



## EMPOWER - Social Enterprises' Sustainability Tools

### Project Result 1

### Training Package for Sustainability in Social Enterprises

### COMPENDIUM

Country Ireland

Developed by Future in Perspective Ltd



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Table of Contents	
<b>Project Information</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Legal Framework</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Strategic Framework</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Good practices</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Company: Third Age Ireland</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Short description of activities</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Contacts</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Company: Recruit Refugees Ireland</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Short description of activities</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Contacts</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Company: Back to Work Connect</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Short description of activities</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Contacts</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Company: Shuttle Knit</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Short description of activities</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Contacts</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>6</b>

## Project Information

**Key Action 2:** KA220-YOU - Cooperation partnerships in youth

**Project number:** 2021-1-BG01-KA220-YOU-000029024

**Period of the project implementation:** 02/01/2022 - 02/01/2024 (2 Years)

**Consortium:** BRCCI (BG); SERN (IT); KMOP(GR); Future in Perspective Ltd (IE); CARDET (CY); Innovade LI (CY); MINDSHIFT Talent Advisory (PT).

### COUNTRY IRELAND

## Legal Framework

Social enterprise in Ireland is governed by the National Social Enterprise Policy 2019-2022. This is the first government policy that aims to support social enterprises in Ireland. The policy aims to encourage growth among social enterprises as well as support, develop, and generate a positive impact for social enterprise within the community. The policy contains three core objectives relating to social enterprise: Building Awareness of Social Enterprise, Growing and Strengthening Social Enterprise, and Achieving Better Policy Alignment (Department of Rural and Community Development, 2019). Throughout the policy, the Government outlines the various policy measures that will be implemented in order to improve existing social enterprises, as well as encourage new growth within the sector.

In Ireland, there is no specific legal company form of social enterprise, however they all share in common the characteristics and criteria that make them a social enterprise. In order to register a company as a social enterprise, owners must determine the objectives of the company and then register it under the more appropriate type of company – Company Limited by Guarantee (only company that can register for charitable status in Ireland), Designated Activity Company (requires an outline and definition of their specific type of business in their Constitution), or a Limited Liability Company (the least common type of social enterprise as the shareholders will not be able to claim dividends from their investment) (Company Bureau, n.d.). Using these definitions, a social enterprise can be set up to support a number of the policy objectives set out in the National Social Enterprise Policy such as the environment, labour market activation, and health care. There has been much support that social enterprises should be granted their own new legal form (Lalor & Doyle, 2021).

## Strategic Framework

The National Social Enterprise Policy Implementation Group (NSEPIG) is the governmental body that oversees the operation of the strategic framework. Through their annual meeting with stakeholders, they aim to circulate information relating to resources available to social enterprises, share best practice examples as well as inform and discuss policy implementation and development (Department of Rural and Community Development, 2022). Social enterprises have been provided support through

the Social Enterprise Measure of the Dormant Accounts Fund. Through this, funding has been provided to approximately 1,500 enterprises since 2017 amounting to a total of just under €10 million granted to social enterprises by 2021 (Department of Rural and Community Development, 2022).

In Ireland, the representative body for social enterprises is the Irish Social Enterprise Network who work to promote social enterprise within the country, as well as to provide support and advice to existing social enterprises and those who are considering setting up a new social enterprise (Irish Social Enterprise Network, 2022). The Network focuses on providing education, advocacy, and networking opportunities for social enterprises within Ireland, as well as international networks at both a European and global level. The promotion of social enterprises within Ireland has been supported by the Social Enterprise Network as well as various social enterprise NGOs such as Rethink Ireland which aim to encourage networking and communication between social enterprises within the community, as well as provide funding beyond that offered by the government.

## Good practices

### Company: Third Age Ireland

#### Short description of activities

Third Age is a voluntary organisation that aims to celebrate older people who may no longer be in paid employment but continue to enjoy a healthy and fulfilling life which they refer to as their 'Third Age'. The company aims to assist older people in continuing to contribute to their community and society in meaningful ways through a wide range of initiatives from social inclusion to lifelong learning. The company is a member of the Active Ageing Partnership which aims to "maximise the opportunities and meet the challenges of ageing in Ireland" (Third Age Ireland, n.d.).

#### Contacts

Website: <https://www.thirdageireland.ie/>  
Registered Office: Third Age, Summerhill, Co. Meath, A83 PW94  
Email: [admin@thirdageireland.ie](mailto:admin@thirdageireland.ie)  
Phone: (+353) 46 955 7766

### Company: Recruit Refugees Ireland

#### Short description of activities

Recruit Refugees is a social enterprise aimed at integrating refugee and asylum seekers into the Irish job market. They partner with organisations to integrate refugees and asylum seekers into Irish jobs as well as support these workers in their new roles and achieving their goals. They provide resources to refugees and asylum seekers such as language lessons, interview skills workshops, as well as transferring qualifications. Moreover, they provide assistance to employers seeking to find talent within the refugee and asylum seeker community in Ireland.

#### Contacts

Website: <https://recruitrefugees.ie/>  
Registered Office: Currahoo, Ballinspittle, Co. Cork, P17 XE95  
Email: [hello@recruitrefugees.ie](mailto:hello@recruitrefugees.ie)  
Phone: (+353) 83 005 89 75

## Company: Back to Work Connect

### Short description of activities

Back to Work Connect is a company that works to showcase the value of middle aged and older workers both in the workplace as well as the job market. Back to Work Connect works to provide these workers returning to the job market with support, opportunities as well as necessary skills needed to re-enter the workforce. Initiatives such as the Next Step-Returnship offer work experience to workers aiming to re-enter the workforce after a 2+ year gap.

### Contacts

Website: <https://backtoworkconnect.ie/>  
Registered Office: Unit 11, Naas Road Business Park, Muirfield Drive, Inchicore, D12 PN50  
Email: [info@backtoworkconnect.ie](mailto:info@backtoworkconnect.ie)  
Phone: (+353) 89 405 7839

## Company: Shuttle Knit

### Short description of activities

Shuttle Knit is a social enterprise that crafts and sells high quality traditional Irish knitwear, handmade by members of the Irish Travelling Community. The enterprise is a partnership between settled communities and the Travelling Community with the mission of “[improving] quality of life for Traveller Women and their families through social enterprise” (Shuttle Knit, 2022). The products sold are all designed and hand-crafted using traditional Traveller methods, and are sold online, at markets and through partner retailers.

### Contacts

Website: <https://shuttleknit.ie/>  
Registered Office: C.E.A.R.T, Crinion Park, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, A67 AR 60  
Email: [sales@shuttleknit.ie](mailto:sales@shuttleknit.ie)  
Phone: (+353) 404 25641

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