



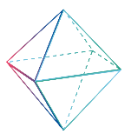
**Social Innovation
connect**
UK

3.2.1 Theory of Change Report



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Introduction

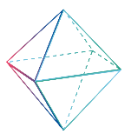
The purpose of this report is to summarise and define Social Innovation Connect (SIC) long-term goals, as well as identify necessary preconditions for these goals to be met and what actions need to be undertaken. This report takes into account initial mapping work that was undertaken, as well as the conceptual framework that is part of the blueprint and rationale for the project. This Theory of Change is to form part of activity 3.2.2; which is the action plan for Social Innovation Connect.

The Theory of Change is made up of the following sections, and will be broken into sections explaining each one, as well as a final infographic model, visually depicting the Theory of Change. The input section will define the key, high-level aims of SIC. Following the section on inputs, the report will define the key activities in the ESIA project that will be undertaken to achieve the creation of SIC. The model will then outline the key outputs of these activities and of the projects in a number of areas: reports, workshops, online engagement, quality management, and knowledge exchange. The model then outlines the outcomes from these activities and outputs, followed by a summary of the overarching impact that this will achieve.

Inputs

The Theory of Change model outlines the key input as Social Innovation Connect and its core aim. The core aim is that it will be a catalyst for discovery, a forum for research and capacity building and an advocate for policy change. SIC will build a more connected UK SI ecosystem across regions with stronger transnational ties to Europe and beyond. The aim of SIC is focused on connecting and showcasing the work of the many organisations that work across Scotland and the UK supporting various forms of Social Innovation. SIC recognises that trying to narrow the vision of the social innovation lens in Scotland and the UK, potentially reduces the many organisations support innovative work with social impact. Due to the level of expertise and activity in the UK, true benefit and promotion of social innovation will come from showcasing, researching and connecting all the good work organisations are doing in the field of social innovation. Using SIC's knowledge of this ecosystem to advocate for more support and visibility of social innovation will have a greater impact overall.

Over the next three years, SIC will learn about, share, and accelerate new ways of working in order to tackle the underlying causes of social problems. SIC will be focussing in particular on social innovations that work outside the conventional social enterprise model driving change in other



sectors. A particular focus for SIC will be to highlight the work of other organisations that are not just mission led businesses but also are from a variety of sectors, tackling social and environmental needs in innovative ways.

Activities

The key activities of SIC are defined based on the work plan of the ESIA project and the UK specific work plan. They are defined in five key areas of work that make up essentially the establishment of a Competence Centre and its core work.

Firstly, we will begin by establishing SIC. This activity will involve defining concepts and strategic activities including advocacy, capacity-building, communications that will be undertaken by SIC. This is part of the blueprint that is created under GoA 1.1 and the initial work that goes into the creation of this blueprint.

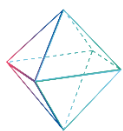
The next core activity will be engaging with the ecosystem. This activity will be focused around working with our defined Associate Partners and other key stakeholders to define gaps and needs, financial instruments and impressions of the current ecosystem. This work will help to highlight where SIC can focus efforts to support the strengths of the ecosystem and develop the areas where there are gaps. This work permeates GoA 1 and 2 where multiple actions are taken to engage with the ecosystem through either reports around mapping and analysis of various themes such as finance, policy and ecosystem; or where there are engagement activities such as events and workshops where the wider ecosystem and stakeholders are involved.

Following on from this activity is work around informing national/regional strategies. This is a key area of work for all Competence Centres, and it follows that after engaging with and trying to understand the ecosystem, that SIC would use this knowledge to advocate for the sector. This activity will be policymakers and policy influencing organisations to characterise approach, recommend actions, engage with future policy and benchmark activities in this area with transnational partners.

SIC will undertake activities to monitor quality. This work will be in collaboration with Associate Partners and other stakeholders working in social innovation to define key impact metrics and monitor key case studies, as well as SIC itself.

Lastly, SIC will look at potential areas of replication and upscaling to support. SIC will work with case studies and key partners that are identified as having potential for replication or upscaling or have defined this as a key interest of theirs that SIC can support.

Outputs



Below are listed key areas of outputs and the specific lists of outputs in each of these areas that SIC will produce. The key areas are reports, workshops/meetings, online engagement, quality management, and knowledge exchange.

The following are the reports that will be produced by the end of the ESIA project:

- Mapping of activity – this corresponds to reports compiled in GoA 1.1, 1.3, 2.4
- Identifying potential beneficiaries – this corresponds to reports compiled in GoA 2.1
- Gap analysis – this corresponds to reports compiled in GoA 2.3
- Advocacy – this corresponds to work in GoA 2.2, any reports produced in other GoAs including 1.1, 2.1, 3.1 and 3.2 will summarise this
- Conceptual framework – this corresponds to GoA 2.1.1
- Research papers – this work will be undertaken by academics and will be a supplement to initial mapping undertaken as part of GoA 1.1 and 2.3
- Benchmarking financial instruments – this corresponds to GoA 2.4
- Si strategy, roadmap and business plan – this corresponds to GoA 3.1 and 3.2.

The following are the workshops, events and meetings that will be undertaken by the end of the project:

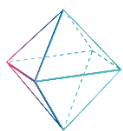
- Public events – this corresponds to GoA 1.2, 1.3, and 2.1
- Workshops with policymakers – this corresponds to GoA 1.2 and 1.3
- Workshops and events with EU facing organisations - this corresponds to GoA 1.2 and 1.3, and comes in place of engaging specifically with ESF authorities, as the UK is now no longer able to take part in ESF directly
- Capacity building stakeholders – this corresponds to GoA 1.3
- Inspirational events – this corresponds to GoA 1.3.3 but will be tied into GoA 2.1.2 and 1.2.2.

The following are the key areas of online engagement SIC will undertake:

- Website – this corresponds to GoA 1.4.1 but will tie in with GoA 8 also, as well as GoA 1.1.3 the map platform
- Social media – this corresponds to GoA 1.4.2 but will tie in with GoA 8 also.

The following areas are the key outputs in terms of quality management in the project:

- Monitoring case studies – this corresponds to GoA 4.4
- Community evaluations - this corresponds to GoA 4.4



Lastly, the following areas of knowledge exchange activity will be undertaken:

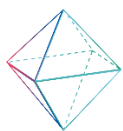
- Site visits – this area is a consortium wide activity, but SIC will participate as a partner and both host a site visit, as well as visit and learn from other site visits. This activity corresponds to GoA 7.
- Transnational learning groups - this area is a consortium wide activity, but SIC will participate as a partner, sharing our key insights and learnings, as well as taking on board the learning of other partners. This activity corresponds to GoA 7.
- Mentoring - this area is a consortium wide activity, but SIC will participate as a partner, sharing our key insights and learnings, as well as taking on board the learning of other partners involved in the mentoring relationship. This activity corresponds to GoA 7.

Outcomes

The key outcomes that will come out of the work of SIC and the ESIA Project are described below:

- There will be a greater understanding of SI in Scotland, the UK and across the other partners including understanding of social innovation happening in sectors that are under studied.
- There will be the establishment of the Scottish/UK SI Competence Centre: Social Innovation Connect.
- We will produce a definition and evolving model of SI landscape in Scotland and the UK, that will be subject to update on a continuous basis moving forwards.
- There will be greater engagement between policy makers/public sector and elements within SI ecosystem in Scotland and the UK.
- Greater promotion and dissemination of SI and SI initiatives will be achieved and a network for doing this on a continuous basis moving forwards for the UK ecosystem.
- We will have evidence for effectiveness of SI models in a Scottish and UK context, and the evolving nature of social innovation in a localised context.
- We will be able to see key lessons learned from other SI ecosystems in the Community of Practice and the ESIA consortium, as well as sharing our own lessons learned with the wider ecosystem.

Impacts



Lastly, there are a number of high-level impacts that SIC will keep as a key part of our approach and aims moving forwards. These are impacts we aim for in particular in relation to policymakers and influencers; striving for greater system change for the social innovation ecosystem in Scotland and the UK.

SIC's approach to vanguardism in our work, and support a more radical perspective in generating and sustaining ideas in the ecosystem across Scotland and the UK.

We will look at how we use education in the activities of the centre through supporting programmes that are analytical rather than informational.

We will advocate for work that has a public service offer - approaches by which the state can and should engage civil society.

Finally, we will advocate for deepening democracy, promoting systems whereby populations are more directly involved in the democratic process.

