



**Social Innovation  
connect**  
UK

**Terms of Reference**

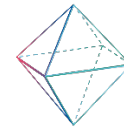
**for**

**Social Innovation Connect (SIC)  
University Network**



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the European Union**

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## **1. Purpose of the Network**

- 1.1 The aim of this network is to provide a platform for dialogue, showcasing and sharing ideas related to Social Innovation between academic institutions and their stakeholders, initially across Scotland (with a view to expanding across the wider UK).
- 1.2 The network will strengthen mutual understanding, foster cooperation, establish new partnerships, and promote sustainable and productive knowledge exchange between practitioners, academics and students.
- 1.3 For the purposes of this Network, Social Innovation will be understood to be, “the process of developing and deploying effective solutions to challenging and often systemic social and environmental issues in support of social progress. Social innovation is not the prerogative or privilege of any organizational form or legal structure. Solutions often require the active collaboration of constituents across government, business, and the non-profit world” (Centre for Social Innovation, Stanford).

## **2. Scope of the Network**

Areas of activity may include (but are not necessarily limited to) the following:

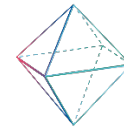
- 2.1 Four meetings held annually to share new actions, projects and research within members’ institutions and discuss further opportunities for members;
- 2.2 Facilitate the establishment of specialised research groups, where appropriate;
- 2.3 Exchange of scientific and educational material produced by members of the network;
- 2.4 Exchange of best practice in community engagement, knowledge exchange, and capacity building;
- 2.5 Use of the branded materials, and the brand identity by members of the network in order to promote Social Innovation Connect and its activities;
- 2.6 Organisation of conferences, seminars and symposia of mutual interest to members of the Network;
- 2.7 Any other activities developed during the evolution of the Network.

## **3. Commencement, duration and termination**

- 3.1 This Terms of Reference will be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 and will be ongoing until terminated by agreement between the parties.
- 3.2 Any amendment of and/or modification to the Terms of Reference will be shared with all members of the Network and will not be implemented without prior agreement by the majority of members;
- 3.3 This Terms of Reference does not infer any legal or financial commitment on the part of its the members.

## **4. Role and Responsibilities**

- 4.1 Attend scheduled Network Group meetings, and nominate a proxy if attendance is not possible;
- 4.2 Wholeheartedly champion the network within and outside of work areas;



- 4.3 Share across all Network members communications and information related to social innovation originating from their organisation;
- 4.4 Communicate in a timely manner any actions or decisions that might affect the interests of the Network;
- 4.5 Depending on the size of the Network, other specific groups and roles may be defined, including a Network Steering Committee.

## **5. Network Responsibilities to Members**

Members of the advisory group will expect:

- 5.1 Each member will be provided with complete, accurate and meaningful information in a timely manner;
- 5.2 They will be given reasonable time to make key decisions on the functions and development of the Network;
- 5.3 They will be alerted to potential risks and issues that could impact the Network and any projects, as they arise;
- 5.4 Meetings will be open and honest promoting research integrity and reflecting the values of the member institutions;

## **6. Meetings**

- 6.1 For the time being, meetings will be chaired by a representative of Glasgow Caledonian University, as coordinator of the UK's Social Innovation Competence Centre as part of the programme funded by the European Social Fund / Employment and Social Innovation.
- 6.2 Decisions shall be made by consensus (i.e. members are satisfied with the decision even though it may not be their first choice).
- 6.3 If no consensus is reached the Network Chair will have the casting vote.
- 6.4 Meeting agenda and minutes will be provided by the Chair in a timely manner
- 6.5 Meetings will be held four times a year and will be virtual unless otherwise stated.
- 6.6 If required subgroup meetings will be arranged outside of these times at a time convenient to members.