



# 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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<b>A. GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Date</b>	06-03-2018
<b>Name</b>	UV Arts
<b>Legal Status</b>	Social Enterprise
<b>Contact Details</b>	Responsible: Karl Porter Email: <a href="mailto:karl@uv-arts.co">karl@uv-arts.co</a> Phone no.: 07723 448783 Website: <a href="http://www.uv-arts.com/">http://www.uv-arts.com/</a>

<b>B. SHORT DESCRIPTION</b>	
<b>Objectives</b> <i>(identify the main goals of the project and target groups addressed)</i>	UV Arts is a fun, dynamic non-profit social enterprise and urban arts company that aims to meet the social needs of certain areas of Derry City, as well, the integration of young people at risk of social exclusion. For this purpose, they carry out projects of space rehabilitation using urban art such as graffiti. Therefore, their "street art projects" aim to educate, promote and change perceptions of public space via engaging and alternative street art, graffiti and contemporary mural arts projects. UV Arts uses art and public space in different ways to help create safe, neutral environments for youth to develop their skills whilst challenging negative perceptions that society as of graffiti.
<b>Methodology</b> <i>(identify the methodological principles, mode of operation and level of intervention)</i>	The UV Arts operates in Derry city, the mode of operation of this Social Enterprise of Urban Art focuses in three assumptions: First, they try to provide the rehabilitation of urban spaces that are in degradation or are used for illicit purposes like sale and consumption of drugs. According to them, if rehabilitated sites become a point of visit, they will no longer tend to become places of crime and drugs. Second, from a participatory and direct-action methodology with young people in the Derry city, UV Arts, attempts to attract young people who are out of the education system or at risk of offending or re-offending, engaging them in a positive process and help them to channel their raw energy into a positive thing, such as, street art and graffiti. Third, they are hoping to change the perspective that people have about graffiti. According to UV Arts, "graffiti and street art are on the fringes of our society, in urban environments and are often seen as" edgy "or underground. We hope to challenge the perception of graffiti, and by using elements of street art that already exist in mainstream media we hope to develop relationships from it".

<b>C. MAIN FINDINGS</b>	
<b>Social Needs</b> <i>(identify the social needs the organisation intends to fill)</i>	With this project, UV Arts, intends to meet and fulfil the following social needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integration needs of young people outside the education system or at risk of offending or re-offend;</li> <li>• Inclusion and Socialization need of young people outside the education system or at risk of offending or re-offend;</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Photograph 1 - Partnership of the Atlantic Social Lab during the Coordination Meeting in Derry

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training of young people outside the education system or at risk of offending or re-offending in different styles of art, design and urbanism using methodologies, such as, street art and graffiti;</li> <li>• Needs for urban rehabilitation of degraded city areas that can be conducive to drug trafficking and crime;</li> <li>• Need to change social paradigm about graffiti and urban art.</li> </ul> <p>It is observable that the main social need that this project – UV Arts - wants to achieve is the inclusion, socialization and integration of the young individuals that are at risk in the society and in the labour market. To achieve this goal, the social enterprise, encourage them to use their "anger" and social discontent in something positive, like graffiti. Therefore, doing that, UV Arts is able to canalise the "energy" of younger people to help the rehabilitation of certain areas of Derry city.</p>
<p><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>	<p>The practice of social innovation that will be highlighted in this project is the Social Enterprise – UV Arts<sup>2</sup>, as a whole. The whole UV Arts project is embedded and rooted in a web of socialization, inclusion, integration, training and formation of young people outside the education system or at risk of offending or re-offend.</p> <p>The greatest innovative practice of this social enterprise is the use of young people at risk of exclusion for the rehabilitation of urban risk areas in Derry city. In this way they are able to solve two social problems: First, the integration and training of young people, and secondly, they stimulate, promote and modify certain areas of the city that are at risk of abandonment, crime and delinquency.</p> <p>In order to achieve these results, the organization is involved in various cultural and thematic events in the city and beyond, linked to graffiti and urban art. In this way, they try to promote various initiatives, such as festivals, in order to make the community aware of their work. In recent years they have promoted some initiatives, such as, The Urban Intervention - UV Arts 2015; Release the Pressure - International Graffiti &amp; Street Art Festival Derry-Londonderry 2015; UV Arts Urban Intervention Exhibition; Release The Pressure - Street Art festival Aberdeen 2016.</p>
<p><b>Collaboration and Networks</b> (<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 North West Enterprise, Local Schools, Citizens and the National Government.</p>

<b>D. MAIN CONSTRAINTS TO SUCCESS</b>	
<p><b>Challenges and Barriers</b> (<i>identify the main problems that the organisation faces: financial resources, human resources, networks,</i></p>	<p>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 problem that UV Arts suffers is the resistance of some young people to participate and leave the world of delinquency, crime and drugs. Sometimes, they "lose" the young people they tried to help. There is also the problem of changing the urban art and graffiti paradigm, often linked to delinquency and crime. Not all the community realizes and accept the type of rehabilitation and intervention they do in the degraded areas.</p>

<sup>2</sup> Photograph 2 - Logo of the Social Innovation Project – UV Arts, the project was presented in a classroom context, for this reason, there are no photographs of the physical facilities of the project.

<i>innovative environment...)</i>	
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<b>E. CONCLUSIONS</b>	
<b>Key Concluding Lines</b>	In conclusion, UV Arts has in its DNA the resolution of social problems and challenges. Thus, UV Arts uses an innovative and participatory methodology, the young people with whom they work are at risk of delinquency and social exclusion. In this way, they try to "rescue" young people from this world and transport them to the "world" of urban art and graffiti, with this they try to re-engage these young people in society, while rehabilitating, modifying, invigorating and vitalizing degraded areas in Derry city.
<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 - Kippie.*

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

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