



SE-NEWS

A Newsletter for Social Enterprises in Ireland

Issue 2 - May 2021

WELCOME

Welcome to the second edition of **SE-NEWS**, the newsletter for social enterprises in Ireland brought to you by the **Department of Rural and Community Development**.

As always, our aim is to share information and news of interest to social enterprises throughout Ireland, to help build and strengthen the Social Enterprise community and to share case studies and examples of good practice.

In this edition, we bring you news of the launch of 'Our Rural Future - Rural Development Policy 2021-2025' with a particular focus on the role social enterprise.

There is news of a survey of Work Integrated Social Enterprises brought to you by the Department of Justice and the Department of Rural and Community Development. We also bring news of the Circular Economy Innovation Grant Scheme which will provide support to projects which work in the Circular Economy space. Finally, at Ireland's request, the [EU Porto Declaration](#) contains explicit reference to the role social enterprises play in fostering an inclusive recovery. This is another important recognition of the role of Social Enterprises in Europe.

Our 'Focus on SE' feature, which provides regular case studies highlighting the diverse ways social enterprises improve the lives of people, features **An Mheitheal Rothar** from Galway in this edition.

If you would like to suggest news to be included in the next edition then please email us at senews@drccd.gov.ie

The Editor

NOTICE BOARD

Save the Date!

The 3rd National Social Enterprise Conference will take place on **18 November 2021**

DRCD is maintaining a list of supports for social enterprise. The list includes sources of funding, training or advice.

[Supports for Social Enterprise](#)

If you know of any supports available for social enterprise that are not on the list then let us know.

Ministers Humphreys, McGrath and O'Brien launch €10 million **Covid Stability Fund** to support community and voluntary groups, charities and social enterprises.

Click [HERE](#) for more information

European Social Economy Summit 26 - 27 May 2021 | 9 AM - 6 PM

The summit will be an opportunity to discuss how social economy can help reshape the economy post-COVID and will bring together public and private stakeholders, policy makers, civil society representatives and academia.

Click [HERE](#) for more details

Access Europe is a three-year programme, led by The Wheel and funded by the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, to provide a support and capacity-building programme for Irish civil society organisations to better access EU funds and engage in EU policy.

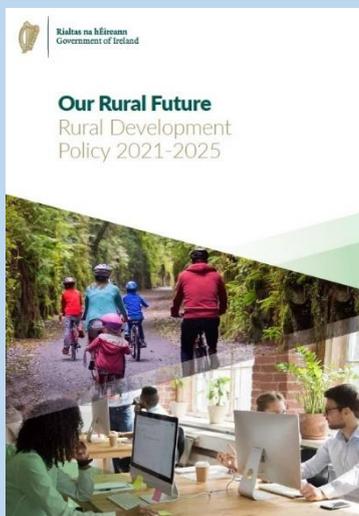
Click [HERE](#) for more details.

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LAUNCH OF 'OUR RURAL FUTURE - RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY 2021-2025'

On 29th March 2021 the Government launched 'Our Rural Future' the most ambitious and transformational policy for rural development in decades.



Speaking at the launch of the policy, An Taoiseach Micheál Martin said "Ireland is heading into an era of unprecedented change, and with that comes unprecedented opportunity. Over the course of the pandemic, we have discovered new ways of working and we have rediscovered our

communities. Our Rural Future provides a framework for the development of rural areas over the next five years".

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys said "Our Rural Future represents a new milestone in the approach to rural development for Ireland. As we recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have a unique opportunity to reimagine rural Ireland and harness the talent, skills and creativity running through our rural communities".



Of particular interest to social enterprises, Measure 30 of the new policy aims to 'Deliver a suite of new measures to support the development of Social Enterprises in rural areas to increase their social, economic and environmental impact and contribute to job creation locally' while Measure 31 commits to 'Expand the use of socially responsible public procurement contracts, where feasible, which will

incentivise the engagement of social enterprises and Circular Economy organisations.' Measure 69 aims to 'Refine and build on a range of programmes to support communities, voluntary organisations, social enterprises and charities to build their resilience and enhance their impact in the aftermath of COVID-19' and Measure 80 commits to 'Support the development of social innovation as a means of addressing pressing social challenges.'

Work is already underway within the Department of Rural and Community Development, and across other Government departments, to implement actions to progress these commitments.

Click [HERE](#) to see the Policy in full.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN PROVIDING SECOND CHANCES - WE NEED TO CAPTURE YOUR VIEWS



The Department of Rural & Community Development is working in partnership with the Department of Justice on the implementation of

the Working to Change employment focused strategy (click [here](#) to view). The overall aim of this strategy is to increase employment opportunities for people who have criminal records in order to create active citizenship, safer communities for all and fewer victims.

Social enterprises (SE) have played a crucial role in providing much needed employment for talented people who have found it hard to secure employment due to their historical criminal records. In collaboration with the Department of Justice, we encourage all social enterprises to complete this short, anonymous survey which assesses the needs of SEs who either currently employ people with past convictions or who are open to doing so in the future.

Together, we can make positive change for individuals, communities and Irish society. Closing date for the survey is June 10th. Please have your say and help the Department of Justice to tailor supports so you can recruit talented people with past convictions safely and fairly.

Click [HERE](#) to complete the survey

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY INNOVATION GRANT SCHEME



The Circular Economy Innovation Grant Scheme (CEIGS) is a Government of Ireland initiative led by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC).

The purpose of this grants scheme is to provide support to projects which work in the Circular Economy

space, with the aim of advancing the Circular Economy in Ireland and raising awareness of the need to transition to a Circular Economy.

By funding circular economy projects and enterprises, the CEIGS will directly support the growth of the circular economy in Ireland and provide high-profile examples of best practice.

While the CEIGS is not limited to social enterprises and voluntary and community based organisations, DECC is particularly interested in submissions from organisations of these types. The Department of Rural and Community Development played a key role in ensuring that social enterprises are at the heart of this initiative.

Click [HERE](#) for more information

The closing date for applications is **28 May 2021 at 5pm**

THE PORTO SOCIAL SUMMIT



The Porto Social Summit took place on 7th May, its aim was to give a political impetus at all levels, European institutions, Member States, social partners and

civil society, to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and more specifically to endorse its Action Plan.

It resulted in the adoption of the Porto Declaration on Social Issues. The European leaders emphasised the

need to ensure an inclusive recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. Following a request from Ireland, social enterprise was specifically included in the text of the declaration.

'As Europe gradually recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, the priority will be to move from protecting to creating jobs and to improve job quality, where small and medium-sized enterprises (**including social enterprises**) play a key role. The implementation of the principles in the European Pillar of Social Rights will be essential to ensure the creation of more and better jobs for all within the framework of an inclusive recovery. In this respect, relevant legislative and non-legislative work should be taken forward at EU and Member States level.'

Click [HERE](#) for the full text of the Porto Declaration.

SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS



The School for Social Entrepreneurs are opening up a programme to support

organisations that:

- Support access to financial services, such as savings, insurance and pensions, for people who are financially excluded.
- Create new technological solutions to enable marginalised people to improve their financial situation.
- Find innovative ways of helping people with planning for life shocks, such as end of life planning.
- Develop new ways of supporting people to understand their finances that directly help to build resilience. (Note: whilst we recognise work in schools is also important, but are not likely to fund organisations that are only or primarily working with younger children)
- Provide Innovative new solutions to lift people into long term financial security through employment with additional support to build financial resilience
- Campaign for fair solutions to financial exclusion, for example, through fairer pensions, funeral costs, insurance and business practices. There is an accelerator programme plus £10K to £30K funding to spend as you like.

They do require you to either be a CLG, have an asset lock or be willing to sign a contract that profits will not be re-distributed for the duration of the programme.

The closing date is 1st June 2021. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

Focus on SE



AN MHEITHEAL ROTHAR

GALWAY'S COMMUNITY BIKE WORKSHOP

An Mheitheal Rothar is a good example of a business that works primarily to improve the lives of people.

Their social mission is to encourage and nurture a culture of cycling in Galway city, by establishing a practical, ethically motivated facility and social hub, which encourages a strong community and promotes the health and environmental benefits of cycling.

An Mheitheal Rothar believe that communities working together are essential to meet environmental and social challenges, from climate change to throwaway culture. Since they started



out as a project of the NUI Galway Ecology society in 2012, they've held DIY workshops enabling more than 3000 people to fix their own bike, repaired & sold more than 215 bikes that would otherwise have been scrapped, and taught valuable cycle mechanics skills to 12 trainees.

The An Mheitheal Rothar team are big believers in repair skills and believe that money should not be a barrier to having a safe, functional bike.

Their trainees learn valuable skills in cycle mechanics, as well as becoming part of their close-knit team.

Their volunteer mechanics have helped many people to gain the skills to keep their bike on the road.



The An Mheitheal Rothar shop offers repairs and services, and sells new and recycled bikes, parts and accessories. Since 2018, the award-winning ReCycle Your Cycle initiative ensures that bikes that would otherwise be scrapped are repaired and sold, saving carbon emissions and resources as well as providing an affordable means of transport. In non Covid-19 times they also run classes in cycle mechanics.

Covid-19 presented a lot of challenges as their work is very "hands on". As a result, their regular workshop was closed for months and they had nowhere to operate. With the support of the Western Development Commission they started a pop-up shop last June and this is still operating.

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If you would like your social enterprise to feature in a future edition of SE-News, please contact senews@drcd.ie for an application form and mention 'Focus on SE Application' in the subject line.