Benefacts classification of Irish civil society organisations

Disclosure draft | January 2016

Benefacts

Introduction

Benefacts has set out to make Irish civil society organisations and their work more visible and more accessible to wider publics.

In 2016, Benefacts will launch a free online directory which re-publishes public information about up to 20,000 Irish nonprofits from a variety of regulatory sources. For the first time, there will be a one-stop shop providing a single point of access to

> core directory information about every listed entity (name, address, URL, registered names and numbers)

> governance data (governing form, data of incorporation where known, trading names and addresses, legal purpose, names of trustees, numbers of employees etc.)

> the financial profile of organisations (where their accounts are in the public domain), illustrating the main sources of their funding.

To help structure the large volumes of data, Benefacts will identify the sub-sector each organisation belongs to – for example, health, education, environment etc.

An approach to classification

To identify the entities in its scope, Benefacts has looked at national and international standards for classifying nonprofit entities.

The International Classification of Nonprofit Organisations (ICNPO) was originally developed by the Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project (CNP) at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore USA. Launched in 1991, this was

the largest systematic effort ever undertaken to analyse the scope, structure, financing, and role of the private nonprofit sector in countries around the world in order to enrich our understanding of this sector, and to provide a sounder basis for both public and private action towards it.[1]

The standard has two elements:

a)   a definition of civil society organisations, and

b)   a series of categories and sub-categories for classifying them.

This effort to create an international index formed the basis for their major transnational survey of nonprofits, in which the Centre for Nonprofit Management at Trinity College Dublin was a partner institution.
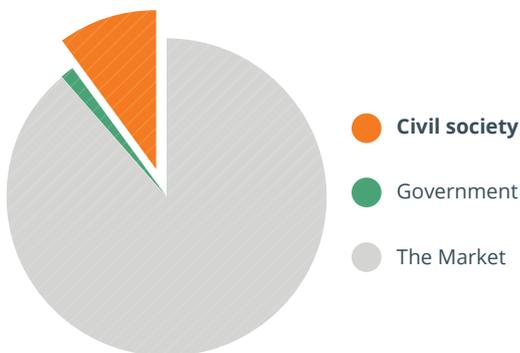
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1   http://ccss.jhu.edu/research-projects/comparative-nonprofit-sector-project/ consulted on 21-Dec-2015

The 2006 TCD report, *The Hidden Landscape: First Forays into Mapping Nonprofit Organisations in Ireland*, adopted the ICNPO as a means of classifying the work of nearly 25,000 Irish nonprofits.

The term "civil society organisation" essentially distinguishes between these entities and market or governmental organisations.

Organisational Life in Ireland

- 🟠 **Civil society**
- 🟢 Government
- ⚪ The Market

It is used to refer to entities that are:

1. **organised**: organisations must have some kind of formality and institutional reality;

2. **private**: organisations must be institutionally separate from government;

3. **non-profit distributing**: organisations must not return any surpluses generated to their owners or directors;

4. **self-governing**: organisations must be in a position to control their own activities and have their own internal procedures for governance;

5. **voluntary**: participation in these organisations must not be mandatory.

This standard was subsequently adopted by the UN as the basis for statistical analysis and international comparative reporting of the work of nonprofit entities.

An approach to classification – detailed structure

The ICNPO was the classification system used (in a slightly adapted form) by the Trinity survey in 2004-2006, and by Irish Nonprofits Knowledge Exchange (INKEx) in its 2012 report *Irish Nonprofits: what do we know?*

This system (ICNPO) sub-divides the entire sector into 12 groups as illustrated overleaf.

Subsequently, the UN system (NPISH) was simplified to nine categories and the sequence of these was re-ordered.

Because the ICNPO has already been established in Ireland in two major studies, and because all of its categories fully encompass all of the NPISH ones but with greater granularity (for example philanthropy and international are retained as categories in their own right), Benefacts has elected to use this standard for classifying Irish nonprofits.

It has made one simple modification, by dividing the first group (culture, recreation) into two (arts, culture, media; and sport, recreation), and has localised the language and some of the sub-categories – for example group water schemes have been included under the 'Environment' category, and agricultural fairs and festivals have been included under 'Recreation'.

A simple comparative table of the three systems is provided overleaf. A more detailed explanation of the Benefacts categories with illustrations is provided in Appendix 1 and a detailed congruence table, which allows the Benefacts classification to be compared with the other systems in use, is provided in Appendix 2 (online version of this paper).

Classification Standards Comparative Table

International Classification of Nonprofit Organisations ICNPO)

Group 1: Culture and Recreation

Culture and arts
Media and communications
Visual arts, architecture, ceramic art
Performing arts
Historical, literary, and humanistic societies
Museums
Zoos and aquariums
Sports
Provision of amateur sport, training, physical fitness, and sport competition services
Other recreation and social clubs
Recreation and social clubs
Service clubs

Group 2: Education Reseaech

Primary and Secondary Education
Elementary, primary, and secondary education
Higher education
Other education
Vocational/technical schools
Adult/continuing education
Research
Medical research
Science and technology
Social sciences, policy studies

Group 3: Health

Hospitals and rehabilitation
Nursing homes
Mental health and crisis intervention
Psychiatric hospitals
Crisis intervention
Other health services
Public health and wellness education
Health treatment, primarily outpatient
Rehabilitative medical services
Emergency medical services

Group 4: Social Services

Child welfare, child services, and day care
Youth services and youth welfare
Family services
Services for the handicapped
Services for the elderly
Self-help and other personal social services
Emergency and relief
Disaster/emergency prevention and control
Temporary shelters
Refugee assistance
Income support and maintenance

Group 5: Environment

Pollution abatement and control
Natural resources conservation and protection
Environmental beautification and open spaces
Animal protection
Animal protection and welfare
Wildlife preservation and protection

Classification of the Purposes of Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households (NPISH)

Group 1: Housing

1.1 Housing

Group 2: Health

2.1 Medical products, appliances and equipment
2.2 Outpatient services
2.3 Hospital services
2.4 Public health services
2.5 R&D Health
2.6 Other health services

Group 3: Recreation and culture

3.1 Recreational and sporting services
3.2 Cultural services

Group 4: Education

4.1 Pre-primary and primary education
4.2 Secondary education
4.3 Post-secondary non-tertiary education
4.4 Tertiary education
4.5 Education not definable by level
4.6 R&D Education
4.7 Other educational services

Group 5: Social protection

5.1 Social protection services
5.2 R&D Social protection

Group 6: Religion

6.0 Religion

Group 7: Political parties, labour and professional organizations

7.1 Services of political parties
7.2 Services of labour organisations
7.3 Services of professional organisations

Group 8: Environmental protection

8.1   Environmental protection services
8.2 R&D Environmental protection

Group 9: Services not elsewhere classified

9.1 Services not elsewhere classified
9.2 R&D Services not elsewhere classified

Benefacts classification of Irish nonprofits (BCIN)

Group 1: Arts, culture, media

1.1 Arts organisations
1.2 Museums & libraries
1.3 Heritage & visitor attractions
1.4 Media, film

Group 2: Recreation, sports

2.1 Recreational clubs & societies
2.2 Agricultural fairs
2.3 Sports organisations

Group 3: Education

3.1 Pre-primary education
3.2 Primary education
3.3 Secondary education
3.4 Vocational & technical education
3.5 Third level education
3.6 Research
3.7 Education support
3.8 Adult and continuing education

Group 4: Health

4.1 Hospitals and hospices
4.2 Residential care centres
4.3 Residential mental health services
4.4 Health services and health promotion
4.5 Mental health services

Group 5: Social services

5.1 Childcare services
5.2 Family support services
5.3 Youth services
5.4 Services for older people
5.5 Services for people with disabilities
5.6 Services for Travellers and ethnic minorities
5.7 Homeless and emergency relief

Group 6: Development, housing

6.1 Local development
6.2 Job creation
6.3 Social enterprise
6.4 Sheltered housing
6.5 Social housing

Group 7: Environment

7.1 Animal welfare
7.2 Group water schemes
7.3 Environmental enhancement
7.4 Environmental sustainabiity

Classification Standards Comparative Table

International Classification of Nonprofit Organisations ICNPO)	Classification of the Purposes of Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households (NPISH)	Benefacts classification of Irish nonprofits (BCIN)
Group 6: Development and Housing		**Group 8: Politics, advocacy, law**
Economic, social, and community development		8.1 Political organisations
Community and neighbourhood organisations		8.2 Advocacy organisations
Economic development		8.3 Civil and human rights
Social development		8.4 Legal services and citizen's advice
Housing associations		
Housing assistance		**Group 9: Philanthropy, voluntarism**
Employment and training		9.1 Philanthropy
Job training programmes		9.2 Fund-raising
Vocational counselling and guidance		9.3 Voluntarism
Vocational rehabilitation and sheltered workshops		**Group 10: International**
		10.1 International development organisations
Group 7: Law, Advocacy, and Politics		10.2 International affiliation organisations
Civic and advocacy organisations		
Advocacy organisations		
Civil rights associations		**Group 11: Religion**
Ethnic associations		11.1 Places of worship
Civic associations		11.2 Religious associations
Law and legal services		11.3 Diocesan, parish organisations
Legal services		
Crime prevention and public policy		**Group 12: Professional, vocational**
Rehabilitation of offenders		12.1 Trades unions & employer organisations
Victim support		12.2 Chambers of commerce
Consumer protection associations		12.3 Professional or sector representative bodies
Political organisations		
Political parties and organisations		
Group 8: Philanthropic Intermediaries and Voluntarism Promotion		
Grant-making foundations		
Volunteerism promotion and support		
Fund-raising organisations		
Group 9: International		
International Activities		
Exchange/friendship/cultural programs		
Development assistance associations		
International disaster and relief organisations		
International human rights and peace organisations		
Group 10: Religion		
Religious congregations and associations		
Congregations		
Associations of congregations		
Group 11: Business and Professional Associations, and Unions		
Business and professional associations		
Labour unions		
Group 12: Not Elsewhere Classified		
Not elsewhere classified		

Applying the classification standard

The implementation of the Benefacts classification standard has three steps

1) Based on established international norms, and with reference to the pattern of nonprofit activity in Ireland, create a draft standard for use in defining and classifying Irish nonprofits (2015 Q2)

2) Following consultation, adopt and implement a classification standard (2015 Q3)

3) Invite feedback from listed organisations, modify classification where necessary (2016 Q2 and ongoing)

Assigning a secondary classification standard

Every civil society organisation in the Benefacts database will be classified according to one of the headings listed above. An analysis of the kinds of activities covered by these headings is provided in Appendix 1, and a congruence table indicating how these categories compare with those in the other classification standards is provided in Appendix 2 (online version) – this table will be the mechanism whereby other data users (e.g. the Central Statistics Office) can integrate Benefacts data with other data which they gather and classify for other purposes.

A classification code for an organisation is determined by the principal activity it is engaged in, which is stated in its legal objects.

For example, an organisation that promotes the rights of Travellers would be classified as an advocacy organisation (8.2), whereas an organisation providing practical support to the Travelling community would be classified under services for Travellers and ethnic minorities (5.6).

If an organisation is substantially engaging in more than one activity, the primary object stated in its constitution or its statement of charitable purposes forms the basis of the principal classification, but a secondary classification is also assigned.

In these cases, the primary classification refers to the principal activity of the organisation. For example, The Friends of St. Brigid's Hospice would be classified primarily as a fundraising body (9.2), with a secondary classification in health (4.1).

To be meaningful, Benefacts will assign no more than two classification standards to any nonprofit organisation.

Keeping the classification standard up to date

Benefacts welcomes feedback. Where a nonprofit doesn't agree with the classification standard assigned they will be invited to correct this, by reference to the purposes stated in their constitution – these are not always available to Benefacts in the first instance.

Notes

1. This document has been prepared by Benefacts to explain its approach to classifying all of the nonprofits in the Benefacts database.

2. The paper was issued initially to the members of the Benefacts Stakeholders Forum[1] and its Project Advisory Group[2], as well as to experts in the sector for their review and comment. After that Benefacts has published it online and invited wider comment.

3. To the maximum extent possible, Benefacts will disseminate this disclosure draft and will attempt to ensure that organisations in the sector know that they will be classified by Benefacts for the reasons outlined.

4. Once its website is live, Benefacts will actively engage with any organisation that considers it has been wrongly classified – recognising that the use of one or at most two classification headings will for many organisations present a challenge in terms of defining the full scope of their work.

Issues that arose in initial consultation

5. Some people asked why Irish systems for classifying nonprofits were not being used. The definition of charities in the Charities Act, 2009 excludes whole classes of civil society organisations, for example sporting bodies and professional associations. NACE codes – which are assigned to entities incorporated under the Companies Act, 2014 – relate to fewer than half of the entities in the database and in any case fail to distinguish adequately between different kinds of civil society organisations.

APPENDIX 1:

Benefacts classification of Irish nonprofits

Description of sub-categories

1 ARTS, CULTURE, MEDIA

1.1 Arts organisations

Organisations involved in providing support for or promoting the expression, production, dissemination or exhibition of any kind of art including architecture, dance, design, drama, literature, music, opera, performing arts, visual arts. Includes arts production companies and festivals, amatueur drama and choral societies, and venues for creating, performing or exhibiting art in any form.

Examples: Druid Performing Arts Ltd, Irish Photography Foundation Ltd.

1.2 Museums & Libraries

General and specialised museums, archives or libraries involved in the collection, storage, conservation and exhibition of cultural artefacts, whether in the arts or culture, history, sciences, technology, or similar domains.

Examples: Chester Beatty Library, County Carlow Military Museum Ltd.

1.3 Heritage & Visitor Attractions

Organisations involved in the preservation and promotion of historical artefacts and places, and/or the commemoration of historical events. Includes historical societies, war memorials, commemorative associations.

Examples: Donegal Famine Heritage Centre Ltd, The Bantry 1796 French Armada Trust Ltd

1.4 Media, Film

The production and dissemination of information and communication; the use of audiovisual media for cultural expression or animation. Includes film, video, multimedia production; radio and TV stations; the publishing of books, journals, newspapers, and newsletters; film production and cinemas.

Examples: Irish Film Institute, Irish Theatre Magazine.

2 RECREATION, SPORTS

2.1 Recreational Clubs & Societies

The provision of recreational facilities and services to individuals and communities; includes playground associations, interest groups and leisure clubs; membership organisations providing services to members.

Examples: North East Vintage Car Club Ltd, Cork City Fire Brigade Social and Sports Club Ltd.

2.2 Agricultural Fairs

The promotion of local and regional agricultural events, festivals, fairs and shows.

Examples: Galway Oyster festival, Claregalway Agricultural Show

2.3 Sports Organisations

Organisations involved in the promotion or provision of facilities or other supports for amateur sport, training physical fitness, and sport competition services and events; includes sports clubs of all kinds, fitness and wellness centres, and sports governing or umbrella bodies.

Examples: Scribblestown Horse and Pony Club Ltd., Longford Rugby Club Ltd.

3 EDUCATION, RESEARCH

3.1 Pre-primary Education

Organsations providing education at pre-primary level; includes preschool organisations other than childcare.

Examples: Wallaroo Playschool Ltd., St Joseph's Pre-School Our Special time Montessori Ltd.

3.2 Primary Education

Organisations and activities administering, providing, promoting, conducting, supporting and servicing primary education.

Examples: North Kildare Educate Together School Ltd., North Clondalkin Integrated Family/ School Ltd.

3.3 Secondary Education

Organisations and activities administering, providing, promoting, conducting, supporting and servicing education at secondary level.

Examples: Balla Secondary School Ltd., St Andrew's College Dublin Ltd.

3.4 Vocational & Technical Education

Organisations providing or supporting technical and vocational training specifically geared towards gaining employment.

Examples: Gaiety School of Acting; Springfield American College of International Studies

3.5 Third Level Education

Higher learning, providing academic degrees; includes universities, institutes of technology and medical schools.

Examples: National College of Ireland, Royal Irish Academy of Music

3.6 Research

Organisations chiefly concerned with research including medical, physical and life sciences, engineering and technology; research and analysis in the social sciences, nonprofit and public policy arenas.

Examples: The Beaumont Hospital Cancer research and Development Trust; Benefacts

3.7 Education Support

Organisations administering, providing, promoting, conducting, supporting and servicing education and research, or engaged in providing education support to students and teaching staff at any level.

Examples: Blackrock Education Centre, Suzuki Education Institute of Ireland Ltd.

3.8 Adult and Continuing Education

Institutes engaged in providing education and training supplementary to the formal educational system; includes language courses, night schools.

Examples: Ballybeg Community Education Project, Dal Riada Language Centre Ltd.

4 HEALTH

4.1 Hospitals and Hospices

Primarily inpatient medical care and treatment; rehabilitative therapy to individuals suffering from physical impairments due to injury or disease and requiring extensive care including palliative care.

Examples: Marymount University Hospital and Hospice Ltd., Mater Misericordiae and Children's University Hospital

4.2 Residential Care Centres

Inpatient convalescent care, residential care as well as primary health care services; includes both residential health and social care for the elderly and for people with physical disabilities.

Examples: St. Monica's Nursing Home and Day Centre, Assisi Ltd.

4.3 Residential Mental Health Services

Inpatient care and treatment for people with mental health issues and for people with intellectual disabilities.

Examples: Talbot Grove Addiction Treatment Centre, Bloomfield Care Centre Ltd.

4.4 Health Services and Health Promotion

Organisations that provide outpatient (non-residential) human health services, including health clinics and family planning services; public health promotion and health education, including first aid training.

Examples: The Institute of Public Health in Ireland Ltd., Lifelight Air Ambulance Ltd.

4.5 Mental Health Services

Outpatient treatment for people who have mental health issues; includes community mental health centres, suicide prevention, and support for victims of assault and abuse.

Examples: Suicide or Survive, Cork Mental Health Foundation Ltd.

5 SOCIAL SERVICES

5.1 Childcare Services

Organisations providing childcare services; includes creches and daycare centres, nurseries and after-school care.

Examples: Currach Buí Pre-School Ltd., Doohamlet Childcare Ltd.

5.2 Family Support Services

Organisations providing services to families, includes family life/parent education, single parent agencies and services, bereavement counselling, family violence shelters and services, adoption services.

Examples: Turas le Cheile Bereavement Support Service, The Adult Children of Alcoholics Trust Ltd.

5.3 Youth Services

Organisations providing services to young people; delinquency prevention services, teen pregnancy prevention, education drop-out prevention, job programmes for young people. Includes youth centres and clubs.

Examples: St. Marys Youth Centre Ltd., Donore Education Network Ltd.

5.4 Services for Older People

Organisations (other than residential nursing homes) providing geriatric care; includes in-home services, transport facilities, recreation, meals on wheels and other services geared towards older people.

Examples: Turners Cross Day Care Centre, Ballincollig Senior Citizens Club Ltd.

5.5 Services for People with Disabilities

Organisations providing transport facilities, recreation and other specialised services for people with disabilities.

Examples: Donegal Centre for Independent Living, Arts and Disability Ireland Ltd.

5.6 Services for Travellers and Ethnic Minorities

Services for the Travelling community and ethnic minorities.

Examples: Welcome Immigrant Centre Ltd., Southside Travellers Action Group.

5.7 Homeless and Emergency Relief

Organisations providing support and assistance to homeless people and victims of domestic violence; includes temporary accommodation; organisations that work to prevent, control and alleviate the effects of disasters, or provide relief to disaster victims; includes volunteer lifeboat and mountain rescue services; organisations providing food, clothing, shelter and other services to refugees and immigrants.

Examples: Peter McVerry Trust Ltd, Bad Tarrthala Charna & na nOilean Teoranta,

6 DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING

6.1 Local Development

Organisations working towards improving the institutional infrastructure and capacity to alleviate social problems and to improve general social wellbeing at the local level. Organisations and community groups working towards improving the quality of life within communities or neighbourhoods.

Examples: Carrickmacross Local Development Group Ltd., Clonakilty Community Association Ltd.

6.2 Job Creation

Organisations providing and supporting job-creation programmes, internships, and other training programmes; organisations that promote self-sufficiency and income generation through job training and employment.

Examples: Ability Enterprise Ltd., First Step Ltd.

6.3 Social Enterprise

Programmes and services to improve economic infrastructure and capacity; includes entrepreneurial support programmes, co-operatives and local tourism promotion.

Examples: Social Finance Foundation, Co-operative Support Services for Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurs Ltd.

6.4 Sheltered Housing

Organisations providing assisted living accommodation with a low level of medical care services; including housing for people with physical, sensory or intellectual disabilities.

Examples: Marian Court (Sheltered Housing) Ltd., The Cheshire Foundation in Ireland.

6.5 Social Housing

The development, construction, management, leasing, financing and rehabilitation of affordable housing.

Examples: Threshold National Housing Association, Stewarts Housing Association Ltd.

7 ENVIRONMENT

7.1 Animal Welfare

Animal protection and welfare services including animal shelters, sanctuaries and refuges; wildlife preservation and protection; veterinary services.

Examples: the Cat and Dog Protection Society of Ireland; Volunteers in Irish Veterinary Assistance Ltd.

7.2 Group Water Schemes

Organisations dedicated to the provision and operation of group water schemes including water purification and distribution.

Examples: Aghancon Group Water Scheme Ltd., Clareen Group Water Scheme Ltd.

7.3 Environmental Enhancement

Conservation and preservation of natural resources, including land, water, energy and plant resources for the general use and enjoyment of the public; botanical gardens and horticultural programmes; includes organisations promoting anti-litter campaigns, programmes to preserve or enhance the physical environment in urban or rural areas.

Examples: Clew Bay Marine Forum Ltd., Clogher Environmental Group Ltd

7.4 Environmental Sustainabiity

Organisations that promote clean air, and clean water; reducing and preventing noise pollution, radiation control, hazardous wastes and toxic substances, solid waste management, recycling programmes and global warming.

Examples: Friends of the Aquifer Ltd., Friends of the Earth Ireland Ltd.

8 POLITICS, ADVOCACY, LAW

8.1 Political Organisations

Political parties and organisations; activities and services to support the placing of candidates into political office.

Examples: The Labour Party, Women for Election

8.2 Advocacy Organisations

Organisations that protect the rights and promote the interest of specific groups of people, including the elderly, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, children. Protection of consumer rights.

Examples: Transgender Equality Network of Ireland, Inclusion Ireland – National Association for People with an Intellectual Disability

8.3 Civil and Human Rights

Organisations that work to protect, promote or preserve civil liberties and human rights.

Examples: Human Life International Ireland, Irish Council for Civil Liberties

8.4 Legal Services and Citizen's Advice

Advice and assistance in dispute resolution and court related matters; programmes and services to reintegrate offenders into society; services, counsel and advice to victims of crime. Programmes and services for self-help and development; includes support groups, personal counselling, and credit counselling.

Examples: Free Legal Advice Centres Ltd., Phoenix Project New Beginnings Ltd.

9 PHILATHROPY, VOLUNTARISM

9.1 Philanthropy

Private grant-making foundations; including corporate or community foundations, foundations and independent foundations.

Examples: The Bewley Foundation Ltd., Business in the Community Ltd.

9.2 Fund-raising

Organisations dedicated to charitable fund-raising (includes private lotteries)

Examples: Sunflower Chernobyl Appeal, Friends of Peamount Ltd.

9.3 Voluntarism

Organisations that recruit, train and place volunteers and promote volunteering and voluntary action; support for and promotion of the activities of voluntary organisations.

Examples: Boardmatch Ireland, Carlow Volunteer Centre Ltd.

10 INTERNATIONAL

10.1 International Development Organisations

Development assistance organisations that promote social and economic development abroad or the relief of poverty or suffering abroad; organisations that collect, channel and provide aid to other countries during times of disaster or emergency; organisations which promote and monitor human rights and peace internationally.

Examples: Front Line Defenders, Concern Worldwide.

10.2 International Affiliation Organisations

Programmes and services designed to encourage mutual respect and friendship, or to promote cultural or commercial relations internationally.

Examples: Sierra Leone-Ireland Partnership Ltd., German-Irish Chamber of Commerce Ltd.

11 RELIGION

11.1 Places of Worship

Includes churches, synagogues, temples, mosques, shrines, monasteries, and similar organisations promoting religious beliefs and administering religious services and rituals.

Examples: Kingdom Light Assembly Ltd., Friends Meeting House, Eustace Street

11.2 Religious Associations

Collective bodies of people espousing a shared faith or doctrine, including those engaged in missionary activity.

Examples: International Society for Krishna Consciousness, Sisters of Mercy (Western Province) Ltd.

11.3 Diocesan, Parish Organisations

Church organisations at the level of the parish or the diocese

Examples: Slí Chríost Teoranta, St Eugene's Diocesan Trust

12 PROFESSIONAL, VOCATIONAL

12.1 Trades Unions & Employer Organisations

Organisations that promote, protect and regulate the rights and interests of employees/employers.

Examples: Irish Congress of Trades Unions, IBEC Ltd.

12.2 Chambers of Commerce

Organisations that promote the interests of business and enterprise.

Examples: Kanturk Chamber of Commerce Ltd., Kenmare Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Ltd.

12.3 Professional or Sector Representative Bodies

Organisations promoting, regulating and protecting professional interests.

Examples: Group of Independent Architects in Ireland Ltd., Institute of Social Auditing of Ireland Ltd.

What is Benefacts?

Benefacts is a new, free online information service which will provide everyone with up to date facts and figures about Irish nonprofit organisations. The Benefacts website will list nonprofits from all quarters of civil society. This includes charities and community and voluntary associations, and also political, professional and representative bodies, schools, sporting organisations, not-for-profit companies and social enterprises.

Benefacts is a nonprofit company funded by philanthropies and government over three years. It was founded in 2014 with the aim of delivering greater public transparency for Irish nonprofits.

Benefacts is the only fast and easy way to search almost 20,000 nonprofit organisations employing more than 100,000 people and with a combined turnover of more than €6bn annually.

Using an internationally-recognised classification standard, Benefacts groups all civil society organisations by sector.

The website provides an up-to date analysis of each sector according to its geographic, institutional, employment and financial profile.

An Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe
Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

The ATLANTIC Philanthropies

THE IRELAND FUNDS