



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

**Meeting of Corporate Social Responsibility Stakeholder Forum
17th September 2018
Errigal Country House Hotel, Cootehill, Cavan**

Minutes

Chair: Catherine Heaney, DHR Communications
Attendance and Apologies at Appendix A

1. Welcome and Opening Comments

The Chairperson, Ms Catherine Heaney welcomed attendees and thanked Abbott, who are members of the CSR Stakeholder Forum, for hosting the event.

The Chairperson wished all members shortlisted for the Chambers awards the very best of luck on Thursday 20th September.

2. Minutes of the Meeting 7th March 2018

The Minutes were agreed.

Actions:

The Minutes will be uploaded to CSRhub.ie

3. CSR Stakeholder Forum 2018-2019

In advance of the Department presenting on the Forum's draft work programme for 2018-2019 the Chairperson raised a number of points

(a) Working Groups

For 2018-2019 Project teams (replacing Working Groups) will be more dynamic, be established for shorter periods and will focus on one or two tasks e.g. assist in organising an event. She hoped that this will lighten the load for all members. She thanked all members who participated and chaired working groups in 2017/2018. The work of those Working Groups has been concluded.

(a) SDG Stakeholder Forum

The Chairperson said that the CSR Stakeholder Forum is keen to strategically work with the SDG Stakeholder Forum. This will be discussed later when the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCA) present on the SDGs.

The Chairperson called on the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation (DBEI) to present on the Forum's Draft Work Programme 2018-2019.

Ms Céline McHugh, Principal Officer, DBEI thanked Abbott for hosting the event and Errigal Country House Hotel for accommodating the Forum at short notice. She reflected on the successful CEO/Leaders' Breakfast meeting in Iveagh House in June and advised of Minister Humphrey's keen interest in maintaining similar high energy levels on the Forum during

2018/2019. She added that the secretariat has gathered the Forums thoughts through the survey, which has a strong message coming through: that the Forum is the heart of the what we do, and that members want a direct role in the implementation of our National Plan.

Ms McHugh suggested that one thing that we have learned over the past year is that short sharp pieces of focused work with clear outputs, for example, preparing video clips for social media around the 'Check' event (thanks for Bank of Ireland for that,) or organising a workshop for CSR in the Public Sector, with Business in the Community Ireland, can be really effective.

She asked the Forum to consider the Actions that are outstanding in the Plan and how best they can be operationalised. She proposed that if work groups or project teams are matched with particular activities, the Forum could become more agile.

Ms McHugh congratulated her colleagues in the secretariat for all their work on the Forum and called on Deborah Dignam, Assistant Principal Officer, DBEI, to present on the Forum's draft Work Programme 2018/2019.

Ms Dignam opened the presentation by reviewing the Forum's highlights during 2017/2018 which included;

- CEO/Leaders Breakfast Meeting June 2018
- CSR Check 2018
- CSR Case Studies (50+)
- CSR Forum meetings and SME Outreach Events
- CSR Mentoring Programme – Microsoft
- CSRhub Communications
- CSR Ambassador Programme
- SDG National Implementation Plan 2018-2020
- Business and Human Rights Plan 2017-2020

She added that all actions in Ireland's National Plan on Corporate Social Responsibility 'Toward Responsible Business' 2017-2020 have been progressed to varying degrees, with some actions completed. Work is required in order to advance the remaining actions.

In response to members survey, which was carried out in August 2018 greater strategic focus will be given to the Work Programme in 2018/2019.

"We should all be coming out of the Forum meetings having actions and reporting back on progress/updates"

"Greater clarity and defined actions arising from meetings"

Members asked for more clarity and focus and thematic engagement:

"CSR is so broad based...perhaps we need to make clearer objectives and clearer measurements"

"Themed meetings could be useful to ensure that any additional attendees can also join the meeting as needed"

In consideration of the members survey, the outstanding Actions from the National Plan and the wider economic and societal landscape the new Work Programme has been designed to reflect current issues and respond to member's needs.

In light of this, six themes are proposed for 2018/2019;

- SDGS (Actions 3,15,17)
- Diversity and Inclusion (Actions 2,3,11)
- Circular Economy (Actions 3,17)
- CSR in the Public Sector (1,3)
- SMEs (Actions 3,9,10,11,12,13)
- Economic and Social Governance (Action 14)

These themes are underpinned by the strategic goals in the Plan - Awareness, Access, Support and Policy Alignment and aligned to Actions in the Plan. Deborah reviewed each theme with associated activities. She added that the SDGS will be a standing item on each agenda and that all meetings for 2018/2019 will be themed as follows;

September 2018	Work Programme/SDGs/Environment/Circular Economy
November 2018	Diversity & Inclusion/Public Sector
March 2018	Economic and Social Governance

An addendum to the 6 themes is 'Communications' and each member, as a CSR Ambassador, is asked to promote CSR at one event during 2018/2019. Additional case studies will be sourced under each theme.

A Communications Resource Group is to be identified to assist the secretariat with communications operations as and when required.

In closing her presentation Deborah asked members two questions

- (1) Any additional themes/actions?
- (2) Implementation approach?

The Chairperson thanked Ms Dignam for the presentation and said that the themes are clearly aligned to the Actions in the Plan. She raised four additional points;

1. *CSR Online tool for SMEs*
The Chairperson said for the CSR Online tool for SMEs to be effective, additional resources will need to be made available and as the Forum does not have such resources she now considers that the tool has reached its conclusion.
2. *CSR Mentoring Programme*
The Chairperson advised members that the Microsoft model is very effective and members of the Forum with capacity were encouraged to consider replicating this model. Members were asked to contact the secretariat directly about this.
3. *Public Sector*
The Chairperson said that many public-sector bodies are already doing work on diversity and inclusion and gender equality and it will be worth having these as themes for the November Forum meeting.

4. *Economic and Social Governance*

The Chairperson proposed that more than ever the activities of companies is under the microscope, revealing company practices that are not up to standard. Economic and Social Governance enables companies to demonstrate when they are going beyond compliance.

Members in attendance were asked to respond to the draft Work Programme. Members responded as follows;

ESB

ESB highlighted the work they are doing overseas through their various initiatives including Electric Aid support and ESB's Teshie School Project. They are currently trying to assess which SDG goals can be aligned to their overseas projects. They also suggested members access the International Institute for Sustainable Development www.iisd.org which highlights SDG activities around the world and is a useful resource for gaining ideas.

The Chairperson asked each member to advise the secretariat what other online resources they are using which could assist other members.

Dawn Meats

Dawn Meats proposed that Bord Bia, Irish Food Board, are a good public-sector example that incorporate all the proposed Work Programme themes for 2018/2019. They also highlighted that Minister Creed recently launched a drive for diversity and Inclusiveness in the Agri-food industry.

Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI)

BITCI propose there will be different levels of understanding about each of the themes. They added that there should also be a focus on international best practice. Under the theme diversity and Inclusion, they proposed that socio economic and social inclusion should be part of the non-traditional labour pools. They suggested that it might be worthwhile if there was a policy map under each Theme.

IBEC

IBEC said that it was important to check out what is already being regulated, compliment it and not overlap. The Chairperson said that focus of the Forum was, primarily, to highlight best practice.

Ms Dignam asked Forum members if there was anything missing from the Themes and the following was suggested:

BITCI	-	Climate Change
IBEC	-	Worker of the Future and AI
Dawn Meats	-	Environment which can include Climate Change
Green Business	-	Future of Renewable, Renewable Initiatives
Afanite	-	Rebrand Circular Economy to Environment

The Chairperson closed this part of the meeting by recapping on the Work Programme and raised a number of questions for the Forum to consider

- How do we drill down the themes to activities?
- Will Forum members indicate what Theme they would like to work on?
- What does best practice look like?

Afanite suggested that the academics on the Forum may be able to assist with this.

Actions:

**A copy of the draft Work Programme to be sent to each member
Secretariat to follow up with a revised draft Work Programme based on member's inputs**

4. SDGs

Mr Joe Gallagher, DCCAE gave an overview of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with a focus on Government Policy, SDG Stakeholder Forum and Ireland's First Voluntary National Review.

The SDG National Implementation Plan 2018-2020 provides for a coordinated whole of Government approach to implementing the SDGs. The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment has overall responsibility for ensuring coherent implementation of the SDGs across Government. An Interdepartmental Working Group has been established and the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation is a member of the Group.

Mr Gallagher invited Forum members to the next meeting of the SDG Stakeholder Forum on the 19th October in the Hilton Hotel, Dublin.

In July 2018 Ireland presented its First Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of the SDGs at the UN High Level Political Forum. The Review highlighted challenges including obesity, poverty targets, sustainable consumption and production, protecting marine and terrestrial habitats and achieving full gender equality in Irish society. The Review also highlighted housing and homelessness and climate action as two major challenges facing Ireland. The next presentation will be in 2022.

The next steps include

- Appointing SDG Champions in 2019 through the Inter Departmental Working Group;
- Communications Protocol under development to outline Departmental SDG related activities;
- Development of Linkages with other Fora e.g. sharing of resources (case studies) between DCCAE and CSR Stakeholder Forum. DBEI highlighted that in the future all Government resources would be on one digital platform and therefore it would be important to consider how content could be made most accessible for the public and businesses in the future;
- Establishment of a SDG portal www.sdg.gov.ie which will become a comprehensive resource link for all national and international SDG goal specific activities. DCCAE also mentioned 'whodoeswhat.gov.ie' which is one stop shop of all Government Department websites.

Actions:

**Invitation to issue to each member for the next meeting of the SDG Stakeholder Forum on 19th October 2018
DCCAE to further advise CSR Stakeholder Forum on how the Forum can be the voice of business and strategically engage in assisting the SDG Stakeholder Forum in the implementation of the SDGs for Ireland**

5. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the CSR Stakeholder Forum is scheduled for **Tuesday, 27th November at 8.30am, National Museum, Dublin**

APPENDIX A

Attendance:

Chairperson: Catherine Heaney, DHR Communications

Sinead Hickey	<i>Abbott</i>	Biddy O'Neill	<i>Department of Health</i>
Ciaran Hayes	<i>Abbott</i>	Alexa Toomey	<i>Enterprise Ireland</i>
Lorraine Corcoran	<i>Afanite</i>	Fergal Fitzgerald	<i>ESB</i>
Bernadette Phelan	<i>Business In the Community Ireland</i>	Diane Fannin	<i>ESB</i>
Elisa Collier O'Brien	<i>Chambers Ireland</i>	James Hogan	<i>Green Business</i>
David O'Flynn	<i>Dawn Meats</i>	Siobhan Masterson	<i>IBEC</i>
Céline McHugh	<i>Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation (DBEI)</i>	David Joyce	<i>ICTU</i>
Deborah Dignam	<i>DBEI</i>	Tim Costello	<i>IDA Ireland</i>
Sandra Mullen	<i>DBEI</i>	Karina Howley	<i>KPMG</i>
Les Carberry	<i>Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE)</i>	Ciarán Seoighe	<i>Science Foundation Ireland</i>
Joe Gallagher	<i>DCCAE</i>		

Apologies:

Audrey Nolan	<i>Bank of Ireland</i>	Breda O'Sullivan	<i>IDA Ireland</i>
Andrew Hetherington	<i>Business to Arts</i>	Seónaid O'Murchadha	<i>ISME</i>
Martin Hofler	<i>Bord Bia</i>	Neil McDonnell	<i>ISME</i>
Gerry Fitzpatrick	<i>Deloitte Ireland</i>	Dr Briga Hynes	<i>Kemmy Business School, UL</i>
Kathleen Gavin	<i>Department of Education and Skills</i>	Deirdre Ryan	<i>Lidl</i>
John Brennan	<i>Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection</i>	Maria McKeown	<i>NSAI</i>
Rory Geraghty	<i>Dept. of Foreign Affairs and Trade</i>	David Roche	<i>Pramerica Systems Limited</i>
Deirdre Kearney	<i>Department of Rural and Community Development</i>	Neil Menzies	<i>Transdev</i>
Lorraine McCann	<i>Ernst & Young</i>	Elisabeth Dare	<i>Ulster Bank</i>
Alexandra Kintner	<i>Grant Thornton</i>	Natalie Hodgess	<i>Vodafone</i>
Donal Minihane	<i>Hotel Doolin</i>	Terri O'Brien	<i>Volunteer Ireland</i>
Deirdre Kennedy	<i>IBM Ireland</i>		