

## Knowledge Exchange

### Knowledge Exchange (Volunteering)

#### ***Membership of community focused organisations by ITB staff***

ITB staff members hold/ have held a number of leadership/ director positions in community organisations such as:

- Citizens Information Services (local and national levels);
- Blanchardstown Area Partnership;
- 92.5 Phoenix FM Radio.

### Knowledge Exchange Events

Learning Exchange activities are designed to engage a broad range of networks public, private and civic to exchange, ideas, learning and solutions which have the potential to impact on identified economic, social and community challenges such as growing the local social economy or using digital media platforms to more effectively engage citizens.

To date there have been three of these events. Some further information about these events is given below.

## ITB/ FCC Economic and Social Development Division (RAPID) Knowledge/ Learning Exchange Event - November 2012

The following is the forward to the Learning Exchange Event report written by the Chair of Fingal County Council – RAPID. The purpose of this event was to introduce community partners in a formal way to ITB and to explore Civic Engagement opportunities.

### Introduction to First Learning Exchange Report

*The Learning Exchange report represents a record of the issues which emerged during a co-hosted event which took place in the LINC building in the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown (ITB) in November 2012. The themes outlined were identified as a result of the conversation between service providers and residents who either live or deliver services in the Fingal County Council RAPID area.*

### LEARNING EXCHANGE Fingal RAPID March 2013



Breffni O'Rourke  
Environment, Business & Enterprise Department  
Fingal County Council  
RAPID Co-ordinator

*Members of a sub group of RAPID were tasked to examine issues relating to Education, Employment, Enterprise & Activation (REEEACT) they identified a need to strengthen links with the ITB.*

*I am convinced that meaningful engagement and collaboration with ITB will lead to improvements in the level of support, access and opportunities available to citizens locally. The implementation of the steps identified in this report will help us meet the outlined objectives. I hope that this will be the first step in an exciting joint venture.*

*I would like to thank everyone involved in the project and look forward to their continued cooperation.*

**Patricia Swords, Department of Social Protection, Chairperson, Fingal RAPID, March 2013**

## FCC Economic and Social Development Division (RAPID)/ ITB Learning Exchange Event – Social Enterprise - May 2013

Learning Exchange Event  
A Fingal RAPID Initiative



### Social Enterprise & Entrepreneurship

Institute of Technology Blanchardstown  
@ Learning and Innovation Centre

Thursday, 16th May 2013 9.30am – 12.30pm

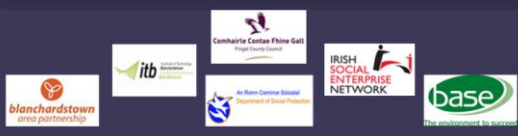
**Learning Exchange Activities:**

- Gerard Doyle & Tanya Lawlor, authors of the recent book *'Social Enterprise in Ireland: A People's Economy'*, will give an overview of Social Enterprise and explore its potential to contribute to local economic and social development
- Speakers from local, regional and national social enterprises including Liberties Recycling, BAPTEC and Bia Foodbank
- Irish Social Enterprise Network, Workshops, Q&A and networking opportunities...

**Who is the Learning Exchange aimed at?**  
*Anyone with an interest in the economic and social development of Dublin 15.*

**Learning Exchange Objectives:**

1. Raise awareness of Social Enterprise.
2. Provide opportunities for effective collaboration.
3. Support local social and economic development.






Further information: Breffni O'Rourke, Economic & Social Development Division, Fingal County Council  
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In May 2013, a Learning Exchange event took place at the LINC in ITB with the following objectives:

- To provide collaborative opportunities for effective networking & dialogue
- To raise awareness of Social Enterprise
- To support local economic and social development

An excerpt from the report on the event is shown below which gives details of Sessions 1 and 2.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Session 1</b>  | <b>Social Enterprise – An Introduction</b>  |
| <b>Patricia Swords</b><br><b>Department of Social Protection</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DSP supports the development of any initiatives which have the potential to grow sustainable local employment.</li> <li>- DSP is committed to working with all citizens and sections of the public, private and civic sector to meet training, activation and employment requirements.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Gerard Doyle &amp; Tanya Lawlor</b><br><b>Author/Consultants</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community owned institutions have significant S.E potential, fixed assets, access to finance, expertise &amp; community accountability, supports required to best utilise potential.</li> <li>- EU policy on Social Enterprise recently developed - Social Business Initiative.</li> <li>- Access to supports for S.E unclear, County Enterprise Boards, LEO's. More recognition of S.E as a sector economy.</li> <li>- Significant scope to grow sector through procurement, inclusion of social clauses as contract conditions.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Session 2</b>  | <b>Social Enterprise – In Action</b>  |
| <b>Stuart Fraser</b><br><b>Liberties Recycling</b><br> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Liberties collect clothing/footwear for export, % of employees recovering from substance abuse &amp; addiction.</li> <li>- Bottom lines – Environmental, Job creation, Rehabilitation, Profit for Reinvestment</li> <li>- Social Return on Investment (SROI) is an analytical tool for measuring and accounting for broader concept of value, taking into account social, economic and environmental factors.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Jenny Cruise</b><br><b>BAPTEC</b><br>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Established 1999, core evolved from computer training to ECDL, payroll, bookkeeping train the trainer.</li> <li>- Importance of people, locality and community stressed as contributory aspects to sustainability and growth.</li> <li>- Necessary renewal and key steps in enterprise – Identify – Vision – Intent – Insight – Strategy – Evaluate.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Neil Dwane</b><br><b>Bia Foodbank</b><br>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10% of the population are affected by food poverty; Irish charities spend over €10 million on food each year.</li> <li>- Bia Foodbank will provide infrastructure to prevent food surplus going to landfill, redirecting it to charities.</li> <li>- Funding start up, warehouse 8k–10k sq ft, in M50/D15 required, volunteers, companies registering interest.</li> </ul>   |

## Fingal County Council / Europe Direct / ITB - Learning Exchange Event – Social Impact, Social Value & Social Enterprise - September 2013

The Learning Exchange is committed to promoting successful demand driven innovation<sup>1</sup>: meeting community expectations and challenges in new ways. A number of methodologies will be applied to generate ideas and learning which may have the potential to be scaled up in response to specific challenges:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Competitions &amp; Challenges</b><br>Think & Do Tanks<br>Experimentation & Adaptation<br>Design Thinking<br>Partnership pilots | Placements/ exchanges<br>Ideas Festivals<br>Participatory Workshops<br>Action Research<br>Open Innovation/ Data |
|---|---|

<sup>1</sup> Successful innovation is counted as the creation and implementation of new processes, products or services and methods of delivery which result in improvements in outcomes, efficiency, effectiveness and quality.

# - Learning Exchange -

## Fingal



### Entrepreneurship Lab

26<sup>th</sup> September, 2013



Learning Objectives of the event are shown in the following three slides:

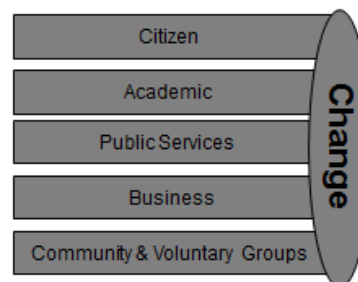
## - Learning Objectives -

1. A better understanding of the terms **social impact** and **social value** and ways in which they can be applied.



## - Learning Objectives -

2. Provide a platform for information sharing and collaborative opportunities.



## - Learning Objectives -

3. Grow the potential for social enterprise and the social economy in Dublin 15 and wider Fingal.



## Horticulture – half day workshop “Grow Your own” – June 2013



A half-day workshop introducing participants to the skills of growing your own vegetables and herbs was facilitated by **Cairned Ryan, Lecturer in Horticulture, ITB** on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

26 people attended from the following groups/ organisations:

- 4 teachers from St. Patricks N.S.
- 2 school completion officers from Riversdale
- 1 community drugs team worker
- 1 community centre care taker
- 1 parent volunteer from St. Patricks
- 3 staff from ITB
- 4 community volunteers
- 10 Daughters of Charity staff and service users

## Knowledge Exchange (Brief Reports)

The following are some reports on other ITB Knowledge Exchange activities.

### **CoderDojo – Dublin 15 (website: <http://zen.coderdojo.com/dojo/44>)**

Since early 2012 I have been involved in the founding and collaboration with the Dublin 15 CoderDojo group. [CoderDojo](http://zen.coderdojo.com/dojo/44) is a global network of computer programming clubs originating in Ireland that teaches children how to write and implement computer programs in a fun and interactive way. There are CoderDojo clubs located internationally throughout 22 countries, and that number is growing steadily. The Dublin 15 group is hosted at The Institute of Technology Blanchardstown on Saturday mornings from 10am until 12pm. Here, young people from the age of around 8 years old up to early teens are taught computer programming using either the [Scratch](http://scratch.mit.edu/) programming tool, as well as the valuable internet technologies of HTML, CSS and Java Script. As a computing lecturer, I've been in the position to both participate as a mentor to the children, and also coordinate the involvement of my own undergraduate students, as they themselves take on the role of mentor to the children. To date, several ITB computing students have been key contributors towards the mentoring of these weekly sessions.

**ITB Staff Member: Arnold Hensman, Lecturer in Informatics**

**Phoenix 92.5 FM – Dublin 15 (website: <http://www.phoenixfm.ie>)**

In the summer of 2012, I had the opportunity to participate in a series of weekly technology segments on the 92.5 Phoenix FM, Community Radio station. It involved a weekly interview on the *Dublin 15 Today* show. As a representative of Department of Informatics at ITB, I was invited to discuss the latest news in the world of Technology. It was also an opportunity for dialogue about what computer science actually involves, and to discuss the kind of projects that might be worked upon by both graduates and students of a degree in computer science at ITB.

**ITB staff member: Arnold Hensman, Lecturer in Informatics**

**Student Mentoring Programme, Business in the Community Ireland – (Blakestown Community School) (website: <http://www.bitc.ie>)**

Last year, several ITB members of staff and I were involved in mentoring senior-cycle students from Blakestown Community School to encourage them to remain in school, increase their self-esteem and to develop an awareness of the workplace. This was as part of a wider national program facilitated by Business in the Community Ireland, of which ITB was a participant organisation.

Mentoring involved a two year commitment on the part of the ITB employees who volunteered across several faculties, and agreed to mentor one student over the course of that student's senior cycle. Each student was assigned an ITB member of staff as their mentor. Students came to ITB one afternoon per week, whereby both students and mentors would participate in organised events such as computer classes, problem solving skills and sports training. The diverse skillsets from the various staff members led to many fun and enriching mentoring sessions. At the end of the two academic years, the students (and in fact mentors also) were presented with a certificate of achievement from the minister of education. Mentoring was a challenging yet rewarding experience, and I have no doubt that a positive impact was imparted to the visiting students by all of the ITB staff members who participated.

**ITB Staff Member: Arnold Hensman, Lecturer in Informatics**

**Service provider's difficulty connecting and communicating effectively with citizens / clients**

Blogging and Social Media channels have been gradually integrated in teaching and learning methodologies throughout the Creative Digital Media full time and part-time courses over the duration of the academic year with great effect; strengthening communications between staff and students, promoting knowledge exchange outside the classroom, showcasing the best examples of student work, and facilitating collaboration and connections between the course, industry contacts, digital media practitioners and prospective students

**ITB Staff Member: Niamh O'Hora, Lecturer in Creative Digital Media**

**Theatre and Spanish**

Since its opening in 1999 the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown (ITB) has striven to increase participation in education for under-represented groups in the Dublin 15 area. As a modern foreign



language lecturer at ITB I have been involved in a number of initiatives designed for primary and secondary school students. One such initiative was 'el teatro y el español' (Theatre and Spanish), and it had at its core the application of Drama in Education techniques in the language learning process. This was one of ITB's Rainbow Projects and was funded by the Dormant Account (Educational Disadvantage) Fund which aimed to open up the possibilities of access to 3rd level education. During the 'el teatro y el español' project approximately 60 primary school students participated in workshops on ITB's campus where they learned basic Spanish language and explored Spanish culture using drama and movement. These workshops were divided into three six weeks blocks, and approximately 20 students attended each block. The project culminated in Drama and Spanish performances for participants' parents, peers and teachers.

**ITB Staff Member: *Maria Kenneally, Lecturer in Humanities***

### ***Young Women in Technology project***

#### **Pink or Purple YWIT Summary**

The Pink or Purple Young Women in Technology (YWIT) project was set up to expose female students (2<sup>nd</sup> level) to various technology courses on offer in ITB and more specifically the Computing and Creative Digital Media (CDM) courses.

Various clinics/workshops/fieldtrips are run over a semester where a group of female students are invited into ITB.

#### **Computing Clinic**

- Introduction & presentation on the courses on offer at ITB, overview of the Computing courses, awards progression, careers in Computing, salaries for IT jobs;
- Talk from computing students/staff about their experiences and life in ITB;
- Computing workshop "How to build your own website";
- Prize for best website created.

#### **Creative Digital Media Clinic**

- Introduction & presentation on the CDM courses, careers in CDM, examples of student work, career opportunities;
- Talk from CDM students/staff about their course, work experience & demo of course work;
- CDM workshop "How to create your own cartoon";
- Prize for best cartoon created.

#### **ITB Learning Styles & "Start your Own Business" workshop**

- Overview of events for the day;
- National Learning Network Learning Styles workshop.

**Field Trip – PayPal**

- Trip to PayPal to experience a real world working environment;
- Role Model talks from experienced PayPal employees;
- Tour of PayPal;
- Mobile App competition to include use of PayPal;
- Prizes for best app.

**ITB Staff Member: *Orla McMahon, Lecturer in Informatics***

**Community Partnering for Funded Projects**

In 2012, the Civic Engagement Office at ITB was invited to consider the possible involvement in a proposal to gain funding for the Community Food Initiatives (CFI) Programme. A partnership comprised of:

[BAP](#);

Fingal County Council – Economic & Social Development Division

Fingal County Council – Operations (Parks);

ITB (Horticulture related guidance and teaching provided by Ciarnad Ryan, Lecturer in Horticulture)

was formed and a successful application to fund the **Healthy Food Made Easy** programme was made. For more details see this [link](#).

***English language course for 92.5 Phoenix FM Radio***

ITB is currently designing an English language course for 92.5 Phoenix FM. The course will comprise 12 one hour lessons which will be broadcast over 12 weeks. Podcasts and workbooks will be available on the 92.5 Phoenix FM website and an interactive version of the lessons will also be available on the ITB website. The course is designed for people who already have the basics of English and would like to build on the language they already have. Each lesson deals with situations that individuals might meet every day when they are living in an English speaking country and they are set particularly in Blanchardstown. The course aims to give people more confidence so that they can explain clearly what they need or want to know and understand more easily what people are saying to them. The lessons will also serve as a resource for teachers and tutors of English.

**ITB Staff Member: *Ruth Harris, Senior Lecturer in Humanities***