

SROI IN SCOTLAND

Piloting SROI

Work is currently underway to pilot the Social Return On Investment (SROI) methodology within the Scottish social economy. Working in partnership, [Forth Sector, Communities Scotland](#) (Social Economy Unit), the EQUAL Team, together with [Social Investment Scotland](#), [The New Economics Foundation](#) and Haldane Associates are joining together to test the validity of SROI as an impact measurement tool within the Scottish context and to evaluate the model's potential for estimating the impact of investment funding.

Context

The project is being undertaken in relation to the Round 2 [EQUAL](#) Community Initiative Programme and will contribute to the achievement of the programme's three main objectives: i. changing the environment in which the social economy operates; ii. growing and developing social economy organisations; and iii. developing individuals who work in the social economy.

It is also directly linked to the five main themes identified by [Social Economy Scotland](#) (the partnership organisation put in place to drive and implement the programme). The programme aims to develop knowledge and awareness around public-social partnerships and procurement, access to finance, skills and professional development, quality and impact measurement and promotion.

Partnership working is one of the cross-cutting themes of the EQUAL project and is integral to the SROI project.

Project Outline

The following outputs are anticipated as a consequence of this work:

- 12 SROI Reports;
- 12 case studies of organisations engaged in social enterprise activity as part of their wider role;
- 10 training courses in Social Return on Investment delivered to social economy organisations throughout Scotland;
- 5 awareness raising sessions on measuring 'social return' and impact measurement delivered to public sector staff within key regeneration agencies in Scotland;
- A social return matrix outlining the characteristics of patient capital required to support the sector.

It is also anticipated that each of the organisations will gain an improved understanding of social return on investment and its potential to inform continuous improvement. The

financial information generated by testing the model is expected to be of particular interest to the public sector in quantifying Best Value – by enabling those working within the sector to make more informed procurement decisions around the delivery of public services.

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