

Ignite Europe is based on an innovative and successful product developed by South Sefton Development Trust in Liverpool in the United Kingdom.

Working with partners in five other countries – Germany, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Sweden and Cyprus – this product is now being developed into a standard, practical tool for implementing social entrepreneurship across Europe.

To achieve this, South Sefton Development Trust is transferring and adapting materials from the original UK Ignite programme, sharing its experiences amongst partners and adding new learning materials that are being adapted by each partner to reflect the situation in their country and the needs of specific student groups.

The objectives of Ignite Europe are to develop the skills of vocational trainers to enable them to produce materials that will help social entrepreneurs achieve their economic goals, not just in the six partner nation states but across the EU as well.



What is social entrepreneurship?

Ignite Europe defines social entrepreneurship as: **'A social entrepreneur uses business methods primarily to achieve social benefit, with the method of organisation or ownership reflecting this mission, and trading surpluses reinvested to achieve the social objectives.'**

Social benefit is defined as: **'Providing goods or services to socially vulnerable or marginalised groups of people, or creating employment opportunities for disadvantaged people in providing goods or services, even if those goods or services are not of social benefit in themselves.'**

The Ignite Europe partners have come together at a time when social entrepreneurship is playing an increasingly central role in economies of Europe. The social economy accounts for nearly 8 per cent of jobs in Europe and represents 10 per cent of the total GDP of the EU.

As it is clearly playing a significant role in our market economy, it is important that Ignite Europe successfully supports the recognition and transfer of social entrepreneurship competences and qualifications across Europe.

The programme

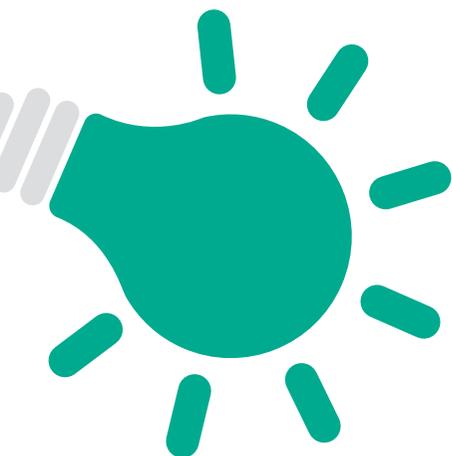
The aim of the Ignite Europe project is to develop a Europe-wide practical programme for social entrepreneurs.

It will do this by producing products that vocational trainers, business advisors, mentors and higher and further education personnel can use to deliver a programme of personal and professional support to people facing difficulties in the labour market, encouraging them to develop social businesses.

A key element of the project will be to address the needs of marginalised groups such as black and minority ethnic people, young people, disabled people, migrants and those facing redundancy.

The products include:

- 💡 An Ignite Europe website – www.ignite.euproject.org
- 💡 DVD case studies of successful and inspirational social entrepreneurs.
- 💡 Workbooks for both trainers and clients on how to develop social entrepreneurialism.
- 💡 An online learning resource library.
- 💡 Online support networks.



The partners

South Sefton Development Trust (UK)

South Sefton Development Trust is based in Bootle near Liverpool. The Trust created the innovative Ignite programme for would-be social entrepreneurs and also provides a range of specialist support services to existing social businesses.

www.ssdtrust.co.uk

Kolping Training Institution (Germany)

The Stuttgart-based Kolping Training Institution is a provider of further education and vocational training with 260 members of staff and an average of 10,000 participants a year. It runs ten training centres in the German Federal State of Baden-Wuerttemberg.

www.kolping-bildungswerk.de

EURO-Training (Bulgaria)

EURO-Training is a not-for-profit NGO training provider based in Stara Zagora, Bulgaria. The organisation specialises in providing professional guidance and training for the most socially excluded groups in society.

www.euro-training.org

Social Innovation Fund (Lithuania)

Social Innovation Fund (SIF) is a non-governmental organisation, established in Lithuania in 1994 as a charity and support foundation. The organisation's mission is to ensure gender equality and equal opportunities for all through social innovations and education.

www.lpf.lt

EMMERCE EEIG (Sweden)

EMMERCE EEIG focuses on new technology as a mechanism for growing businesses. The organisation has extensive experience in developing dissemination mechanisms for partners involved in EU projects, largely through online methods.

www.emmerce.net

Synthesis Center (Cyprus)

Synthesis Center is a learning provider and the only organisation dedicated to the development and promotion of social entrepreneurship in Cyprus. It promotes social entrepreneurship and social innovation through training, research and events.

www.synthesis.center.com

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A guide to Ignite Europe

