

SOCIAL  
ENTERPRISE  
DEVELOPMENT  
FUND

# Impact Report

2018–2021



RETHINK  
IRELAND



Údarás Áitiúla Éireann  
Local Authorities Ireland



Riailtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



ciste na  
gcuntas diomhaoin  
the dormant  
accounts fund

# Social Enterprise

A social enterprise is a business that works primarily to improve the lives of people. It's business is social good.

**#futureissocial**



Created by artist Amy Begley, supported by Social Enterprise Start Up Fund Awardee, [Connections Arts Centre](#).



Amy Begley is a visual artist from Cork supported by Connections Arts Centre and an advocate for supporting people with different abilities for full rights in life. Connections Arts Centre provides accessible Arts & Lifestyle programs, where the wider Disability Community can learn, grow, and connect through the arts. Part of their mission is to support artists like Amy develop their skills, follow their dreams, and share their experiences with others.

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# The Business of the Future: Foreword

At Rethink Ireland, our vision is an Ireland that is more inclusive, equal and sustainable because of social innovation. We believe that social enterprises are critical to achieving this ambitious target and will be at the forefront of society as it recovers from the Covid-19 pandemic in the years ahead.

Social enterprises are already changing the way we live, addressing society's challenges and creating a sustainable and inclusive future for everyone. They are not just thinking differently, but are translating their ideas into action through fresh, innovative solutions.

We are immensely proud to have, over the past four years, delivered the Social Enterprise Development (SED) Fund, by Rethink Ireland in partnership with Local Authorities Ireland, supported by IPB and the Department of Rural and Community Development from the Dormant Accounts Fund. Their unprecedented investment in social enterprise in Ireland has allowed us to support over 100 social enterprises in every corner of Ireland.

The support of IPB Insurance, Local Authorities Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development through the Dormant Accounts Fund has been incredible. They each have played a sterling role in supporting local social enterprises over the years, making this partnership a perfect match, putting values into action and bringing vision, determination and commitment to support the social enterprise sector in Ireland.

IPB's foresight to invest in the sector at an early stage continues to have a catalytic impact, resulting in social enterprises creating more jobs and social impact in their communities, and ultimately changing the way we shop, live and connect with each other.



**Deirdre Mortell**  
CEO, Rethink Ireland

# Social Enterprise at Rethink Ireland

It is a huge pleasure to be marking an amazing four years of impact of the Social Enterprise Development Fund. This could not have been achieved without the solid support and backing of Local Authorities Ireland and IPB Insurance, in partnership with the Department of Rural and Community Development through the Dormant Accounts Fund. We have seen tremendous progress over the lifetime of the Fund.

The SED Fund provides critical support to the most innovative and impactful social enterprises across Ireland, helping to scale their social impact, increase their traded income, create more jobs and develop long-term, effective and sustainable solutions.

Now in its fourth year, the SED Fund has provided a valuable springboard for thriving social enterprises such as Bounce Back Recycling, Sensational Kids, and GIY to scale their products, services and impact across Ireland (see more success stories on [page 10](#)).

But IPB's investment and support from Local Authorities Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development through the Dormant Accounts Fund has meant more than just the SED Fund. It has had a catalytic effect on the social enterprise sector nationally. It has positioned Rethink Ireland as a key voice in this space and opened the door for us to work on many other projects (see more details on this on [page 20](#)).

Achieving systemic change for the social enterprise sector is one of Rethink Ireland's strategic goals and the SED Fund has served as a catalytic investment towards attaining this goal.



**Eoghan Ryan**  
Head of Social Enterprise,  
Rethink Ireland

# A Catalytic Investment

IPB Insurance are proud to put our name to the Social Enterprise Development Fund, by Rethink Ireland in partnership with Local Authorities Ireland, supported by IPB and the Department of Rural and Community Development from the Dormant Accounts Fund, which has supported so many amazing social enterprises that are changing Irish society for the better.

As a mutual insurer, IPB has, at its core, an ethos that by working together we can make a difference. Over the past four years, we have worked closely with our local authority members and Rethink Ireland to identify and back the best social enterprises from every corner of Ireland to maximise their reach and social impact - from mattress recycling to surf therapy.

A core objective of the Fund is to help realise the enormous potential of the social enterprise sector. We see social enterprise as a mechanism for equitable, sustainable growth in business and the way forward for the economy as we emerge from the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Supporting social enterprises that combine social impact and innovative thinking in a way that strengthens the social and economic fabric of their communities is a key aim of ours and we are already seeing the outstanding impact that the Awardees of this Fund are having. We look forward to watching them transform Ireland over the years to come.



**Michael Garvey**  
CEO, IPB Insurance

*“The sector’s longer-term future is very bright. The social enterprise sector will continue to grow and remain a vital component of Ireland’s socio-economic environment through sustained investment and targeted public policy.”*

# A Robust Partnership

At the Department of Rural and Community Development we use a partnership approach to implementing the [National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022](#). One of the most successful partnerships has been with Rethink Ireland, Local Authorities Ireland and IPB Insurance to uncover the potential of Irish social enterprises.

For many years, social enterprises have provided a flexible and effective model which has delivered a positive response to social and societal issues - all the time working closely with local communities and individuals.

The Social Enterprise Development Fund plays a pivotal role supporting the implementation of the National Social Enterprise Policy measures. Growing and strengthening social enterprises is a key objective of this Policy.

Providing funding and business supports at every stage of development will ensure a strong pipeline of innovative social enterprises to emerge, with a huge potential for impact. We are proud to have partnered with Rethink Ireland, Local Authorities Ireland and IPB over the last four years and to have delivered these supports, which have achieved a transformative impact on Ireland’s economy. I look forward to working into the future towards this aim.



**Dr. Andrew Forde**  
Head of Rural Strategy  
and Social Enterprise,  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development

*“For us, being part of the Social Enterprise Development Fund means being part of an almost radical approach to funding projects. They are supporting projects working with some of the most marginalised communities, some of the most ambitious projects in Ireland, and we’re honoured to do that.”*

*The SED Funding for us is allowing us create a new way of doing things, a game changer for services and service users in Ireland, and without the bravery of them backing us, that might not have been possible”*

**Aoife Dermody, [Trauma Informed Care](#),  
2021 Awardee**

# 4 YEARS OF IMPACT



**€3.2 MILLION FUND**

**752**

**Applications  
received**

**112**

**Social  
enterprises  
supported**

**56**

**Business support  
recipients**

In 2018, as well as providing cash grants and a place on the Accelerator programme to eight participants, we provided business supports in the form of a mentor to a further 14 social enterprises. Support from the Local Authorities of Ireland was invaluable.

In 2020 and 2021, the SED Fund offered the Genesis Programme to a total of 48 social enterprises. This programme allowed us to support social enterprises in Local Authority areas where there was no cash grant given. As a result, we have now supported social enterprises in all 31 Local Authority areas in the country. The programme provided an intensive two-day workshop that focused on building the skills and knowledge needed to develop a sustainable social enterprise and to be successful in future funding opportunities. Participants then also received bespoke one to one support from a consultant.

**4 ACCELERATOR PROGRAMMES RUN**  
for social enterprises  
from all **31** Local Authority areas

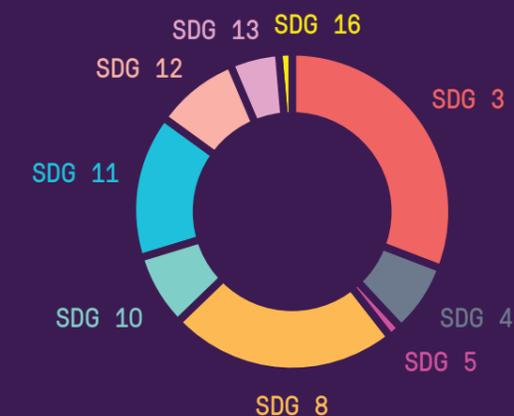
Together over the four years  
the social enterprises have:  
created at least **209** jobs within the sector

supported **512** people into employment

provided services to directly  
to over **270,000** people

mobilised **16,507** volunteers

Primary Sustainable Development Goals  
supported by SED Awardees:



# THE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FUND: 4 YEARS OF IMPACT

The Social Enterprise Development Fund is a €3.2 million Fund being delivered from 2018 – 2022. The Fund was created by Rethink Ireland in partnership with Local Authorities Ireland and funded by IPB Insurance and the Department of Rural and Community Development through the Dormant Accounts Fund.

The SED Fund offers cash grants, designated business supports, as well as a place on Ireland's leading national Accelerator Programme specifically designed for social enterprises. The Accelerator Programme is designed to equip social enterprises with the tools and techniques they need to expand their business skills and deepen their impact.

## Trends we have noticed over the past 4 years:

- The sector has matured: the applications we have received have consistently improved in calibre, and we have seen more large organisations 'incubating' social enterprises.
- There is a need for early stage supports: over the years, many applications to the SED Fund were disqualified because they were deemed too early stage at the time of application. This increased from 22% in 2020 to 34% in 2021. This spurred us to create the Social Enterprise Start Up Fund.
- The digital transition is well underway: in part due to Covid-19, we have seen more social enterprises adapt in recent years to delivering services online nationally.
- Impact Measurement has been strengthened in the sector overall: increasing numbers of organisations have a strong evidence base, have tested their social innovations, and have developed theories of change before the application stage.



Active Connections, 2019 Awardee

*"[The SED Fund] has given us processes that we can actually look at this sort of stuff and say, 'Right, well, how then can we drive this on to the next level?'. We know how to really look at the strategic idea in a much more formalised way, we challenge ourselves much more about how, why, where, what to get across, what we need to do better and it just makes everything far more realistic and far more sustainable, just that process. So every decision that we look at in the company has to be looked at through this lens, it helps us maintain focus on what's really, really important to us. Also, thanks to the SED Fund, we have doubled our impact hours."*

**Ray Burke, [Active Connections](#), 2019 Awardee**

*"Our consultant was incredible. I've never met someone so able to take conversations and turn them into a document that he could share back, one that articulated things better than I would have thought I could."*

**David Neville, [jumpAgrade](#), 2020 Awardee**

*"We've really enjoyed taking part in the SED accelerator program, the mix of topics is perfect and the quality of facilitators is top class. This combination gave us clarity on what we need to do to achieve the impact we aim to deliver"*

**James Lyons, [Sailing Into Wellness](#), 2018 Awardee**

*"This is going to stay with me for the next five years. I'm going to draw on the resources that the Fund has empowered me with. All those resources that are part of the non-financial package, they're just transformative"*

**James O'Neill, [Property Marking Ireland](#), 2021 Awardee**



Community queuing for bicycle parking at Lusk Garda Station

# SUCCESS STORIES

## Helplink

Helplink provides accessible mental health counselling, information and education services for all ages. They recognise the lack of access to non-crisis based therapeutic support outside of normal hours, so they provide a suite of therapeutic services 7 days-a-week and an e-learning platform that is accessible 24/7.

Helplink were participants of the first Genesis Programme in 2020. Following this, Helplink applied to the Social Enterprise Development Fund and were awarded a cash grant and further business supports in 2021. The funding has allowed them to develop their strategic plan. Their strategic objectives for the future include reaching 30% of the student population (primary, 2nd & 3rd level) in Ireland to deliver accessible and continuous mental health education by the end of 2024.



*“From the first consultation session, I felt like they just got us. It was a huge support to know you had someone to guide you, to walk with you, to work with you hand in hand in developing the strategic plan which is so critical. It’s vital to have that support to really look at your work and see the path forward.”*

**Lochlann Scott, Founder and CEO of Helplink**

## GIY

GIY’s mission is to inspire, teach and support people to grow and cook their own food, thereby helping them to lead healthier, sustainable lives as a consequence of improved food habits and knowledge. This behaviour change is achieved by offering products and resources needed via their online retail store and GROWHQ in Waterford City, as well as targeted campaigns, and programmes.

When GIY entered the first Social Enterprise Development Fund in 2018 to develop their core GrowBox product, they were beginning to explore the expansion of their resources and product offerings. The SED Fund investment supported GIY to produce a strategic plan and ecommerce strategy for the GROWBox, and they have gone from strength to strength since.

Now, GIY are scaling up nationally with support from our Growth Fund, having identified strategic areas of growth that will drive both income and impact towards a 2030 goal of 100 million GIY’ers.



*“Food growing has a unique way of connecting people with the planet, and will be a powerful tool to mobilise positive environmental action in the years ahead. The success we’ve had in recent years would not have been possible without Rethink Ireland, and the impact will be felt even more in the years to come.”*

**Mick Kelly, Founder, GIY**



## Bounce Back Recycling

Based in Galway, Bounce Back Recycling offers a mattress and furniture recycling/upcycling service to domestic and commercial customers, not only diverting bulky waste from landfill, but providing sustainable employment to the local Traveller community in Galway.

Bounce Back were awarded SED Funding in 2019. The business and pitching supports helped them to go on to be winners of our Pitch Fund in 2020 and Rethink Ireland's Innovator Circle Award in 2020. Now, we are delighted to announce that Bounce Back have joined our Growth Fund in January 2022.

Looking to the future, the Growth Funding will allow Bounce Back to implement a national brand.

*"We find people want to do the right thing for the environment, but they just don't have access to the services. That's where we come in. It would have taken us a lot longer to reach this point without Rethink Ireland, so we're grateful for that."*

**Martin Ward, Founder, Bounce Back Recycling**

## Sensational Kids

Kildare based social enterprise Sensational Kids provides affordable and accessible therapy services for all children, including those with additional needs, and those that cannot access or afford timely services to help them reach their potential.

Sensational Kids had only one child development centre in Kildare town when they were awarded a cash grant by the SED Fund in 2018. Now, they are also awardees on our Growth Fund and there is a development centre in all four provinces of Ireland.

Over 9,000 children have already benefited from Sensational Kids' therapy supports including subsidised speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and play therapy. Since 2007, Sensational Kids has saved families €2.5 million in therapy fees, bridging the gap between public and private services for children in need.



*"Rethink Ireland's support has been hugely beneficial to Sensational Kids by further strengthening our ability to grow and scale our social impact. The combination of investment and participation in the accelerator programme has given us the building blocks to enable us to progress even further with transformational social change."*

**Karen Leigh, CEO and Founder, Sensational Kids**

# A Thriving EcoSystem

At Rethink Ireland, one of our key strategic aims is strengthening the social enterprise ecosystem in Ireland. We believe that, with the support of IPB, Local Authorities Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development through the Dormant Accounts Fund, the SED Fund is contributing to what is becoming a thriving social enterprise ecosystem in Ireland. The Fund achieves this by supporting social enterprises to maximise their social impact, collaborating with relevant social enterprise stakeholder and raising awareness of social enterprises.

## LOCAL AUTHORITY ENGAGEMENT

Local Authorities play an important role in strengthening the ecosystem through the implementation of their Economic and Community Plans. New guidelines for the development of these plans, launched in 2021, have numerous measures that will support the development and growth of the sector with stated collaborative economic actions to promote social enterprise and social entrepreneurship.

During the lifetime of the SED Fund, we have engaged with Local Authorities across a range of service departments. While the majority of interaction was with directors of services in the areas of economic development, enterprise and social and community, there has, in the past two years, been a number of social enterprises in other areas that have been supported by the Local Authorities such as tourism, the environment and climate change. For example, the environmental awareness officers across several Local Authorities work directly with SED Fund awardee Bounce Back Recycling on recycling mattresses and reducing materials sent to landfill.

Many Local Authorities are taking active steps to support and encourage social enterprises in their areas. Cork City Council and Tipperary County Council are just two of many that we at Rethink Ireland have worked directly with.

## Cork City Council

FOSO-POCO (Fostering Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystems Post-Covid-19) is a project commissioned by the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) and the European Commission Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW) to understand and assist in overcoming the challenges facing social enterprises in Europe. With partners in Malta and Estonia, Cork City Council worked to achieve the objectives of the project and were the lead partner of the third objective; Establishing local supports to assist social enterprises in a post-Covid economy which hopefully results in furthering their viability and job creation. Going forward, Cork City Council have committed in 2022 to preparing a social enterprise strategy to address the issues facing the sector in Cork.

## Tipperary County Council

Tipperary County Council held a series of workshops on social enterprises in 2021. The aim of the workshop webinars was to provide information and awareness around the sector with a view to supporting social enterprises already in place and developing new social enterprises in the county. We at Rethink Ireland were actively involved and engaged directly with several social enterprises as a result of the workshops including some who, as a result of the engagement, applied for funding from Rethink Ireland.

## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

The SED Fund has resulted in the forging of relationships across many Local Authority Local Enterprise Offices (LEO's) and, of significant importance, with the LEO Centre of Excellence. In 2021, we worked collaboratively with the Centre to clarify social enterprise eligibility for existing LEO supports. These eligibility criteria were circulated to all LEO's via a 'circular memorandum' in April and resulted in increased Local Authority engagement in the second half of 2021.



We asked some key voices in the sector –

**“What change have you seen in the social enterprise space in Ireland over the last 4 years?”**

*“There are significantly more supporting ‘actors’ within the sector which is very encouraging as the recurring sound-byte from many social entrepreneurs is often how ‘at sea’ and misunderstood they felt until they found a like-minded supportive community. It is still a nascent sector finding its voice and space but over the past 4 years we now have many social enterprises creating considerable social impact at scale, these high impact social enterprises help raise the tide of the sector for all and demonstrate the potential for social enterprises to create a practical solution to complex wicked problems in our society.”*

**Clodagh O’Reilly**  
**CEO, ReCreate Ireland**  
**Social Enterprise Development Fund 2018 Awardee**  
**Founder, Social Enterprise Solutions Ireland**  
**Irish Partner, Expert Impact**

*“There is a greater understanding of the important role Social Enterprises have in Ireland, tackling some of the biggest challenges we face in society whilst delivering significant positive social, environmental and economic impact.”*

**Iseult Ward**  
**CEO and Co-Founder, Foodcloud**  
**Growth Fund Awardee 2018-2021**

*“[There has been a] shift in general understanding in Social Enterprise as a business model but in particular around the topic of ‘Social Impact’ & what that really means. Still a good bit to go but now seeing constructive conversations around impact as a topic.”*

**Pauline Gannon**  
**Co-Founder, Social Impact Ireland**

*“The increase in climate related action by Social Enterprises in Ireland over the past four years has been incredible. It is great to see so many organisations building sustainable communities and assisting the transition to a circular economy.”*

**Dr. Sarah Miller**  
**Chief Executive,**  
**The Rediscovery Centre**

*“The social enterprise sector has been slowly evolving and finding its feet in the past 4 years. I believe that in the next 4 years, we’ll see it really become part of mainstream conversations, and as a sector, we need to be ready to deliver.”*

**Tammy Darcy**  
**Founder and CEO, The Shona Project**  
**Social Enterprise Development Fund 2018 Awardee**  
**Former CEO of Social Enterprise Republic of Ireland (SERI)**



2018 Social Enterprise Development Fund Awardees at the Awards Announcement

# An Ireland Transformed

In our strategic plan released in early 2020, we detailed our 10 year vision for social enterprise in Ireland. In Ireland by 2030 we want to see:

- More social enterprises starting, scaling and becoming sustainable
- More consumers buying from social enterprises, contributing to their community, society and a circular economy
- More people accessing services from social enterprises, accessing them faster than public services and at more affordable rates than private services
- More social enterprises employing people who are considered 'far from the labour market'

In 2030, we want to be measuring our economy's success based on the equality we achieve, the physical and mental health of our people and the state of our environment. Social enterprises play an important role in this agenda, restoring heart and hope to new economic thinking.

Recent reports (Borzaga et al, 2020) estimate that in Ireland, the social enterprise sector employs 25,000 to 33,000 people in over 1,400 entities, with a total annual turnover of around €1.4 billion. There are significant numbers which bode well for the growth of the sector in Ireland to be in line with the European Union's projections of the sector's potential to reach 6% - 8% of GDP. If we did this, the number of jobs in the sector would double and the social impact would be felt across all communities. As we weather Covid-19 and its economic fallout. Social enterprise has the potential to ensure we live in a society that is fairer and more accepting as we continue to evolve as a nation.



2020 Awards Announcement with [Dublin Food Coop](#)

We recognise that increasing awareness of the existence of social enterprises and their significant contribution to a more equal and sustainable society is a key factor in realising their transformative potential. This has been one of our key focus areas in recent years and was the basis of a pilot social enterprise awareness raising initiative, The Future is Social campaign in 2021. In 2020 and 2021, we commissioned Amárach Research to carry out a Sentiment Survey to assess the current general awareness and understanding of social enterprise in the Irish population. The recent results show that the number of people who have heard of social enterprise is increasing, and is now at 56%.

Furthermore, support for the sector is overwhelming, with 79% agreeing that social enterprises make a positive impact on Irish society and 84% want to see increased Government engagement with the social enterprises when delivering services. The impact was noted especially as providing employment and training as well as in supporting local communities, people and increasing sustainability, capturing the essence of social enterprise.

Based on the successful [The Future is Social Campaign](#), we will use the learning from that and our extensive experience in the sector to roll out an exciting new campaign, Think Future, Think Social in 2022. As an Awardee of the 2021 [ARISE](#) programme, funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development through the Dormant Accounts Fund, the campaign will take a future focused and participatory approach to identify key issues of public interest and highlight local champion social enterprises that are acting to solve these issues.



Launch of the Social Enterprise Development Fund, 2018



## WHAT'S NEXT FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AT RETHINK IRELAND?

In 2022, we are excited to work on:

- The first social enterprise business course of its kind in Ireland
- Launching our Think Future, Think Social campaign as part of the Awareness Raising Initiative for Social Enterprise scheme
- Continuing the *Financing Social Enterprise in Ireland - Models of Impact Investing and Readiness* project with DCU and Community Finance Ireland. Its objective is to identify the finance practices most suitable to sustaining social enterprises at all stages of their development
- As a member of the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland Implementation Group, we will continue to work with sector stakeholders to help ensure policy measures on social enterprise is fully implemented.

## Spotlight on: Social Enterprise Development Fund 2021

The Awardees of the Social Enterprise Development Fund 2021 are diverse in terms of their scale, geographic reach and the social issues they address. They embarked on the Fund with a focus on addressing key areas within their organisations that would allow them to advance to the next stage of their development.

**Community Health and Wellbeing** are at the core of what seven Awardees are working on. Together, they capture every member of the community, supporting people when they need it the most and to achieve an improved quality of life. Their services range from counseling to rehabilitation, breathing exercises and informing services as experts by experience.

Four Awardees focus their work on **contributing to the Green Transition**, addressing climate change, environmental degradation and society's unsustainable consumption patterns. In doing so, they have created not only a positive impact on the environment but also created jobs in remote settings, circular economy enterprises and affordable resources and furniture for their local communities.

Another five Awardees are playing a key role in **promoting equality** in our society across a number of areas. They work on contributing to gender and ethnic equality and access to employment and other opportunities, while giving a voice to those often not heard in society, showcasing the importance of diversity and equality for society as a whole.



Art piece by Amy Begley showcasing the three primary focus areas of the 2021 Awardees: equality, community health and wellbeing, and the Green Transition.

To examine the effect the Fund has had on Awardees in terms of guiding their future direction, honing their operations and building their capacity to deliver on their social and business objectives, each agreed to a 30-minute interview in December 2020, following completion of the Accelerator Programme. Awardees were queried by an external consultant on the usefulness of the supports, the impact on their sustainability, ability to communicate, motivation to grow, and the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic has had on their organisations.

The feedback on the overall impact of the fund was universally positive, demonstrating key impacts of the fund on specific organisational strands and areas that had been identified as needs, as well as unanticipated developments in areas that were new to some awardees.

A distinctive feature of the 2021 Awardees was a great awareness and knowledge of the offering of the accelerator and non-financial aspects of the Fund, attributable to a greater awareness of this in advance of applying for the Fund. In fact, a number of awardees had identified the accelerator as the primary reason for seeking support and that this was where the value was most important. The majority of the Awardees identified that it was the combination of both the cash grant and the non-financial supports that allowed them to maximise the benefit of the Social Enterprise Development Fund. They stated that the additional financial resource gave them the scope to allocate the time toward the business planning, structuring and development that is vital to allowing them to achieve sustainability and progress for their projects.

Additionally, being among their peer Awardees through the accelerator and having the direct support of the Rethink Ireland team gave them a feeling of common purpose and the shared support of having access to each other. As one awardee noted: “it was just great being amongst other social enterprises and seeing all these great organisations around the country working hard to make a difference”.

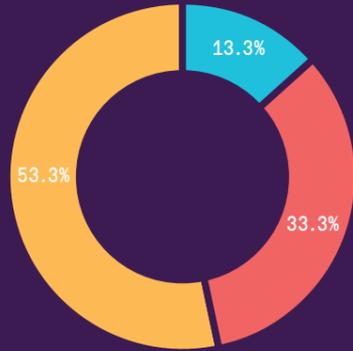
A drive to grow impact and deliver more and better services is a shared vision for the Awardees of the Fund, and the accelerator and supports unveiled new ways of doing that for a significant cohort. For Awardees who were longer in existence, they expressed seeing some of their services in a new light and identified opportunities (whether products or new markets) that they hadn’t seen before. The connections with other social enterprises also afforded opportunity to create linkages between their services, which the Awardees hope to grow and develop so they can not only grow their own services but grow together in cooperation with other Awardees.

In their appraisal of the Social Enterprise Fund they were asked to identify words that summed up their experience, there was a commonality in terms of how they viewed that experience, ranging from ‘transformative’, ‘reinvigorating’, to ‘powerful’, though the phrase that reflected the awardees expressions most succinctly was ‘Challenging, but worth it!’

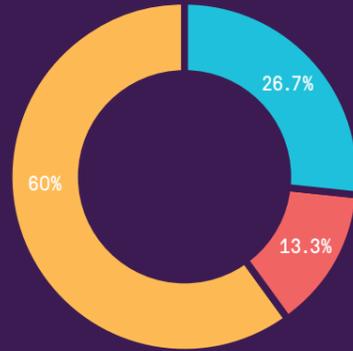


Shuttle Knit, 2021 Awardee

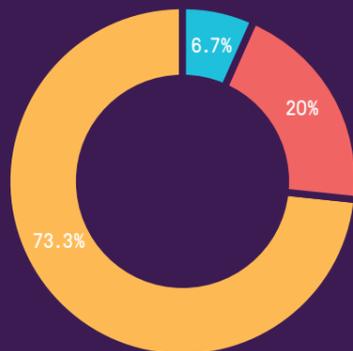
# IMPACT OF THE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FUND ON THE 2021 AWARDEES



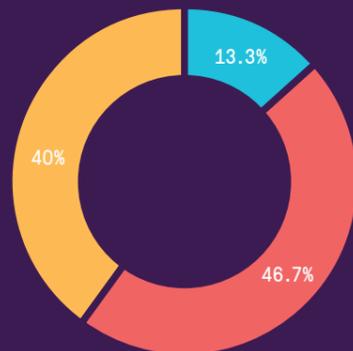
Non-financial support impacts



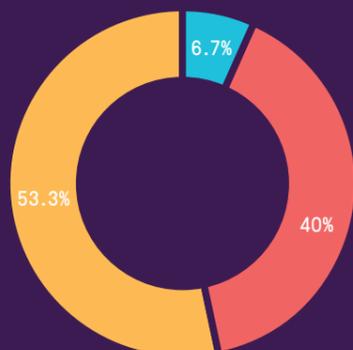
Financial V non-financial Support



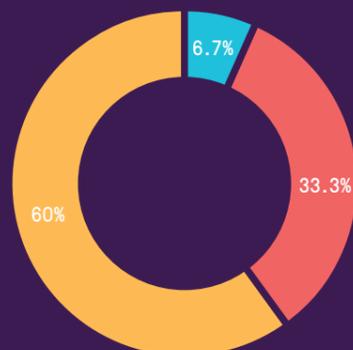
What effect has the SED Fund had on increasing your potential to scale your social enterprise?



What impact has the SED Fund had on your impact measurement and management?



What impact have the strategic planning supports had on your social enterprise?



What impact have the communications supports had on your social enterprise?

■ MODERATE
 ■ SIGNIFICANT
 ■ LARGE

# 2021 AWARDEES PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

<p><b>Helplink Mental Health</b></p>	<p>Helplink provides accessible mental health counselling, information and education services for all ages. They recognise the lack of access to non-crisis based therapeutic support outside of normal hours, so they provide a suite of therapeutic services 7 days-a-week and an e-learning platform that's accessible 24/7.</p>
<p><b>Parents Plus</b></p>	<p>Parents Plus, research, develop and deliver affordable evidence-based parenting, mental health, and educational programmes to strengthen families, by training established services across the public and non-profit sectors to deliver their suite of programmes in their communities. The new Parents Plus Special Needs Programme (PPSN) is the first in the world, evidence-based programme to address the underserved needs of marginalised young people, 12-25 years, with intellectual disabilities and their families. The programme is designed to be delivered by disability services to parents, free of charge and early on in their journey, to empower parents with the proven tools to improve outcomes not just of their child, but all of their family, realise their full potential, belong to, and contribute to an inclusive society.</p>
<p><b>AwakenHub Ltd</b></p>	<p>AwakenHub investigates and challenges the societal issue of why too few women-led businesses reach the same economic scale as that achieved by male-led companies. Their mission is to address the gender funding &amp; supports gap via an Island of Ireland community for women founders. In their first year over 1000 women have signed up to the AwakenHub community and they welcome any women founders or want to be founders to do the same via <a href="http://www.awakenhub.com">www.awakenhub.com</a></p>
<p><b>Recycle IT</b></p>	<p>Recycle IT is a community-based social enterprise specialising in recycling Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) from plugs and batteries to dishwashers and fridges. They offer work placements in the provision of recycling services to assist unemployed people to enter/re-enter the workforce. Their goal is to create a history of skilled work activities for everyone working with them.</p>

<p><a href="#"><u>Athchúrsáil Árann CGA</u></a></p>	<p>Athchúrsáil Árann governs all waste management systems for the three Aran Islands, impacting residents and tourists alike. They provide a comprehensive solution to all waste streams – including landfill, recycling and food waste. Being the only waste management service on the islands, they have over the years been recognized by the Pakman awards for their integral service to the islands.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Liquid Therapy</u></a></p>	<p>Liquid Therapy is an award winning ‘surf and ocean therapy’ social enterprise based in south County Donegal. They deliver ocean experiences, workshops and an evidence-based tool kit which significantly improve young people’s mental health. Through their 11 programmes, Liquid Therapy supports children and young people to build resiliency, improve social cohesiveness and physical literacy, while also providing a welcoming experience and respite to primary carers.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Back To Work Connect</u></a></p>	<p>Back to Work Connect understands the unique challenges returners, predominantly women, face when re-entering the workforce after an extended period. They provide a dedicated Returner support career hub; identify educational opportunities to bridge skills shortages; as well as practical and tangible career information. They connect with employers who are open to Returners and promote companies that are open to age and gender diversity.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Going Green, KASI Café and Refill Store</u></a></p>	<p>KASI is a local NGO based in Killarney and has been providing practical, moral and social support to Asylum Seekers, Refugees and other Migrants since 2000. Their work evolved from providing the necessary services and support to the new communities like providing information, practical help – filling in forms, advocacy work, referrals, outreach work; to organising various social and integration activities; to in recent years setting up social enterprises to create employment through training, placements and employment in the project itself. Their latest social enterprise, Going Green KASI Café and Zero Waste Refill Store, addresses social, economic and environmental issues.</p>

<p><a href="#"><u>Habitat for Humanity ReStore</u></a></p>	<p>ReStore empowers families by providing affordable products and services; enabling those with limited resources to make vital improvements to their homes. They serve low income families, divert tons of reusable materials from landfill and provide employability and training support including for vulnerable groups, delivering integrated social, societal and environmental impact.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>The No Barriers Foundation</u></a></p>	<p>At present in Donegal, those with varying levels of disability find it difficult to find appropriate post-care supports once discharged from the HSE. This is resulting in increased social marginalisation as well as physical and mental comorbidities increasing readmission rates. The No Barriers Foundation addresses this lack of accessible and affordable ongoing rehabilitation and health support for their target group, by providing ongoing specialist support services in an affordable manner in a socially inclusive gym environment.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Moy Innovations</u></a></p>	<p>Moy Innovations is a work integration social enterprise/ charitable organisation, who combat the imbalance in employment opportunities for people with additional needs, such as mental health or physical/intellectual disabilities in their community of Ballina, which has a high rate of unemployment. They provide employment opportunities, work experience, training, supports and social inclusion to their employees and work experience participants.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Property Marking Ireland</u></a></p>	<p>Property Marking Ireland combats the high and increasing levels of property theft which have caused an increase in anxiety amongst victims and the wider community, particularly older and more vulnerable populations. Their community-led crime prevention program uses Eircodes to assist in combating rural and urban crime. An item is marked with a unique identifier in a discreet manner, which is difficult to remove, and is less attractive to criminals. This crime prevention program will deter property theft and assist An Garda Síochána in detecting, identifying, and returning stolen or lost property to its rightful owner.</p>

<p><b><u>REVAMP 3RStore</u></b></p>	<p>REVAMP 3Rstore is a furniture upcycling and reuse project operating in Longford. Established in 1998 to address the issues of high unemployment, poverty, inequality and social exclusion through education/ training, furniture upcycling, with the provision of furniture showroom and transport for collecting furniture suitable for re-use. Through their purpose built training Centre, REVAMP 3RStore evolved from REVAMP Training programme which provided training for long term unemployed youth, in carpentry, tiling, upholstery and additional soft skills.</p>
<p><b><u>Shuttle Knit</u></b></p>	<p>Shuttle Knit empowers female Travellers by challenging social exclusion and creating employment opportunities and promoting Traveller heritage through the design and creation of knitwear to be sold online, at events and in stores. Shuttle Knit creates long-term, meaningful employment for this marginalized group and create a safe and accepting workplace which contributes to the wellbeing of their staff.</p>
<p><b><u>The Walls Project</u></b></p>	<p>The Walls Project is an arts agency which tackles urban dereliction and social isolation for marginalised and diverse communities in Ireland, using large scale mural artwork to inspire people &amp; build communities. Their outreach programmes are delivered in close collaboration with local community and educational networks, ensuring maximum engagement and a long reaching impact. They run the annual Waterford Walls festival to promote their urban regeneration work.</p>
<p><b><u>Trauma Informed Care</u></b></p>	<p>Trauma Informed Care recognises that people with experiences of trauma who most need to engage with community, health and social services, are often those who feel least welcome, safe or able to engage in them. Well-intentioned services inadvertently create unsafe and triggering environments for people with traumatic experiences. Through staff training, service-user led assessment and guidance for improvement, Trauma Informed Care in Ireland supports services (clients include social care, health care, community, homeless and housing and others) to address this.</p>

