

Constitution and Terms of Reference

1. The main tasks of the National Economic and Social Council shall be to provide a forum for discussion of the principles relating to the efficient development of the national economy and the achievement of social justice, and to advise the Government through the Taoiseach, on their application. The Council shall have regard, *inter alia*, to:
 - (i) the realisation of the highest possible levels of employment at adequate reward.
 - (ii) the attainment of the highest sustainable rate of economic growth.
 - (iii) the fair and equitable distribution of the income and wealth of the nation.
 - (iv) reasonable price stability and long-term equilibrium in the balance of payments.
 - (v) the balanced development of all regions in the country, and
 - (vi) the social implications of economic growth, including the need to protect the environment.
2. The Council may consider such matters either on its own initiative or at the request of the Government.
3. Members of the Government will meet regularly with NESG on their initiative or on the initiative of NESG to discuss any matters arising from the terms of reference and in particular to discuss specific economic and social policy measures and plans and to explore together proposals and actions to improve economic and social conditions. Any reports which the Council may produce shall be submitted to the Government, and shall be laid before each House of the Oireachtas and published.
4. The membership of the Council shall comprise a Chairperson appointed by the Government in consultation with the interests represented on the Council, and
 - Six persons nominated by agricultural organisations;
 - Six persons nominated by the Irish Business and Employers Confederation and the Construction Industry Federation;
 - Six persons nominated by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions;
 - Fifteen other persons nominated by the Government, including one from the National Youth Council, the Secretary of the Department of Finance, the Secretary of the Department of Tourism and Trade, the Secretary of the Department of Enterprise and Employment, the Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and the Assistant Secretary, Office of the Taoiseach.Any other Government Department shall have the right of audience at Council meetings if warranted by the Council's agenda, subject to the right of the Chairperson to regulate the numbers attending.
5. The term of office of members shall be for three years. Casual vacancies shall be filled by the Government or by the nominating body as appropriate. Members filling casual vacancies may hold office until the expiry of the other members' current term of office.
6. The numbers, remuneration and conditions of service of staff are subject to the approval of the Taoiseach.
7. The Council shall regulate its own procedure.

THE IRISH INDIGENOUS SOFTWARE INDUSTRY:

AN APPLICATION OF PORTER'S CLUSTER ANALYSIS

by

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