

Political Parties ⬇	INOUE Key Asks ➡	Support Unemployed People to Achieve a Minimum Essential Standard of Living	Deliver Better Services for Unemployed People	Provide Unemployed People with Decent and Sustainable jobs
<b>Anti-Austerity Alliance</b>  <a href="http://www.antausterityalliance.ie">www.antausterityalliance.ie</a>  <a href="http://www.peoplebeforeprofit.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/PBP-AAA-Common-Principles-Radical-Alternative-and-Real-Equality.pdf">http://www.peoplebeforeprofit.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/PBP-AAA-Common-Principles-Radical-Alternative-and-Real-Equality.pdf</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reverse all of the cut introduced over the past 8 years. This includes the cuts to welfare rates, the telephone allowance, the introduction of prescription charges, the cuts to child benefit and One Parent Family Payment.</li> <li>▪ Abolish austerity taxes and reverse the cuts – abolish water charges, property tax and USC (with a compensating tax introduced for those with high incomes).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Abolish JobBridge, Gateway, JobPath and other schemes which are about exploitation of the unemployed. Replace them with a Real-Jobs scheme based on proper education, apprenticeship schemes and public investment in jobs.</li> <li>▪ Invest in Housing – transform NAMA into a vehicle to provide tens of thousands of social and affordable home, using its massive resources. Implement rent controls and write-down mortgages to affordable levels.</li> <li>▪ Invest in education and childcare including public crèches.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Invest in Jobs – Develop strategic public enterprise and industry and invest in public infrastructure to create tens of thousands of new jobs in sectors such as agri-food, renewable energy, generic medicine, the arts &amp; heritage, public housing, childcare, education, IT and science, Forestry and Fishing.</li> <li>▪ Increase the minimum wage to a living wage immediately and outlaw zero hour and ‘if and when’ contracts.</li> </ul>	
<b>Direct Democracy Ireland</b>  <a href="https://www.directdemocracyireland.ie/pdf/manifesto.pdf">https://www.directdemocracyireland.ie/pdf/manifesto.pdf</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supports investigating the idea of a basic guaranteed income....may remove the stigma from being unemployed in our current system</li> <li>▪ Increase of subsidies for the unemployed. Increase social protection for one-parent families, Under 23’s the aged, disabled, and families on low income.</li> <li>▪ Abolish USC for all, Introduce a fairer system of taxation that will see that those who can pay more do.</li> <li>▪ Abolition of the Local Property Tax; Irish Water &amp; Water Charges; and Septic Tank charges.</li> <li>▪ Reverse all cuts to child benefit payments...</li> <li>▪ Reverse all Disability cuts, i.e. entitlement age etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Put forward a proposed Bill of Rights to include Fundamental Rights, Civil Rights and Social Goals.</li> <li>▪ Establish a National Housing Agency to provide much needed Social housing 10% of which must be made available as affordable housing.</li> <li>▪ Use vacant Houses in possession of Nama/Banks for the current social housing lists/homeless crisis.</li> <li>▪ Tax/Fine banks and Local authorities on all Houses unoccupied for longer than four months.</li> <li>▪ Increase caps on rent allowance. DDI will demand rent certainty.</li> <li>▪ 1.2% of GDP be spent on Childcare: will prioritise the development of quality, subsidised childcare and afterschool care for all children to support their development and remove barriers to work for parents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Raise minimum wage in favour of a living wage to €11.50 per Hour.</li> <li>▪ Abolish all Zero hour contracts.</li> </ul>	


## Fianna Fail

<https://www.fiannafail.ie/an-ireland-for-all/>



- Increase working age welfare payments by €10 with an additional €10 top-up payment for carers, disability allowance, invalidity and blind pension recipients.
- Increase child benefit by €10.
- Make work pay by introducing a sliding scale for welfare payment assessments:
  - Explore revising the Three Day Rule for the payment of Jobseeker's Benefits with a system which better recognises the reality of the modern labour market.
  - Revise the 38 hour threshold for FIS qualification, subject to resources and administrative feasibility, with a view to creating a sliding scale in order to reflect the fact that many people may be working (or wish to work) less than 19 hours per week and may be in just as much need as current FIS recipients.
  - Study the possibility of expanding FIS to cover the self-employed to allow families, in particular lone parents, greater flexibility in seeking work.
- Move towards a social welfare safety net for the self-employed: We will explore new mechanisms to allow self-employed people to make full Class A equivalent PRSI contributions in order to qualify for Jobseekers Benefit and Invalidity Benefit.
- A diverse range of apprenticeship routes across IT, Finance as well as the traditional sectors similar to the model pursued in Germany will help tackle unemployment and ensure Ireland does not suffer from a skills mismatch in its economy.
- Specific unemployment assistance for over 50s:
  - Give a specific mandate to Intreo to positively assist those aged 50 years plus to access employment. Professional and approved recruitment companies are more knowledgeable of the range of job vacancies in the private sector best fitted to the over 50 job seekers and of the requirements of such jobs.
  - Introduce a scheme whereby Intreo, will appoint Recruitment companies on a regional basis to provide advice and assistance to the over 50s in applying for jobs with payment substantially related to successful placements.
- Increase construction activity to deliver 150,000 new homes by 2021 including 45,000 new Social Housing Units.
- Raise rent supplement and tackle the homelessness emergency.
- Increase LEADER funding and restart the RAPID & CLAR programme.
- Rainy Day Fund: These funds would then only be drawn on if the unemployment level rose by 1% (or was forecast to rise by that level). The money would be specifically used for infrastructure projects which would cushion the impact of a slowdown in the economy.
- Aim to reduce unemployment levels on a regional basis to their 2007 levels.
- Set targets for sustainable employment growth and high-value jobs on a regional basis
- Reducing the costs of generating new jobs is vital to spurring further growth and reducing unemployment... eliminate PRSI contributions for employers who take on long term unemployed young people aged below 29. This will be done on a revenue neutral basis within the existing budget for employment supports.
- Help create over 250,000 jobs by 2021.
- Set up a full State enterprise bank to fund business expansion.
- Reduce the tax burden on the self-employed to encourage start-ups.
- Set up an Entrepreneur Training and Mentoring Programme.
- Ban zero hour contracts.
- Introduce legislation that provides clarity on employment rights associated with internships and work experience. In line with current employment legislation, if an intern is doing work of value to the employer, has a similar level of supervision and responsibility as the rest of the workforce, then he or she should be paid at least the minimum wage.
- Implement the Living Wage across Government Departments.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reduce and eliminate USC for low and middle income workers up to €80,000.</li> <li>▪ Abolish Irish water and water charges.</li> </ul>		
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<b>Fine Gael</b>  <a href="http://www.finegael.ie/_uid/b5055220-ec96-4f03-b18a-4506e8d3119c/manifesto.pdf">http://www.finegael.ie/_uid/b5055220-ec96-4f03-b18a-4506e8d3119c/manifesto.pdf</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fine Gael believes that work, rather than welfare, is the only sustainable route out of poverty.</li> <li>▪ Jobseekers Benefit will be increased to €215 p.w. for the first 3 months of unemployment, reducing to €200 p.w. between 3 and 6 months and reverting to €188 after 6 months.</li> <li>▪ €20 increase in social welfare payments to carers, the disabled and the sick.</li> <li>▪ A Working Family Payment designed to ensure that every parent working 15hours+ p.w. takes home at least €11.75 p.h.</li> <li>▪ Roll-out nationwide the Housing Assistance Payment to address welfare to work traps associated with Rent Supplement.</li> <li>▪ Abolish USC over 5 years.</li> <li>▪ Increase the Minimum Wage to €10.50 p.h.</li> <li>▪ Social Welfare Fraud: Fine Gael will increase from 15% to 25% the amount that can be recovered from a person's weekly payment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Breaking the Cycle of Intergenerational Joblessness: Building on the successful Ballymun Youth Guarantee pilot scheme we will roll out a guarantee scheme for all 18 and 19 year olds, where a good-quality offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship will be made available within a period of 4 months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education.</li> <li>▪ A Social Contract with the Long-Term Unemployed: provide every long-term jobseeker with a caseworker to help them back to work, with individual engagements and work progression plans: role of Intreo and JobPath; increased use of directive approach including onto schemes like Gateway and Tús; sanctioned if don't engage.</li> <li>▪ Will maintain JobBridge, Gateway, and Tús.</li> <li>▪ Means Test: Fine Gael will develop a new system of means testing across Government that only requires applicants to submit their information once for it to be used by any agency that an applicant wishes to receive a service from.</li> <li>▪ Education and training:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More and Better Jobs: Unemployment is the greatest source of unfairness in society, with its economic, social and health effects.</li> <li>▪ By 2020 move 70,000 long-term unemployed people into a job, cut the national unemployment rate to 6%, and reduce the numbers of people living in Jobless Households towards the European average.</li> <li>▪ Pathways to Work Plan for Jobless Households.</li> <li>▪ An extra 200,000 jobs by 2020.</li> <li>▪ 70,000 Irish emigrants returning home to work.</li> <li>▪ €4bn 'Future Jobs Investment Fund' to future-proof the economy and jobs plan against rising global risks / challenges.</li> <li>▪ €42bn in infrastructure investments, shaped by clear regional jobs strategies, to bring unemployment to below 7% in every region of the country.</li> <li>▪ The Action Plans (jobs) will be part of an overall strategy, aimed at ensuring that the unemployment rate in every region is within 1% of the national average.</li> <li>▪ JobsPlus: increase level of payment from €7,500 to €8,500 if hiring</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Springboard: We will review the successful Springboard programme to determine if new 2-year courses are merited for sectors with complex skill requirements.</li> <li>- Momentum: We will continue to provide quality upskilling and training opportunities to long-term job seekers under the Momentum programme. We will also keep the opportunities provided under review, to ensure that we target the needs of jobseekers and employers in a recovering economy.</li> <li>▪ Double housing output to 25,000 p.a. by 2020.</li> </ul>	<p>someone unemployed &gt; 1 year but &lt; 2; and increasing the payment from €10,000 to €12,000 if hiring someone unemployed for 2 years+.</p>
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<b>Green Party</b> <a href="https://greenparty.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Manifesto-Reads-3mm-marked-bleed.pdf">https://greenparty.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Manifesto-Reads-3mm-marked-bleed.pdf</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Green Party supports the integration of the social welfare and tax systems in a manner which provides income support in recognition of the importance and value of unpaid work.</li> <li>▪ Introduce a refundable tax credit for those people who do not take up their full tax allowance...first step to the adoption of the basic income scheme which would replace the current separation between the tax and social welfare system.</li> <li>▪ Legislate to link the hourly rate of the minimum wage to changes to the Consumer Price Index, with a base floor of €9.15, below which the wage could not fall.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Create the National Housing Authority tasked with providing 7,500 units of social and affordable housing p.a.</li> <li>▪ Amend equality legislation to prevent tenants being rejected solely on the basis of receiving rent supplement</li> <li>▪ Create an online portal to facilitate the transfer of social housing between tenants - ultimately handled by the local housing department</li> <li>▪ Increase participation in Further Education, especially for disadvantaged communities.</li> <li>▪ Increase the standard and scope of post-leaving certificate and vocational training, and remove the cap on PLC places.</li> <li>▪ Introduce a 'childcare subsidy', where the state pays part of the cost of childcare for children under three</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Irish Language: Investment is needed in Irish speaking communities and the Gaeltacht areas, particularly in the provision of employment in these areas.</li> <li>▪ Explore the possibility of developing an after prison support system, with one agency coordinating fully integrated supports for accommodation, education, employment.</li> <li>▪ We need to add a fourth employment opportunity in rural areas by providing high quality broadband to every part of the country, so that location is not a bar to participation in the new global internet economy.</li> <li>▪ Immigrants: End labour exploitation by creating sector- based employment permits so workers may move between employers and ensure that all</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reverse the cuts to the Lone Parent’s Allowance.</li> <li>▪ Replace property tax with a new tax levied annually at a progressive rate on the site value of lands suitable for building (Site Valuation Tax).</li> <li>▪ Limit the amount by which a landlord can raise rent in any year to 7%.</li> <li>▪ Abolishing the “Water Conservation Grant”, instead offering tax relief on water efficiency measures.</li> <li>▪ Allocate a generous free allowance of water to every citizen to meet their basic everyday needs ...Charge for excessive waste of water, and consistent breach of the free allowance.</li> </ul>	<p>before they are eligible for a pre-school place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Add a constitutional provision for economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights, particularly to pursue the universal provision of housing and healthcare - in the interim ESC rights should be strengthened by making them legally enforceable through the courts.</li> </ul>	<p>migrant workers are able to access the Labour Court.</p>	
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<b>Independent Alliance</b>  <a href="http://www.independentalliance.ie/charter-for-change/">http://www.independentalliance.ie/charter-for-change/</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ireland’s most vulnerable must be protected. We will sign a separate, binding pact with any other group in government that the sick, the elderly, those worst- off in society and those with additional needs, must be given priority.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We will make it a precondition for any incoming government that the needs of rural Ireland are addressed and the neglect of our countryside, of our rural towns and of our villages, ends. We will prioritise the development of a functioning rural broadband infrastructure... The neglected rural transport network must be rebuilt. A full and functioning, customer-led banking system should be set up in smaller towns and villages.</li> <li>▪ We will not tolerate discrimination of any type, whether it is on the basis of gender, race, age, creed or otherwise.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We will prioritise the needs of small business. We recognise the contribution made by the self-employed entrepreneur to the Irish economy at a time when equally necessary multinationals are receiving favourable tax treatment. All those who provide jobs for the Irish economy must receive appropriate recognition and equitable treatment.</li> <li>▪ The creation of new, stable jobs needs to be distributed nationwide for everyone to feel the benefits.</li> </ul>	



			We believe in equal access for all to health and education.	
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<b>Labour Party</b>  <a href="https://www.labour.ie/download/pdf/labour-manifesto_2016.pdf">https://www.labour.ie/download/pdf/labour-manifesto_2016.pdf</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ At a minimum we will increase welfare payments in line with the cost of living.</li> <li>▪ Move towards welfare individualisation – meaning spouses and partners of jobseekers are seen as welfare clients in their own right. So all working age adults – including women and primary carers – will be given the same entitlements and opportunities.</li> <li>▪ Ensure that in households dependent on one partner’s jobseeker’s payment, the right to work, training and education supports can be access by either partner. This will give more options to qualified adults currently frozen out of accessing labour supports.</li> <li>▪ Expand the Youth Guarantee scheme to offer more training, education and employment opportunities to those under 26. For those participating in the Youth Guarantee, we will pay the full rate of Jobseeker’s payment.</li> <li>▪ Will take steps towards an income-linked system of jobseekers payments: €30 a week extra for the first six months of unemployment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Introduce a long-term strategy for the private rental sector.</li> <li>▪ Protect those who are renting.</li> <li>▪ Build more social and affordable homes.</li> <li>▪ Develop 60 new types of apprenticeships and create 50,000 new apprenticeships and traineeships. We will ensure that apprenticeships are available to young jobseekers, and to those who want to reach the top of their professions.</li> <li>▪ Phase out the JobBridge and Gateway schemes to reflect the needs of the post-crisis labour market. Both schemes were highly successful in keeping people close to the labour market during the crisis, but they are not needed as permanent features of our economy.</li> <li>▪ Set up a one stop shop for education and training advice centres attached to the INTREO offices so that access to guidance on careers and courses is not confined to the unemployed.</li> <li>▪ Refocus Momentum and Springboard programmes, and make a total of 100,000 free part-time places available through them and eCollege by 2021.</li> <li>▪ Invest €10m in the development of regional skills forums which bring together employers and education providers, to make sure we are giving</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Deliver a job for everyone who wants one by 2018 through the creation of at least 150,000 jobs over the next three years.</li> <li>▪ We will increase the number of places on JobsPlus by 10,000 to meet the needs of the long-term unemployed,</li> <li>▪ Family Income Supplement: create a new, simpler, more supportive Working Family Benefit so that all parents working full-time will earn at least €12 p.h; access based on income and less so on hours.</li> <li>▪ Provide for equal tax treatment of the self-employed.</li> <li>▪ Ensure Government leads by example. We will make the State a living wage employer by 2018.</li> <li>▪ Ensure that the living wage is progressively extended to State procured services in onsite areas such as security, cleaning and catering.</li> <li>▪ Make 2017 the Year of Social Enterprise, to focus on the economic and community benefits that social enterprises working for social, environmental and community benefit can provide, particularly in rural and disadvantaged areas.</li> <li>▪ Set out a new Regional Growth Strategy that will bring prosperity to all parts of the country</li> <li>▪ Focus on creating a stronger rural economy by building up vital sectors</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase the minimum wage and raise it to a living wage of €11.30 p.h.</li> <li>▪ Abolish USC on first €72,000.</li> <li>▪ Change how PRSI operates to reduce the burden in particular on workers earning between €18,305 and €36,608.</li> <li>▪ Increase Child Benefit payments by €15 per month by 2021.</li> </ul>	<p>people the skills they need to get local employment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop a new strategy for the community and voluntary sector recognising the valuable contribution of local development partnerships and social welfare schemes such as TÚS, C.E. and the Rural Social Scheme. We will work with the voluntary organisations and their statutory counterparts to develop this strategy and will seek to develop a sustainable multi-annual funding model for the sector in recognition that these services need to be able to plan and develop.</li> </ul>	<p>such as food, tourism, agriculture and retail.</p>	
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<b>People Before Profit</b>  <a href="http://www.peoplebeforeprofit.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Final-manifesto.pdf">http://www.peoplebeforeprofit.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Final-manifesto.pdf</a>  <a href="http://www.peoplebeforeprofit.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Employment-and-Labour-Rights-16th-Feb.pdf">http://www.peoplebeforeprofit.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Employment-and-Labour-Rights-16th-Feb.pdf</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reverse welfare cuts imposed on vulnerable groups and the poorest in society and ending discriminatory employment practices.</li> <li>▪ Outlaw discrimination in social welfare payments. Restore the social welfare payments to those under 26 to the normal rates.</li> <li>▪ Removal of ‘availability for work’ requirement for registered artists on Jobseeker’s Allowance to allow artists to do unpaid work.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education: A universal, life-long national education service must be implemented to promote decent skills and opportunities throughout all our lives.</li> <li>▪ State funding to Irish further and higher education needs to return to pre-crisis levels...expanding the student grants and Back to Education scheme.</li> <li>▪ The opportunity to return to education to develop skills and to learn new skills is available to all.</li> <li>▪ Further and higher education will be based on peoples’ needs and aspirations and the curriculum.</li> <li>▪ Investment in the vocational educational sector to expand apprenticeship opportunities ensuring the needs and aspirations of all are</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Move towards a Living Wage: €11.50 an hour or €449 a week.</li> <li>▪ Outlaw zero hours and low hour contracts which deliberately understate working hours.</li> <li>▪ Ban bogus self-employment in all sectors including construction.</li> <li>▪ Provide self-employed people with equal social welfare and pension rights of PAYE workers.</li> <li>▪ Create Jobs – The State should foster a right to work, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- restore many of the 40,000 public workers jobs that it have been slashed since the Celtic Tiger crash.</li> <li>- establish a state construction corps from the large pool of unemployed building workers to build social housing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

			<p>provided for and the country will have a skilled workforce.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Building 50,000 social housing units over five years, imposing effective rent controls and ending the practice of evicting families who show genuine financial distress in mortgage re-payments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- launch a national house insulation programme built on direct labour.</li> <li>- re-value - and pay properly - community employment schemes including those to promote arts.</li> </ul>
<b>Political Parties</b> 	<b>INOUE Key Asks</b> 	<b>Support Unemployed People to Achieve a Minimum Essential Standard of Living</b>	<b>Deliver Better Services for Unemployed People</b>	<b>Provide Unemployed People with Decent and Sustainable jobs</b>
<b>Renua Ireland</b>  <a href="http://www.renuaireland.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/RENUA-Manifesto.pdf">www.renuaireland.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/RENUA-Manifesto.pdf</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Government must determine what a minimum lifestyle standard is for the country and then seek to provide it through efficiencies and savings in government and by lowering the cost of living in society through supply side interventions.</li> <li>▪ Basic income payment to all individuals. Those earning up to €70,000 per annum will receive a pro rata (graduated) basic income payment of up to €3,600 per person in the household. The payment will decrease gradually as household income increases.</li> <li>▪ The abolition of excessive secondary charges such as motor tax and the TV licence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community &amp; Social policy: childcare tax credit; continued use of community employment to provide local childcare.</li> <li>▪ Housing: Securing a ten billion euro public private partnership fund to resolve our housing supply crisis.</li> <li>▪ Reduce the amount spent on property via mortgages, rent or the welfare system by significantly increasing supply until housing can be obtained at a more sustainable rate of 2-3 times average earnings.</li> <li>▪ Education: 50% of the national training fund (including Skillsnets funding) available for workplace training. This can be divided into streams to support wider economic goals and to address the three biggest issues in the unemployed sector: youth unemployment, the long-term unemployed and the under-employed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Vision for the Irish economy places indigenous enterprise and entrepreneurialism at its core. We will make Ireland a thriving environment for those who want to create jobs and drive growth. We will reform cumbersome business taxes and consolidate our unwieldy range of enterprise schemes.</li> <li>▪ Ensure those who receive social welfare contribute back to society: proposing that all people in receipt of social welfare who have been unemployed for more than six months will be enrolled in community employment schemes or an expanded JobBridge apprenticeship programme. No able bodied person will get state assistance without contributing to their communities. A minimum of 20 hours per week will be sought in return for job seekers payments.</li> <li>▪ Tourism: a specially trained task force is required to assist jobseekers in finding meaningful employment in the industry.</li> </ul>



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<p>Sinn Fein</p> <p><a href="https://www.sinnfein.ie/files/2016/GE2016ElectionManifesto.pdf">https://www.sinnfein.ie/files/2016/GE2016ElectionManifesto.pdf</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Legislate to provide for the establishment of a Social Protection Adequacy Commission. The principle function of the commission would be to examine the minimum income required by different household types in receipt of social welfare to secure a Minimum Essential Standard of Living and make associated annual recommendations to the Minister for adjustments to social welfare rates of payment.</li> <li>▪ Reinstate the full rate of Jobseekers' Allowance for under 26s; recognise the cost of disability by increasing Disability Allowance by €20; increase Fuel Allowance, Family Income Supplement and the Back to School Allowance; raise the cut-off age of the One-Parent Family Payment to 12 years old.</li> <li>▪ Abolish the Local Property Tax.</li> <li>▪ Scrap Water Charges.</li> <li>▪ Make the tax system progressive by removing workers earning under €19,572 from the USC net.</li> <li>▪ Introduce equality budgeting through amendments to existing legislation and provide for equality proofing of all government policy, budgets and public bodies through impact assessments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Launch plans for 2030 - Project 100,000 to bring State ownership of housing stock to a minimum of 200,000. This will ensure a build of at least 70,000 social units and at least 30,000 cost purchase and cost rental housing units by 2030.</li> <li>▪ Re-examine urgently the practice of capping rent subsidies – simultaneous to the introduction of rent regulations.</li> <li>▪ Create rent certainty by linking rent increases to inflation.</li> <li>▪ Amend the Residential Tenancy Act to restrict the grounds on which landlords can serve notices to quit.</li> <li>▪ End the practice of removing HAP recipients from housing waiting lists.</li> <li>▪ Ensure activation schemes are of high quality and support job creation by shutting down the JobBridge and Gateway schemes and making greater use of the JobsPlus and Community Employment Schemes.</li> <li>▪ Reshape and extend Community Employment to recognise it as a path to regular employment and also in recognition that community employment and services are ends in and of themselves.</li> <li>▪ Introduce 500 additional places on the Momentum scheme for jobseekers with disabilities.</li> <li>▪ Increase the Back to Education Allowance for under 26s to €188.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Help to create 250,000 additional jobs over the next five years, through both State and private job creation.</li> <li>▪ Open up public procurement to small businesses.</li> <li>▪ Increase the National Minimum Wage to €9.65 an hour and we will make the public sector a Living Wage employer.</li> <li>▪ Attach social clauses to public works contracts.</li> <li>▪ Tackle the uncertainty created by insecure and low hour contracts by introducing legislation that provides for fair hours contracts.</li> <li>▪ Develop a new enterprise spatial strategy to orientate infrastructural development and IDA and Enterprise Ireland development in a balanced regional manner.</li> <li>▪ Create a new arm of Enterprise Ireland to assist with the development a new generation of cooperative enterprises.</li> <li>▪ Increase funding for the rural transport programme and provide a funding package for improving the condition of rural roads.</li> <li>▪ Seek a growth and investment oriented policy of the EU, aimed at creating jobs and at defending workers' pay and conditions.</li> <li>▪ Produce legislation introducing, initially on a voluntary basis, an option for the self-employed to pay a new rate of PRSI linked to additional benefits.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Invest an additional €36 million in Local Community Development Programmes.</li> <li>▪ Introduce multi-annual minimum funding to enable community and voluntary organisations to plan ahead.</li> <li>▪ Introduce practical supports through professional support staff, advice and guidance, alongside funding to recruit, induct, train and support volunteers.</li> </ul>	
<b>Political Parties</b> 	<b>INOUE Key Asks</b> 	<b>Support Unemployed People to Achieve a Minimum Essential Standard of Living</b>	<b>Deliver Better Services for Unemployed People</b>	<b>Provide Unemployed People with Decent and Sustainable jobs</b>
<b>Social Democrats</b>  <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7hTX_no_p6XkRGdURzVoendyQzQ/view?pref=2&amp;pli=1">https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7hTX_no_p6XkRGdURzVoendyQzQ/view?pref=2&amp;pli=1</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Giving greater discretion to decision makers and encouraging far greater feedback from frontline services when genuine anomalies in the social protection system are discovered.</li> <li>▪ Improve tapering arrangements for Lone Parents.</li> <li>▪ Improve the rate for jobseekers who are under 25 above the CPI rate.</li> <li>▪ Reinstate the full Christmas Bonus.</li> <li>▪ Set official all-of-Government target of ending Consistent Child Poverty by 2021.</li> <li>▪ Within 6 months develop a New Anti-Poverty Strategy, with clear targets, timeframes and lines of responsibility, and with families as a key focus.</li> <li>▪ Poverty-proof all Budgets and set against the targets of the new Anti-Poverty Strategy.</li> <li>▪ Reduce the cost of living e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce prescription charges</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Invest in public services, ensuring a recovery for all and building an inclusive and progressive society.</li> <li>▪ Reform Irish labour activation policy by ensuring schemes are better regulated and targeted for different groups with very distinct needs (e.g., Graduates, early school leavers, long-term unemployed).</li> <li>▪ Provide far better information to jobseekers – particularly around part-time and casual work options and benefit retention, and by streamlining the application system so that casual workers can return to payment quickly when their casual work is exhausted.</li> <li>▪ Improve jobseeker/case officer ratios and ending private sector involvement in job activation programmes.</li> <li>▪ Link case interventions with needs of the workforce and interests of the jobseeker.</li> <li>▪ Improve further education, training and apprenticeships options, and offering better basic literacy and job-hunting skills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support the introduction of a living wage, which is based on the real cost of living.</li> <li>▪ Achieve a social consensus as envisioned by the Living Wage Campaign, in consultation with employers and based on affordability.</li> <li>▪ Ban zero hour contracts, as well as addressing the prevalence of ‘if and when’ contracts as identified in the recent study by the University of Limerick.</li> <li>▪ Help SMEs create 100,000 jobs.</li> <li>▪ Improve self-employed tax credits and provide same social protections as PAYE workers on a voluntary opt-in basis.</li> <li>▪ Explore how better access to Family Income Supplement for the self-employed could be provided.</li> <li>▪ Restore genuine rehabilitative work option while retaining a benefit for long-term recipients of a disability payment.</li> </ul>

- Reduce public transport fares
- End water charges
- Reduce motor insurance costs
- Reduce the interest rate applying to Local Property Tax deferrals to the level of State borrowing costs, and explore other ways that this tax can be reformed to improve ability to pay.
- Providing more one-to-one sessions.
- Scrap JobBridge, as it has led to the exploitation of unemployed people, and introducing a new internship programme that offers genuine and career-advancing work experience.
- Guaranteeing subsidised childcare for lone parents.
- Extend subsidised childcare places to lower-income families in all areas, through extension and reform of the Community Childcare Subvention.
- Introduce new apprenticeship programmes, including advanced qualifications.
- Legislate for rent certainty and secure occupancy.
- Increase in Rent Supplement/HAP limits as a short-term measure to prevent homelessness.
- Reform Rent Supplement so that the barrier to full-time employment is completely eradicated.
- Embark on a program of public service building involving, where appropriate, the Third Sector.
- Restore cuts to Pobal's Community Development Programme to allow it to undertake the full range of vital activities in the community.
- Re-focus emphasis on community integration and positive outcomes, rather than just counting progression rates for community employment schemes.