

PHILANTHROPY IRELAND

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Philanthropy Manifesto – For a better Ireland

Utilising private resources for public good

INTRO

The “Irish Philanthropy Manifesto” is a call to Irish politicians and policy makers to work towards an agreed **Alliance for Philanthropy** including recognition of philanthropy at public policy level, supporting an enabling environment for the development of philanthropy and decreasing barriers for philanthropy, in order to leverage the impact of donors’ & foundations’ spending of private resources for public good.

Almost €1bn of private resources in the form of donations and philanthropy goes to the not for profit sector in Ireland¹. Members of Philanthropy Ireland, institutional and corporate, disburse over €200m in funding. In 2017 €119m was disbursed by institutional philanthropy alone ². In addition to funding and investments, these organisations and donors combine an outstanding set of expertise, deep knowledge and excellent stakeholder networks in the areas of their activities that can be leveraged significantly with the appropriate framework conditions.

WHAT

Philanthropy and philanthropic organisations are a critical part of our democratic and pluralistic society. More and more citizens want to do good; they want to help address societal issues; to express themselves and connect and collaborate with others who share their ideals. Such ideals stem from concern about injustice and inequality, care for the most vulnerable and marginalised, passion to stimulate new trends and ideas, and a sense of responsibility for preserving valuable nature and culture.

WHY

Motivated by these ideals, many individuals and philanthropic organisations support endeavours from which we all benefit, such as education, health, fighting poverty, environment, culture, international development, science. Recognition by politicians and government is crucial; citizenship, participation, equality and caring for each other are increasingly important as we face serious challenges for these ideals. Philanthropy, alongside government and wider civil society, can play a role in promoting & developing the values of respect for human dignity, human rights and a caring society.

¹ Registered Irish Charities Social and Economic Impact Report 2018, <https://www.charitiesregulator.ie/media/1489/social-and-economic-impact-report-2018.pdf>

² Benefacts Analysis 2019, <https://analysis2019.benefacts.ie/>

HOW

Philanthropy needs a policy and regulatory environment that allows it to unleash its full potential to support and benefit society, maximising impact and adding value. There is real opportunity to strengthen philanthropy as a key vehicle for improving communities and societies and increasing civic engagement. This can only be achieved with substantive effect by creating an enabling environment through fiscal and policy supports. As evidenced by research, Ireland's Charitable Tax Incentive Policy needs to change to provide for greater inclusion and to better align with international best practice in encouraging higher levels of philanthropic and charitable giving³

Alliance for Philanthropy - 4 key recommendations

1. Recognise Philanthropy and Engage with It

- Philanthropy and its important role in supporting civil society, community development and Irish values must be better recognised by policymakers; learn, engage, acknowledge.
- Philanthropy as a key partner should be duly considered by policymakers through consultation and engagement with the sector in the development of public policy.
- Politicians should speak up to protect philanthropy and publicly promote the important role it can play in support of society, e.g. by initiating an Irish Year for Philanthropy or Roll of Recognition.

2. Enable and Support Philanthropy

- Philanthropy in Ireland could be more effective if supported by a better operating and enabling environment bringing it in line with our EU peers and broader international practice.
- There is a need to implement a scheme to encourage and stimulate Major Gift Giving, which will support existing philanthropic trusts and foundations and, critically, encourage the development of additional giving vehicles to invest in causes for public good.
- Philanthropy is not and never will be a substitute for public investment, but in enabling philanthropy it sends clear messaging on the values we place on doing good and our collective responsibility to input to society.

3. Facilitate Philanthropy

- Philanthropy can be most effective when operating in collaboration with government and public policy; public leadership must authorise and support such collaboration.
- To most effectively deliver on such collaboration, public sector protocols/guidelines for partnering on philanthropy need to be developed.

4. Co-grant and co-invest for public good and civil society

- Ireland could further leverage the impact of private resources for public value by introducing financial instruments that act as a catalyst for co-granting with philanthropy and stimulate co-investments; such options can be examined and reviewed in consultation with the sector.

³ Philanthropy Ireland report on The Impact of the 2013 Change in Treatment of Charitable Donations, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OyvBI3P8QHPk9UCIvD9PTw607eW-ApBv/view>

About Philanthropy Ireland

PI is the representative body for the philanthropic sector in Ireland, our mission being to strengthen the social sector by advancing knowledge, understanding and practice of philanthropy. We represent donors, private and institutional, seeking to empower philanthropy through a dynamic and diverse community of philanthropic interests.

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