



# 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 (classroom based training delivered when Covid-19 restrictions permit).
- 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](http://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: 087-9131379 / 091-844335, Email: [patriciakelly@grd.ie](mailto:patriciakelly@grd.ie).**



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