



**An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe
agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta**
Department of Rural and Community
Development and the Gaeltacht

Trading for Impact Stakeholder Engagement Group

Minutes of Meeting Three

Thursday 4 December, 11am.

Hub on the Hill

Draft minutes

Attendees

- Ciara Bates, Chair, Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht,
- Catherine Coll, Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht,
- John Ryan, Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht,
- Neil Hallahan, Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht,
- Fergal Grogan, Department of Public Expenditure Infrastructure Public Service Reform and Digitalisation,
- Niamh Byrne, Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment,
- John Logue, Social Enterprise Republic of Ireland (SERI),
- Chris Gordon, Irish Social Enterprise Network (ISEN),
- Lorraine Corcoran, Afanite,
- Richard Deane, Pobal,
- Sarah Hoffmayer, Pobal,
- Rebecca Gorman, Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed,
- Una Lowry, Local Development Companies Network,
- Helen Nolan, Spraoi agus Spórt,
- Máirín Ó Cuireáin, LDCN,
- Siobhán Cafferty, Simplified.

Apologies



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- Laura Brady, (Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science),
- Ross Church, (Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment),
- Gerard Harty, (Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment),
- Lorna Conway, (Department of Justice),
- Catherine Higgins, (Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment)
- Johnny Sheehan, (The Wheel)
- Deiric Ó Broin (SERNI)
- Shane Reynolds, (Department of Social Protection)
- Steven O'Connell, (Football Co-operative),
- Ross Curley (Dublin City Council).

1. Welcome and introduction

The Chairperson welcomed all to the Hub on the Hill.

2. Minutes and updates on actions arising

The Minutes for the last meeting were approved.

3. Update on/from the Consortium

John Logue provided an update on the National Social Enterprise Conference which took place in November.

Discussion around potential for additional networking opportunities and if the Social Enterprise Awards could be held at the conference.

4. Update on the Verification Pilot



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John Logue gave an update on the verification of social enterprises pilot. It's intended to move to phase 2 of the pilot with DRCDG in 2026.

Discussion round learnings from phase 1 and those who do not progress, the impact of legal form, perceived associated impact for investors and research done in this space, funder requirements and the time-bound nature of the verification.

5. Update on the 2026/2027 DAF Funding

Sarah Hoffmayer provided an update on the proposed new Dormant Accounts Funding to sustain SEs and grow traded income, due to be launched in 2026. Discussion around recruitment, nature of traded income, distinguishing charities, need to plan for end of the funding. Members were invited to come back to Pobal with comments or questions.

6. Update regarding Working Groups

Chris Gordon provided update from first meeting of Social Procurement Working Group, which took place on 27 November.

Lorraine Corcoran spoke about her plans for the first meeting of the Social Finance Working Group which will take place on 8 December.

7. Update regarding the Social Enterprise Census

Catherine Coll provided an update regarding the Social Enterprise Census. A preferred bidder has been chosen, the Department are in a standstill period at present.



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Action - to send update to SEG members on this contract award when available.

8. Update from DETE regarding the Cooperatives Bill

Jennifer McGrath supplied an update on Cooperatives Bill. Drafting has commenced. The General Scheme is available on the Oireachtas website. Consultation underway on a technical matter regarding company directors. Hoped to return to drafters early 2026 and to Oireachtas Q2 2026. Social enterprises will denote themselves as such in their constitutions. Opting to form as a co-operative will be an available option but not prescribed.

Action – Jennifer McGrath to circulate information.

9. Update on Policy implementation

John Ryan provided an update on the implementation of the Trading for Impact policy.

10. Next steps

11. AOB

EU presidency was discussed and the possible role social enterprises can play in this.

An EU barometer survey questionnaire might be published later this year.

Action – Link to survey to be circulated once available.

To consider platform to collate research that has been done in the area.

Following dates for upcoming meetings have been brought to the attention of the group:

Thursday 26 February (online),



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Thursday 28 May (potentially Limerick),

Thursday 24 September (online),

Thursday 3 December, 11 till 1 PM (venue tbc).