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#### Basis for this paper



- This paper is based on 10 pieces of research conducted by Social Justice Ireland in recent years several of which addressed the challenges of poverty and unemployment in the EU.
- The most recent of these studies is titled:
  Europe: The Excluded Suffer while Europe
  Stagnates may be accessed at:

www.socialjustice.ie

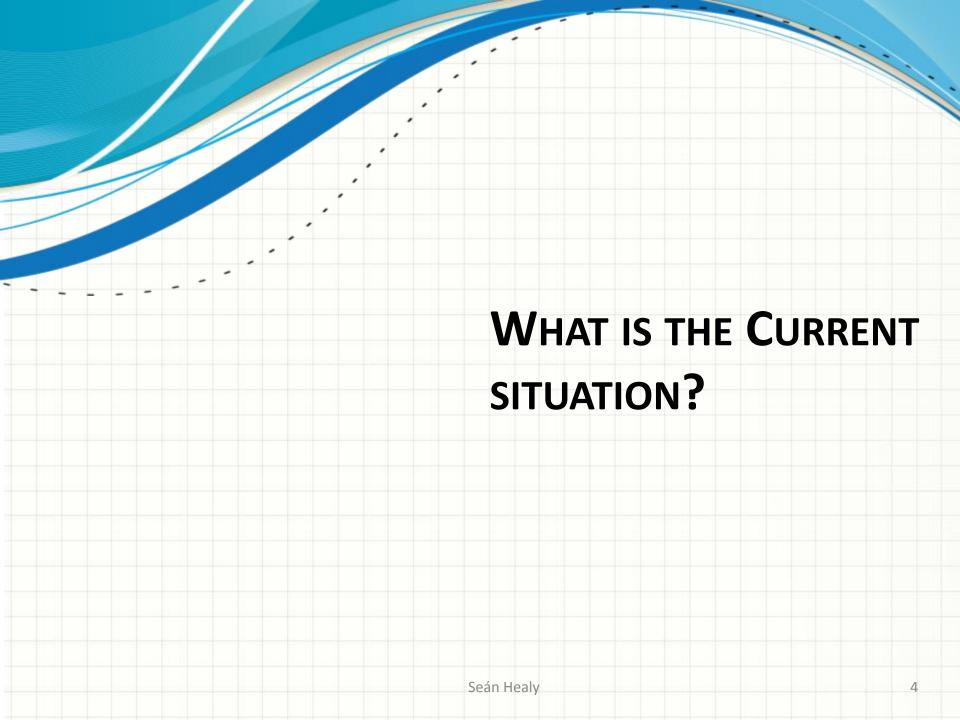
#### **Outline**



Current situation

Conclusions

Recommendations



#### **Poverty**



- 23.7% 119 million people in poverty/social exclusion
- 86 million in income poverty (17.3%)
- Great divergences between countries

# **Employment and unemployment**

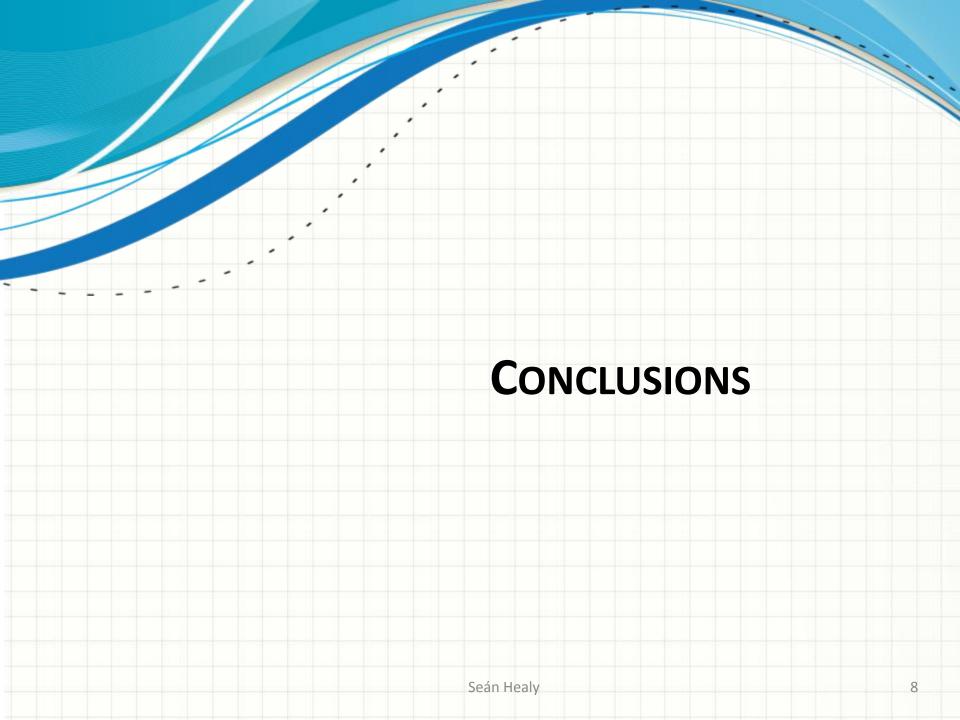


- Growing numbers employed
- BUT
  - 21million unemployed (8.2%)
  - 11 million long-term unemployed
  - Working poor numbers rising (9.6%)
  - Youth unemployment very high (4.6m 18.6%)

#### Related issues



- Education
- Health
- Taxation



#### Conclusions (1)



- Traditional approaches NOT working
- Poverty persisting
- Unemployment persisting
- Major groups at risk
- Economic issues prioritised over social.

#### Conclusions (2)



- Great differences between and within European countries
- Risks of a breakdown in social cohesion & social contract
- New approaches needed on income, work and participation



#### To UN/EU and institutions (1)



Issue	Policy
1. Policy Coherence	Ensure all policies (especially economic & participation) are consistent with SDGs
2. New social contract	Develop a new social contract more appropriate for 21 <sup>st</sup> century
3. Work	Recognise ALL work (not just paid employment) as meaningful.
4. Income	Move towards a Universal Basic Income System.
5. Minimum standards	Prioritise achieving minimum social protection standards

#### To UN/EU and institutions (2)



Issue	Policy
6. Governance	<ul><li>Inappropriate governance?</li><li>Engage meaningfully with stakeholders</li></ul>
7. Child poverty	<ul><li>Targeted action needed</li><li>Always requires addressing family pov.</li></ul>
8. Youth unemployment	<ul><li>Youth guarantee programmes</li><li>More resources needed</li></ul>
9. Social econ/life-long learning	<ul><li>Support social economy initiatives</li><li>Promote life-long learning</li></ul>
10. Human rights strategy	Promote human rights in the areas of income and work

## To national/regional govts(1)



Issue	Policy
1. Investment	Prioritise Investment in job-intensive areas energy/health/social care/education
2. Activation	<ul><li>Should support unemployed people</li><li>Should NOT increase insecurity</li></ul>
3. Welfare systems	<ul><li>More resilient systems required</li><li>Equal access / social cohesion</li></ul>
4. Low pay	Support development of a LIVING wage rather than a minimum wage
5. Taxation	<ul><li>Develop sustainable approaches</li><li>Protect low income groups</li></ul>

### To national/regional govts(2)



Issue	Policy
6. Tax evasion	Promote fair tax systems by tackling tax evasion and the grey economy
7. Employer of last resort	Given reduction in full-time well paid jobs Government could consider this approach
8. Governance	<ul><li>Engage with key stakeholders</li><li>Social dialogue should include ALL sectors of society</li></ul>
9. Poverty-proofing	All Government decisions should be subject to a poverty-proofing process
10. Social investment	Promote social investment aspects of government policies to fund measures that promote social cohesion



# "Human destiny is a choice not a chance"

- Selim Jahan

**UN Human Development Report 2015**