



Galway Rural Development - Social Enterprise

What is a Social Enterprise?

- A social enterprise is an enterprise whose objective is to achieve a social, societal or environmental impact, rather than maximising profit for its owners or shareholders.
- It pursues its objectives by trading on an ongoing basis through the provision of goods and/or services, and by reinvesting surpluses into achieving social objectives.
- It is governed in a fully accountable and transparent manner and is independent of the public sector. If dissolved, it should transfer its assets to another organisation with a similar mission.

Government of Ireland (2019), National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022

Support for Social Enterprises

Galway Rural Development aims to support the development of new and existing social enterprises through:

- awareness raising and the promotion of social enterprise activity in County Galway.
- training and mentoring to assist the development of sustainable services, including access to the GRD on-line training suite, manual handling, fire safety and other training according to identified needs.
- small-scale grants to assist social enterprises to establish or expand.
- ongoing development of the Galway Social Enterprise Network and the online hub, www.igailimh.ie, to provide opportunities for social enterprises to both network and increase their profile.

Social enterprises supported under SICAP must provide services to SICAP target groups / in disadvantaged communities or provide training, employment or volunteering opportunities for SICAP target groups.

SICAP Target Groups: Disadvantaged Children & Families; Disadvantaged Young People; Disadvantaged Women; Lone Parents; Low Income Workers/Households; New Communities; People Living in Disadvantaged Communities; People with Disabilities; Roma, Travellers; The Disengaged from the Labour Market; The Unemployed; Rurally Isolated Dwellers.

If you are considering setting up a social enterprise or looking for support to further develop an existing one you can contact: Patricia Kelly, Social Enterprise Officer, Galway Rural Development, Mellows Campus, Athenry, Co. Galway. Tel: 091-844335, Email: patriciakelly@grd.ie.



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