Dr Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin, University College Dublin, will speak about how a vision, coupled with research, dialogue, and advice can spur action today, for the Ireland of tomorrow.

Aoibhinn is Associate Professor in the UCD School of Mathematics & Statistics where she is director of the STEM teacher education programme. A former teacher in a socioeconomically disadvantaged area, she is a member of the Department of Education's STEM Education Policy Advisory Group. In April 2022, she was invited by the Taoiseach Mícheál Martin to Chair Ireland's Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss, whose report and recommendations were published earlier this year. She is a member of the UCD Earth Institute, who work to improve understandings of our rapidly changing environment and find solutions for a sustainable future.



Cian FitzGerald, Institute of International and European Affairs, will offer insights into the national security and defence challenges to a thriving Ireland.

Cian FitzGerald is a Researcher at the Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA), specialising in Defence and Security as well as Foreign Policy analysis. His research interests include geopolitical competition and grand strategy, with a specific focus on irregular and unconventional conflict. He holds an MSc in International Relations of the Middle East with Arabic from the University of Edinburgh and a BA MOD in Classical Civilisation and English Literature from Trinity College Dublin where he was awarded the Gold Medal for Academic Achievement.



Dara Turnbull, Housing Europe, is at the event to speak on how the challenges in Ireland's housing system might be tackled to improve access and affordability.

Dara is Research Coordinator at Housing Europe, where he has worked since 2019. He is responsible for managing various research projects, working to improve the uptake of good practices by public, cooperative, and social housing providers in Europe. He also leads the work of Housing Europe on a number of EU-funded research projects, looking at areas as diverse as energy communities, the circular economy, and social engagement with residents. An economist by training, prior to joining Housing Europe, Dara worked for seven years in the banking sector in Ireland. He holds a Masters in Economics from the National University of Ireland, Galway.



Professor Deirdre Heenan, Ulster University, will speak to the gathering about how the challenges to a thriving Ireland know no borders, and how a thriving, healthier Shared Island can be realised.

Professor Deirdre Heenan was formerly Provost and Dean of Academic Development at the Magee Campus. A distinguished researcher, author and broadcaster, she is a member of the Institute for Research in Social Sciences and has published widely on healthcare, education policy, social care and devolution. She is a co-founder and former co-director of the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey.



Professor Denis C. Grube, Cambridge University, is going to share his expertise on the key ingredients of an effective, forward looking policymaking system.

Dennis is a Professor of Politics and Public Policy at the University of Cambridge, where he also leads research on political decision-making in the Bennett Institute for Public Policy. He has researched and written widely on public policy, public service leadership, the Westminster system of government, and political rhetoric. His latest book, *Why Governments Get it Wrong*, was released in paperback in September this year.



Dermot McCarthy, will speak about NESC's contribution to policymaking, as it develops a shared understanding of challenges and prepares appropriate solutions.

Dermot retired as Secretary General to the Government and Secretary General of the Department of the Taoiseach in July 2011. He served with NESC as Social Policy Analyst, 1978–80, Director 1990-93, Deputy Chair 1996–2000 and Chair 2000 until his retirement. A graduate of TCD in economics, he also worked in the Departments of Industry and Commerce and Health. Since retirement, he has been active on the board of a variety of voluntary organisations, currently chairing St. Andrew's Resource Centre and St Francis Hospice.



Professor Donncha Kavanagh, University College Dublin, will address the conference on how to go beyond scenario-planning and modelling, to promote 'cathedral thinking', and to act today in service of tomorrow.

Donncha Kavanagh is Professor of Information & Organisation in the College of Business at University College Dublin, Ireland. His research interests include the sociology of knowledge and technology, the history and philosophy of management thought, futures studies, money, play and ethics. He has published widely in the fields of information and organization, management, marketing, organization studies, and engineering.



Dr Eburn Joseph, Institute of Antiracism and Black Studies, is at the event to speak about what structures and systems need to change to ensure individuals and generations thrive.

Dr Eburn Joseph is Director & Founder of the Institute of Antiracism and Black Studies (www.iabs.ie). Eburn has developed Antiracism courses that incorporates theoretical and cultural insight. She also works with organisations to develop ERG, support minority employees and enhance inclusiveness. Her courses are based on over 15 years working with minority groups and four years of studying labour market experiences of migrants at PhD level. Eburn's expertise encompasses 4 years as a Career Development Consultant at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. She also worked in UCD in a similar role, and, before this, with Business in the Community (BITC) as a Training & Employment Officer for 9 years providing guidance to migrants from over 73 nationalities to access the labour market. Eburn started, coordinates and lectures at the first, Black studies module in Ireland in UCD. She was a Sociology lecturer in TCD's race ethnicity and identities and the MPhil race, ethnicity and conflict and developed the module - Intersectionality of Race & Gender.



Ejiro Ogbevoen, Black Therapists Ireland, will provide insights on how making a vision for a thriving, inclusive society a reality means improving access to culturally appropriate mental health services and therapy.

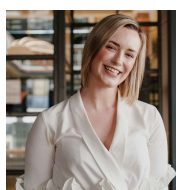
Ejiro is a Dublin based Counselling Psychotherapist and a clinical supervisor, in private practice. She works predominantly with adults, offering professional guidance for emotional regulation, low mood, anxiety, depression, stress, and more. With degrees in Industrial Relations & Personnel Management, Counselling & Psychotherapy, Dip. Clinical Supervision, she manages a private practice, and lectures in Dublin City University as well as PCI college. She is the founder of Black Therapists Ireland, an organisation that provides a platform for black therapists, while actively promoting mental health and wellbeing amongst black people living in Ireland and globally. Black Therapists Ireland has partnered with numerous organisations to offer therapeutic support to stakeholders, including consultations, Employee Assistance Programme, workshops, training, and counselling.



Emma Kinsella, Department of Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation, & Science, will address the conference on how well the policy system is prepared for global shifts, and for the opportunities and challenges for learning and work.

Emma is head of the Skills Policy and Enterprise Engagement Unit in the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. Her role is to support the implementation of the national skills agenda through the skills infrastructure and the labour market forecasting system and to develop strategic policy in relation to high level skills issues.

Acting, for example, as Project Lead on the OECD Ireland Skills Strategy—the assessment and recommendations of which were published in May of this year. In this Year of Skills, Emma will be working to embed responses to the OECD’s recommendations, with a particular focus on partnership with enterprise and other stakeholders; and on making the skills ecosystem more navigable for learners.



Gráinne Mullins, Grá Chocolates, is going to share her ideas on the vital role of SMEs in a thriving Ireland.

Entrepreneur, chocolatier and founder of Grá Chocolates, Gráinne Mullins is a pastry chef with over 10 years’ experience in high level, fine dining establishments. In 2019 she was awarded Euro-toques Young Chef of the Year and more recently, was included in the prestigious Forbes ‘30 under 30’ list 2023, highlighting the brightest young entrepreneurs, leaders and stars. Gráinne now has a combined social following of over 40,000 and has worked on a number of high-profile social

media campaigns including a successful partnership with Samsung. Gráinne began Grá Chocolates in July 2020 at home in her kitchen, making chocolates for friends and family during the pandemic when her 'hobby' quickly developed into a small local business via word of mouth and she relocated to 10sqm garden shed built by her dad. Starting out as a lockdown business and with herself as the sole employee, appetite grew quickly for Gráinne’s sweetly sophisticated treats and Grá Chocolates has now grown to a team of 18, hiring a further 10 employees during the busy Christmas season. In August of 2022, Grá Chocolates moved into its new premises, a 305 sqm building just outside the city centre of Galway that now houses the production of the chocolates, 30 times the size of the company’s original tiny base.



Helen Dixon, Data Protection Commissioner, will talk to the gathering about how digital inclusion and data protection are increasingly important aspects of an inclusive and protective Ireland.

Helen was appointed as Data Protection Commissioner for Ireland in September 2014.

Responsible for upholding the rights of individuals regarding how data about them is used, the role, among other things, requires regulation of a large number of US internet multinationals with European bases in Ireland. Previously Irish Registrar of Companies where she led regulatory enforcement of compliance with the filing provisions of the Companies Acts, Helen has also held senior roles in the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation working on economic migration policy, science, technology and innovation policy. She spent the first ten years of her career in the IT industry. She holds postgraduate qualifications in European Economic and Public Affairs, Governance, Computer Science, Official Statistics for Policy Evaluation, and Judicial Skills and Decision Making. She was delighted to have been awarded an honorary fellowship of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA) in 2014.



Jack O’Meara, Ochre Bio, will share his insights on a thriving economy and the importance of dialogue with enterprises to shape policy.

Jack is co-founder and CEO of Ochre Bio. Ochre is a biotechnology company developing a portfolio of liver medicines for patients and families affected around the world. The company uses a combination of advanced genomics, machine learning, and human-centric translational models to improve the probability of clinical success for its products. At Ochre, Jack's role involved raising \$44M in venture capital from tier one global investors, assembling a seasoned management team and board, and shepherding the development of novel RNAi medicines for chronic liver disease - soon through to

and board, and shepherding the development of novel RNAi medicines for chronic liver disease - soon through to

human testing. Jack's work has been featured in the Financial Times, Wall Street Journal, and he was previously listed on the Forbes 30 under 30 list. He received his Bachelor's degree from National University of Galway and his Masters from the University Notre Dame.



Professor Jane Suiter, Dublin City University, will talk about how we can improve the shifting and complex (mis)information environment for policymaking, communication, implementation and feedback.

Jane is Professor in the School of Communications at Dublin City University and director of DCU's Institute for Future Media, Democracy and Society. Her research focus is on the information environment in the public sphere and in particular on scaling up deliberation and tackling disinformation. Jane was awarded an IRC Laureate in 2022 for COMDEL Examining the Potential of Communicative Deliberation for Climate Action. She was the joint winner of the Brown Democracy Medal in 2019 and the President's Award for Research. She was awarded the prestigious title of the Irish Research Council's Researcher of the Year in 2020.



Governor Joe Donohue, Shelton Open Centre, is going to share thoughts on what a truly inclusive Ireland means for policymakers today.

Joe has been a prison officer for 29 years operating mainly in closed prisons in Dublin. Mountjoy, Cloverhill and Wheatfield. Joe also spent time in the Operational Support group which dealt with searching and intelligence. He has been Governor in Shelton for five years and in that time the prison has won awards for its work with the prison's estate, Prisons' Innovation awards and was a finalist in the Civil Service innovation awards. Shelton has also won awards for its work locally in the business community from the Arklow Chamber of Commerce and has established strong links with employer partners in the community, organisations like the Katherine Howard Foundation and Stephen's Green with a focus on family units for inmates



John Callinan is Secretary General to the Government and Secretary General of the Department of the Taoiseach. John was the Second Secretary General at that Department from 2016 to 2022, leading the International and EU Affairs Division and the Britain/Northern Ireland Division, including the Shared Island Unit. John joined the Department in 1998. He was appointed Assistant Secretary General in 2007 and led a number of Divisions across the Department. Prior to joining the Taoiseach's department, John also worked in a number of areas of the Revenue Commissioners and spent four years at the European Commission in Brussels.



John-Mark McCafferty, Threshold, will provide insights on the research, dialogue, and advice needed to address availability and affordability challenges in the rental market.

John-Mark is CEO with Threshold, the National Housing Charity, whose aim is to advise tenants and prevent homelessness through tenancy protection and advocacy. He took up this position in January 2017. For over 25 years, John-Mark has worked on social justice issues in Ireland and Scotland. Prior to Threshold, John-Mark was Head of Social Justice and Policy with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and was on the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) in the mid-2000s. A former Board member of both Cluid Housing and One Family, John-Mark was also a member of the recent Commission on Tax and Welfare and on the rental sub-committee under the auspices of the Housing Commission. John-Mark is a Geography graduate from Glasgow University and holds a Masters in Development Studies from UCD.



Professor John McHale, University of Galway, will speak about sustainable growth, and how Ireland can really thrive from a macroeconomic and investment perspective.

John is Established Professor of Economics at the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics, University of Galway. He previously served as Executive Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law. He holds Ph.D and A.M degrees from Harvard University. Professor McHale was Chair of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council from its inception in 2011 to 2016 and he has been an

independent member of the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) and the Pensions Board. He served as President of the Irish Economic Association from 2016 to 2018.



Professor Kevin O'Connor, University College Dublin, will address the conference on how to move from a vision for net zero, to the actions needed to make it happen.

Kevin is director of BiOrbic SFI bioeconomy research centre, and Full professor at University College Dublin, Ireland. He is a member of the scientific committee for the Circular Biobased Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU) and a former member of the European Commission Mission board for Adaptation to climate change including societal transformation. His research interests are sustainable production and consumption, He has published over 100 international peer review articles, filed 8 patents and is a major driver behind the development of the rural Bioeconomy campus at Lisheen, Co Tipperary and the development of a climate neutral dairy farm in West Cork in collaboration with Carbery Group.



Larry O'Connell became the Director of the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) in 2019. As senior economist in NESC, since 2007, he worked on a range of policy areas including Ireland's transition to low-carbon and digital future; housing and land; climate change and sustainable development; higher education funding; and Ireland's five part crisis.



Elizabeth Canavan is Assistant Secretary General of the Social Policy and Public Service Reform Division in the Department of the Taoiseach. She is the Secretary to several Cabinet Sub-Committees, namely Health; Education; Social Affairs and Equality; and Accommodation and Supports for Ukrainian refugees. She is Chair of the associated Senior Officials Groups. In this role, she is also responsible for coordinating and overseeing the Government's Humanitarian Response to the Ukrainian Crisis and held similar responsibilities for the Government's response to Covid-19. She is Deputy Chair of the National Economic and Social Council and Secretary to

the Civil Service Management Board. Elizabeth is a career civil servant and has worked extensively in the policy development in the areas of Health, Children & Families and Public Service Reform. Previously, she held the position of Assistant Secretary General in the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Acting Secretary General in both the Departments of Children and Youth Affairs, and Rural and Community Development, Chief Executive Officer of the Adoption Authority of Ireland and Deputy Director of the then National Children's Office.



Mairead McGuinness, European Commissioner for Financial Services, Financial Stability and Capital Markets Union, will address the conference on NESC's fifty years, and the resonance with Ireland's fifty years in the European Union.

Mairead McGuinness is the European Commissioner for Financial services, Financial Stability and Capital Markets Union. The Commissioner's vision for the portfolio is focused on ensuring the financial sector's strength and stability, so that it can deliver for people, society and the environment. Before joining the Commission in October 2020, Ms McGuinness was First Vice-President of the European Parliament. She served as an MEP from Ireland for 16 years and was a Vice-President of the Parliament since 2014. As Vice-President, she oversaw relations with national Parliaments, led the Parliament's dialogue with religious and philosophical organisations, and had responsibility for the Parliament's communication policy. During her time in the Parliament, Ms McGuinness sat on a range of committees, covering agriculture, environment, public health, budgets, petitions and constitutional affairs. Her legislative work included leading for the EPP Group on the European Climate Law, the revision of medical devices legislation, and CAP reform post-2013. As an Irish MEP representing the border region, she was outspoken on Brexit and the consequences for the EU and Ireland. In 2006-2007, Ms McGuinness chaired the Parliament's investigation into the collapse of the Equitable Life assurance company which identified issues around weak financial regulation. Prior to becoming an MEP, she was an award-winning journalist, broadcaster and commentator.



Professor Malachy Ó Néill, Ulster University, is going to share his thoughts on how ambitious all-island action and collaboration can help construct a modern, forward looking Shared Island.

Professor Malachy Ó Néill is Director of Regional Engagement at Ulster University (since August 2021), taking responsibility for relationships with key stakeholders including governmental agencies, councils, trusts and other relevant authorities on behalf of the institution. He was awarded a Personal Chair in Irish (2020) and was Provost of the Magee Campus in Derry (2016-21) and Head of the School of Irish Language and Literature (2012-17). He has played a central role in a range of strategic initiatives for the University including City and Growth Deals (UK Government), Shared Island (Irish Government), the inception of a School of Medicine (opened 2021), the development of the North-West Cross-border Tertiary Cluster (with FE/HE partners) and the accreditation of Derry/Strabane as a UNESCO Learning City Region.



Dr Mark Henry, author of *In Fact: An Optimist's Guide to Ireland*, will provide insights on the theme of A Thriving Ireland, and how Ireland's progress has exceeded that of practically anywhere else.

Mark is based in Technological University Dublin where he leads the communications and marketing function. He is the author of the best-selling book *In Fact: An Optimist's Guide to Ireland at 100* – the first one to take a data-led approach to telling the story of Ireland's modern progress. A regular media commentator, Mark provides a “rationally optimistic” take on the state of Ireland today. He holds an MA in Psychology from University College Dublin, an MBA from Smurfit Business School, and a PhD from the University of Westminster.



Martin Collins, Pavee Point, is going to talk about why whole-of-government action - informed by whole-of-society dialogue - is central to inclusion, participation, protection, and empowerment.

Martin Collins is Co-Director of Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Centre and a Traveller rights activist for over 30 years. He represented Pavee Point on the Government Task Force on Travellers in the early 90s which resulted in a shift to interculturalism in terms of the Government's approach to Traveller issues.



Martin Hawkes, Burren College of Art, will speak to the gathering about what research, dialogue, and advice is needed to help ensure a forward and outward looking Ireland.

Martin is a former civil servant in the Department of Finance and a banker with Banque Nationale de Paris. His career has spanned commercial and social enterprise. He was a founding trustee and chair of the landscape charity Burrenbeo Trust as well as the Burren College of Art. His current focus is on bringing the creative processes of an art college to bear on systemic social challenges from climate change and the fate of the Gaeltacht to the future of the education system.



Professor Mary P. Murphy, will provide insights on what NESC demonstrates about the theory of change, and the importance of working through institutional strategies and processes.

Mary is Head of Department and Professor in the Department of Sociology, Maynooth University, with research interests in eco-social welfare, gender, care and social security, globalisation and welfare states, and power and civil society. She co-edited *The Irish Welfare state in the 21st Century Challenges and Changes* (Basingstoke, Palgrave, 2016) and authored *Creating an Eco-social Future* (Policy Press, May 2023). An active advocate for social justice and gender equality, she was appointed to the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (2013-217) and is currently a member of the Council of State in Ireland.



Dr Matt Crowe, former EPA Director and now Chair of the National Water Forum, is at the event to speak on the theme of A Forward and Outward Looking Ireland, ‘cathedral thinking’, and how policy can provide for future generations.

Matt is currently chair of An Foram Uisce - the National Water Forum. He retired in 2020 from the EPA having served for 10 years as a director and 15 years as a member of staff. Prior to joining the EPA, Matt spent five years working in Vancouver doing contract research. Matt holds a BSc and PhD in biochemistry from UCD.



Professor Michelle Norris, will share her thoughts on how NESC provides a space for long-term thinking and strategising that is relatively unique within the policy arena, providing dialogue and consensus building which is underpinned by quality research.

Michelle is Professor of Social Policy and Director of the Geary Institute for Public Policy at University College Dublin. Her teaching and research interests focus on housing policy and urban regeneration. She has led over 30 research projects on these issues and produced 200 publications on the results. She has strong links with policy makers in Ireland and internationally. She has served as an independent member of NESC on three occasions and as a member of the boards of two of the main agencies responsible for providing social housing in Ireland - the Housing Finance Agency and Land Development Agency. She is also a member of the commission on housing established by government in 2021. She was one of the lead authors of the Housing 2030 report, published in 2021, on improving affordable housing outcomes which was commissioned by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and UN Habitat. In recognition of the outstanding policy impact of her research she was awarded the Irish Research Council's research impact award in 2021.



Niall Cussen, Planning Regulator, will provide insights on supportive institutional arrangements for sustainable planning and development in Ireland.

Niall is the Chief Executive and Planning Regulator at the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) established by Government in April 2019. The OPR's functions are to oversee the effective delivery of planning services of Ireland's 31 local authorities and An Bord Pleanála, including implementation of national and regional policies, and to conduct research and public awareness programmes in relation to planning. Prior to his appointment Niall was Chief Planner at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government from July 2014 and he worked in the Department from January 2000. Prior to joining the Department in 2000, Niall had an extensive planning career working for local authorities in Clare, Meath and Dublin City Council and An Bord Pleanála. Niall holds qualifications in economics and geography, regional and urban planning and environmental engineering from Maynooth University, University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin respectively and is both a member and a past President of the Irish Planning Institute.



Dr Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children, will speak on the day about how children and families can and must thrive within a thriving economy.

Niall is Ireland's second Ombudsman for Children. Niall, who is a Counselling and Clinical Psychologist was appointed, for a second 6-year term, by President Michael D. Higgins in February 2021. As Ombudsman for Children, Niall has focused on generating an Ireland where children and young people are actively heard, particularly those who are most vulnerable. During his tenure, the Office has sought to give voice to those children who are often not listened to. In that time, the Office has consulted with young people availing of Ireland's Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Direct Provision, those in children's hospitals and homeless young people living in Family Hubs. It has also facilitated young people to produce a report for the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2022).



Noelle O'Connell, European Movement, is going to share thoughts on the many parallels between Ireland's five-decade membership of the EU, and NESc's work over fifty years.

Noelle O'Connell was appointed CEO of European Movement Ireland in April 2011. Noelle is also Vice President of European Movement International which encompasses European Movement councils in 34 countries. Prior to this, Noelle provided business development training, education, and public affairs consultancy to a variety of private and public sector clients. She has extensive experience working in the third-level sector and managed significant national and international funding projects (e.g. Interreg, Skillnets, Erasmus+, Europe for Citizens etc). In 2022 She was selected as one of the Taoiseach's independent nominees to serve in the National Economic and Social Council.



Professor Paul Donnelly, Technical University Dublin, will provide insights on what research, dialogue, and advice is needed to help ensure a thriving, net zero economy, society, and environment.

Paul is Professor of Management and Organisation Studies at Technological University Dublin. He received his PhD from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst (USA) and is both a Fulbright Fellow and a Taiwan Fellow. He is Chair of the Fulbright Commission in Ireland, Vice Chair of Transparency International Ireland, an Independent Non-Executive Director of Dóchas (the Irish association of non-governmental development organisations), and a member of the Royal Irish Academy's Social Sciences Committee. He was an Independent Expert on the National Economic and Social Council, and Chair of the Critical Management Studies Division of the Academy of Management.



Peter Cassells, will talk to the gathering about how NESc's approach - especially in the late 1980s and throughout the 1990s - benefited Irish society in terms of economic and social development.

Peter is former General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and more recently Director of the Edward M Kennedy Institute for Conflict Intervention, Maynooth University. For twenty years, Peter was a member of the National Economic and Social Council. As general secretary of Congress he was lead negotiator of five national Partnership Programmes with Government. He was a member of the IDA Board and chaired the board of Forfas. While vice-chair of the governing authority of Maynooth University, he chaired the review of the Funding of Higher Education commissioned by the Minister for Education. For a number of years, Peter was chair of Action Aid which supports women and community development in Africa. He also chaired Holocaust Education Ireland. He currently chairs the Dialogue Forum established by the Department of Health to improve relations between the HSE and the voluntary sector.



Philip McDonagh, former diplomat and now of Dublin City University, will address the conference on the importance of a vision, of accepting a longer-term responsibility, and of developing credible national processes to address today's complex challenges.

Philip McDonagh is Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Humanities at Dublin City University and Director of the Centre for Religion, Human Values, and International Relations. As a diplomat, he was involved in the Northern Ireland peace process in the build-up to the Good Friday Agreement (as Political Counsellor and deputy Head of Mission in London). Later he served as ambassador to India, the Holy See, Finland and Russia and as Permanent Representative to the OSCE. In the development field, Philip was lead author of the evaluation report on DFID's Palestinian Market Development Programme (PMDP) in 2019, and is a member of the International Advisory Council of the Institute for Integrated Transitions (Barcelona). Philip is co-author of *On the Significance of Religion for Global Diplomacy* (Routledge, 2021). His poetry collections and works for the theatre include *Gondla, or the Salvation of the Wolves* (Arlen House, 2016), a translation of Nikolay Gumilev's verse drama.



Professor Rory O'Donnell, was Economist and later Director of NESC until 2019. In his time at NESC he undertook and led analysis on a wide range of economic, social and environmental issues aimed at creating a shared understanding within the Council and in the Irish policy system. He has written extensively on social partnership and has been invited to speak internationally on social dialogue and concertation.



Regius Professor Rose Anne Kenny, Trinity College Dublin, is going to share her thoughts on the impact of demographic change and aging on healthcare and other services.

Rose Anne Kenny is Regius Professor of Physic (Medicine) and holds the Chair of Medical Gerontology at Trinity College Dublin. She is the founding Principal Investigator of The Irish Longitudinal study on Ageing (TILDA) and Director of the Mercer's Institute for Successful Ageing (MISA) at St. James's Hospital, where she is also director of the Falls and Syncope Unit. Her recently published book *Age Proof – The New Science of Living a Longer and Healthier Life* was shortlisted for the Royal Society Science Book Prize 2022. In 2020, she was elected President of the Irish Gerontological Society. In 2022 she was nominated 24th Regius Professor of Physic at TCD (1637), the first female nominee.



Professor Sara Burke, Trinity College Dublin, will provide insights on the theme of “An Inclusive and Protective Ireland”, and how research, dialogue and advice are needed not only for policy formulation but also for effective implementation.

Sara is Associate Professor and Director of the Centre for Health Policy and Management in Trinity College's School of Medicine. She is PI on an HRB-funded project researching the potential of COVID-19 health system responses for the effective implementation of Sláintecare. Sara is a Co-Director of the national SPHeRE structured PhD programme and loves teaching health systems and policy to undergraduates and post graduates. Her research interests are health policy, health systems, inequities in health and access to healthcare, as well as the politics of health reform.



Professor Seán Ó Ríain, Maynooth University, is going to talk about the value of research, dialogue and advice both in times of challenge, and times of prosperity.

Seán is Professor of Sociology at the National University of Ireland Maynooth. He is the author of *The Politics of High Tech Growth* (Cambridge, 2004), *The Rise and Fall of Ireland's Celtic Tiger* (Cambridge, 2014) and co-editor of *The Changing Worlds and Workplaces of Capitalism* (Palgrave, 2015). He was Principal Investigator of the New Deals in the New Economy project, funded by a European Research Council Consolidator Grant 2012-17. He was a member of the National Economic and Social Council from 2011-16.



Sinéad Gibney, Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, will talk about what research, dialogue and advice is needed to help ensure an inclusive and protective Ireland.

Sinéad was appointed Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission by President Michael D. Higgins in July 2020. She was the inaugural Director of the Commission between 2014 and 2016. Prior to this she built and led Google Ireland's corporate social responsibility function, Social Action. Sinéad has also worked for herself for a number of years, providing training, consultancy and media production to a range of organisations in the civil society and public sectors. Sinéad is a lifelong learner with an undergraduate degree in History from University of Ulster and four postgraduate qualifications in the topics of IT & Education, Cyberpsychology, Equality Studies and Human Rights Law. She is currently studying German. She is a former chair of the board of One Family and has served on a number of other boards, including Digital Charity Lab, Victims' Rights Alliance and the EU's Responsible Research & Innovation industry advisory group.



Stefanie Stantcheva, Harvard Professor of Political Economy, will address the conference on inclusive prosperity and the role of 'good jobs' in a thriving economy and society.

Stefanie is the Nathaniel Ropes Professor of Political Economy at Harvard and founder of the Social Economics Lab. She is a member of the National Bureau of Economic Research, the Center for Economic Policy Research, the Econometric Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Since 2018, she is a member of the French council of Economic Advisers (CAE). Stefanie is the recipient of an NSF Career award, the Elaine Bennett Research Prize in Economics, the Calvo-Armengol international prize in economics, the Maurice Allais Prize in Economics, the Best Young French Economist award, a Sloan Fellowship and a Carnegie Fellowship.



Stephanie Manahan, Pieta, will provide insights into why mental health is a key consideration if we want a truly supportive and protective Ireland.

Stephanie joined Pieta as CEO in May 2022, where she is responsible for the overall leadership and operations of all Pieta services. Stephanie is passionate about mental health services and has a focus on the needs of children and young people who experience suicidal ideation and engage in self-harm. Prior to her Role as CEO in Pieta, Stephanie was central to establishing new management structures and robust governance which led a transformational change programme as the Chief Executive of Central Remedial Clinic (CRC). Stephanie has worked in healthcare for over 30 years. She has worked in mental health services, hospital services, disability and education, where she has held Senior Management and Senior C-Suite roles. She holds a B.Sc from Trinity, an MSc from the University of London, Professional Diploma in Corporate Governance and is currently undertaking the professional Diploma in Executive Coaching with the IMI. Stephanie is a non-executive director and member of the Council of CORU (State body for the regulation of Irish Health & Social Care Professions) and a member of the Board of Mental Health Reform.



Sue Pritchard, Food Farming and Countryside Commission UK, is at the event to speak on how research and evidence can support the societal change necessary to realise a net-zero vision for Ireland.

Sue is the Chief Executive of Food, Farming and Countryside Commission and is focused on leading the organisation in its mission to bring people together to find radical and practical ways to transform our food system and improve our climate, nature, health and economy. Sue brings extensive experience working with leaders in businesses, governments and enterprises, blending the academic and the practical for sustainable systems change. Sue lives with her family on an organic, permaculture, livestock farm in Wales, which accounts for pretty much all of her time outside of FFCC, and is a grounding reminder of the gritty realities of turning ideas into workable actions.



Toto Daly, Climate Activist, will talk to the gathering on how Ireland can ensure future generations enjoy a thriving climate and biodiversity.



Zoe Hughes, Care Alliance Ireland, is going to share thoughts on the research, dialogue and policy advice needed to support carers and the cared-for.

Zoe joined Care Alliance Ireland in January of 2015. Zoe has qualifications in Social Work (MSW), Social Policy (H. Dip. Soc Pol) and Disability Studies (M. Litt), and her past work has included working with a number of academic and voluntary sector organisations. She has a particular interest in the topic of diversity within caring, along with inclusive and participatory research methods. Zoe is currently Senior Policy & Research Officer, and coordinates the Care Alliance research and policy functions. This is in addition to supporting member organisations to input documents and submissions into Care Alliance Ireland. Zoe has published articles in the International Journal of Care and Caring, Frontiers in Public Health, and Applied Psychology, Health and Well-Being. She won the inaugural "Research Contribution to Practice" Award at the All Ireland Research in

Social Work Conference 2019. Zoe commenced work on the Doctorate in Applied Social Studies in University College Cork in October 2017, with a focus on the broad topic of family care within the LGBTQIA+ community.



NESCA@50 Youth Advisory Group, will showcase work that has been done by young people with NESCA and the National Participation Office, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.