



School of Business



Ideell Arena Seminar – 11th February 2016
Setting the Context: the Irish Nonprofit Sector
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Images of Ireland



What is Irish civil society and what could it be...



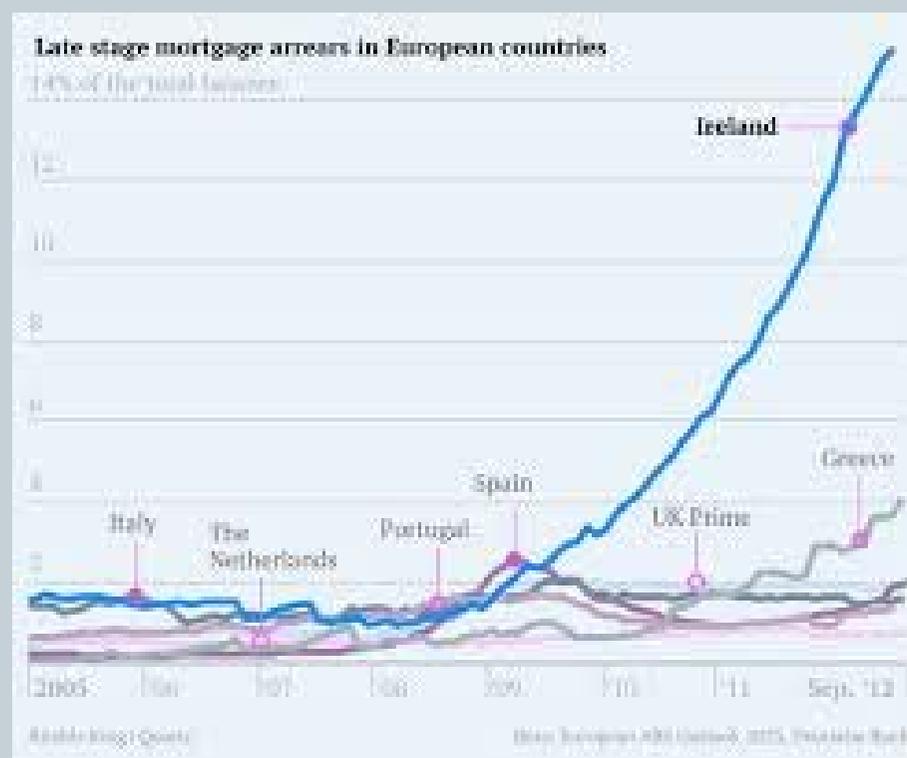
IN TIME OF VERY RAPID CHANGE?

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES OF THE PRESENT?

ARE THERE PERSISTENT THEMES AND ISSUES?

ARE THERE ANY NEW WAYS OF DOING THINGS?

Setting the Context – Ireland in 2016





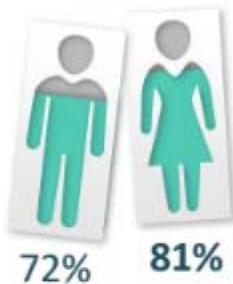
One
current
big **big**
issue

Who is more likely to support the Same Sex Referendum?

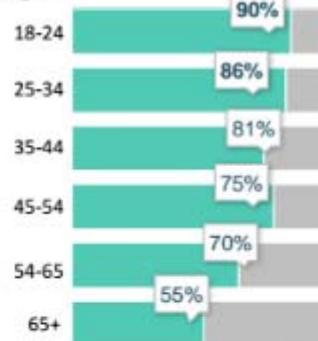
(Base: All Adults aged 18+ - 1,007)



Gender



Age



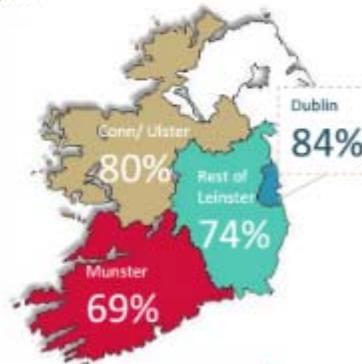
Social Class



Party Support



Region



State-civil society interface

Effective public communications strategy using trad & social media

Framing of issues as human rights/equality issue & real life challenges of inheritance, tax etc. highlighted



Introduction of gay marriage in the Republic of Ireland

The
A T L A N T I C
Philanthropies

Recruitment of full-time core staff and communications and evaluation expertise with philanthropic funding

Strong campaigning organisational infrastructure – GLEN & Marriage Equality

Civil Partnership
Bill

Persistent themes and issues...



Some Important Themes



- Change – some Sudden, some Dramatic, some Slow and Ongoing
- Hybrid Organisations and social entrepreneurs – a big mix of arrangements, but more ‘business-like’ than civic or state.
- New resources for recovery?
- Identity, wellbeing and resilience – how to move past the crisis

Irish Civil Society



SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

A very short history lesson



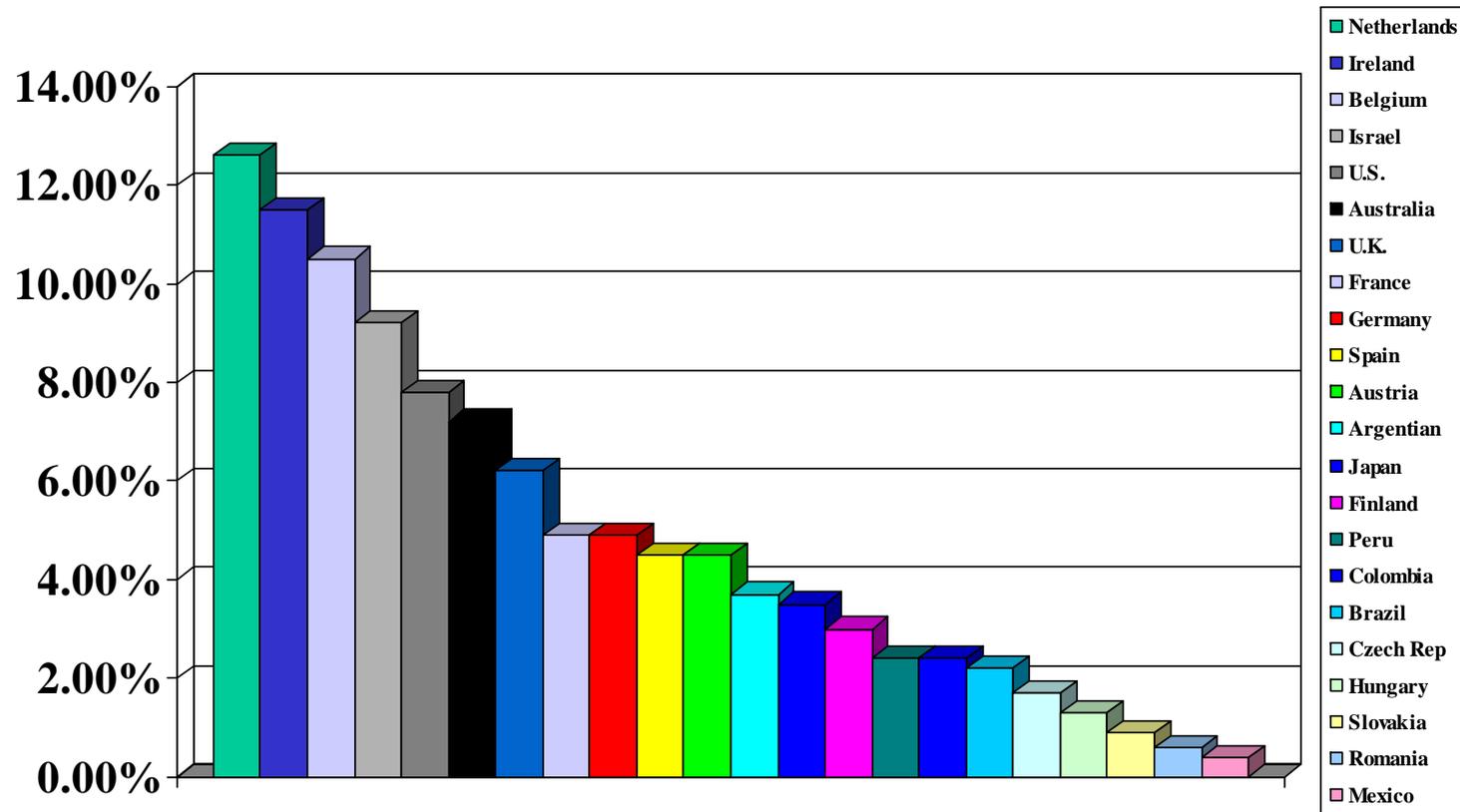
- Prior to 1922 - institution building a struggle for hearts, minds, souls – schools, hospitals, care of the poor
- Voluntary action also integral part of societal ways – culture of co-operation ('cooring' and meitheal); social services, national identity, cultural revival
- State funding of social services increases from 1970s
- Rise of community development from the 1970s
- Social partnership from 1996

Sources of Sector Funding pre-2009



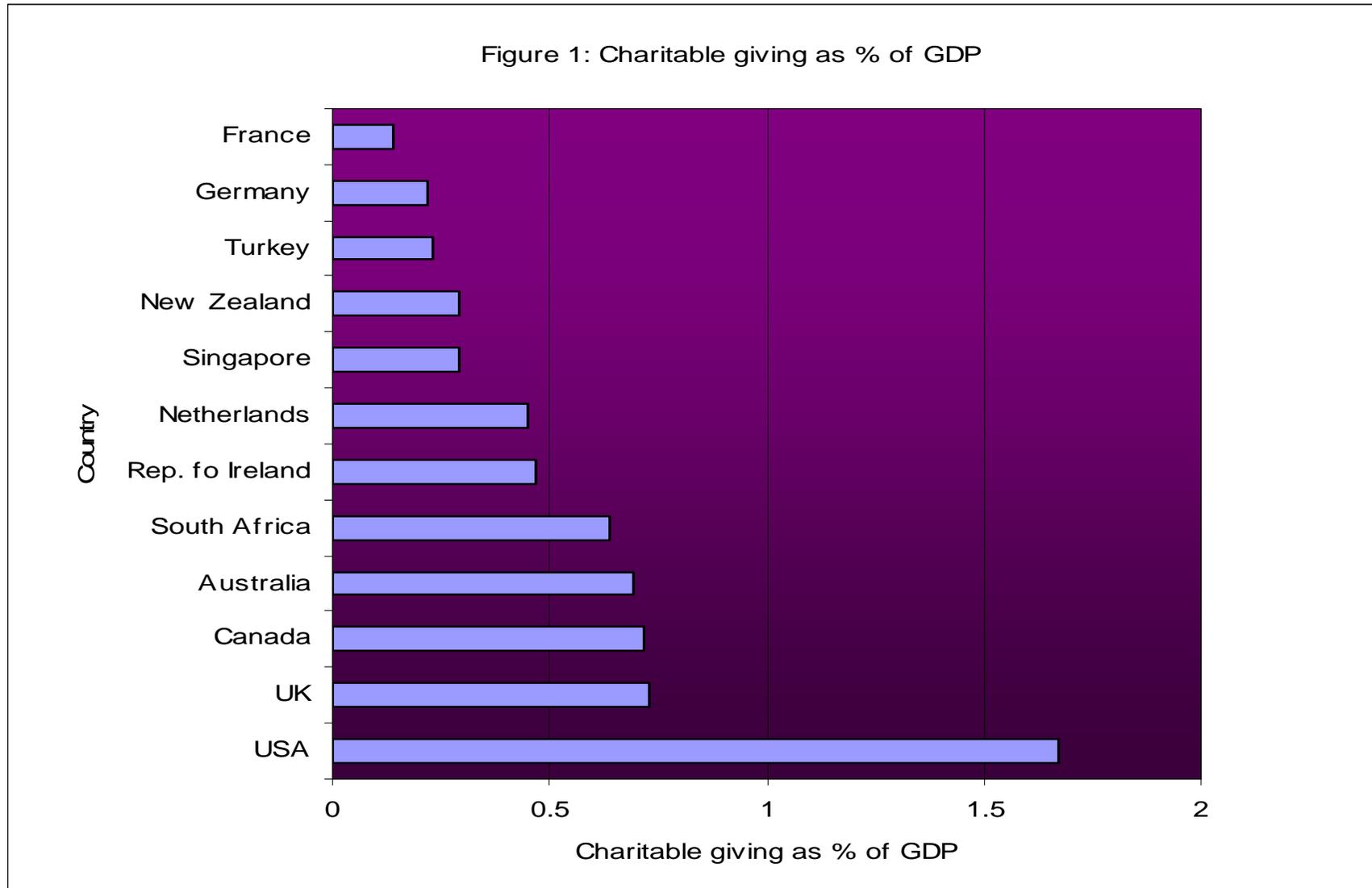
- State 59.8%
 - Private donations 10.5%
 - Membership 3.2%
 - Other 2.4% (Donoghue 2008)
 - Fees 14.6%
 - Deposit accts 8.1%
 - Corp. donations 1.4%
- Majority of state, fees, private donations and membership income to organisations established before 1986
 - Organisations established form 1997 on get smallest proportions of income from these sources

Employment in CSOs

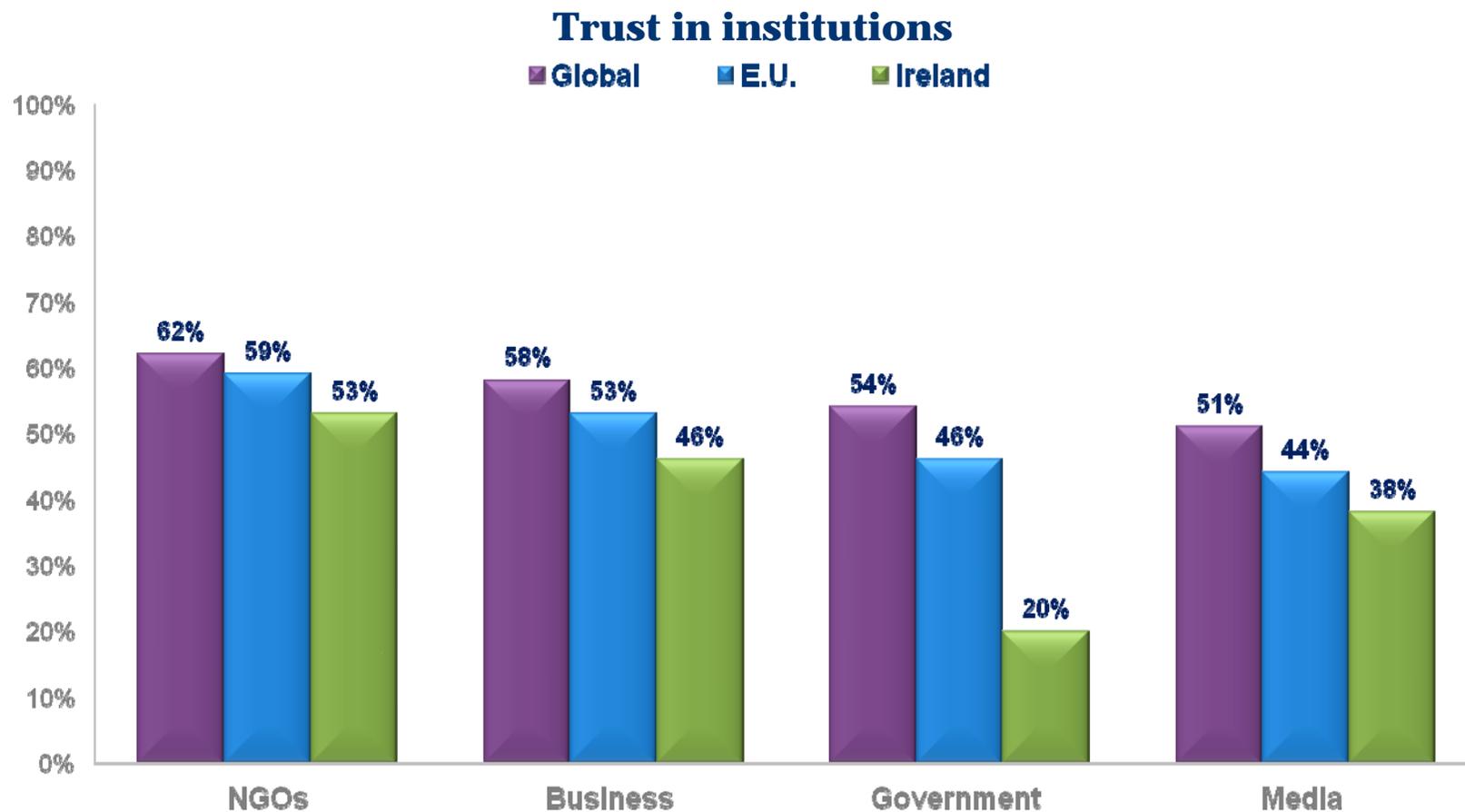


Charitable Giving in Comparative Context

Source: Charities Aid Foundation (U. K.)



Ireland has significantly lower trust in government than in other institutions



A7-A10. I am going to read you a list of institutions. For each one, please tell me how much you TRUST that institution to do what is right. On a 9-point scale where one means that you "DO NOT TRUST THEM AT ALL" and nine means that you "TRUST THEM A GREAT DEAL, how much do you trust [INSERT] to do what is right? (Top 4 Box) Informed Publics ages 25-64 in 23 countries, the EU (excludes Russia) and Ireland.

Ireland is an increasingly heterogeneous society

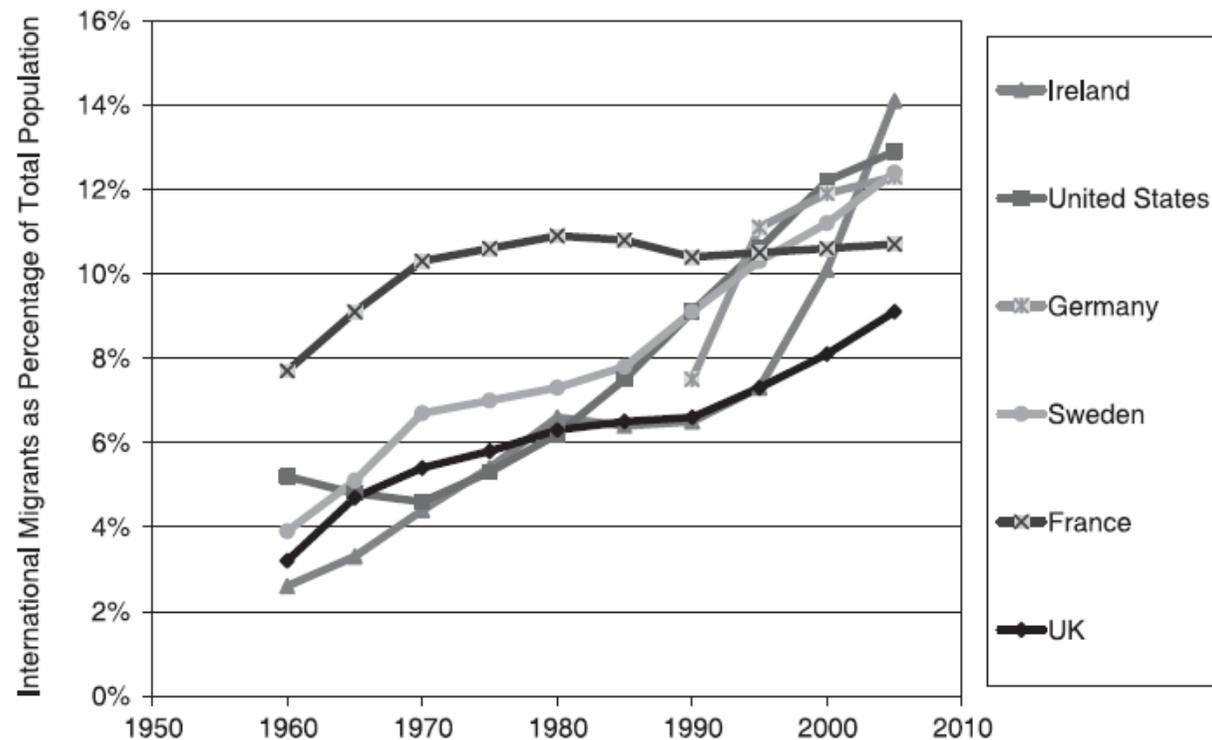


- **How does societal heterogeneity impact social solidarity, civic engagement and nonprofit organising?**
 - James (1987) - contexts with religious heterogeneity are more likely to have more NPOs
 - Putnam (2007) – it is more complicated than that

Heterogeneity and Ireland



Figure 1. Growth of Immigration in Selected OECD Countries, 1960–2005.



Source: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, 'Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision', <http://esa.un.org/migration>, 27 September 2006.

Today's Irish Times



- **Attitudes on immigration harden since crash, poll suggests**
- Despite negative views, concern over impact on schools and hospitals has eased slightly

Funding Delivery of Social Services... and innovation?



THE EMERGENCE OF SOCIAL IMPACT BONDS



Social Impact Bonds



- ‘sustainable finance’
- How to bring new funding streams to social services delivery?
- Could these help in Ireland – lots of ideas for how to do social services better, but government has no money...

Background on Social Impact Bonds

Social Impact Bonds were first proposed and implemented in the UK as a way of dealing with a social welfare problem:

- **Certain types of social programmes are underfunded:**
 - Programmes with large up-front costs;
 - Programmes that serve large numbers of people;
 - Risky programmes

Solution?

- **Use private capital to finance these programmes.**

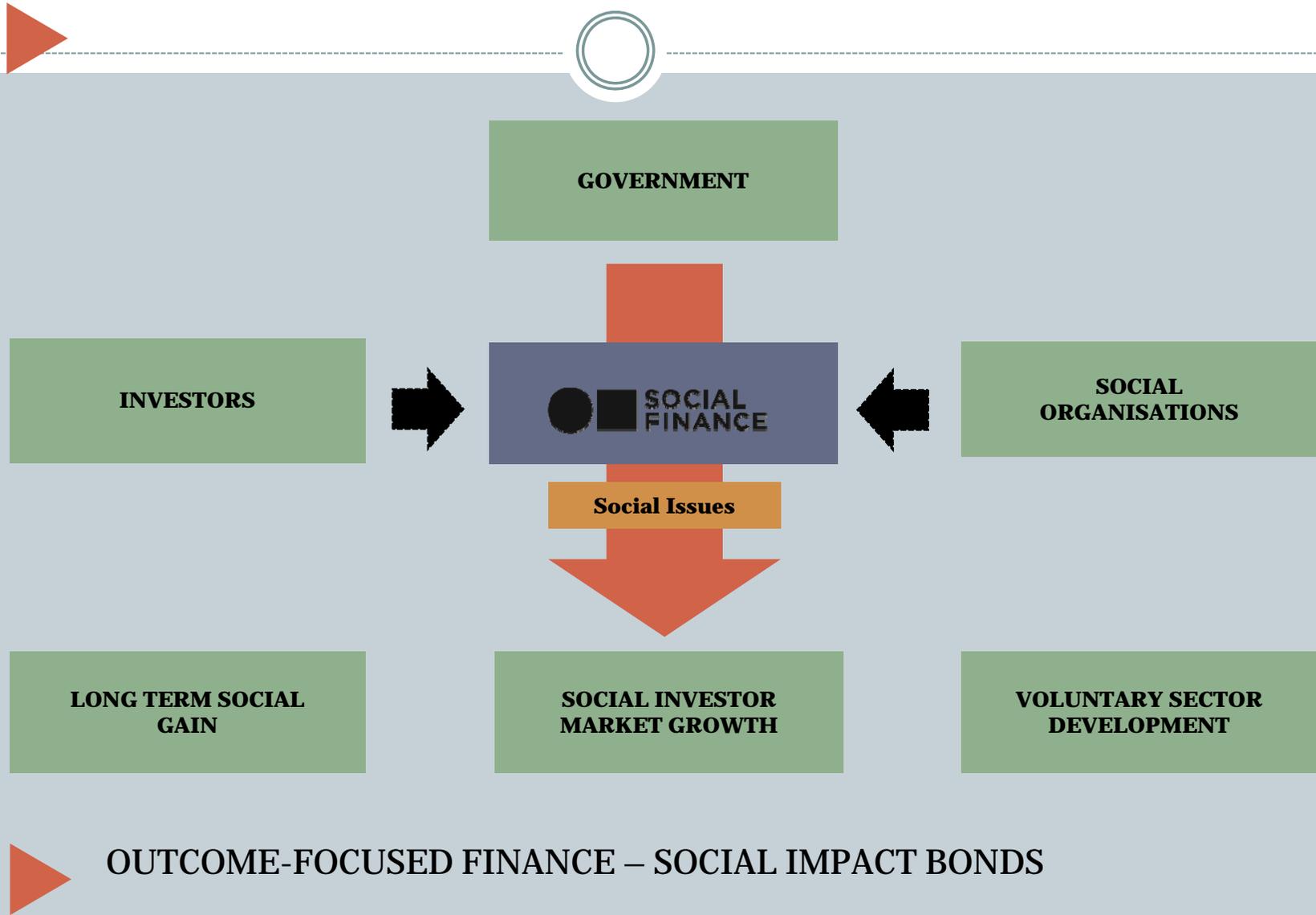
How SIBs Work



A public sector problem is identified that can be solved with additional resources that are not available from the within the government.

- Investment bank solicits private capital;
- Government identifies performance measures;
- Private £ (€) solicited, invested in programmes through an intermediary;
- Evaluator (Verifier) determines if measures are met;
- Government reimburses investors plus profit if met;
- **No funds if programme fails.**

SUSTAINABLE AND SCALABLE FUNDING MODELS TO TACKLE ENTRENCHED SOCIAL PROBLEMS



What do you think?



- **What do you think of SIBs?**
- **The Local Context – Ireland post 2008**
 - Paradox of financial crisis as a driver: growth of social finance
 - crisis of social service delivery – homelessness as exemplar
 - Shift from grants to loan finance
 - Dramatic decline in philanthropy
 - First call for SIB proposals in 2011

SIB in Ireland ...



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The simple version: (2011 – today)

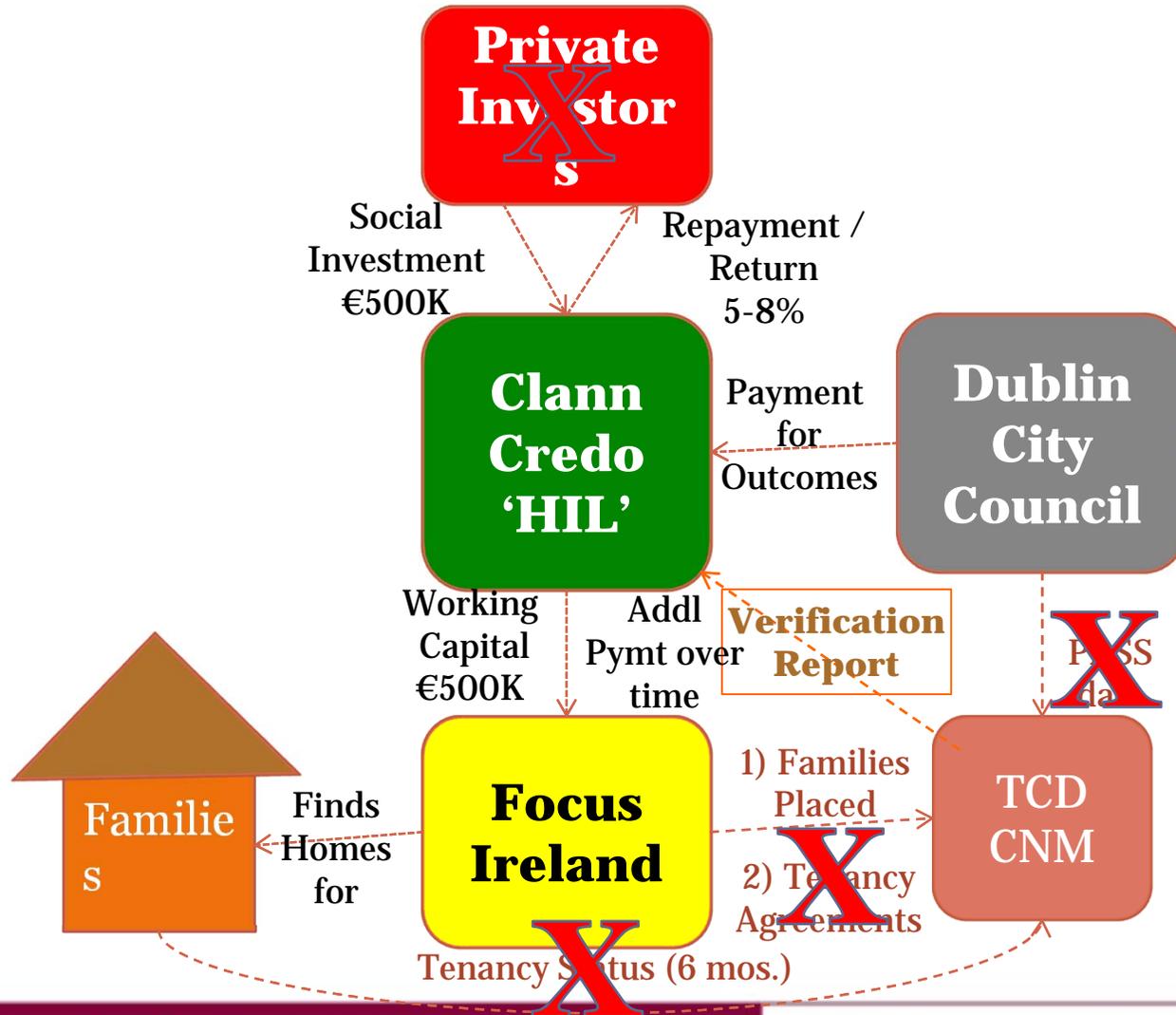
- Social Finance Organisation, Clann Credo, in collaboration with Government in Ireland issues call for proposals for ‘social investment bonds’ in **Aug 2011** following UK/US model
- Several proposals received from non-profit organisations and one university
- Focus Ireland proposal for placing long-term (> 6 mos.) homeless families is selected in **early 2012** – perceived as ‘straight-forward, low risk, clear social gain, easy to measure’
- 136 families are identified, financial model developed by Clann Credo and Focus Ireland starts working with families and landlords in **late 2012** – **expected completion in Sep 2015**
- **Investor pack not yet complete, verification not started as of today**

Outcomes Verifier selected in Sep 2014

To provide **independent, credible and efficient** validation of reported outcomes arising from efforts to assist 136 identified families that are currently living in private emergency accommodation to move into "secure and sustainable tenancies in appropriate long-term accommodation".



... why its *really* complicated



Meanwhile, homelessness...

- *Irish Times - Tuesday, April 21, 2015,*
 - *“Almost 1,000 children in Dublin are homeless and living in emergency accommodation, the latest official figures show.*
 - *The figures, from the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE), show that during the week of March 23rd to March 29th there were 411 families in emergency accommodation in the capital with 911 children*
 - *The latest figures also represent a 55 per cent increase in the number of homeless families in the capital since June last year, and a 60 per cent increase in the number of children. In that month, which is when comparable data was first gathered, there were 264 families with 567 children in emergency accommodation.”*

The appeal: SIB as integrator

- Outcome focus, evaluation / verification of social impact
- legitimises innovation in service delivery
- Facilitates cross sector partnership
- Expands the social finance ecosystem
- Accommodates the interests of multiple stakeholders – state, private finance, nonprofit, beneficiaries in the design of the SIB

SIBs - and their integrator capacity – are intrinsically interesting. Fascination drives discussion – but clouds analysis