

**RETHINK
IRELAND**

6 Years of Impact



Who We Are

Rethink Ireland supports the most innovative non-profit organisations working in communities across the country. We believe that a team effort is more effective than working alone. So joining forces with the Government, companies, families, individuals and foundations, who understand as we do that lasting change demands new thinking, is how we do business.

Together we create Funds as a way to help innovations rise to the challenges of our most pressing social and environmental issues. Through these Funds we provide cash grants and business supports to enable the successful social innovations to develop and maximise their impact. The business supports help the cash grants to work harder. This is our venture philanthropy model. The groups we support and the donors who support us don't just think differently. They act decisively on their ideas to build a more equal, just and sustainable Ireland.

What is Social Innovation?

At Rethink Ireland, we define social innovation as the successful delivery of new approaches to meet social needs more effectively and sustainably than those currently available. Just as innovation is necessary for economic growth, we believe innovation is critical to societal and environmental progress.

The Role of Government

Since creating the Forum on Philanthropy and Fundraising in 2012, the Government has played a critical role in the non profit sector. Rethink Ireland has been mentioned in the two most recent Programmes for Government clearly showing the priority given to social innovation at the highest levels of decision-making. Our match funding primarily comes from the Department of Rural and Community Development through the Dormant Accounts Fund.

We have also received match funding from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. In 2021 we were appointed by that Department to run a dedicated €600,000 Children and Youth Digital Solutions Fund. We see tremendous possibilities in cooperating with other Departments on similar initiatives.

In whatever ways are open to us, we want to continue helping Government to implement its programme by finding and supporting projects with the greatest potential for societal change and environmental impact.

An Overview: 6 Years of Impact

Since 2016 Rethink Ireland have:



Enabled Awardees
to support over

1,500

people into
employment



Empowered

1,618

people to attain a
QQI Qualification

Supported

748

students into the
JUNIOR CERTIFICATE



Supported

1,807

students into the
LEAVING CERTIFICATE



Supported

550,962

AWARDEE PARTICIPANTS

Directly Supported
677 JOBS



in the
not for profit
sector



Mobilised

12,736

VOLUNTEERS

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES NATIONWIDE

Since 2016, Rethink Ireland has supported over 300 organisations to achieve groundbreaking impact across every county in Ireland. This map shows the number of Awardees who are achieving impact in each county:



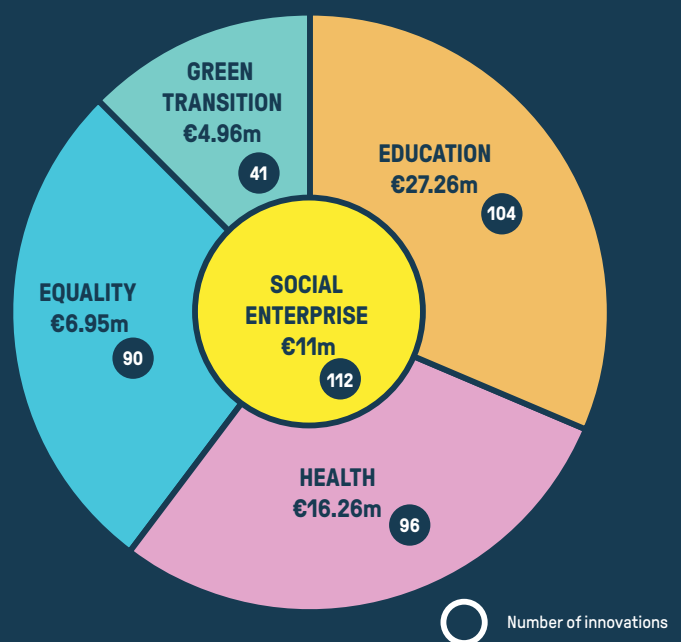
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Below showcases the number of Awardees Rethink Ireland have supported by SDG:



AREAS WE HAVE INVESTED IN

We have invested strongly in 334 projects across education, health, social enterprise, equality and the green transition. Of these projects, 112 are social enterprises which puts our grant funding in this sector at €11 million.

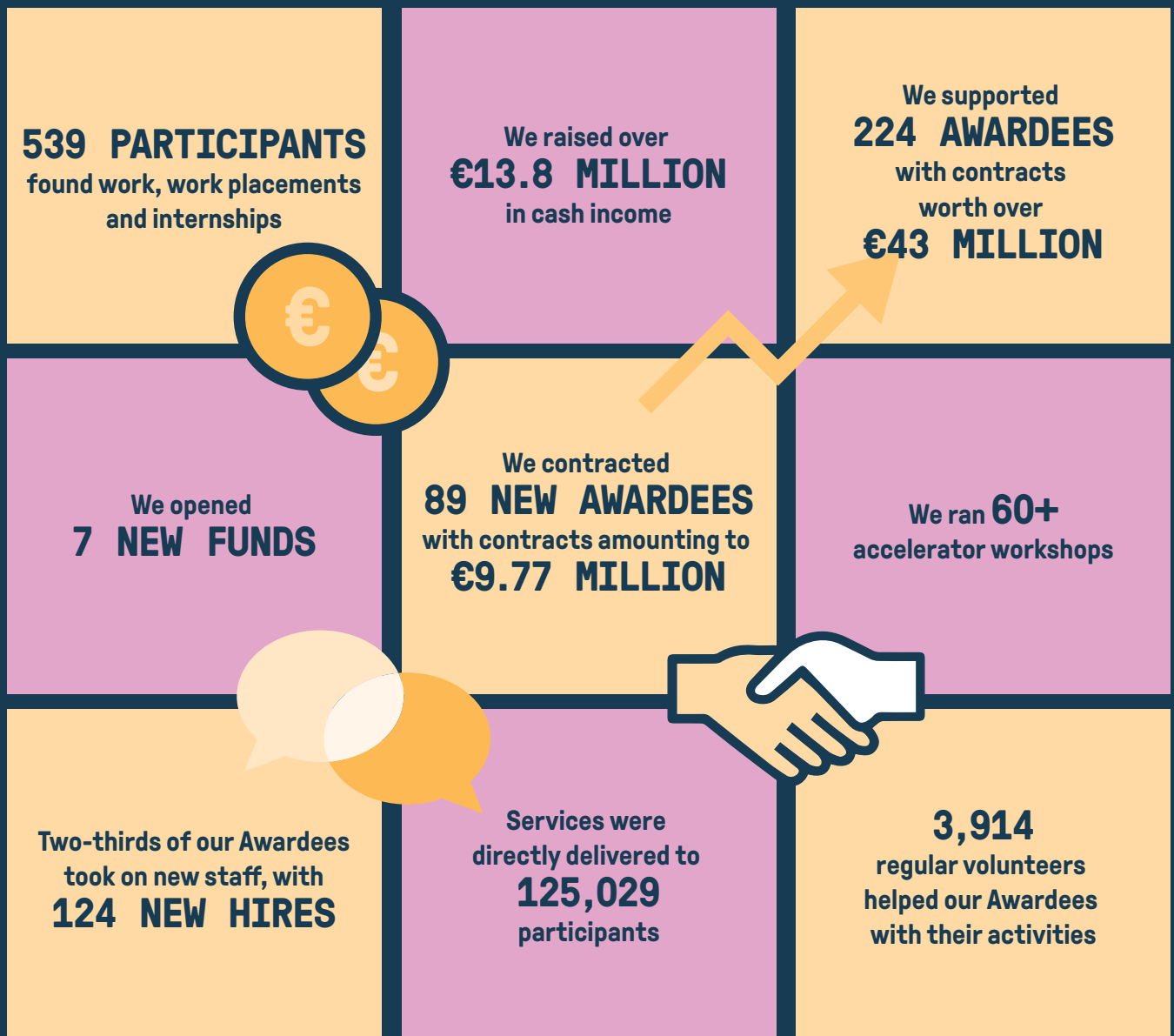


2021: A YEAR OF GROWTH

2021 was a busy and impactful year for Rethink Ireland:

In 2021 we made impact in the following areas

- **Education:** In 2021 our Awardees supported 1,008 people to achieve a QQI qualification, including 127 leaving certificates and 181 junior certificates.
- **Health:** Our health Awardees supported 21,368 people including 14,686 participants supported with evidence-based mental health interventions.
- **Green Transition:** Our Awardees saved over 247 metric tonnes of CO2 and diverted 5,288kg of food from landfill.
- **Social Enterprise:** Our Social Enterprise Awardees engaged with over 36,000 participants, helped 19 people into sustainable employment and supported 498 people into further education.
- **Equality:** Over 600 people were supported into employment including 480 women through our Mná na hÉireann Fund. A further 518 people were supported into further education and 385 into further training to increase their employability.



Shining a Spotlight on our Awardees



Creative Health Hubs, Helium Arts

Arts to Impact Fund Awardee

Impact Locations: Limerick, Cork and Galway

About the project: Helium Arts are transforming the healthcare experience of children and teenagers in Ireland through art, imagination and play. They offer child-led and child-centred creative and play-based activities in the community, connecting chronically-ill children with their peers as well as professional artists.

Impact: Through the Arts to Impact Fund, Creative Health Hubs (part of the Helium Arts organisation) scaled out to deliver more services in Limerick and Galway hospitals as well as Cork. They pivoted online during the Covid-19 pandemic, and are now reaching 25% more children in 17 more counties.

Investment: Rethink Ireland have invested €375,000 into Creative Health Hubs through the Arts to Impact Fund.



"Having had this support to develop the remote programme has given Helium Arts the model for national reach"



Parents Plus

Social Enterprise Development Fund Awardee

Impact Location: Dublin

About the project: The Parents Plus Special Needs Programme is an evidence-based programme to address the underserved needs of marginalised young people aged between 12-25 years with intellectual disabilities and their families. It is the first of its kind in the world.

Impact: With the support of the Social Enterprise Development Fund in 2021, Parents Plus trained 35 professionals in their Special Needs Programme. Since the start of the programme, Parent Plus have trained over 260 professionals including social workers, psychologists, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, family support workers and nurses.

Investment: Rethink Ireland have invested €87,000 into The Parents Plus Special Needs Programme through the Social Enterprise Development Fund.



"We ran the Special Needs programme in mental health and disabilities setting. The feedback we got was incredible. For many parents of children with disabilities, they feel isolated and this is augmented by the lack of parenting advice out there specifically for their own children. The Special Needs programme recognises that not all children with disabilities are the same, and supports parents in developing individualised parenting strategies that support their children, which is consistent with the latest research."

— Eleanor Kent, Social Worker, H.S.E.

Engage in Education

Children & Youth Funds, Boost-it 2.0 Fund and Innovators Circle Awardee

Impact Location: Limerick

About the project: Engage in Education is a multi - Fund Rethink Ireland Awardee that supports disadvantaged communities in Limerick City that have very high rates of early school leaving. They foster equality and inclusion across primary, secondary, further and third level education and in doing so break down the barriers to access from financial and social, to cultural and psychological, to create a clear pathway to education.

Impact: Engage in Education started in 8 schools in Limerick with two projects, and has now scaled to work with 17 new schools. Over the course of two years from 2020 – 2021, 337 students were supported by the Nurture Programme, 168 students were supported by the Compass Programme and 27 young people were supported in Post Leaving Certificate courses.

Investments: Rethink Ireland have invested €338,500 into Engage in Education through the Children & Youth Funds, Boost-it 2.0 Fund and the Innovators Circle.



“Engage is the difference between me securing a career or working in an unskilled job. They provided the financial support and the study support I needed to succeed in college. For those in disadvantaged areas, Engage are the greatest support for securing a career.”

**— Jamie Shinnors, BSc in Accounting,
University College Cork**





Cultural Advocacy and Mediation Project, Amal Women's Association

Equality Fund and Innovate Together Fund Awardee

Impact Locations: Dublin, Roscommon, Kildare

About the Project: Amal means Hope. Muslim Women in Ireland face huge barriers to accessing the services they need when they are in crisis. Through the Cultural Advocacy and Mediation Project (CAMP), Amal works to address this by supporting women in culturally appropriate ways to access the help they need, while educating service providers, so that they can have better lives for themselves and their community in Ireland.

Impact: They have successfully launched a second essential helpline service to reach more women and have also developed the outreach programme, which delivers halal food and other essentials during Ramadan, from 1 centre to 5 Direct Provision centres across Dublin, Roscommon and Kildare.

Investments: Rethink Ireland have invested €50,000 into Amal through both the Equality Fund and Innovate Together Fund.



"Through Rethink Ireland funding and consultations, we have been able to structure our organisation, plan long-term and continue to serve Muslim women. We were able to employ our first staff to assist in setting up an operation plan and a new strategic plan within our organisation. We now stand our own two feet and serve with confidence."

Bounce Back Recycling, Galway Traveller Movement

Social Enterprise Development Fund and Growth Fund Awardee

Impact Locations: Galway, Clare, Limerick, Tipperary, Cavan, Laois, Offaly, Westmeath

About the Project: Bounce Back Recycling seeks to address the environmental issue of bulky waste that would otherwise go to landfill, like mattresses, while also working on providing members of the Traveller community with quality, sustainable employment. They offer a mattress and furniture recycling/upcycling service to domestic and commercial customers and is diverting bulky waste away from landfill. The social enterprise is managed by members of the Traveller community and is proactive in building community confidence and utilising a rich Traveller skill base.

Impact: Bounce Back Recycling has recycled over 60,000 mattresses in 2022 and their ambition is to recycle 100,000 per year. They have branched out to 12 counties with a combined population of 1.4 million people and aim to expand to all 26 counties of the Republic of Ireland. They have created 12 Jobs for members of the traveller community.

Investments: Rethink Ireland have invested €782,000 into Bounce Back Recycling through the Growth Fund and €45,00 through the Social Enterprise Development Fund.



“Rethink Ireland helped us set out clear indicators for growth across our social, economic and environmental impact. The marketing support helped to generate leads for us in almost every county in Ireland. After working with Rethink Ireland our vision changed from working on a regional level to becoming a national social enterprise.”

GIY (Grow it Yourself)

Resilient Communities Fund, Social Enterprise Development Fund, Innovate Together Fund and Growth Fund Awardee

Impact Location: Waterford & Nationwide

About the project: GIY addresses the challenge of diet-related illness arising from a lack of connection to and understanding of healthy food. They support people around the world to live healthier, happier and more sustainable lives by growing some of their own food. Their mission is to educate and enable a global movement of food growers whose collective actions will help to rebuild a sustainable food system.

Impact: In 2021 GIY reached 2.15 million people and engaged with 1.12 million people. They employed 36 people in the same year. GIY have a vision of inspiring 3,000,000 people with 1 million taking action in Ireland.

Investments: Rethink Ireland have invested €1.26m through the Growth Fund, €80,000 through the Resilient Communities Fund, €60,000 through the Social Enterprise Development Fund and €196,000 through the Innovate Together Fund.



"We saw an unprecedented surge in interest in food growing when the pandemic started, with our customers and community reporting huge benefits to their mental health and overall well-being. As we look forward, the climate crisis will become an even greater test of our resilience. 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 the Growth Fund support, and the impact will be felt even more in the years to come." — Mick Kelly, CEO GIY





The Shona Project

**Social Enterprise Development Fund and
Ignite Fund Awardee**

Impact Location: Waterford and Nationwide

About the project: The Shona Project addresses the lack of information, advice and access to role models available to teenage girls in Ireland. They support teenage girls in Ireland to build their confidence and resilience through workshops, events and an online community. They tackle the biggest challenges for girls today; anxiety and depression, body image, social media, sexuality and gender identity, bullying, family problems, and school and exam stress.

Impact: In 2020, The Shona Project reached 3,000 people while in 2021 through the expansion of their online services they reached 55,000 people.

Investments: Rethink Ireland have invested €138,500 into The Shona Project through the Ignite Fund and Social Enterprise Development Fund.



Our Manifesto

- A Vision For 2030

THE IRISH SOCIAL INNOVATION SECTOR IS FLOURISHING

By 2030, Ireland will have a supportive and responsive ecosystem for advancing social innovation and social enterprise.

We will be part of a European network of social innovation ecosystems, supporting transnational cooperation and shared learning. We will have a National Policy in Social Innovation, a Strategy and Action Plan supporting social innovations to scale up and maximise their social/environmental impact.

THE IRISH ECONOMY IS A HUMAN ECONOMY

Our love affair with GDP has come to an end because growth that leaves our people and our planet behind is failure. We measure our economy's success based on the equality we achieve, the physical and mental health of our people and the environment in addition to GDP. We value inclusive and sustainable job creation. The social and solidarity economy, and especially social enterprises, plays an important role in this agenda, restoring heart and hope to new economic thinking.

IRELAND LEADS THE GREEN TRANSITION IN EUROPE

We are achieving our ambitious targets for a just and green transition. The private, public and civil society sectors work together to achieve these targets, as we all adapt how we live, work, travel and consume. The transition is just and fair, and leaves no one behind. Ideas that help us embrace the transition are pioneered in Ireland and exported across Europe.

A RADICAL EQUALITY AGENDA HAS EMERGED

Everybody in Ireland believes equality benefits us all. The Government and society actively protects the rights of Ireland's most marginalised communities. Minority communities are equipped to speak for themselves and enter powerful decision making positions. Led by next generation leaders, philanthropy, alongside taxation, plays a key role in redistributing wealth to support a more equal society. We believe that people living in Ireland want to choose human prosperity on a healthy and flourishing planet.

OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES ARE THRIVING

Regional towns and rural communities are re-energised and sustainable. The rise of remote work has given many the freedom to choose where and how we want to live. There are options to work at home or in regional hubs and people in rural communities no longer have to say, 'there are no jobs here'. Fewer commuters mean fewer emissions and housing pressures are alleviated for our cities.

A BOLD GENERATION TAKES CHARGE

Collaboration is the new competition. Creative, energetic, and solution-focused, this new generation takes care of our people and planet. They ask questions of themselves, their families, their employers, and they start or invest in organisations that provide solutions to these questions. Wait for change to happen? No way. They make it happen. They work together to build an equal, sustainable and just future. This is our 2030 manifesto for Ireland.



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