



Atlantic Social Lab

Cooperation for the promotion of Social Innovation

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

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A. GENERAL INFORMATION	
Date	07-03-2018
Location:	Derry
Name	Reuse Centre
Legal Status	Social Enterprise
Contact Details	Responsible: Joe Brolly Email: Joe.Brolly@resourcecentrederry.com Phone no.: 028 7136 0453 Website: www.resourcecentrederry.com/4rs

B. SHORT DESCRIPTION	
Objectives <i>(identify the main goals of the project and target groups addressed)</i>	The Reuse Centre ¹ is a social economy project in partnership with Derry City, the Departments of the Environment and Social Development and the Strabane District Council and committed to European Waste Reduction Regulations. The main purpose of this project is to recycle household items and white goods to reduce items going to landfill. Located at Derry, their mission is to reuse unwanted furniture and electrical goods and to upcycle these goods for resale. In doing this, they provide the opportunity to develop skills among local people (more specifically individuals with disabilities, with alcohol and drug problems and marginalized).
Methodology <i>(identify the methodological principles, mode of operation and level of intervention)</i>	The Reuse Centre relies on three pillars in its action and operational model. Methodologically brings together three essential elements, development, environmental and social well-being. Environmentally, this Social Enterprise prolongs the life of furniture and reduces the amount of waste going to landfill, thereby saving the planet's natural resources, in renewing these goods and offering them for resale. Economically, they reduce landfill costs on the local rate payer and produces low cost items available to public, and by selling them, the Reuse Centre can have some return associated with the organization expenses. And finally, the socially pillar, it fulfils the social role by creating training opportunities to individuals who have learning disabilities or a history with drugs and alcohol.

C. MAIN FINDINGS	
Social Needs <i>(identify the social needs the organisation intends to fill)</i>	<p>With this project, the Nerve Centre, intends to meet and fulfil the following social needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training needs for individuals with learning difficulties; • Training needs for individuals with problems with alcohol and drugs and marginalized by society; • Integration, socialization and social inclusion needs of individuals with problems with alcohol and drugs and marginalized by society; • Employment opportunities needs in local community; • Need to reduce waste by recycling and producing low cost items; • Need to produce quality goods (furniture) at affordable prices for the whole community. • <p>It is observable that the main social need that this project – The Reuse Centre - wants to achieve is the inclusion, socialization and integration of</p>

¹ Photograph 1, Exterior / Entrance of the Nerve Centre

	<p>individuals with learning difficulties, problems with alcohol and drugs in the society and in the labour market. To achieve this goal, the social enterprise, teaches individuals in the art of recycling and restoration, keeping items out of landfill, assisting Derry to be a sustainable and green city.</p>
<p>Social Innovative Practices (<i>identify the main social innovative practices developed and the extent to which the work developed responds to those needs</i>)</p>	<p>In order to obtain the predetermined objectives that will meet the social needs mentioned, the Reuse Centre² since his creation in 2013, did and continue to do a panoply of programs which promote training, recycling and social inclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The Active Inclusion Program</u> - is a 26-week programme and currently offers 3 Level 1 OCN qualifications in Healthy Living, Progression to Employment and Basic Construction Skills. The program is directed to individuals with problems with drugs, alcohol and learning disabilities with an age group of 16 to 64. The Program consists of the collection and restoration of goods, such as, unwanted wardrobes, chests of drawers and beds. The items of furniture are completely transformed by experienced tutors alongside "trainees". The up-cycled furniture is then re-sold, and the money is then reinvested into the Reuse Centre programs; • <u>The Schools Program</u> - is aimed at young people who do not want to continue their studies, having the opportunity to do a CGT Undergraduate Course; • <u>Work Experience Program</u> - is aimed at children and young people who want to have an experience in environmental work during the period of one week. <p>It should be noted that almost 200 participants receive NVQ Level 2 in their occupational area in past 2 years, diverted 260 tonnes of landfill, as well as hosting 16 school placements and offered 30 placements to people with disabilities.</p>
<p>Collaboration and Networks (<i>identify the main connections of the organisation</i>)</p>	<p>The Reuse Centre is working with a large range of stakeholders, such as, the Derry City Council, EU Social Funds, Local Schools, the National Government (Departments of the Environment and Social Development), Companies and Citizens.</p>

<p>D. MAIN CONSTRAINTS TO SUCCESS</p>	
<p>Challenges and Barriers (<i>identify the main problems that the organisation faces: financial resources, human resources, networks, innovative environment...</i>)</p>	<p>The greatest difficulty pointed out by the Reuse Centre was the location of space. Then, due to the fact that there is a great dependence on European funds, there is also a great fear concerning Brexit, they fear that could lead to greater financial difficulties. It was also mentioned the lack of human resources to meet the needs of the project, as well as the issue of dealing with people with disabilities or with a history of drugs and alcohol.</p>

² Potograph 2, Appliance Restoration Workshop of Reuse Center

E. CONCLUSIONS

Key Concluding Lines	In short, it is observable, that the Reuse Centre has a proactive and civic participation attitude and concern with the city where it operates and tries to solve a social problem (waste and pollution), from another social problem (social exclusion), that is, when they reuse unwanted furniture and electrical goods and to upcycle these goods for retail resale, they provide the opportunity to develop skills among local people. Thus, the Reuse Centre will try to teach individuals with needs the hard skills necessary to enter the job market. By doing so, they not only contribute to social inclusion, but also, to waste reduction and therefore to a cleaner and greener society.
Other information considered relevant	Nothing relevant to add.

Study Visit Photos



Figure 1 - Entrance of the Reuse Centre



Figure 2 - Appliance Restoration Workshop of Reuse Centre.

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