



Atlantic Social Lab

Cooperation for the promotion of Social Innovation

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

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).



A. GENERAL INFORMATION	
Date	07-03-2018
Location:	Derry
Name	The Playtrail
Legal Status	Social Enterprise
Contact Details	Responsible: Mark Roberts Email: mark@theplaytrail.com Phone no.: (028) 7136 8173 Website: www.libertyconsortium.org.uk

B. SHORT DESCRIPTION	
Objectives <i>(identify the main goals of the project and target groups addressed)</i>	The Playtrail ¹ aims to provide an inclusive approach to play and provide increased training and employment opportunities for young adults with learning disabilities. The Playtrail is currently utilised by a cross section of organisations, both statutory and voluntary, as well as many youth clubs and schools. The facility is also open to the wider community outside of school hours, including during most holiday periods.
Methodology <i>(identify the methodological principles, mode of operation and level of intervention)</i>	The operation mode of this project has as main objective the participation, inclusion and socialization of people with disabilities and learning difficulties. Their methodology is to empower people with disabilities with skills, so they can have live and be integrated in society. They try to provide a meaningful and interactive daily provision for young people with disabilities to enhance their personal development, life skills and independence. They try to develop citizenship skills and build on the young people's confidence and self-esteem whilst allowing them to foster positive friendships within a safe environment.

C. MAIN FINDINGS	
Social Needs <i>(identify the social needs the organisation intends to fill)</i>	<p>With this project, Playtrail, intends to meet and fulfil the following social needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for increase vocational, training and employment opportunities to people with disabilities; • Need to promote social inclusion, integration and disability awareness; • Need to increase social enterprise opportunities and address environmental awareness²; • Need to support children, young people and their families; • Need to bring communities together through inclusive play and intergenerational activities <p>It is observable that the main social need that this project – Playtrail - wants to achieve is the inclusion, socialization and integration of individuals with disabilities in the society and in the labour market.</p>
Social Innovative Practices <i>(identify</i>	In order to obtain the predetermined objectives that will meet the social needs mentioned, the Playtrail since did and continue to do a panoply of

¹ Photograph 2 - Logo of the Social Innovation Project – The Playtrail

² Photograph 1, Ecobase of Playtrail, environmentally friendly house

<p><i>the main social innovative practices developed and the extent to which the work developed responds to those needs)</i></p>	<p>projects which promote training and social inclusion of individuals with disabilities:</p> <p><u>Day opportunities</u> - This program is addressed to people with disabilities. The Playtrail will try to develop citizenship skills and build on the person's confidence and self-esteem whilst allowing them to foster positive friendships within a safe environment;</p> <p><u>Creative Arts</u> - The focus of this project will be for young people enjoying themselves through the arts, creativity and learning about different art cultures and empowering young people to become more socially engaged, increasing their creative abilities improving communication skills and self-esteem;</p> <p><u>The Accessing Citizenship and Training (ACT)</u> - is a 2-year project, person centred that will try to educate and train young people with learning disabilities aged 16–23 years that are transitioning from school to adult life.</p>
<p>Collaboration and Networks (<i>identify the main connections of the organisation</i>)</p>	<p>Its collaborative network has as agents, the Derry City Council, other Social Enterprises, the National Government, the Church, and the Local Community.</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>It has been mentioned that they can generate money from the rent of their spaces and products that they manufacture (such as handicrafts), and they can get about 70% of the funding they need to survive. On the other hand, they mentioned that there are problems with the lack of human resources, and therefore they have difficulties in responding to all requests for help.</p>

<p>E. CONCLUSIONS</p>	
<p>Key Concluding Lines</p>	<p>In conclusion, the Social Enterprise - Playtrail³, and their projects as already was mentioned throughout the report, intends to "give" a better quality and perspective of life to people with disabilities, the key ingredient is their integration, inclusion, socialization, training and qualification. The organization works with the community, organizations, enterprises, and to explore new and creative ways of addressing the issues that are important to these kind of people and then from the projects and program that Playtrail has, they will try to give them the tools and skills necessary for these individuals to live as normal as possible.</p>
<p>Other information considered relevant</p>	<p>Nothing relevant to add.</p>

³ Playtrail's amphitheater, where parties and events are organized for users.

Study Visit Photos



Figure 1 - The Ecobase - Playtrail Ecological House



Figure 2 - Logo of the Social Innovation Project – The Playtrail.



Figure 3 - Panoramic picture of Playtrail exterior amphitheater

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