

**POOLING PUBLIC & PHILANTHROPIC  
FUNDING TO DRIVE INNOVATION**

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# MAIN POINTS

1. Why fund social innovation?
2. Why public/philanthropic funding works
3. Key considerations
4. What else is needed?
5. Examples – Ireland & Europe

## **WHY FUND SOCIAL INNOVATION?**

### **An end in itself?**

To provide employment and harness social capital

### **A means to solving problems/overcoming challenges?**

Locally, regionally, nationally and internationally

### **Spending public money on SI is justifiable if challenges are tackled**

Therefore, seeding, growing and scaling are all important

***Unless we use solutions developed to help solve problems  
the future of SI is in jeopardy***

.....*contd.*

**Creating mechanisms** for SI involving public funds can help meet challenges and achieve policy objectives

**But SI often seen as separate and not useful** in public service agencies dealing with the key challenges

- **Not helped by locating SI separately** to key government departments dealing with challenges

- **Not helped by social entrepreneurs and innovators** promoting innovations without due regard to context

## WHY A PUBLIC/PHIL FUND WORKS

**Context:** Re-focusing public budgets already under pressure is a big challenge because of e.g.:

- Existing legislation & regulations
- New policies to implement
- Quality Assurance recommendations e.g. in health and social services - often without commensurate increases in budget
- Pharmaceutical and technical developments
- Public/Customer/patient pressures
- Increasing needs allied to demographic trends and intake of migrants
- Tensions regarding trade-offs e.g. agriculture and climate change

.....*contd.*

**Special purpose Public/Phil fund means:**

- Current expenditure does not have to be re-diverted
- Opposition from vested interests is less likely
- Philanthropic element provides an impetus and helps keep it on track
- For the public system:
  - more cost-effective ways of meeting legislative responsibilities can be introduced
  - progress in achieving policy objectives is fast-tracked
- For Philanthropy:
  - catalyse sustainability and scaling
  - multiplying impact
- Avoids the need to pay back private investors at a future date

Combined public and philanthropy can attract private investment if needed/desired

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- What interest exists to establish and implement a Public/Philanthropic fund?
- What will the specific objectives of the fund be?
  - seeding, growing and/or scaling innovation – systemic change?
  - achieving regional and/or national objectives – which ones?
  - furthering the missions of the philanthropist(s) involved?
- What funds might be available?
- What is an appropriate ratio of public to philanthropic funding?
- How many innovations might be seeded, grown or scaled?
- In what areas – e.g. education, health, environment, transport etc.?

.....*contd.*

- Who might manage and administer funding?
- What capacity is available to evaluate and support innovations being funded to achieve targets?
- For potential applicants - what will be worth the effort of applying and being monitored to implement and achieve agreed targets?
- How much attention will a pooled fund attract without creating too much resistance?
  - Too little money may not secure sufficient engagement
  - Too much money than can could jeopardize success
- **Competition is well worth considering**
- **A careful, sequenced strategy is vital**



## **WHAT ELSE IS NEEDED?**

**Non-financial support** to seed, grow and scale innovations

Capacity to judge what is worth scaling

<https://www.genio.ie/publications/validating-social-innovations-for-scaling>

**Adaptive learning approaches** for scaling and systems change are best

Example: Action Research - structured approach to gathering and using information which can be used to accelerate the pace of spreading innovation

**Involving the end beneficiary** - those for whom change matters most

[https://www.genio.ie/system/files/publications/Learning\\_as\\_you\\_scale.pdf](https://www.genio.ie/system/files/publications/Learning_as_you_scale.pdf)

## **EXAMPLES: IRELAND & EUROPE**

### **Service Reform Fund: Ireland**

- €45m fund (€30m public +€15m philanthropy)
- Scaling innovation to national level
- Genio with Departments of Health & Housing, Health Service Executive, Local Authorities
  - Disability – from institution to community living
  - Mental Health – Individual Placement & Support
  - Homelessness – Housing First

<https://www.genio.ie/films/housing-first-in-ireland-bob-jordan-ceo-the-housing-agency>

<https://www.genio.ie/publications/a-study-of-the-service-reform-fund-srf-understanding-reform-in-national-systems-0>

<https://www.genio.ie/films/the-service-reform-fund-seeing-the-change>

# EUROPEAN SOCIAL CATALYST FUND

## Public Philanthropic Fund (pilot)

EU Horizon Programme with Genio, Robert Bosch Foundation, King Baudouin Foundation

€600,000 – 7 planning grants selected e.g. in energy poverty, digital inclusion, elderly, migrants, employment,

## Main objectives

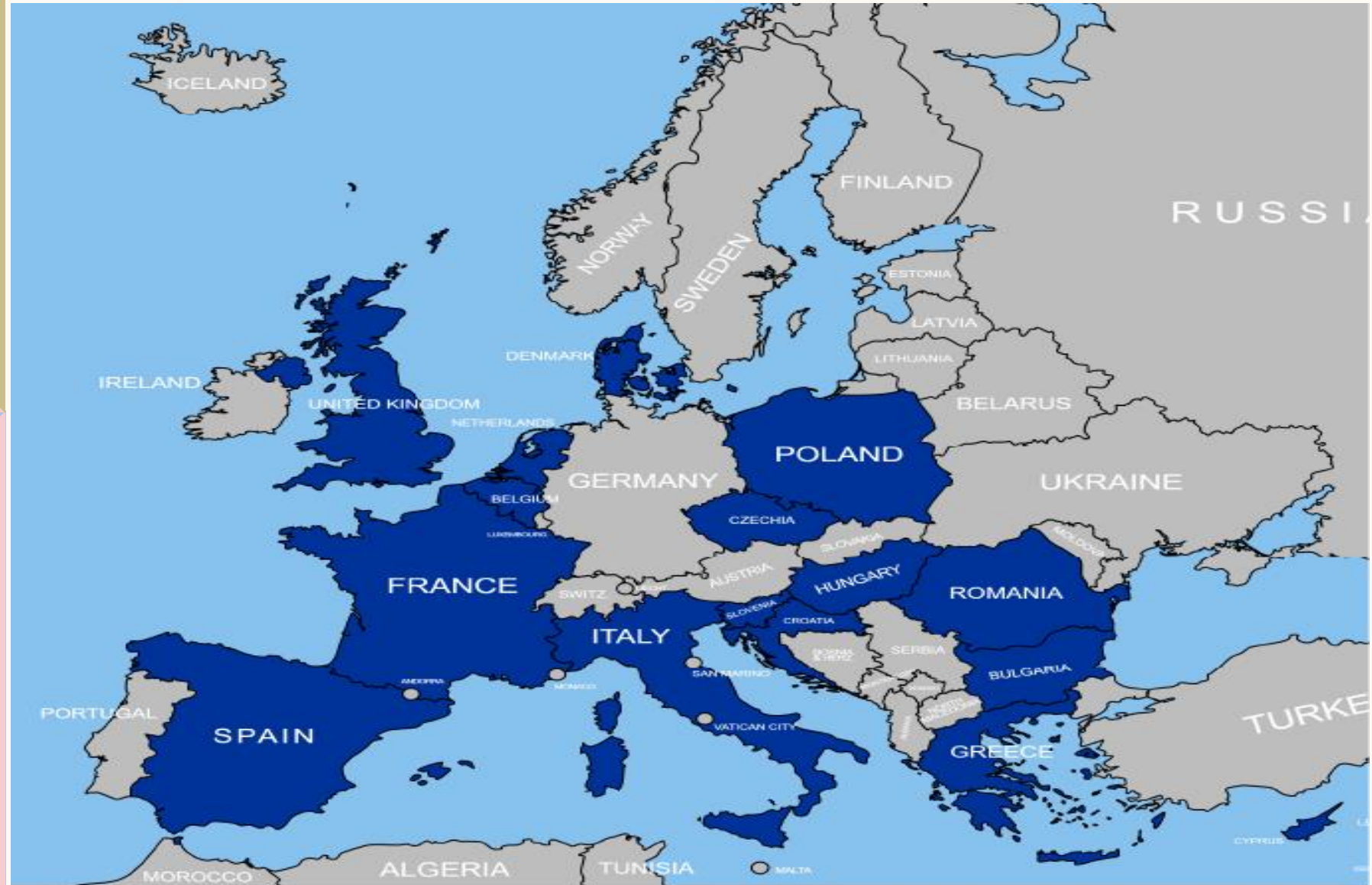
- Find out if there are evidence-based successful social innovations with potential to scale - within and between member states
- Demonstrate the value of resourcing planning
- Design a bigger fund to support implementation of scaling

# 120 APPLICATIONS FROM 22 COUNTRIES



Country in which lead organisation is based	Number of applications
Austria	3
Belgium	18
Bulgaria	3
Croatia	1
Cyprus	1
Czech Republic	2
Denmark	1
Finland	1
France	10
Germany	8
Greece	5
Hungary	5
Ireland	22
Italy	9
Latvia	2
Lithuania	1
Netherlands	6
Poland	1
Romania	1
Slovakia	1
Slovenia	5
Spain	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>

# SCALING PLANS IN 15 COUNTRIES



# **EUROPEAN NETWORKED FUND FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION**

## **Genio building and co-ordinating consortium for this fund**

- Foundations, public and private sector, academia, civil society organisations etc.

[info@genio.ie](mailto:info@genio.ie)



## **FOCUSED ON 5 EU MISSIONS (HORIZON)**

- Adaptation to climate change
- Carbon neutral, smart cities
- Soil
- Oceans, seas & inland waterways
- Cancer.

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**THANK YOU**

Madeleine Clarke