

**The Role and Impact of Social Enterprises in Sustainable Development of Rural and Urban Areas.**

Date: 22/08/2024

Time: 10 am – 4 pm.

Venue: 49, Merrion Square NUI, Dublin (Phelan Room)

Max. capacity: 35

Rationale

The social economy and social enterprises combine a strong social and/or community mission with productive economic activities, usually through democratic decision-making and governance. These organisations are acknowledged as relevant actors that contribute to the work integration of vulnerable population, to the provision of otherwise unmet services, enhancing the wellbeing of their users and more recently to environmental sustainability.

However, discussions are moving forward towards the transformative capacity/potential and impact of social enterprises and the social economy at wider societal level. Taking a spatial, rural-urban and regional, perspective, this event aims to discuss the experiences and evidence of practitioners, policy-makers and researchers related to the **Role and Impact of Social Enterprises in Sustainable Development of Rural and Urban Areas.**

The event will present results from two projects: ‘**Mapping Social Enterprises and their Impact on Sustainable Rural Development in Ireland**’ (Government of Ireland-NUI Postdoctoral Fellowship in Rural Development), and ‘**Assessing the Multidimensional Impact of Social Enterprises in Ireland**’ (Irish Research Council New Foundations). In the framework of the evidence from these projects, international and national **researchers, policymakers and practitioners** are invited to discuss and provide insights in this **transdisciplinary multi-stakeholder forum.**

Agenda

9.30 – 10.00	Registration – networking coffee break
10.00	Event starts
10 min	<b>Welcome</b> Mary O’Shaughnessy and Lucas Olmedo, University College Cork Kieran McGovern, Head of Academic Services & Registry, National University of Ireland
30 min	<b>Keynote: Social Entrepreneurship in Rural Europe: A Research Perspective</b> Prof. Richard Lang, Director Competence Centre for the Management of Cooperatives, University of Bolzano, Italy
15 min	<b>A National policy perspective: National Social Enterprise Policy</b> Richard Gavin, Department of Rural and Community Development
15 min	<b>A regional perspective: Developing region-specific policies and supports for Social Enterprises/Social Economy</b> Aisling Moroney, Western Development Commission



15 min	<b>A Local perspective: Local Actors for Social Enterprises and Local Development</b> Una Lowry, Irish Local Development Network/Dublin South City Partnership
11.25 – 11.45	Coffee break
30 min	<b>Mapping Social Enterprises and their Impact on Sustainable Rural Development in Ireland. Key findings (Government of Ireland-NUI Postdoctoral Fellowship in Rural Development)</b> Lucas Olmedo, University College Cork
40 min	<b>Transdisciplinary discussion: How can we engage research, policy, practice to advance/unlock the contributions of SEs to sustainable rural-urban development.</b> Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mary O’Shaughnessy, University College Cork</li> <li>- Siobhan Cafferty, Pobal</li> <li>- Clodagh O’Reilly, Social Enterprise Solutions/TU Dublin</li> </ul> Moderator/discussant: Lucas Olmedo
1.00 – 2.00 pm	Networking Lunch
30 min	<b>Assessing Multidimensional Impact of Social Enterprises in Ireland. Key findings (IRC New Foundations)</b> Flora Seddon and Mary O’Shaughnessy, University College Cork
20 min	<b>An International Perspective on Challenges and benefits of Impact Assessment on SEs: Impact Measurement and Seedkit</b> Prof. Jo Barraket/Dr. Joanne Qian-Khoo (online), University of Melbourne, Australia
15 min	<b>Balancing Act: Navigating Impact Measurement in Resource-Strapped Social Enterprises.</b> John Logue, Social Enterprise Republic of Ireland
15mins	<b>Challenges and benefits of Impact Assessment on SEs: Practitioner's Perspective</b> Ciaran Lynch, Cabragh Wetlands Centre and Amy Keatinge, Partas
15 min	<b>Wrap up/ Conclusions of the day</b> Lucas Olmedo and Mary O’Shaughnessy
3.30 – 4.00 pm	Final coffee break/networking