



Atlantic Social Lab

Newsletter - June 2020 Supports for Social Enterprises

We are an EU funded project which promotes the use of social innovation to address key societal challenges. The project involves 9 partners from across the UK, Spain, Portugal, France and Ireland. Cork City Council is the Irish partner and in Cork we are focused on using social innovation to address issues being faced by social enterprises and look at innovative ways of stimulating civic engagement in the city.

In this edition of our Atlantic Social Lab newsletter we are presenting some of the Social Enterprise Support Organisations and looking at how they are continuing their work throughout the Covid 19 crisis.



1. What is the name and mission of your organisation?

We are the Irish Social Enterprise Network. We are the National Body for Social Enterprise in Ireland. The organisation is member led and is driven to impact three areas: Advocacy, Education and Network.

2. What are your key social / business objectives?

We are set up to provide support for social enterprises. We provide supports and network opportunities for social enterprises across Ireland. We point organisations in the right direction to get their ideas off the ground, or take their enterprise to the next level.

3. What are the main activities of your organisation?

ISEN provides a number of supports including the

- National Social Enterprise Helpline - 089 255 3989
- Webinars and Check-Ins - help and support for social enterprises
- Networking Opportunities - online and in person gatherings across the country
- Social Enterprise Toolkit - free online support for setting up a social enterprise
- BuySocial campaign to encourage sales from social enterprises
- #SocEntIRL Twitter hour for Social Enterprises each Wednesday at 9pm

- and more

All of our supports can be found on our website: <https://www.socent.ie>

4. Who is your target audience?

We work primarily with social enterprises including those that are pre-startup, startup and established social enterprises. We also work with social enterprise managers. We assist charitable entities with an interest in setting up social enterprises and also with those that want to help or purchase from social enterprises.

5. How are you supporting social enterprises during the current Corona Virus crisis?

We have established a number of initiatives through the Coronavirus crisis including some of the supports mentioned above. These include the National Social Enterprise Helpline and ongoing webinars and check-ins. We have established a #SocEntIRL twitter hour and we are pushing for the BuySocial campaign across Ireland.

If you are a social enterprise, or an aspiring social entrepreneur, or a community with ideas of establishing a social enterprise, contact us through our website <https://www.socent.ie>



Social Entrepreneurs Ireland (SEI)'s vision is an Ireland where people solve every social problem. We aim to do this by finding people with solutions to social problems and supporting them on every step of their journey.

To date we have supported over 300 social entrepreneurs, from those just starting up to those organisations who have scaled and are transforming Ireland's approach to solving social problems. We do this by providing a blend of direct financial and non-financial supports, workshops and mentorship relationships, and facilitating conversations in our national network of social entrepreneurs, supporters, experts and alumni.

During this pandemic, we are supporting more early stage social entrepreneurs than ever before, with up to 60 places available on our Ideas Academy East, West and South programmes which we've recently redesigned to run online and transition to in-person delivery if and when possible during the lifespan of the programme. We are also supporting up to six of our alumni with deeper bespoke support, helping them pivot and thrive in the changing circumstances.

On a wider level, our community of #SEIalumni can access a series of supports, workshops and networking opportunities. Our next round applications open to the public will be in Spring 2021, and we will be looking for courageous people across the island with an idea to change their communities.

For more information go to <https://socialentrepreneurs.ie/>



COMMUNITY LOAN FINANCE

FOUNDED 1996

Clann Credo – Community Loan Finance is a social enterprise providing loan finance to not-for-profit projects throughout Ireland. Our mission is to make Ireland a fairer place to live by financing social impact projects. We have supported organisations from Malin Head to Mizen Head!

Covid-19 has presented the social impact sector with previously unimaginable challenges.

We are committed to assisting the sector through these challenging times and we're available to talk through difficulties your organisation is facing – we won't

have all the answers, but we want to help you find them.

Clann Credo customers range from local community groups and sports clubs, to social enterprises and national charities. So, we have experience of working with all types of not-for-profit organisations. In addition to being as flexible and supportive to our customers as possible, Clann Credo has been actively lobbying government for financial supports to the sector. We and our partners have had some success to date leading to the [COVID-19 Stability Fund](#) and the [Innovate Together Fund](#), but more is needed and we continue to lobby for additional supports.

As we all start to look towards ways of re-establishing our activities, we need to hear each other's ideas. We're helping the conversation along by hosting online events where we can all share ideas for rebuilding safe community activities. We hope you will join us so that we can make our tentative steps to recovering the sector together.

To hear about new funding opportunities and our online events, sign up for our updates [HERE](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or [LinkedIn](#).

Our Social Finance Executives are always happy to hear from you. In Munster contact:

- Susan Gallagher, Social Finance Regional Manager, 087 738 8391, susan@clanncredo.ie
- Sarah Leahy, Social Finance Executive, 086 042 9323, sarah@clanncredo.ie

For further information visit www.clanncredo.ie.



SOCIAL INNOVATION FUND

Sustaining great ideas

1. What is the name and mission of your organisation?

We are Social Innovation Fund Ireland. Social Innovation Fund Ireland is a national organisation supporting Ireland's best social innovations through cash grants and business supports. Our purpose is to make Ireland a better, more inclusive place through social innovation.

Every euro we raise in philanthropy is matched by Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development from the Dormant Accounts Fund and more recently through the Departments of Employment and Social Protection and Children and Youth Affairs.

Our mission is to provide growth capital and supports to the best social

innovations in Ireland, enabling them to scale and maximize their impact.

2. What are your key social / business objectives?

OUR

VISION

Our vision is to create the world's best eco-system for social innovation in Ireland.

OUR VALUES

- We work with our hearts and our heads – we value compassion, passion and fun.
- We take smart risks and we allow permission to fail because we know that innovation and risk are two sides of the same coin.
- We believe that social change is a team sport – we use influence and engagement to build trusted relationships, and we choose to collaborate to achieve our goals.
- We demonstrate curiosity and a hunger to learn.
- We value bold ideas, and bold leadership, and we develop remarkable people.#

MEASURES

OF

SUCCESS

1. Find and back Ireland's best social innovations
2. Incentivise transformational philanthropy
3. Demonstrate evidence of growth in social impact and job creation
4. Make Ireland's environment for social innovation vigorous and invigorating

3. What are the main activities of your organisation?

SOCIAL INNOVATION GROWTH CAPITAL Our grant funding fills a key gap in the capital market for social innovation in Ireland. Financial support enables Awardees to invest in testing, piloting, measuring and scaling up their social innovations.

SOCIAL INNOVATION ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME We believe that the skills it takes to develop an innovation are different from the skills needed to grow it. Our Accelerator Programme enables Awardees to learn new skills and receive short term supports that will lead to that step-change in impact and prepare them for the next stage of growth.

SOCIAL INNOVATION GAMECHANGER PROGRAMME Our GameChanger Programme seeks to influence system change by inspiring and supporting a cohort of like-minded projects to become change leaders in their particular sector and equips them with the skills and tools to do so.

SOCIAL INNOVATION PROMOTION In order to develop the social innovation ecosystem in the longer term, we work to promote an understanding of social innovation and its value. We do this by demonstrating the impact of our partnerships in order to encourage further philanthropy in Ireland. We also share insights from our portfolio of innovations with policy makers and others, and this in turn informs what a flourishing ecosystem needs.

4. Who is your target audience?

We partner with corporates, SME's, families and individuals who want new, tangible and real-world ways to tackle some of the pressing issues facing our country today

5. How are you supporting social enterprises during the current corona virus crisis?

We are supporting our Awardees in a number of ways during the current crisis.

Firstly we have set up the Innovate Together Fund. This fund, which starts as a €5 Million Fund, will focus on supporting emerging innovations that

address the current and long-term social, economic and environmental challenges.

The Innovate Together Fund is supported by a commitment of €5 million from the Department of Rural and Community Development through the support of the Dormant Accounts Fund.

The Innovate Together Fund will support projects achieving impact in:

- Enabling online education: providing primary and post-primary school students with access to technology and other supports such as study spaces in the home, and mentoring for parents, students and teachers
- Youth mental health interventions: delivering services in new ways or offering new types of services (intervention and prevention).
- Circular Economy: solutions for the efficient re-use and recycling of materials.
- Improving food security: increasing independent food production for Ireland and ways to reduce food imports.
- New ways of working remotely: our new ways of working are here to stay and innovators are needed to smooth the transition from office to working at home.
- Community outreach: finding new ways to reach and support vulnerable and marginalised groups.
- Re-skilling our workforce: with the shift in our economy and the potential closure of businesses, there is a need for re-training and re-education of workers..
- Physical Health: Online medical and physical health innovations.

The first round of funding has now closed however we will open a further two rounds of funding in the coming weeks. Visit <http://www.socialinnovation.ie/innovate-together/> to keep up to date.

Secondly we are hosting a number of webinars for our current Awardees to help them through COVID 19 in areas such as communications, business modelling, fundraising among many others.



What is the name and mission of your organisation?

We are Community Finance Ireland. We are a registered charity and a social enterprise. We want to ensure that social impact is felt not just dreamt. Our ambition is to support every change –maker or dreamer who, sees that a change is needed and want to be part of that change.

What are your key social / business objectives?

We want to ensure social impact is felt not just dreamt. This offers us the chance to support those who **Choose Change** and are searching for a partner who can support a loan facility that ensures their projects continue to, not just strive, but thrive.

In 2020, despite Covid-19, we are open for business and to date we have already approved loans up to Euro 4.1 million.

What are the main activities of your organisation?

Our team are the fastest growing dedicated social finance provider on the island of Ireland and the UK. We specialise in term and bridging loans for the CVSE sector across Munster, Leinster, Connaught, Ulster and Northern Ireland. We work only with clients, who are involved in the CVSE sector and share their belief in the value of social capital. We get the sector and understand their cashflow, challenges and opportunities.

Who is your target audience?

Our diversity of clients is the real joy of our business. We work with sports, community and social enterprises right across the island. Many of our clients and volunteers work in Faith based initiatives, Sports Clubs, Training initiatives and Childcare schemes. We welcome Dreamers. Since we recognise that every plan for social or community change starts with a dream of how something could be better. Its idealism and we welcome it.

But the reality of transformation is what really matters and we work tirelessly to see our clients get behind their dreams and deliver real enduring social impact.

How are you supporting social enterprises during the current corona virus crisis?

The response to Covid- 19 across all our communities has demonstrated the value of social capital in a way like no other event in our lifetime. That response has highlighted a public desire for greater collaboration and co-operation between NI and ROI. Our business is uniquely positioned to support on this, as we have always had a “in this together” approach.

We are part of the governments Social Enterprise Strategy in Ireland, work with Social Enterprise NI and are a member of the European Federation for Banking – FEBEA. Our collaboration with these industry bodies is key to ensuring we spotlight the role of social enterprise and the success of our existing client base plus the need for greater understanding and support.

We have responded quickly, with clear lines of communication with all our clients. Keen to be part of the solution and support community projects to re-set and re-collaborate for the new norm. We also keep them informed of any additional support that may be available through our network.

For our current client base, our partnership ethos remains. Each of them have a personal bespoke service and we are helping them re-set, re-adjust and re-collaborate for today and for post the pandemic. Here at Community Finance Ireland **We Speak Finance but Hear People**

Get in touch with us at www.communityfinanceireland.com
Join the change –makers @CommFinanceIrl



Upcoming events

We are working with partners to bring you some learning and sharing webinars over the coming months. Keep an eye on our website and future email notifications!

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