

# Shaping Ireland's Social Innovation Ecosystem

European Social Fund+  
Social Innovation Initiative

SESK Helpdesk webinar,  
April 2<sup>nd</sup>



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# About Pobal

Works on behalf of Government, and in conjunction with communities and local agencies, to support social inclusion and local and community development.

- ✓ 41 programmes
- ✓ 7 Government Departments
- ✓ In excess of €1bn allocated in 2023
- ✓ social inclusion, early childhood care and education, community development, peace and reconciliation, equality, labour market supports and education and training



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# ESF+ explained

The European Social Fund + operates on a shared management basis between the European Commission and the Member State

The Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training Programme, EIST for short, is Ireland's ESF+ programme for the 2021 to 2027 period.

The Programme involves a total investment of over €1.08 billion; €508 million from the EU and €573 million from the Government of Ireland.



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# ESF+ explained

ESF+ is a co-financed programme, meaning that the EU allocation is paired with a National contribution.

Social Innovation breakdown:

EU allocation: 95%

National: 5%

Total EIST contribution to Social Innovation (2021-2027): €23.98mn

Sport Ireland  
Programme

DRCD Achieve  
Together  
Programme

**DRCD Social  
Innovation for  
Inclusion €9.8m**



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# Shared understanding

## **Social innovation,**

"... means an activity, that is social both as to its ends and its means and in particular an activity which relates to the

- development and implementation of new ideas concerning products, services, practices and models
- that simultaneously meets social needs and creates new social relationships or collaborations between public, civil society or private organisations,
- thereby benefiting society and boosting its capacity to act"

(Article 2, ESF+ Regulation. European Commission (2021))



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# ESF+ Social Innovation for Inclusion

## Specific objective (ES04.8)

‘Fostering **active inclusion** with a view to promoting **equal opportunities, non-discrimination, and active participation**, and **improving employability**, in particular for **disadvantaged groups** (ESF+).’

## Action

2024: Phase One: To support the development of a Social Innovation Hub who will support the development of Phase Two calls, support projects funded in Phase Two, and support the ongoing development of the Social Innovation ecosystem in Ireland.

2025: Phase Two: Two complementary calls for Pilots and Scale-up projects



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# ESF+ Social Innovation for Inclusion

Projects supported under Phase Two should contribute to at least one of the following Social Inclusion themes:

- a) Increasing access to employment for disadvantaged groups who are distant from the labour market
- b) Increasing access to education for disadvantaged groups
- c) Personal and social development of young people most at risk of poverty and social exclusion
- d) Harnessing the potential of sport for social development and social inclusion of disadvantaged groups.



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# Fund objectives

- Objective 1:** Support the ongoing development of the Social Innovation eco-system through awareness-raising and maximising synergies with other key public policies in the areas of social inclusion, social enterprise and community led local development.
- Objective 2:** Capacity building for Social Innovation initiatives at national, regional, local and/or community levels
- Objective 3:** Fund Social Innovation Pilot Programmes to address significant social and environmental challenges
- Objective 4:** Create an enabling environment which will allow social innovation to thrive and to support scaling up of social innovations



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# Social Innovation Match (SIM)

Google "ESF+ Social Innovation Match"

Database of examples from across the union

Search by Theme / Country / Organisation etc.

## Case studies

### FILTERS

#### Country

Ireland

#### Type of initiative

- Any -

#### Thematic focus

- Any -

#### Level of action

- Any -

#### Status

- Any -

#### Source of funding

- Any -

#### EU fund

- Any -

### Displaying 1 - 7 of 7 results

Use the filters to narrow down the results.

SIM CASE STUDY

#### NEETsLAB

NEETsLAB mentoring through innovation - mission possible

SIM CASE STUDY

#### Take the First Step

National adult literacy and numeracy awareness campaigns, 2016-2020

SIM CASE STUDY

#### European Network of Innovation for Inclusion

European Network of Innovation for Inclusion

SIM CASE STUDY

#### Tus Nua

TÚS NUA: a new start for women leaving prison

SIM CASE STUDY

#### Community Service Programme

Supporting community businesses to employ disadvantaged groups

SIM CASE STUDY

#### My Streets Ireland

Providing homeless or previously homeless people with work opportunities

SIM CASE STUDY

#### Prepare Me

Supporting people with



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# Phase One - components

Creation of a National Support Network:

- ✓ Fund available - €2.8m
- ✓ Initiative timeframe: 2024 – 2027
- ✓ Reporting period: end of 2029
- ✓ Consortium bids and partnerships encouraged
- ✓ Sole applications also accepted
- ✓ Rural and urban impact



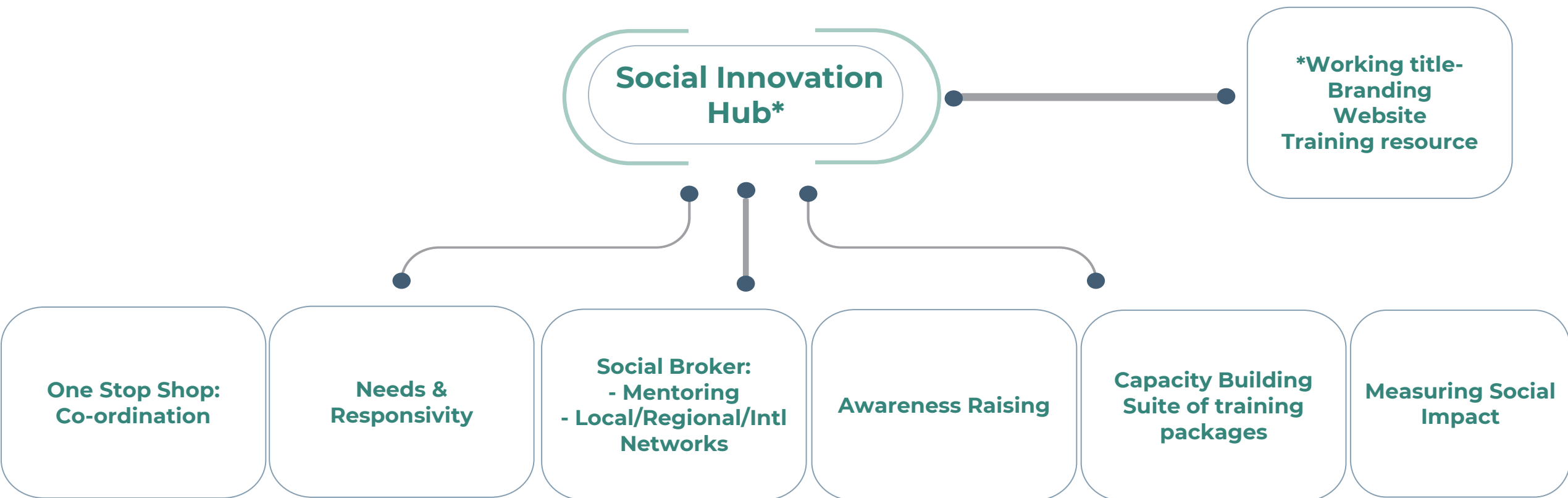
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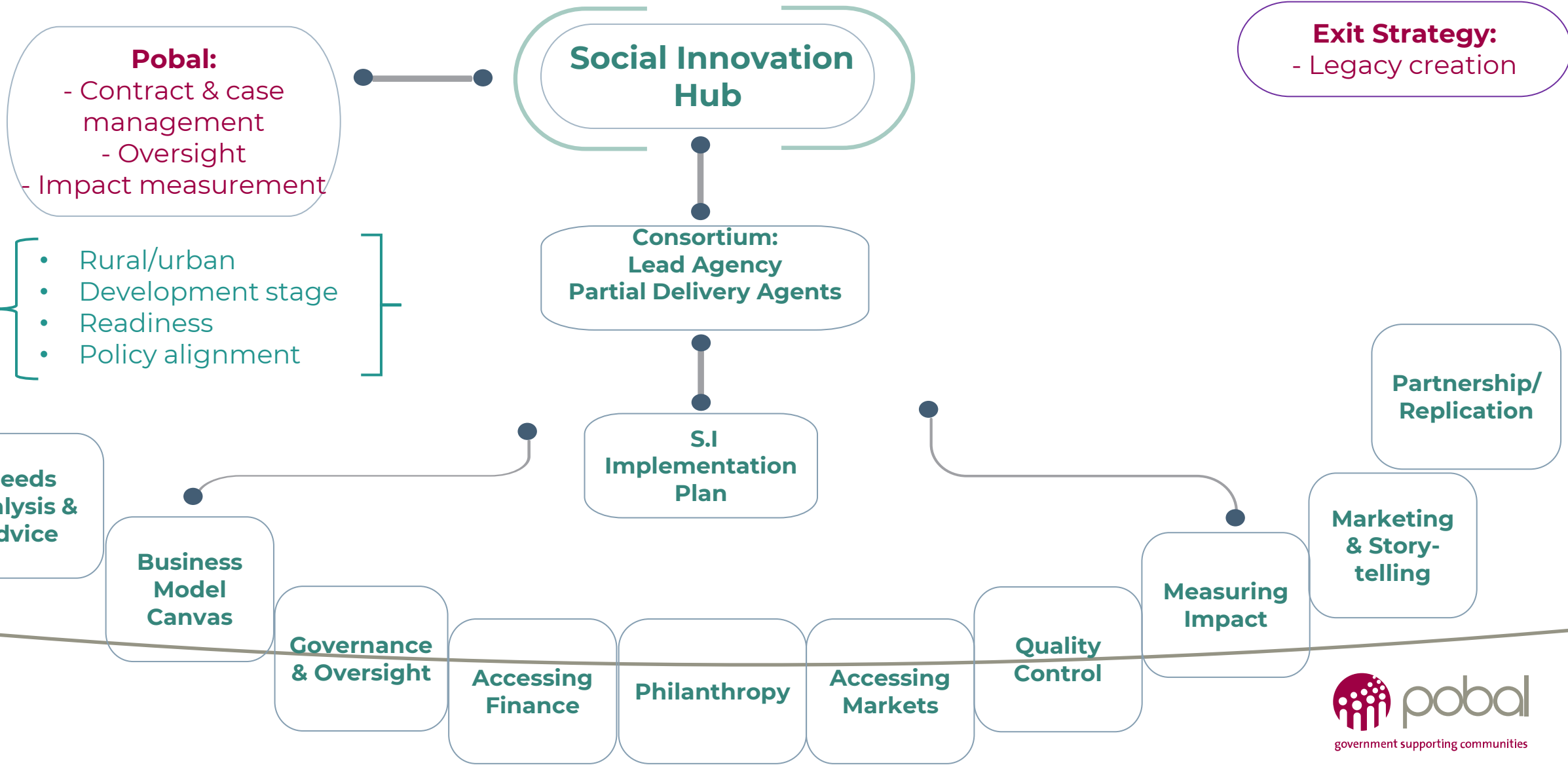
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# Social Innovation Hub – Core areas



# Social Innovation Hub – what is possible?



# Further queries

Thank you

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