

# EMERGING IRISH POLICY AND PROGRAMME PROPOSALS

Dublin Partnerships Seminar

24<sup>th</sup> February 2009

# Labour Market Developments



- Live Register for January 2009: 326,100
  - January 2008: 179,600; 81.5% increase
  - January 2007: 156,900; 108% increase
- Standardised Unemployment Rate: 9.2%
  - January 2008: SUR 4.9%
  - January 2007: SUR 4.5%
- Redundancies for January 2009: 6,708
  - January 2008: 2,764
  - January 2007: 2,777

# Framework for a Pact for Stabilisation, Social Solidarity and Economic Renewal

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- The adjustment to be achieved through reductions in expenditure will be based on the following criteria:
  - ensuring a fair and equitable spread of the burden of adjustment;
  - maximising the level of sustainable employment;
  - solidarity with those now losing their jobs;
  - protecting the vulnerable as far as possible;
  - maintaining high-priority public investments in economic and social infrastructure;
  - careful forward priority planning;
  - increased efficiency, effectiveness and a focus on outcomes.

# Framework continued



- Recognising that unemployment will rise significantly in the period ahead, the Government and Social Partners will work together to by:
  - designing a flexicurity approach appropriate to Irish conditions which keeps people working where feasible and equips people to return to employment as quickly as possible by maximising the availability and impact of education, upskilling and training supports;
  - redeploying resources to ensure efficient and timely delivery of direct State supports to those who lose their jobs including social welfare payments, redundancy payments and payments to workers in cases of insolvent companies.

# Taoiseach's speech 3.2.09

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- Increase monthly capacity of job search (6,500 to 12,250 persons) re job, education and training;
- Planned creation of an additional 51,000 training places for newly unemployed;
- Design /delivery of further courses in sustainable energy and green technology techniques;
- Work towards providing redundant apprentices with the opportunity to complete their apprenticeships.

# Continued



- ❑ Support for enterprises;
- ❑ Refining price regulation in the energy sector;
- ❑ Stabilising the financial and banking sector to meet the needs of the Irish economy and society;
- ❑ Pro-active labour market approach appropriate to Irish conditions to support vulnerable employment and those who lose their jobs;
- ❑ Developing a new national pensions framework,
- ❑ Completing the reform and economic renewal agenda to which we are committed.

# Social Welfare Implications



- ❑ Scale of expenditure;
- ❑ System dated re needs of more flexible labour markets;
- ❑ OECD critical of Ireland re lack of enforced conditionality re welfare payments;
- ❑ They noted range of supports and agencies and queried their effectiveness;
- ❑ Also critical of ALMP;
- ❑ Mortgage / accommodation issues and potential costs.