

ILDN Social Enterprise IMPACT Awards



The Irish Local Development Network (ILDN) is the representative body for Ireland's 49 Local Development Companies (LDCs). LDCs have long been at the forefront of efforts to promote social enterprise in Ireland, and they are a trusted, community-based provider of funding, training, mentorship, and other key supports.

Every day, we see the many ways in which social enterprises contribute to the betterment of our society, and we want to ensure that others - like policymakers, funders, and the general public - see this too. To achieve this goal, we are working to equip social enterprises with the tools and know-how to capture their impact, and to communicate it to key audiences like these.

The ILDN Social Enterprise IMPACT Awards, supported by the Dormant Accounts Fund and the Department of Rural and Community Development, aim to showcase and reward excellence in the monitoring and measurement of social impact. Submissions should provide a clear account of the evidence that your social enterprise uses to understand and communicate the scale and scope of its social impact. Reference may be made to how that evidence is collected, the quality of insight that it provides, and the extent to which it affirms the organisation's effectiveness in respect of its social mission.

Award winners in each of our three categories will receive a grant of €10,000, with the runner up in each category receiving a grant of €5,000.

What is “impact”?

“Impact”, in the context of social enterprise, can take on a variety of different meanings. Broadly speaking, we understand impact to mean the benefits that accrue to target groups and/or to society at large from the activities of a social enterprise.

We might also define “impact” as:

- The sum of the individual outcomes that are made by an organisation or service.
- The positive change that an organisation has created or effected over time.
- The effect of an organisation’s actions on a community or other group.

When we talk about “measuring” and “monitoring” impact, we are referring to any deliberate effort to ascertain the nature or scale of an organisation’s social impact. This might involve the use of Key Performance Indicators or other quantitative metrics, or qualitative techniques like observation or client feedback, or a mix of the two. Although the meaning of “measuring” and “monitoring” overlaps significantly, we use both terms in tandem to highlight that good measurement is an ongoing process, not a once-off step.

Application Process & Key Dates

Application forms can be found on our website, at:

ildn.ie/themes/socialenterprise

Email your completed application form to SEImpactAwards@ildn.ie by 11.59pm on Sunday 10th December 2023. Questions should be sent to SEImpactAwards@ildn.ie. Questions will be answered via a Frequently Asked Questions document, which is also available on our website, at ildn.ie/themes/socialenterprise. The deadline for questions is 11.59pm on Sunday 3rd December 2023. The outcome of the competition will be communicated to applicants by Friday 12th January 2024. A prizegiving ceremony will then be held in Dublin on Tuesday 20th February 2024.

Categories and Awards

Category 1: 'Medium/Large' Social Enterprise – 10 full-/part-time employees or more.

Winner: €10,000

Runner up: €5,000

Category 2: 'Small' Social Enterprise – 9 full-/part-time employees or fewer.

Winner: €10,000

Runner Up: €5,000

Category 3: 'Early-stage' Social Enterprise – Organisation has been registered for 36 months or less.

Winner: €10,000

Runner up: €5,000

If you are an early-stage social enterprise, you will automatically be considered within both the early-stage category and either the small or medium/large category.

Please note: Written quotes, invoices, or receipts must be provided by awardees to ILDN before prizemoney can be released. These must be provided by 30th April 2024, otherwise awardees will forego access to the prizemoney.

Assessment Criteria

- Quality of application (10%)
- Strategy for monitoring and measuring impact (40%)
- Demonstrated impact, i.e., the extent to which your organisation's services deliver significant and sustainable benefits to target groups and/or society at large (50%)

Judging Process

Applications will initially be reviewed by a two-person judging panel with a view to creating a shortlist of finalists in each category. A three-person judging panel, comprising a mix of ILDN members and non-members, will then review and score all shortlisted applications to identify winners and runners-up in each category. While we will endeavour to provide some qualitative feedback on all applications, our ability to do so will depend on the volume of applications that we receive.

Post-award Engagement

Consistent with the objectives of this initiative, good practices will be showcased and disseminated via digital, print, and/or broadcast media, and successful applicants will be expected to contribute a small amount of their time to support these efforts.

Eligibility

Applicant organisations must be a social enterprise, as defined by the National Social Enterprise Policy 2019-2022. Accordingly, they must comply with six main qualifying criteria, namely:

- The organisation's principle objective must be to achieve a social, societal, or environmental impact, rather than to maximise profits for its owners or shareholders;
- The organisation must pursue its objectives by trading on an ongoing basis through the provision of goods and/or services;
- The organisation must reinvest surpluses into achieving social objectives;
- The organisation must be governed in a fully transparent and accountable manner;
- The organisation must be independent of the public sector; and
- If the organisation is dissolved, its assets should transfer to another organisation with a similar mission.

In line with Dormant Accounts Fund criteria, applicant organisations should be focussed on addressing economic, social and educational disadvantage, or supporting those with a disability.

As the competition is being run by the Irish Local Development Network, which is the representative body for Local Development Companies, social enterprises that are operated by Local Development Companies are not eligible to apply, unless the social enterprise is registered as a separate legal entity.

Successful applicants will be required to show proof of their tax clearance status before funds can be drawn down. No award will be given to applicants that do not have a current Tax Clearance Certificate.



Visit ildn.ie and select the Directory tab to find your Local Development Company

