

# What are the NAPS and NAPs Inclusion?

---

## Irish anti-poverty plans

Government action against poverty is brought together by two strategies with confusingly similar names:

- The **NAPS** (National Anti-Poverty Strategy), adopted in 1997, which aims to **"reduce, or ideally eliminate (consistent) poverty" by 2007**
- **NAP Inclusion** (the National Action Plans Against Poverty and Social Exclusion), drawn up every 2 or 3 years as part of the ten-year European Union strategy (the 'Social Inclusion Strategy') to **"make a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty" by 2010**

They work in different ways but, since they describe the same activities and targets, it is easiest to consider them as one.

## When were the plans adopted?

1998 NAPS

2001 First NAP Inclusion, 2001-2003

2002 NAPS review

2003 Second NAP Inclusion, 2003-2005/6

2005 NAP Inclusion Implementation Report  
(2006 Third NAP Inclusion, 2006-2009)

## What is the NAPS?

The site of the [Office for Social Inclusion](#) says:

"The National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS), originally published in 1997, is a ten-year Government plan to reduce poverty. The current plan, 'Building an Inclusive Society' was launched in 2002 and is a revision of the 1997 plan."

### The NAPS sets:

- An objective of reducing and ideally eliminating poverty in Ireland
- A specific target of eliminating long term unemployment
- A new benchmark for the lowest social welfare payments of Eur150 by 2007 (in 2002 terms)

## What are the NAP Inclusion and EU Inclusion Strategy?

The Second National Action Plans for Social Inclusion (NAP Inclusion), for 2003 to 2005 (now extended to 2006) were published in the (then) 15 European Union (EU) member states, including Ireland, in August 2003.

The Plans are the centre-piece of the EU Social Inclusion Strategy. This is, in turn, a key part of the EU's main economic and social plan, the 'Lisbon Strategy', which includes the commitment to "make a decisive impact on poverty and social exclusion"

Because social policy is still mainly the responsibility of member states, rather than the EU, the Social Inclusion Strategy is held together by an ["Open Method of Coordination"](#) involving:

- common [objectives](#) agreed at EU level
- 2-yearly [national action plans](#) in each country to implement these objectives

- A [Joint Report on Social Inclusion](#) (also called the Joint Inclusion Report or JIR) which analyses the plans from the 15 member states by theme and by country
  - a system of ['peer review'](#), involving scrutiny of the national plans and exchange of examples of good practice
  - development of a number of [common indicators](#)
-