

From Passion to Action

Social Enterprises – Examples of Best Practice
for the Institute of Education



Airfield Estate

Ireland | 1974

Airfield Estate is a social and charitable hub, located in Dundrum, and is Co. Dublin's only urban working farm and gardens. The estate was left to the people of Ireland in 1974 by the Overend sisters, who strongly believed in self-sufficiency and sustainability.

The estate was completely renovated in 2014 and now serves as a place for people of all ages to engage in activities related to food and nature. They offer and run various events and programmes for children and adults, and educate visitors on the impact of their food choices on society and the planet.

Related disciplines	Business, Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 2 - Zero Hunger SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production

To find out more about Airfield Estate, visit their website [here](#).

An Carn Community Association

Ireland | 1992

An Carn is a community association that was founded with the aim of regenerating the rural area of Sleacht Néill / Carn Tóchair in Co. Derry. An Carn has developed a range of different projects and enterprise ventures to support the regeneration of the community in a sustainable way.

Their main aim is to promote and restore the Irish language in the local area through their initiatives. Such initiatives include a café and restaurant, a nature reserve, an arts centre, and wind turbines. All financial surplus generated by these initiatives are reinvested into the community association. For example, the wind energy produced by the turbines is sold to the grid and the profits are reinvested into other ventures, such as the cafe and youth activities.

Related disciplines	Business, Engineering and Computing, Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 4 - Quality Education SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities SDG 13 - Climate Action

To find out more about An Carn, visit their website [here](#).



Camara Education Ireland

Ireland | 2010

Camara Ireland was established in 2010 to respond to the need to build the capacity of schools and youth education settings to use technology effectively, with a particular focus on bringing skills and training to schools in areas of social disadvantage. This social enterprise provides national programmes across schools and youth and community settings, including supply of IT hardware, such as computers and laptops, as well as IT professional development training for educators and community workers.

Related disciplines

Business, Engineering and Computing, Humanities and Social Sciences

Related UN SDGs

SDG 4 - Quality Education
SDG 5 - Gender Equality
SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities
SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production

To find out more about Camara Education Ireland, visit their website [here](#).

Castlecomer Discovery Park

Ireland | 2007

Castlecomer Discovery Park is a social enterprise in Co. Kilkenny that was developed by a local community group. The discovery park was developed to attract tourists to the area, create jobs for the local community and regenerate the local economy. In addition, the development of the park aimed to bring members of the community together again. The park also offers educational programmes for primary and second level students. All profits generated go directly towards keeping the park open and developing it to create further social and environmental impact.

Related disciplines

Business, Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Health

Related UN SDGs

SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-Being
SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth
SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities
SDG 13 - Climate Action

To find out more about Castlecomer Discovery Park, visit their website [here](#).



Delancey Street Foundation

USA | 1971

Delancey Street Foundation is an organisation that supports people who are struggling to turn their lives around. It helps former substance abusers, ex-convicts, homeless people and others who have nowhere else to turn to. It provides residency to these individuals for a minimum of 2 years. During their time at Delancey Street, residents receive academic and vocational training as well as a high school equivalency degree.

Delancey Street has facilitated the development of a number of social enterprise ventures, and has provided residents with the necessary skills to be able to work in these social enterprises. Such ventures include catering, handcrafted products, landscaping services and the Delancey Street Christmas Tree Lots. These ventures have supported the development and running of the foundation's training schools and rehabilitation centre.

Related Disciplines

Business, Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Health

Related UN SDGs

SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-Being
SDG 4 - Quality Education
SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth
SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities

To find out more about Delancey Street Foundation, visit their website [here](#).

Dunhill Ecopark

Ireland | 2000

Dunhill Ecopark is a social enterprise that was established by local community members in Dunhill, Co. Waterford to facilitate the growth of an entrepreneurial culture in the area. Dunhill Ecopark is home to a number of innovative initiatives focused on enterprise, environment, tourism, education, heritage and performing arts.

Related disciplines

Business, Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Health

Related UN SDGs

SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth
SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

To find out more about Dunhill Ecopark, visit their website [here](#).



Festina Lente

Ireland | 1988

Festina Lente is a not-for-profit organisation that provides equine and horticultural and community based learning, leisure, training, recreational and employment services. The organisation emphasises social inclusion, choice and personal development. It provides services to children, teenagers and adults from low socio-economic backgrounds and/or with a disability, to help them to achieve their full personal and vocational potential.

Related disciplines	Business, Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities

To find out more about Festina Lente, visit their website [here](#).

Grow It Yourself (GIY)

Ireland | 2008

GIY supports people around the world to live happier, healthier and more sustainable lives by growing some of their own food. Their mission is to inspire and enable a global movement of food growers whose collective actions will help to create a fairer, more resilient and sustainable food system. GIY realises this mission through national awareness campaigns and programmes, selling educational resources and growing kits (GROWBoxes) to enable people to grow some of their own food at home and through running the GROW HQ café, kitchen garden and education centre.

Related disciplines	Business, Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 2 - Zero Hunger SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production

To find out more about Grow It Yourself, visit their website [here](#).



Grow Remote

Ireland | 2018

Grow Remote is a social enterprise that strives to make remote work local. It connects individuals looking for remote work with organisations who offer remote work.

It offers training courses in remote work to help individuals access new employment. It also provides advice and support for community leaders who want to connect remote workers together in their local communities in order to overcome one of the biggest challenges of remote work - isolation.

Related disciplines

Business, Engineering and Computing, Humanities and Social Sciences

Related UN SDGs

SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth
SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities

To find out more about Grow Remote, visit their website [here](#).

Irish Seed Savers Association

Ireland | 1991

Irish Seed Savers Association is a 20-acre farm with a mission to protect Ireland's food crop heritage for future generations. They focus on the conservation of heirloom vegetable seeds, maintaining the country's only public seed bank, as well as the conservation of Irish heritage apple trees, having over 180 unique varieties in their orchards.

Irish Seed Savers run educational workshops for different groups to raise public awareness about the vulnerability of Irish agricultural biodiversity. In addition, they collaborate with government departments, universities and gene banks across the world. They also have a cafe and shop where individuals can buy organic heirloom seeds and a range of other products.

Related Disciplines

Business, Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Health

Related UN SDGs

SDG 2 - Zero Hunger
SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production

To find out more about Irish Seed Savers Association, visit their website [here](#).



JumpAgrade

Ireland | 2017

JumpAgrade is an online teaching platform to provide educational support to second-level students, through personalised teaching experiences. This approach allows students to address their individual learning needs using personalised worksheets to enhance their learning.

This social enterprise makes learning more accessible for second-level students from less fortunate backgrounds and underrepresented groups, addressing the growing educational inequalities in Ireland.

Related disciplines	Business, Engineering and Computing, Humanities and Social Sciences
Related UN SDGs	SDG 4 – Quality Education SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities

To find out more about JumpAgrade, visit their website [here](#).

Ludgate

Ireland | 2014

Ludgate is a social enterprise and digital hub based in Skibbereen, West Cork. It provides space for businesses, start-ups and entrepreneurs to network, expand and scale their businesses. Ludgate provides services such as education programmes for preparing students for 21st century jobs, rural regeneration projects, start-up support and sustainability. They also host events related to financing and governance for start-ups and businesses in Ireland.

Related disciplines	Business, Engineering and Computing, Humanities and Social Sciences
Related UN SDGs	SDG 4 – Quality Education SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

To find out more about Ludgate Hub, visit their website [here](#).



SkillLab The Netherlands 2018	
<p>SkillLab empowers people to turn their skills, qualifications and experience into careers. SkillLab aims to provide a service for people who face barriers to entering the labour market. This company uses artificial intelligence and gamification to allow people to capture their skills, explore careers and look for jobs.</p> <p>SkillLab partners with organisations to support employers to use this app during recruitment processes. SkillLab reinvests a majority of profits to improve their product, grow their reach and ensure the fulfilment of the organisation's mission.</p>	
Related Disciplines	Business, Engineering and Computing, Humanities and Social Sciences
Related UN SDGs	SDG 1 - No Poverty SDG 4 - Quality Education SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities
To find out more about SkillLab, visit their website here.	

Speedpak Group Ireland 1995	
<p>Speedpak Group is a social enterprise that operates commercial businesses to support long term unemployed people get back to work by providing real work experience, accredited industry training, mentoring and tailored support.</p> <p>It aims to match local talent with available jobs and provides training staff with greater financial independence and job resilience through employment, education and training. The commercial services that SpeedPak provides include e-commerce order fulfilment, packing, labelling and barcoding, kit assembly, promotional packing and break bulk and pack.</p>	
Related disciplines	Business, Humanities and Social Sciences
Related UN SDGs	SDG 4 - Quality Education SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth
To find out more about Speedpak Group, visit their website here.	



Spraoi agus Spórt Ireland 2010	
Spraoi agus Spórt is a social enterprise in Carndonagh, Co. Donegal that was established to provide social, recreational and educational activities for the local community, focusing on family development and bringing social and economic benefits to the area.	
Related disciplines	Business, Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being SDG 4 – Quality Education
To find out more about Spraoi agus Spórt, visit their website here.	

Sticks & Stones Ireland 2005	
Sticks and Stones is an anti-bullying programme for schools. The organisation offers a three strand approach for the whole school community, including anti-bullying workshops for primary and secondary students, training for teachers and training for parents.	
Related disciplines	Business, Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being SDG 4 – Quality Education
To find out more about Sticks & Stones, visit their website here.	

The Shona Project Ireland 2016	
The Shona Project is a social enterprise that celebrates women from all over the world. They visit schools around Ireland to talk to girls and encourage them to be kind to each other, and especially to themselves. The Shona Project gives young women a platform to share their stories to help others and to show that no woman is alone.	
Related disciplines	Business, Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 5 - Gender Equality
To find out more about The Shona Project, visit their website here.	



WALK Ireland 1967	
<p>WALK is a social enterprise that aims to empower people with disabilities to live as continuing members in everyday life of their community. At WALK, they do this through employment services, training and education and support for community living. Their goal is to help people with disabilities maintain socially valuable roles and support networks in their community.</p>	
Related Disciplines	Business, Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-Being SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals
<p>To find out more about WALK, visit their website here.</p>	

We Make Good Ireland 2018	
<p>We Make Good supports people to develop skills in design and to gain employment in their craft. We Make Good provides training and employment opportunities for people who experience barriers to entering the workforce, for example, due to disability, ethnicity or time spent in prison.</p> <p>This company is a collaboration between different designers, makers and companies that provide training and employment. They sell a wide variety of products with the profits gained being used to help to create more employment opportunities for people who experience social disadvantage.</p>	
Related Disciplines	Business, Humanities and Social Sciences
Related UN SDGs	SDG 3 - Good Health and Wellbeing SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals
<p>To find out more about We Make Good, visit their website here.</p>	

