



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development



NATIONAL SOCIAL ENTERPRISE CONFERENCE 2023

Meet the Speakers



Heather Humphreys
T.D. has served as
Minister for Rural and
Community
Development and
Minister for Social
Protection since June
2020. She has been a
Teachta Dála for the
Cavan–Monaghan
constituency since 2011.



Opening Address

Heather Humphreys

Minister for Rural & Community Development

Tammy Darcy is the Founder and CEO of The Shona Project. The Shona Project is a multi-award winning social enterprise. Their aim is to educate, empower and inspire today's Irish girls to become tomorrow's strong confident and curious young women.



Conference Co-Host

Tammy Darcy
CEO, The Shona Project

Sean Darcy is Manager of Renew Enterprises, a social enterprise based in Waterford City providing supportive employment to those with criminal convictions. Sean is formerly Social Enterprise Officer with The Wheel, where he coordinated The Wheel's Social Enterprise Member Network.



Conference Co-Host

Sean Darcy

Manager, Renew Enterprises

Mary Hurley is Secretary General of the Department of Rural & Community Development. She previously served as Assistant Secretary at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.



Secretary General's Opening Remarks

Mary Hurley

Secretary General, Department of Rural & Community Development

Mr. Yoshiki Takeuchi was appointed Deputy Secretary-General in November 2021. His portfolio includes the strategic direction of the OECD policy on Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, Education, Skills, Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunities, Financial and Enterprise Affairs along with the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities.



Opening Remarks

Yoshiki Takeuchi

Deputy Secretary-General, OECD

Amal Chevreau is a Policy Analyst in the Unit on Social Economy and Innovation at the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities. She has developed expertise on social and solidarity economy and social entrepreneurship over the last 15 years. She also has extensive experience on urban and rural development issues.



OECD Report Launch
Amal Chevreau
OECD

Melis Aslan is a Policy Analyst in the Unit on Social Economy and Innovation at the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities. She previously worked at the United Nations Development Programme on impact investing and private sector development.



OECD Report Launch

Melis Aslan

OECD

Rob Nicholson has responsibility at Principal Officer level for the development and implementation of Our Rural Future, Ireland's National Rural Development Policy 2021 – 2025 and the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland, 2019 – 2022 as well as the development of the new National Social Enterprise Policy 2024-2027.



National Social Enterprise Policy

Rob Nicholson

Principal Officer, Department of Rural &
Community Development

Majella Orr is Manager of Craoibhin, a social enterprise which includes a childcare centre, sports hall, meeting rooms, co-working spaces and commercial units. They've recently launched Grassroutes, an eco bike rental business.



Panel Discussion 1

Majella Orr

Manager, Craoibhin Centre

John Kearns is Chief Executive of Partas, a social enterprise with over 60 staff operating four Enterprise Centres and a micro-loan fund. Next year, Partas will launch a major 25,000 sq. ft. food hub in Tallaght – Priory Market.



Panel Discussion 1

John Kearns

CEO, Partas

Chris is the CEO of the Irish Social Enterprise Network, Managing Partner of Collaboration Ireland and Country Partner for BCorp Ireland. Chris is an Adjunct Teaching Fellow of Trinity Business School.



Panel Discussion 1

Chris Gordon

CEO, Irish Social Enterprise Network

Johnny Loughrey founded No Barriers, an inclusive health facility equipped with specialist neurological equipment allowing anyone with a disability to train and improve their current level of physical and mental health. No Barriers was named as Ireland's Best Social Enterprise at the Irish Community and Council Awards.



Emerging Social Enterprise 1

Johnny Loughrey

Founder, No Barriers

Malú Colorín Cruz is co-founder of Fibreshed, a social enterprise whose mission is to create a supportive network of farmers, crafters, processors and designers in facilitating an Irish regenerative fibre system based on local fibre, local dyes, local labour. Fibreshed were SEI awardees in 2022 & 2023.



Emerging Social Enterprise 2
Malú Colorín Cruz
Founder, Fibreshed

Martin Kelly Acting GM of BIA Innovator Campus. BIA is the first food infrastructure project in Ireland that clusters food sector incubation & innovation supports at one location. Their campus has three buildings spanning 2301 square metres to support over 40+ food-related on-site food businesses.



Emerging Social Enterprise 3

Martin Kelly

Acting General Manager, BIA Innovator Campus

Sam Marchetti, Co-Founder of ConsortiaCo, is a Business Innovation Specialist with a focus on designing multi-layer models for sustainable growth. ConsortiaCo is launching supports for clients around the use of artificial intelligence tools, such as ChatGPT, in the tender process.



Panel Discussion 2

Sam Marchetti

Co-Founder, ConsortiaCo

Patrick Mulvihill is co-founder of Amicitia, a social enterprise based in Athenry. They believe that a deep consideration of people, place, and planet can revitalise local communities. Amicitia works with inhabitants of rural towns and villages, where there are higher levels of consistent poverty, to co-create initiatives which can improve quality of life, health, and wellbeing.



Panel Discussion 2

Patrick Mulvihill

Co-Founder & CTO, Amicitia

Co-founder and CEO of jumpAgrade, a social enterprise which helps students to achieve their full potential by providing academic and wellbeing support via an online platform. In recognition of their impact, jumpAgrade were announced as Social Entrepreneurs Ireland Award winners for 2019 & 2022 as well as Rethink Ireland's Social Enterprise Development Fund.



Panel Discussion 2

Pádraic Hogan

Co-Founder & CEO, jumpAgrade

SERI Director and formerly Entrepreneur-in-Residence at Dogpatch Labs, Michelle was also the co-founder of the award-winning workplace culture and wellbeing action platform, PepTalk. She sits on the Central Steering Committee of Learnovate (the research centre of Trinity College Dublin focused on the future of work and learning).



Panel Discussion 2

Michelle Fogarty

Director, Social Enterprise Republic of Ireland

Gavin Callan is Procurement Director with CBRE. CBRE is the global leader in real estate services and recently launched a Buy Social Corporate Challenge (BSCC) in Ireland to raise awareness of social enterprise in the Irish corporate sector, create procurement opportunities for social enterprises in Ireland and build the capacity of social enterprises through training and mentoring.



Corporate Social Procurement

Gavin Callan

Procurement Director, CBRE

Darren is the Founder of Onwards Philanthropy, an organisation dedicated to helping non-profit CEOs to raise money from philanthropy and transform their impact. He previously served as the CEO of Social Entrepreneurs Ireland (SEI). During his 11 years with SEI, Darren worked with hundreds of social entrepreneurs across Ireland to bring about social change.



Breakout Session #1

Darren Ryan

Founder, Onwards Philanthropy

Cathy is co-founder of An Mheitheal Rothar, a social enterprise whose mission is to encourage and nurture a culture of cycling in Galway city, by establishing a practical, ethically motivated facility and social hub, which would encourage a strong community and promote the health and environmental benefits of cycling.



Breakout Session #2

Cathy Coote

Co-Founder, An Mheitheal Rothar

Rea Walsh is Interim CEO of Boardmatch. Boardmatch is the only Irish charity that specialises in not-for-profit board recruitment. They connect individuals who are interested in volunteering their skills with organisations that have board vacancies. To date, Boardmatch Ireland has facilitated the appointment of over 3,500 individuals to the boards of not-for-profits.



Breakout Session #3

Rea Walsh

Interim CEO, Boardmatch Ireland

Eileen McHugh is Founder and CEO of Hair Together, a multi award-winning social enterprise delivering hairdressing and barbering courses with a wraparound wellness programme to marginalised cohorts. Hair Together currently have 4 part time staff, 4 sub contractors and 10 volunteers with some of their clients including Tusla, Irish Probation Service and the Education Board.



Closing Address

Eileen McHugh

CEO, Hair Together CLG