ÉIRE2026.EU
IRELAND2026.EU
Uachtaránacht na hÉireann ar Chomhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh 2026
Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2026

Dublin Social Enterprise Tour – Participant Brief

At a glance

On Friday 20th November 2026 (Day 2 of the programme) we will visit four Dublin social enterprises by coach, leaving the City North Hotel at 9:00 AM.

- **Cost:** Free. The tour, transport and lunch are covered by the Government of Ireland.
- **Pick-up point options:**
  - Option 1: City North Hotel, ready to board at 08:50 for a 09:00 departure.
  - Option 2: Motel One, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin, ready to board at 08:50 for a 09:00 departure.
- **Finish:** 13:45 drop-off at Dublin Airport, or 14:10 return to the City North Hotel/Motel One.

Agenda

Time	Activity	Host
09:00–09:30	Coach from City North Hotel to Speedpak	John Logue, SERI
09:30–10:15	**Speedpak: Creating Jobs Through Enterprise.** Behind-the-scenes tour and conversation on using commercial activity to create employment	Auveen Bell & Paul Rogers, Speedpak
10:15–10:30	Coach to PACE	John Logue, SERI
10:30–11:15	**PACE: Enterprise as a Route to a Second Chance.** How social enterprise	Pearse O'Reilly, Social Enterprise Manager

Time	Activity	Host
	creates employment pathways for people rebuilding their lives	
11:15–11:35	Coach to Hair Together	John Logue, SERI
11:35–12:20	**Hair Together: Turning an Industry into a Force for Social Change.** How skills and enterprise transform opportunities for young people	Eileen McHugh, Founder & CEO
12:20–12:30	Coach to the Rediscovery Centre	John Logue, SERI
12:30–13:30	**Rediscovery Centre: Social Enterprise at the Heart of the Circular Economy.** Lunch, tour and conversation on environmental impact and innovation	Claire Downey, CEO
13:30–14:10	**Coach A:** to Dublin Airport (for those flying home) and City North Hotel **Coach B:** to Motel One, Dublin City Centre	John Logue, SERI

The social enterprises

All four are on Dublin's northside and show different routes to impact: employment, rehabilitation, youth skills and the circular economy.

Speedpak Group, Coolock. Founded in 1995 by Northside Partnership and local businesses to tackle long-term unemployment. Speedpak provides contract packing and e-fulfilment, and its sister business Shamrock Rosettes supplies rosettes to shows across Ireland and the EU. Around 15 core staff support up to 60 people a year on Community Employment and Tús work programmes.

PACE (Prevention, Accommodation, Community, Enterprise). A social enterprise providing training, employment and accommodation for people who have experienced the prison or probation system. They work inclusively with people with criminal convictions, supporting them in moving away from offending behaviour and helping them to reintegrate safely into the community. Services include metalworker, fabrication, woodworking and the production of high quality products.

Hair Together, Ballymun. Hair Together empowers local teenagers through hairdressing and barbering education, combining practical salon experience, industry insights and showcase events with a strong focus on confidence and wellbeing. In February 2026, Hair Together opened the world's first Trading for Impact hair salon, an innovative social enterprise that generates income to support the Academy's activities while providing trainees with an authentic, professional working environment in which to develop their skills and confidence. In 2025, Hair Together was named Social Enterprise of the Year at the Dublin City Social Enterprise Awards.

Rediscovery Centre, Ballymun. Ireland's National Centre for the Circular Economy, based in the Boiler House, a former heating plant for the Ballymun flats converted in 2016. Its social enterprises remix waste paint, refurbish bikes, upcycle clothing and repair furniture, and it runs education and research programmes. Lunch is served here.

FAQ

Is there a cost? No. The tour, transport and lunch are free, covered by the Government of Ireland.

Can I get dropped to the airport afterwards? Yes. The coach leaves the Rediscovery Centre at 13:30 and reaches Dublin Airport around 13:45. Please book flights departing no earlier than about 15:45 to allow time for security.

Should I bring my luggage? Yes, if you are flying home that day. Check out of your hotel before 09:00 and bring your bags onto the coach, where they will stay during the visits.

I'm not flying today. How do I get back? Stay on the coach. After the airport stop it returns to the City North Hotel and Motel One, arriving around 14:10.

Is lunch provided? Yes, at the Rediscovery Centre from 12:30. We have informed the venue about dietary requirements.

What should I wear? Comfortable shoes and a warm, waterproof layer. The visits include a small amount of time outside and Dublin in November is often cold and wet.

What if I'm late for the 09:00 departure? The schedule is tight, so the coach cannot wait. Please be in the hotel lobby by 08:50.

Can I take photos? Usually yes, but please ask the host at each site first, especially where staff or trainees are present.

Who should I contact if I have any questions? Please contact John Logue, CEO of SERI, on john@socialenterprise.ie or +353872752101

Fellow participants

25 participants from across Ireland and Europe are joining the tour.

Name	Organisation
Antonio Contini	ENSIE
Catherine Coll	DRCDG (Government of Ireland)
Ciara Bates	DRCDG (Government of Ireland)
Cristina BÎCÎILĂ	RISE RO
David Lyons	Pioneers Post
Duncan Walker	Irish Social Enterprise Network
Gayle O'Brien	DRCDG (Government of Ireland)
Gerry Higgins	SEWF

ÉIRE2026.EU
IRELAND2026.EU
Uachtaránacht na hÉireann ar Chomhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh 2026
Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2026

Name	Organisation
Gulnara Ismailova	Resource Hub
Indrek Linnuste	Solve et Coagula OÜ / NGO Amanita
John Logue	Social Enterprise Republic of Ireland (SERI)
Jukka Lindberg	Silta-Valmennusyhdistys ry
Karolina KRALJIĆ	Humana Nova
Liam Mc Sherry	Social Enterprise Republic of Ireland (SERI)
Liudmyla Svetska	FDA
Loucas Ioannou	Neofytos
Maria Tsigkou	Pokoispe
Marianna Pafiti	Neofytos
Marta Bruschi	Diesis
Neil Hallahan	DRCDG (Government of Ireland)
Rebecca Sunnus	EESC
Richard Matas	DINCAT
Ruben Rebelo	EU Commission
Toby Gazeley	Euclid
Wieteke Dupain	Euclid