

Module Code	Pre-requisite Module codes	Co-Requisite Modules code(s)	ISCED Code	Subject Code	ECTS Credits	NFQ Level (CPD)#
SSPL90XX					10	9
Module Title	Social Economy Enterprise Development					



Module Overview:

The aim of this module is to introduce the learner to the key concepts, theories and practice of social economy enterprise development. The module will consider the origin and evolution of social economy enterprise development and will provide an analysis of its development, across the EU, and in North America. The challenges facing the social economy enterprise sector will also be examined. In addition, the module will examine the role and importance of national social economy enterprise development policy and support agencies to the development of a social economy enterprise sector. The module will examine how a social economy enterprise promoter can progress a social economy enterprise concept from idea stage to trading stage, consolidation, and possible diversification. The module will identify the knowledge and skills necessary for the development of vibrant social economy enterprises. This will entail an overview of feasibility study/business planning and specifically an exploration of the concepts of 'viability' and 'sustainability' within a social economy enterprise context. The module will also examine practices and deliberations for social economy enterprise development and consider the role of topics such as effective leadership, community-ownership and control, community engagement and accountability, governance, alliance building, procurement, and appropriate finance.

Learning Outcomes (LO):

On Completion of this module, the learner will be able to:

1	Explain the concepts and perspectives of social economy enterprise
2	Analyse the distinctive features of social economy enterprises, the values which underpin them and the rationale for their development
3	Critique the role of policy in shaping the development of social enterprises across Canada, EU and the UK
4	Evaluate the conditions and supports required for the social economy enterprise sector to develop
5	Explain the key phases of social economy enterprise development, from planning stage to trading
6	Assess both the types of activities that social enterprises are engaged in across Europe and their contribution to societies
7	Apply the content learned in the module to complete a rigorous project for a community and voluntary organisation or a social economy enterprise

Indicative Syllabus:

Placing the social economy

- An introduction to three sectors of the economy
- Introduction to the social economy
- Overview of the different members of the social economy family (Co-operative, associations, mutuals and foundations)

Micro-level

This component of the module will examine

- The different phases of the social economy life cycle
- The various promoters of social economy enterprises

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- Idea generation of social economy enterprises
- The planning phase of establishing a social enterprise: strategic planning, feasibility study and business planning
- Governance of the various types of social economy enterprises
- Challenges social economy enterprises encounter (expertise and finance)
- The role of alliances in the development of social economy enterprises
- Management of social economy enterprises versus investor-owned businesses
- Accountability to different stakeholders
- Impact of social economy enterprises

Societal contribution

The role social enterprise can contribute to addressing

- Inequality
- Rural and urban economic regeneration
- Regional economic disparities
- Fossil fuel dependence
- Food insecurity
- Linear production and over consumption
- Deficit of economic democracy
- The development of sustainable local economies
- Labour market challenges arising from new technologies

Theoretical

The philosophies which motivate the principals/membership of social economy enterprises to establish and sustain such entities.

Institutional influences

The influence of the EU and the State will be examined in relation to social economy enterprise development. This will include the policy context of several States in supporting the development of the social economy sector.

Ecosystems

The characteristics of social economy enterprise development in several regions will be examined.

Learning and Teaching Methods:

Lectures, workshops, group presentations on key reading material, tutorials and classroom discussion, self-directed learning interspersed with case studies to reinforce key themes. Finally, self-directed learning will be undertaken through the group project.

Total Teaching Contact Hours

36

Total Self-Directed Learning Hours

164

Module Delivery Duration:

Two semesters

Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting (%)	LO Assessment (No.)
Individual assignment	50%	1,2 and 3
Group project	50%	4,5,6 and 7

Module Specific Assessment Arrangements (if applicable)

- (a) Derogations from General Assessment Regulations
- (b) Module Assessment Thresholds
- (c) Special Repeat Assessment Arrangements

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Essential Reading:

Doyle, G. and Lalor, T. (eds) (2012) *Social Enterprise in Ireland – A People’s Economy?* Cork: Oak Tree Press.

Ridley-Duff, R. and Bull, M. (2016) *Understanding Social Enterprise: Theory and Practice*, London: Sage.

Supplemental Reading:

Bridge, S., Murtagh, B., and O’Neill, K. (2009) *Understanding the Social Economy and the Third Sector*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Gibson-Graham, J.K., Cameron, J. and Healy, S. (2013) *Take Back the Economy: An Ethical Guide for Transforming our Communities*, Minneapolis and London: University of Minnesota Press.

Zamagni, S. and Zamagni, V. (2010) *Co-operative Enterprise: Facing the Challenges of Globalization*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

Web References, journals and other:

<https://emes.net/>
<https://www.ilo.org>
<https://www.ica.coop/en>
www.ildn.ie
<https://www.localenterprise.ie/DublinCity>
<http://www.scsi.coop/>
<https://www.socialenterprise.ie/>
<https://www.socent.ie/>