

## **Draft overview of Social Economy Enterprise Development module (10 credit module)**

The aim of this module is to introduce the learner to the key concepts and theories of social economy enterprise development. The module will identify the knowledge and skills necessary for the development of vibrant social economy enterprises. In addition, it will examine the role and importance of national enterprise development policy and support agencies to the development of a social economy enterprise sector.

### **Module content**

#### *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
- Idea generation and the promoters 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

#### *Theoretical*

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

- Radical perspective (anarchist, Marxist, and ecological). This would draw on the work of Gibson- Graham, and Olin Wright, among others.
- Social reformist
- Functionalist perspective

### *Institutional influences*

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

### *Ecosystems*

The characteristics of social economy enterprise development in the following regions will be examined:

- Emiliano Romagna
- Mondragon
- Scotland
- Quebec

**Learning and Teaching Methods:** Lectures, workshops, group presentations on key reading material, tutorials and classroom discussion, interspersed with case studies to reinforce key themes.

### **Learning Outcomes**

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

- Examine the role of social economy enterprise in society.
- Critique the role of the State with regard to social economy enterprise development
- Have a critical awareness of current problems and challenges for social economy enterprises and have an appropriate level of knowledge of current and emerging practices for overcoming these issues.
- Distinguish collective from individual entrepreneurship and how each can be applied to enhance the performance of social economy enterprises.
- Identify and evaluate the key issues involved in opportunity recognition and enterprise creation.
- Be able to employ existing entrepreneurial supports in the realisation of an idea.

### **Core reading**

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

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

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