



# Atlantic Social Lab

Cooperation for the promotion of Social Innovation

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## ATLANTIC SOCIAL LAB STUDY VISIT REPORT - STUDY VISITS HELD IN DERRY

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The project Atlantic Social Lab is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the INTERREG Atlantic Area Cooperation Program (EAPA\_246 / 2016).



<b>A. GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Date</b>	07-03-2018
<b>Location:</b>	Derry <sup>1</sup>
<b>Name</b>	Nerve Centre
<b>Legal Status</b>	Social Enterprise
<b>Contact Details</b>	Responsible: Eamon Durey Email: <a href="mailto:e.durey@nervecentre.org">e.durey@nervecentre.org</a> Phone no.: +(44) 028 71 260 562 Website: <a href="http://www.nervecentre.org">www.nervecentre.org</a>

<b>B. SHORT DESCRIPTION</b>	
<b>Objectives</b> <i>(identify the main goals of the project and target groups addressed)</i>	The Nerve Centre is Northern Ireland's leading creative media arts centre and it is a successful social economy enterprise, that employs more than 40 staff in Derry and Belfast. The main objective of the project observed is the integration, formation, training and participation of the young citizens of Derry city in the cultural dynamization of the city. In short, the Nerve Centre "offers" the facilities, equipment, training and funding needed to "produce culture", more specifically music. In this way, they can educate the youth of the community in this area while also dynamizing the locality based on urban creativity methodologies.
<b>Methodology</b> <i>(identify the methodological principles, mode of operation and level of intervention)</i>	The operation mode and the level of intervention had to take into account the desire that some young citizens have to start a music career and the will that this social enterprise has to vitalize the city in a cultural away. The solution to achieve these goals, was based on the social participation methodology - empowerment of citizens, more precisely the younger ones. In this way, the community can use the facilities, resources, material, and can also have access to classes in music, photography and movie production. After all this facilities "use", the young people are challenged to take the initiative to organize events in the city to show what they have created (music, films, photographs, etc).

<b>C. MAIN FINDINGS</b>	
<b>Social Needs</b> <i>(identify the social needs the organisation intends to fill)</i>	<p>With this project, Nerve Centre, intends to meet and fulfil the following social needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural and musical dynamization needs of Londonderry territory;</li> <li>• Training needs of young people;</li> <li>• Integration needs, socialization of young people with more difficulties and less economic possibilities in society;</li> <li>• Need to activate the creative, cultural and musical spirit of the young, as well as, the community as a whole.</li> </ul> <p>In short, the most prominent social need that the Nerve Centre<sup>2</sup> is trying to address is the training of young people in arts and culture, more specifically in music. From the music, there will be a greater and better integration of young people in society and they would have the opportunities to do what</p>

<sup>1</sup> Photograph 1, Partnership of the Atlantic Social Lab, during the coordination meeting in Derry

<sup>2</sup> Photograph 2 - Logo of the Social Innovation Project – Nerve Centre

	they love (music). On the other hand, there will be a greater vitalization and dynamization of the local community.
<b>Social Innovative Practices</b> ( <i>identify the main social innovative practices developed and the extent to which the work developed responds to those needs</i> )	<p>In order to obtain the predetermined objectives that will meet the social needs mentioned, the Nerve Centre<sup>3</sup> since its creation, did and continue to do a panoply of activities, events and projects which promote the engagement, formation, training and participation of the community, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>FabLab</u> - The FabLab based in the Nerve Centre is a place where anyone can come in and use a range of equipment including 3D Printers, Laser Cutters and Milling Machines to make practically anything;</li> <li>• <u>Digital Book of Kells</u> - The project gave every primary school child in Derry the opportunity to take part in the creation of a new 'Digital Book of Kells' for the 21st century;</li> <li>• <u>SYNC Music Promise</u> – The project offered free access to music creation, collaboration, performance, production and mentoring opportunities to every young person in Derry. This has led to the creation, recording and distribution of their own songs on local and national radio;</li> <li>• <u>Get Start with Music</u> - Young people have to create and record a song and then have to organize together an event so that the songs can be presented in public;</li> <li>• <u>Foyle Film Festival Education Programme 2016</u> - A two-week programme of film screenings and digital skills workshops, aimed at children and young people;</li> <li>• <u>BBC Radio 1 &amp; 1Xtra Academy</u> – During the event period over 5,500 young people filed through the Nerve Centre doors to grab the opportunity to learn new skills in everything from journalism to design, event management to TV production.</li> </ul>
<b>Collaboration and Networks</b> ( <i>identify the main connections of the organisation</i> )	The Nerve Centre is working with a large range of stakeholders, such as, the Derry City Council, EU Social Funds, other Social Enterprises, the North West Enterprise, Local Schools, the National Government, Companies, NGOs, Citizens, Institutions and Radio and TV Stations.

<b>D. MAIN CONSTRAINTS TO SUCCESS</b>	
<b>Challenges and Barriers</b> ( <i>identify the main problems that the organisation faces: financial resources, human resources, networks, innovative environment...</i> )	The biggest challenges this organization faces, are the economic and financial challenges, since they are heavily dependent on national and regional funds and on the goodwill of local enterprises. Another point that is a challenge for this organization is the lack of human resources, there are few individuals working full time. There is still the facilities and equipment problem, although the physical resources and space is good, it does not always reach the demand by the community.

<sup>3</sup> Photograph 2, Exterior / Entrance of the Nerve Centre

## E. CONCLUSIONS

<b>Key Concluding Lines</b>	In short, it is observable, that the Nerve Centre has a proactive and civic participation attitude within their community. From music, theatre, photography and film, they try to teach young people the hard skills necessary to enter the world of performing arts. At the same time, they try to vitalize and bring to the city events and spectacles that dynamize it culturally and economically.
<b>Other information considered relevant</b>	Nothing relevant to add.

## Study Visit Photos



*Figure 1 - Partnership of the Atlantic Social Lab, during the coordination meeting in Derry*



*Figure 2 - Logo of the Social Innovation Project – Nerve Centre.*





*Figure 3 - Entrance of the Nerve Centre*

**Partner:** Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra

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**Review:** Hugo Pinto and Atlantic Social Lab Partners