

ISSUE 53, February 2020

Welcome to the 53rd edition of the Irish Social Policy Association (ISPA) e-newsletter. The newsletter is published four times a year and highlights upcoming conferences, events, publications and other developments in the broad social policy area. Contact details are included below.

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1. ISPA NEWS

This is the 53rd e-Newsletter of the Irish Social Policy Association. There will be four e-newsletters throughout the year. The following are the scheduled dates which you will receive your copy via email:

- Mid-September
- Mid-November
- Mid-February
- Mid-September

Save the Date for two upcoming ISPA Seminars:

Theme: Housing and Recovery: Getting it right this time?

Date: 22nd April 2020, 7pm

Venue: DIT, Bolton Street, Dublin 1

Theme: Service Provision: Regulation versus Continuous Quality Improvement

Date: 3rd June 2020, 7pm

Venue: DIT, Bolton Street, Dublin 1

Queries regarding the newsletter, any comments, suggestions or submissions for future editions please email newsletter@ispa.ie **DISCLAIMER: The ISPA does not take responsibility for advertising events. If you would like an event to be advertised it must be received one week before publication**

2. UPCOMING EVENTS

• UPCOMING CONFERENCES

ST PATRICK'S MENTAL HEALTH/PIETA HOUSE SELF-HARM AWARENESS CONFERENCE

Date: 28th Feb 2020

Venue: St Patrick's University Hospital, Dublin 8

Other Details: Please see further details and registration at <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/a-just->

[transition-how-do-we-tackle-heat-greed-and-need-tickets-92959569575?aff=ebdssbdestsearch](https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/a-just-transition-how-do-we-tackle-heat-greed-and-need-tickets-92959569575?aff=ebdssbdestsearch)

MAYNOOTH UNIVERISTY CONFERENCE

Theme: A just transition - how do we tackle heat need and greed

Date: 27th Feb 2020

Speakers: Heat, Need and a Green New Deal? – Prof Ian Gough; Universal Basic Services? – Dr. Anna Coote; Sustainable Development Goals? – David Donoghue; European Child Guarantee? – Hugh Frazer

Venue: Education Building, Maynooth University

Other Details: Also note Book Launch Feb 27th 4-5pm Education Building, MU Anna Coote & Andrew Percy (2020) The Case for Universal Basic Services Polity Press

Chair: Prof Sean O Riain, **Speaker:** Dr Anna Coote, Dr Tony McCashin. The event is free – further details and registration at <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/a-just-transition-how-do-we-tackle-heat-greed-and-need-tickets-92959569575?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

UPCOMING SEMINARS/ LECTURES

THE LIVING WAGE TECHNICAL GROUP SEMINAR

Theme: Strategies on getting a living wage

Date: 10.30-12.30, 4th March 2020

Venue: Buswells Hotel, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2

Other details: To register please go to <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/strategies-on-getting-a-living-wage-tickets-95360165823>

CENTRE FOR GLOBAL WOMEN'S STUDIES, NUI GALWAY

Theme: Violence Against Women and Girls and the Sustainable Development Goals

Date: 7-9pm, 11th March 2020

Venue: ILAS Auditorium, NUI Galway

Other details: To register please go to <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/violence-against-women-and-girls-and-the-sustainable-development-goals-tickets-95338069733>

MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY WORK IRELAND SURVEY

Title: Commissioning and Procurement: impacts on Irish civil society advocacy and service delivery

Date: 10am-4.30pm, 19th March 2020

Venue: St. Andrew's Resource Centre, Pearse St. Dublin 2

Other details: Please go to

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/commissioning-and-procurement-impacts-on-irish-civil-society-tickets-92898769721>

COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF DRUGS SEMINAR

Title: Addictions 2020: Contemporary Issues Explored

Date: 3rd April 2020

Venue: Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, 16-22 Green Street. Dublin 7

Other details: For more information, please go to <http://www.cadaboutdrugs.ie/>

ESRI SEMINAR SERIES

Theme: Good schools or good students? The importance of selectivity for school rankings

Speaker: Dr Aedín Doris, Maynooth University

Date: 4-5.30pm, 5th March 2020

Venue: ESRI, Whitaker Square, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2

Other details: For more details please see www.esri.ie

CALL FOR PAPERS

Call for papers - 8th Annual NERI Labour Market Conference

The conference is open to all who are interested and is free to attend. However, you must register your intention to attend the conference by contacting info@nerinstitute.net

Key Dates

Submission Deadline: Tuesday 31 March, 2020
Registration Deadline: Friday 15 May, 2020

Notification of Acceptance: Tuesday 14 April, 2020
Conference Date: Tuesday 19 May 2020

Contact: paulgk@nerinstitute.net

If you have a submission or suggestion on any upcoming events, seminars, presentations, launches or conferences and would like them to be included in a future edition, please email newsletter@ispa.ie DISCLAIMER: The ISPA does not take responsibility for advertising events. If you would like an event to be advertised it must be received one week before publication

3. RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Coilte, Get Ireland Walking, Mental Health Ireland and Go Green (2020) *Woodlands for Health Evaluation Report* 2020. <https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3Ascds%3AUS%3A6d7a8ff2-c841-47a0-95cf-8dc24d557186>
- Clark, C.M.A. et al. undertaken for Social Justice Ireland (2020) *Measuring progress: The Sustainable Progress index* 2020. <https://www.socialjustice.ie/sites/default/files/attach/publication/6248/measuring-progress-thesustainableprogressindex2020new.pdf?cs=true>
- Nugent, C. (2020) *Precarious Work in Ireland: Evidence of a structural change*, NERI Research In Brief no. 74 <https://www.nerinstitute.net/sites/default/files/research/2020/Research%20InBrief%20no%2074%20Precarious%20Work.pdf>

RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM THE ESRI:

- **Whelan, C.T. et al. (2020) *From income poverty to quality of life measurement in Ireland –***

an overview, ESRI Research Series.

- **Dempsey, S. et al. (2020) *Is early mobile phone ownership shaping child development? A***

longitudinal study of wellbeing among adolescent girls and boys in Ireland, ESRI Research

Bulletin.

For details on any of the above ESRI publications and a comprehensive list of all recent ESRI publications please see www.esri.ie

UPCOMING/RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM THE POLICY PRESS (UK)

- *Children Framing Childhoods: Working-Class Kids Visions of Care* by Wendy Luttrell.
Urban educational research, practice, and policy is preoccupied with problems, brokenness, stigma, and blame. As a result, too many people are unable to recognize the capacities and desires of children and youth growing up in working-class communities. This book offers an alternative angle of vision—animated by young people’s own photographs, videos, and perspectives over time. It shows how a racially, ethnically, and linguistically diverse community of young people in Worcester, MA used cameras at different ages (10, 12, 16 and 18) to capture and value the centrality of care in their lives, homes, and classrooms. Luttrell’s immersive, creative, and layered analysis of the young people’s images and narratives boldly refutes biased assumptions about working-class childhoods and re-envisions schools as inclusive, imaginative, and care-ful spaces. With an accompanying website featuring additional digital resources (childrenframingchildhoods.com), this book challenges us to see differently and, thus, set our sights on a better future.
- *Mental Health in Later Life: Taking a Life Course Approach* by Alisoun Milne.
Focusing on mental health rather than mental illness, this book adopts a lifecourse approach to understanding mental health and wellbeing in later life. Well-respected author and scholar Alisoun Milne explores the influences of lifecourse experiences, structural inequalities, socio-political context, history, gender and age related factors and engages with new ways of thinking about preventing mental ill health and promoting mental health in later life. Drawing together material from a number of different fields, the book analyses the meaning and determinants of mental health among older populations and offers a critical review of the lifecourse, ageing and mental health discourse for students, professionals, policy makers and researchers.

Further details on the above publications are available from www.policypress.co.uk

If you wish to have a recently published book/paper listed in this section of future newsletters please e-mail details formatted as above to newsletter@ispa.ie DISCLAIMER: The ISPA does not take responsibility for advertising events. If you would like an event to be advertised it must be received one week before publication

4. CAREERS IN SOCIAL POLICY

WOMEN'S AID: POLICY OFFICER

Women's Aid is a leading national organisation that has been working in Ireland to stop domestic violence against women and children since 1974. We provide support and information through our 24hr National Freephone Helpline and one to one support services to women experiencing emotional, physical, sexual or financial abuse by a current or former husband, partner or boyfriend. In addition to our Direct Services, Women's Aid acts for justice and social change by engaging in policy, representation and communications and campaigns activity at a national level. We also provide specialised training and organisational support on responding to domestic violence to a broad range of stakeholders.

Purpose of the role: To support the development and delivery of the policy strand of work for Women's Aid. This includes supporting the implementation of lobbying strategies and detailed plans to proactively progress the social change work of the organisation.

This includes:

- Playing a key role in the Strategic Communications and Fundraising team and provide particular support to all policy initiatives and assist with the smooth and efficient running of the Strategic Communications and Fundraising Department.
- Supporting the co-ordination of Women's Aid national, regional and local policy activities.
- Supporting the development of proposals for change in public policy that will impact positively on women and children experiencing abuse and contribute to preventing domestic violence.\

Person Specification

Essential Criteria:

- Strong interest in and commitment to tackling violence against women and children and to promoting equality.
- 3rd level qualification in relevant field (e.g. politics, social policy, Gender & women's studies, Human Rights Law).
- Experience in developing policy or advocacy campaigns.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including the ability to write for and present to a wide range of audiences.
- Knowledge of the policy environment within which Irish NGOs operate.
- Proven record of delivering on objectives.
- Good research skills.

Desirable Criteria:

- Proven project management skills.
- 1-2 years' experience working in the NGO sector preferably in a policy or campaigning role.
- Extensive knowledge of legislation and policy (domestic and international) that relates to the prevention of violence against women and girls.
- Editing and Proofing Skills.

Salary: €23,586 - €39,111 pro rata, based on relevant experience.

Annual Leave: 25 days per year pro rata (One year fixed term contract, 21 hr per wk)

Please send your completed and signed application form (3 hard copies) marked 'Private and Confidential' to: Cristin Rooney, Women's Aid, 5 Wilton Place, Dublin 2; or email with the reference code in the subject line to: Cristin.rooney@womensaid.ie.

Closing date for receipt of applications is **5pm, Thursday 27th February 2020.**

JIGSAW: RESEARCH AND EVALUATION OFFICER

Data about all young people engaging with Jigsaw are captured using the Jigsaw Data System (JDS). This role will focus on developing and enhancing the JDS, and supporting Jigsaw services in use of this system. This position requires a highly motivated person with excellent communication and problem-solving skills and the ability to operate effectively at a national level with a range of stakeholders.

Please note: This is a **full-time, fixed-purpose role (3 months)**

The closing date for applications is **1pm on Friday, 28th February 2020.**

Full job description, and **to apply** for this role, please visit: <https://www.jigsaw.ie/workwithus>

About Jigsaw:

At Jigsaw we are committed to leading a nationwide transformation in the area of youth mental health. By joining our team, you will play a key part in helping us to create an Ireland where every young person's mental health is valued and supported. We have a strong presence in communities across the country, with our 12 Jigsaw services currently providing mental health support to young people experiencing mild to moderate mental health difficulties. As an organisation, we're continuing to grow. So if you have the skills and experience we require, along with the passion to support young people on their journey, we want to hear from you.

IRISH TRAVELLER MOVEMENT: NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP & POLICY OFFICER

The Irish Traveller Movement is currently recruiting for a dynamic and innovative individual to coordinate and grow our national membership and to advance our policy and advocacy work. Working with the Director and the Youth Development Worker, the National Membership & Policy Officer will work to challenge the inequalities faced by Travellers by promoting Traveller participation and leadership locally and nationally, by developing and sharing best practice, developing evidence-based research to inform our work and building strategic alliances with all who are committed equality and human rights.

To Apply: Please return CV with a cover letter that highlights your relevant skills and outlines your interest in the position to jobs@itmtrav.ie or post to The Irish Traveller Movement, 4-5 Eustace Street, Dublin 2.

Closing date for all applications is the 5pm on 29th February 2020.

Shortlisting will take place shortly after and candidates will be informed shortly after.

Any queries contact Megan Forrest, Office Manager on 01 6796577

NATIONAL DISABILITY AUTHORITY: SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER (ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS)

The [National Disability Authority](#) (NDA), as the independent statutory body provides information and evidence informed advice to the Government on policy and practice relevant to the lives of persons with disabilities. Our functions include to undertake and commission research, developing and collaborating on the development of relevant statistics; assisting in the development of standards, codes and employment of persons with disabilities in the public service and to monitor compliance as required.

We work through our [Centre for Excellence in Universal Design](#) to promote the universal design of the built environment, products, services and information and communication technologies so that they can be easily accessed and used by everyone, including persons with disabilities.

The Authority is recruiting for the following position:

Senior Research Officer – Economics and Statistics (Permanent, full-time Assistant Principal)

The Senior Research Officer will join the Policy, Research and Public Affairs Unit, to work as part of a team with a focus on applied research, economic and statistical analysis in support of the National Disability Authority's role to provide evidence-informed policy advice as relevant to disability. This will include focus on costs and benefits of policy and practice to inform considerations of financial sustainability and future planning to meet needs. The successful candidate will demonstrate strong competencies in Economics and Statistical Analysis.

To apply, complete the application form and forward, together with covering letter (max. 2 pages) outlining your suitability for the role, by email to recruitment@nda.ie, or by post to

Corporate Services Manager,
National Disability Authority,
25 Clyde Road,
Dublin D04 E409.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 11am on Wednesday the 4th March. Further details are available from www.nda.ie

SOCIETY FOR SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL: REQUEST FOR TENDER

Understanding the structure and adequacy of school funding in Ireland

The Society of St Vincent de Paul is inviting tenders from qualified researchers or consultants for a project which assesses the structure and adequacy of school funding in Ireland.

About the Society of St Vincent de Paul

The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) is the largest charity of social concern and action in Ireland, with a variety of services for children and families being provided by our 10,000 voluntary members and 600 staff across the country. These services include home visitation, resource centres, social housing, education grants and other financial support.

Education costs are one of the main reasons people request help from SVP and we see access to education as the key enabler out of poverty. Last year SVP spent over €4.5 million supporting children, young people and second chance learners to access education. Approximately, 50% of this expenditure related to the cost of primary and secondary education and last August we took over 6000 calls from parents struggling with back to school costs. 2019 was the third year in a row where SVP have seen an increase in calls for back to school help. It is the experience of our members that requests from schools for voluntary contributions causes significant stress and financial worry for families.

A core aim of the policy work of SVP is to advocate for short and long-term measures to ensure that current and future cohorts of students can participate in school on an equal footing regardless of their parent's economic status.

In this context, SVP wishes to find out more about the structure and adequacy of school funding in Ireland and the factors that drive school fundraising and requests for voluntary contributions.

Background

According to the Catholic Primary School Management Association, the level of capitation funding is linked to the practice of school fundraising and seeking voluntary contributions from parents. Between the period 2011-2015 school capitation and related grants were reduced by just over 11% in aggregate. Restoring capitation over a 3 -year period as resources permit is one of the actions in the Action Plan for Education 2016-2019. Schools received a 5% increase in capitation in September 2019. A 2.5% increase to the school capitation grant was announced in Budget 2020, which will come into effect for the academic year 2020/2021. But it remains below the 2011 rate.

According to the Department of Education the full restoration of the standard capitation grant rate would amount to €30 per pupil at primary level and €49 per student at post-primary level at an overall cost of €35.6 million in any one year. Full restoration would bring schools to pre 2011 capitation levels but would not take account of any inflation since 2011. SVP members report the lowest amount requested for a 'voluntary' contribution is approximately €50. This would suggest that even if the Department restore the capitation grant rate to pre- 2011 levels, it will still be insufficient to cover the costs involved in running a school.

To date there has been no assessment of the adequacy of the capitation grant and there are no clear guidelines on how rates were determined and set pre-2011.

Research Objectives

The purpose of this research is to assess the adequacy of the capitation grant to schools, identify the

ways in which schools are funded and set out how schools utilise state funding. The research should address the following objectives:

- Establish what it costs to provide a place for a student in school for 1 year (excluding the cost of books, extracurricular activities and school meals) and the main factors that impact on these costs.
- Establish how the capitation grant is currently utilised by schools, identify where the current gaps in funding are and examine how voluntary contributions and fundraising are used to bridge those gaps.
- Describe the main sources of funding to different types of schools from the Department of Education and Skills and other bodies (ETBs etc).
- Describe and analyse other funding sources and grants to schools from the DES (e.g book grants, DESI grant).
- Identify the differences in the funding structure between primary and secondary schools.
- Identify the differences in the funding structure between different types of post-primary schools (voluntary, vocational, community and comprehensive schools)

Methodology

Applicants should outline in their proposals how they will ensure that the research will provide both the breadth and depth of information necessary to meet the objectives of the research as outlined above. Researcher may choose to address the research aims by surveying a sample of schools' representative of size and location, conduct stakeholder interviews and/or analyse departmental expenditure data and guidelines. Applicants are invited to outline the particular methods and sampling techniques they intend to employ within the framework of the research approach outlined above.

Outputs

- A research report and executive summary that will be formally launched and highlighted through the media.
- The report should contain the research findings in response to the objectives outlined above and should contain recommendations with regard to SVP social policy work and any other issues which have arisen during the research.

Purpose of outputs

- To provide SVP with an analysis of the environment for influencing policy with regard to school costs and funding.
- Incorporation of the research finding into future policy positions, campaigns and budgetary proposals.

Timeline and budget

- It is expected that researchers will be appointed in Q1 2020 and the project would be completed by the end of Q4 2020.
- A budget of a maximum of €25,000 (inclusive of VAT) is available for this project.
- The cost of publication and dissemination of the research report will be borne by SVP.

Status of Contractor

The person(s) awarded this contract will act in a self-employed or consultancy capacity. They will be responsible for all their own tax affairs, office supplies, transport, equipment, gaining access to data and academic literature etc.

Tender Format

Tender submissions must include the following:

- Name of the primary contact person.
- Organisation / company name.
- Full contact details (e.g. postal address, telephone, email and website).
- Organisation / company overview (e.g. history, aims, ethos, size, structure, quality standards attained etc.).
- Examples of recent work undertaken which is similar to our requirements.
- Project Development Plan (i.e. how you would propose to meet our requirements - including a timeline).
- Data sources and methodology that will be utilised.
- Details of who will take the lead (and, if applicable, supporting responsibility) for this project - including a brief CV of each person.
- A detailed breakdown of the total cost for this project and the suggested payment schedule - all figures must include VAT where applicable.
- Commitment to complete the project within the timeframe required.
- Names and full contact details of two referees whom we can contact to ask about your previous work.

Any queries should be directed to Marcella Stakem, marcella.stakem@svp.ie or 01 8848225. The deadline for receipt of completed proposals is **the 1st of March 2020**. Proposals can be sent to Marcella Stakem by email, marcella.stakem@svp.ie or by post, SVP House, 91-92 Sean MacDermott St, Dublin 1.

If you have a submission or suggestion on any current vacancies and would like them to be included in a future edition, please email newsletter@ispa.ie DISCLAIMER: The ISPA does not take responsibility for advertising events. If you would like an event to be advertised it must be received one week before publication.

5. CONTACTING THE ISPA

The following are the contact details of the association. We strongly encourage communication by email.

ISPA Secretary: secretary@ispa.ie

Newsletter: newsletter@ispa.ie

Treasurer: treasurer@ispa.ie

PLEASE NOTE that all submissions, suggestions, events and job vacancies should be sent to the newsletter@ispa.ie address. The closing date for receipt of submissions for the next issue is the 1st of the month.

6. MEMBERSHIP OF ISPA

If you or your organisation would like to become a member of ISPA, please complete the membership registration form (return address on the document). Alternatively, contact the ISPA secretary at secretary@ispa.ie

Membership rates for 2020 are:

- Individual members: €30 per year
- Student/unwaged: €10 per year
- NGO: €60 per year
- Corporate membership: €100 per year

- Life member: Once off fee of €350

7. ISPA HISTORY AND CURRENT COMMITTEE

The Irish Social Policy Association, which was established in 1997, aims to provide a forum for the analysis, discussion and development of social policy in Ireland, North and South. The inspiration to form a cross border Association dedicated to social policy in Ireland came from Dr Patricia Kennedy and Dr Nessa Winston from the Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University College Dublin.

The Association endeavours to broaden the debate on social policy by providing a forum for discussion that embraces the views and opinion of a wide range of relevant actors. ISPA brings together professionals and non-professionals with an interest in social policy, academics, policy makers, officials in the civil service and public service bodies, employer and trade union organisations as well as organisations and groups in the not-for-profit sector. Through the Association, discussions and debates have been stimulated on a variety of contemporary social policy issues.

CURRENT ISPA COMMITTEE

The ISPA Committee for 2020-2021 is as follows: Eithne Fitzgerald (Chair), Vivienne Byers (Vice-Chair), Angela Palmer (Secretary), Michelle Murphy (Treasurer), Ann Stokes (Newsletter), Eamon Murphy (Website), Micheál Collins, Eoin Carroll, Megan Curran Lorna Roe, Geoffrey Cook, Catherine-Anne Field, Nat O'Connor and Justyna Szewczyk.

8. JOINING/LEAVING THE ISPA MAILING LIST

We are working on our online sign up form, in the meantime, please email Secretary@ispa.ie if you would like to be added to our mailing list. If you would like to be removed, please click unsubscribe at the bottom of this email.

A pdf copy of this and previous newsletters is available on the ISPA website at www.ispa.ie

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