



# Atlantic Social Lab

## Newsletter - February 2019

Find out the latest news from the Atlantic Social Lab project in Cork here!

We are an EU funded project which promotes the use of social innovation to address key societal challenges. The project involves 9 partners from across the UK, Spain, Portugal, France and Ireland. Cork City Council is the Irish partner and in Cork we are focused on using social innovation to address issues being faced by social enterprises and look at innovative ways of stimulating civic engagement in the city. This Newsletter will keep you up to date on all our activities in Cork.



*Chris Gordon from the Irish Social Enterprise Network facilitating our Finance Workshop*



## Shape Your City

Cork City Council's Shape Your City Initiative and the Atlantic Social Lab Project participated in a number of information and voter registration campaigns across the city in recent months. Information and Registration Stands were held in Kent Station Cork, the Marriott International Offices, the Nano Nagle Center during the Chinese New Year celebrations, University College Cork, the Dell EMC buildings in Cork and the ACET language school. These were very successful resulting in hundreds of engagements with both the migrant community and Irish people and significant numbers registering to vote, updating their address details or simply receiving information on their voting rights.

More information and registration stands are planned in businesses and community groups across the city in the coming months. If your organisation would like to host a voter registration and information stand in your building please contact the Atlantic Social Lab coordinator in Cork City Council on [Juliette.Crowley@corkcity.ie](mailto:Juliette.Crowley@corkcity.ie)

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## Workshop on Governance in Social Enterprises



*Participants at the Governance Workshop in the Clayton Hotel, Cork*

The Atlantic Social Lab project organised a workshop on Governance in Social Enterprises on the 27th of February in the Clayton Hotel Cork. This event entitled "Managing Corporate Governance in Social Enterprises" featured Caroline Egan from CramdenTech as facilitator and focused on:

- Identifying the five skills that all Boards should master
- Explaining the principles that underpin good governance in social enterprises and charities

- Explaining how to manage risks in social enterprises
- Outlining a practical approach to enable a social enterprise to adhere to its corporate and charity compliance obligations
- Explaining the importance of managing the relationship between the Board and Senior Management
- Identifying typical board related problems and how to handle them

It was a lively, informative and interactive workshop with nearly 20 participants from social enterprises and related organisations across Cork.

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## **Strategic Planning, Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee and the Local Community Development Committee.**



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí  
Cork City Council

The Atlantic Social Lab project in Cork participated in a networking event on the afternoon of Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2018. The event was a Joint Meeting of the Strategic Planning, Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee and the Local Community Development Committee. In this meeting, the Atlantic Social Lab project was presented to participants. This presentation detailed the projects aims and objectives and focused on both the Social Economy and Public Engagement strands of the project in Cork. Participants at the meeting included Local Elected Representatives, Local Authority Representatives, Local Garda Representatives, the Public Participation Network, Cork City Partnership, Healthy City Representative and the Health Service Executive.

The event gathered support for the project actions around encouraging voter registration and civic engagement from migrant groups and also for the training and networking events being organised by the project for Social Enterprises in the city.

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## Finance for Social Enterprises Workshop



The Atlantic Social Lab project in Cork held a “Finance for Social Enterprises” Workshop in the City Hall, Cork on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019. This event focused on the types of financing available to social enterprises and the appropriateness of such financing for social enterprises at their different growth stages. Rose Hally from Community Finance Ireland was a key note speaker and explained where social enterprises should look for funding before deciding on making an application for financing. She provided participants with an overview of available finance with advice and guidance on making applications for such finance. Dara Connolly who is CEO of Common Purpose spoke about his experiences as a social entrepreneur whilst Chris Gordon from the Irish Social Enterprise Network facilitated a question and answer session.

As it was a very cold and snow filled day with many roads impassable in the region, many of those who registered could not attend but this event still drew nearly 20 participants from across Cork with all participants playing a part in making this a very successful and engaging event.

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# Promoting Social Enterprises in Cork

The Atlantic Social Lab project in Cork is working closely with Cork's local evening newspaper, the "Evening Echo", to promote and profile Social Enterprises in Cork. To commence this, the Echo first published an article focused on the Atlantic Social Lab project in Cork and provided an overview of its aims, objectives and the different actions resulting from it. It looked at the main beneficiaries of the project in Cork and provided details of how social enterprises and businesses and community groups could become involved. This article will be followed by a series of articles profiling social enterprises in Cork. The first social enterprise to be profiled was the Cork Counselling Service and this was published on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February. This series will run for approximately 8 weeks with each week seeing the profiling of a different Social Enterprise.

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## ASL Coordination Meeting Planned for Cork

The Atlantic Social Lab project is delighted to announce that the next Project Coordination Meeting will take place in Cork on the 26th and 27th of March. Delegates will attend from France, Spain, Portugal and the UK and get the opportunity to visit social enterprises in the city and sample some of the best Cork has to offer.



**Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí  
Cork City Council**



## Upcoming events

### **Ask & Advise Night**

Open session for social enterprises  
21st March 2019

### **How to tell your Story - Storytelling Workshop**

18th April 2019

### **Social Impact Measurement**

Measuring your social impact  
Date TBC

### **Social Enterprise 101**

Introduction Course to Social Enterprise.  
Date TBC

### **Social Procurement for Procurers**

Introduction session to social procurement  
and community benefit clauses for  
procurers.  
Date TBC

### **Social Procurement for Social Enterprises**

Introduction to social procurement and  
community benefit clauses for social  
enterprises.  
Date TBC

