
What is the Social Innovation Fund?

What is the Social Innovation Fund, and could your business benefit from it?

The newly-formed [Social Innovation Fund Ireland](#) held its first showcase and pitching event, Animate, recently.

The four winners of the Animate programme are ReCreate, Thriftify, CareBright, and Save a Selfie. All provide solutions to issues ranging from home care to those with dementia to a web-based platform to help charity shops manage their unsold stock.

The four winners will receive €10,000 each, as well as further help and resources.

Ireland's first 'non-profit accelerator'

The organisation, described as Ireland's first 'non-profit accelerator', was set-up by the government to raise a minimum of €50 million to encourage the growth of Ireland's social enterprises.

The fund, which was founded by Enda Kenny in January, and named in the new programme for government, aims to provide funding for non-profit projects tackling critical social problems.

Can my business apply?

The fund's CEO, Deirdre Mortell says they look at a number of criteria when considering a proposal from a social enterprise.

"We consider; what's the issue to be addressed? How will it work? What is its feasibility? In particular, we're interested in the role technology has to play in innovative solutions to Ireland's social problems."

The initiative is funded by a combination of private and state donations. "What's great about it is that for every one euro donated by private giving, that figure will be matched by the government," says Mortell.

With the Animate programme now complete, she says the SIFI is now looking forward to the next round of funding. "A new programme is scheduled to begin at the end of June".

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