A new growth agenda – why, what, who, when and how?

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NERI
Research for new economic policies
Why?

• Because people matter
What?

• Human well-being
Produced capital

Natural Capital

“Social regrettables”

Human and Social Capabilities

- education / health
- Social capital
- Political, institutional and legal arrangements

GDP

EWB
Who?

- Economics is about who gets what
- Politics is about who gets what
- Political economy is about who gets what
- Moral economy is about who should get what
A window from the past (1929 UK Gen Election)
When?

• “We must fix the public finances before returning to normal economic growth”
  
  • ‘we’ ?
  
  • ‘public finances’ ?
  
  • ‘before’ ?
  
  • ‘normal’ ?
Government Deficit

- Plan A
- Plan B Plus
- Plan B Minus
- ‘Do Nothing’
How?

• An alternative economic, social and political strategy
• ‘Plan B’
Plan A

Reduce wage share of total income
Reduce the size of Government
Liberalise labour & product markets
‘Re-structure’ welfare
Incentivise work
Privitise remaining public enterprises
Seanfhocal

THINGS COULD BE WORSE
Plan B – what might it look like?

• Part 1 ‘do no further harm’ thru more cuts in public spending

• Part 2 Investment in social and economic infrastructure – Green New Deal

• Part 3a Afflict the comfortable - rebalance taxation towards unproductive wealth and high income – inc FAT tax
Plan B – what might it look like?

- Part 3b *Comfort the afflicted* - protect low pay/low income groups/young people
- Part 4 Seek orderly, negotiated *debt write-downs* – private and ‘socialised’ private debt
- Part 5 Reform private and public sectors
- Part 6 Grow *indigenous, exporting* firms in key sectors
- Part 7 Reform Banking
Would it be possible to imagine in 2022?

- Fundamental human rights – cultural, economic and social – are respected in both jurisdictions of the island?
- Some measure of lost economic sovereignty is restored following the ignominious events of Autumn 2010?
- That sovereignty is shared in a renewed European project based on stronger economic integration and democratic governance?
- Both parts of the island of Ireland take their place along with Britain and other Northern European States as an example of a social market economy based on the principles of freedom and human solidarity consistent with the aspirations of the Democratic Programme of the first Dáil?
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