Atlantic Social Lab

Newsletter - December 2018

Find out the latest news from the Atlantic Social Lab project in Cork here!
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. This Newsletter will keep you up to date on all our activities in Cork.

Project Partners at our Coordination Meeting in Santiago de Compostella

International Club Cork & Mercy Hospital

The Atlantic Social Lab Project together with Cork City Council's "Shape Your City Initiative" participated in the International Club Cork's Halloween event on the 24th of October in the Kino in Cork. The event provided an opportunity to promote and facilitate voter registration for new migrant communities in Cork. Over 100 participants attended and the voter registration initiative gathered strong interest with many migrants signing up on the night. As well as facilitating voter registration, the event raised awareness among Cork's new migrant communities of their right to vote in local elections.

Again in conjunction with Cork City Council's "Shape Your City" Initiative, the Atlantic Social Lab project held a lunchtime exhibit in the Mercy Hospital on the 21st of November. This exhibit promoted and facilitated voter registration for foreign nationals working in the hospital and gathered strong interest.

These events are two of many that the Atlantic Social Lab will participate in over

the coming months creating awareness of voting rights with new communities across the city.

Our Brand Ambassadors

The Atlantic Social Lab project is delighted to announce the appointment of two Brand Ambassadors. Dr. Mary O' Shaughnessy from Cork University Business School in UCC is the Brand Ambassador for the Social Economy strand of the project and Dr. Aodh Quinlivan from the Centre for Local and Regional Governance is the Brand Ambassador for the Public Engagement strand. As Brand Ambassadors they will use their experience and networks to promote the Atlantic Social Lab project regionally, nationally and internationally and provide advice and guidance in implementing and gathering support for the pilot actions.

Our Coordination Meeting - Santiago de Compostella

The 5th Atlantic Social Lab Coordination Meeting took place in Santiago de Compostella, Spain on the 30th and 31st of October 2018. This meeting brought together representatives from all the 9 project partners and facilitated the exchange of information and expertise across the 4 thematic areas (including Welfare Services, Green Economy, Social Economy and Public Engagement). The delegation from Cork joined representatives from Derry (Northern Ireland) and Aviles (Spain) where they exchanged information and experiences on their social economy pilot actions. They looked in particular at work being done in Derry around developing and encouraging more young social entrepreneurs and the implementation of social benefit clauses in local government contracts in Aviles. The Cork delegation also joined representatives from Cim Do Ave (Portugal) and Santiago (Spain) where they shared information on the public engagement actions taking place in Cork and learned much about the participatory budgeting activities which are being implemented in Santiago and Cim Do Ave. It is hoped that this exchange of learning can contribute to the effective implementation of pilot actions in each partner region. The Cork delegation also took part in and gained much knowledge from the various study visits organised by project colleagues in Santiago - delegates are pictured above on a visit to a recycling centre. And we are delighted to announce that the next coordination meeting will take place in Cork in March 2019 when partners will meet and visit social enterprises across the city.

Funding for Social Enterprises Workshop

Cork City Council through the Atlantic Social Lab project held a "Funding for Social Enterprises" Workshop in the Republic of Work, Cork on the 20th of November 2018. This event focused on the different funding opportunities for Social Enterprises. Social Innovation Fund Ireland provided the two key speakers including John Evoy and Padraic Vallely who detailed the different funding programmes available and looked at the processes involved in applying for these funds. They also gave participants some top tips for applying for these funds. A panel session followed involving 4 social enterprises and this was facilitated by the Irish Social Enterprise Network's Chris Gordon. This session looked in detail at the experiences of social enterprises with different funding programmes and provided advice and guidance on when best to apply for funding and the differing funding needs of social enterprises at their different lifecycle stages. This event drew over 50 participants from across the region with all participants playing a part in making this a very successful and engaging event. More such events will follow in the coming months - watch this space!

Upcoming events

Finance for Social Enterprises
30th January 2019

Governance and your Social Enterprise
February 2019

Ask & Advise Night
Open session for social enterprises
26th March 2019

How to tell your Story - Storytelling Workshop
April 2019

Social Impact Measurement
Measuring your social impact
Date TBC

Social Enterprise 101
Introduction Course to Social Enterprise.
Date TBC

Social Procurement for Procurers
Introduction session to social procurement
and community benefit clauses for
procurers.
Date TBC

Social Procurement for Social Enterprises
Introduction to social procurement and

community benefit clauses for social enterprises.
Date TBC