## Jonathon Codd

**From:** Jonathon Codd
**Sent:** Thursday 20 November 2025 17:37
**To:** Jonathon Codd
**Cc:** Orla Kelly; Sinéad Breathnach; Susan Whelan; Emma Smyth; Gerard Mulhall; Eoin Morrissey; Ovidiu Matiut; Yvonne Dam; Mairead McKnight; Seamus De Faoite
**Subject:** Minister Jerry Buttimer, TD, opens the Seventh National Social Enterprise Conference takes place in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
**Attachments:** SE Photo 1.jpg; SE Photo 2.jpg

**Categories:** Egress Switch: Unprotected

Dear Chair and members of the LCDC/LAG,

Please see media release below,

Media release

Thursday, 20 November 2025

Photos by Gerry Stronge

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

### Minister Jerry Buttimer, TD, opens the Seventh National Social Enterprise Conference takes place in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

- ***The Conference, hosted by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, is an annual highlight in the social enterprise calendar***
- ***It is an opportunity for social enterprises, and the organisations that support them, to consider insights on the sector, to share best practice, and to network with their peers***

Minister Jerry Buttimer TD, Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, with special responsibility for Community Development and Charities, today (Thursday, 20 November 2025), provided the welcome address at Ireland's Seventh National Social Enterprise Conference, to a gathering of more than 500 delegates, in

- Siobhán Cafferty (CEO Simpliified)
- Peter Williams (Clare County Council)
- Anthony Burrowes (Sisk)
- Debbie Tierney (Triest Press)
- Dr. Helen Johnston (NESC)
- Colin Jess (Social Enterprise Northern Ireland)
- Charlie Fisher (Development Trusts NI)
- Maeve Monaghan (NOW Group)
- Seán Mullan (Third Space)
- Clare Allen (Rethink Ireland)
- Anne Graham (Western Development Commission)
- Helen Nolan (Spraoi agus Spórt)
- Máirín Ó Cuireáin (LDCN)

**ENDS**

Contact:
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**Notes to editors:**

**Social Enterprises**

Social enterprises are businesses whose core objective is to achieve a social, societal, or environmental impact. Like other businesses, social enterprises pursue their objectives by trading in goods and services on an ongoing basis. However, surpluses generated by social enterprises are re-invested into achieving the core social objectives.

They frequently work to support disadvantaged groups such as the long-term unemployed, people with disabilities, travellers, etc., or to address issues such as food poverty, social housing, or environmental matters.

**National Social Enterprise Policy 2024-2027**

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Preasráiteas
Déardaoin, 20 Samhain 2025
Grianghraif le Gerry Stronge

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

## Osclaíonn an tAire Jerry Buttimer, TD, an Seachtú Comhdháil Náisiúnta Fiontraíochta Sóisialta i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe, Co. na Gaillimhe

- ***Buaicphointe bliantúil san fhéilire fiontar sóisialta í an Chomhdháil, arna hóstáil ag an Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta***
- ***Deis atá inti d'fhiontair shóisialta, agus do na heagraíochtaí a thacaíonn leo, chun léargais ar an earnáil a phlé, dea-chleachtas a roinnt, agus buaileadh lena macasamhlacha***

Inniu (Déardaoin, 20 Samhain) thug an tAire Jerry Buttimer TD, Aire Stáit ag an Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta le freagracht speisialta as Forbairt Phobail agus Carthanachtaí, an t-aitheasc fáiltithe ag Seachtú Comhdháil Náisiúnta Fiontraíochta Sóisialta na hÉireann, os comhair breis is 500 toscaire a bhí i láthair go pearsanta nó ar líne, ó fud fad earnáil na bhfiontar sóisialta. Tharla an chomhdháil in Óstán Shearwater, Béal Átha na Sluaighe, Co. na Gaillimhe.

Ba é téama na comhdhála ná 'Trádáil ar mhaithe le Tionchar'. Is deis ar leith í an chomhdháil bhliantúil ina bhfuil deiseanna líonraithe, scaipeadh eolais, comhroinnt dea-chleachtais agus an deis chun páirt a ghlacadh i mbeartas a chur i bhfeidhm agus i bhforbairt beartais amach anseo. Bhí Kim MacKenzie-Doyle, POF an fhiontair shóisialta 'The Big Idea', ina bean tí don imeacht.

**Agus é ag oscailt na comhdhála, dúirt an tAire Buttimer:**

- Clare Allen (Rethink Ireland)
- Anne Graham (Coimisiún Forbartha an Iarthair)
- Helen Nolan (Spraoi agus Spórt)
- Máirín Ó Cuireáin (Líonra na gCuideachtaí Forbartha Áitiúla)

**CRÍOCH**

Teagmháil:
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**Nótaí d'Eagarthóirí:**

**Fiontair Shóisialta**
Is ionann fiontar sóisialta agus gnólacht a bhfuil mar chroíchuspóir aici tionchar sóisialta, sochaíoch, nó comhshaoil a bhaint amach. Mar an gcéanna le gnólachtaí eile, baineann fiontair shóisialta a n-aidhmeanna amach trí thrádáil earraí agus seirbhísí ar bhonn leanúnach. Mar sin féin, déanann fiontair shóisialta cibé farasbarr a dhéanann siad a athinfheistiú chun na croíchuspóirí sóisialta a bhaint amach.

Oibríonn siad go minic chun tacú le grúpaí faoi mhíbhuntáiste cosúil leo siúd atá dífhostaithe go fadtéarmach, daoine faoi mhíchumas, baill an lucht siúil, srl. nó chun dul i ngleic le fadhbanna ar nós ganntanas bia, tithíocht shóisialta, nó ceisteanna comhshaoil.

**An Polasaí Náisiúnta um Fhiontraíocht Shóisialta 2024-2027**
Sheol an tAire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail Heather Humphreys TD Trádáil ar mhaithe le Tionchar: An Beartas Náisiúnta um Fhiontraíocht Shóisialta 2024-2027 ar an 24 Iúil, 2024. Is é cuspóir an bheartais ná fiontair shóisialta láidre éifeachtacha a chur chun cinn agus a chothú in Éirinn chun leas sóisialta, timpeallachta agus eacnamaíoch na ndaoine atá ina gcónaí inár bpobail a shaibhriú.

Glacadh cur chuige comhpháirtíochta i leith fhorbairt an bheartais seo, le rannpháirtíocht leanúnach agus comhairliúchán leis na geallsealbhóirí ábhartha go léir mar phríomhphrionsabail le linn a phróisis forbartha. Tharla comhairliúchán poiblí oscailte náisiúnta mar chuid de seo.