



Social Innovation – Tools for Social Change

Module Coordinator	Declan Cahill, Trinity Business School
What will you learn from this Elective?	You will learn how to bring about social change through development of socially innovative responses to key societal challenges. We will focus on development of nature based solutions for sustainable cities, rural and coastal communities. During the course, you will be part of a temporary innovation system, looking critically at existing institutional arrangements and system actors and learning how to bring about change in institutions and stakeholder engagement. Your lectures will immerse you in the complexity of societal challenges and effective approaches to addressing them. In your workshops, run using action learning methodology, you will be part of a mixed discipline team. You will develop individual and group skills in socially innovative action to address societal challenges, and in communicating what you learn through multiple forms of media.
Student Workload	• 11 hours of lectures • 22 hours of workshops, both online and in classroom • 20 hours of advance reading • 15 hours of individual assessment preparation • 30 hours of group assessment preparation
Assessment Components	100% continuous assessment - 50% Individual, 50% group Individual assessment (50%) You will identify and contact an expert in your focal topic area, record a three minute video made about/with that person, write up a blog entry about what you learned from them and post both on the course website. Team Assessment (50%) Your team will research, produce, and give a poster presentation to the class on your course learning, and produce a video or blog post about your course work oriented towards non-academics interested in social innovation and social change.



Indicative Reading List

- Healy, J., Hughes, J. and Donnelly-Cox, G., 2025. On Addressing Societal Challenges: The Influence of Archetypal Biases on Scaling Social Innovation. *Journal of Business Ethics*, pp.1-14.
- Rhodes, M.L., McQuaid, S. and Donnelly-Cox, G., 2022. Social innovation and temporary innovations systems (TIS): insights from nature-based solutions in Europe. *Social Enterprise Journal*, 18(2), pp.252-270.
- Faivre, N. et al (2017). 'Nature-Based Solutions in the EU: Innovating with nature to address social, economic and environmental challenges.' *Environmental Research*. Vol: 59, November, pp.509-518

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Identify the key issues and debates concerning the use of social innovation to address societal challenges and enable social change
2. Use action learning methodology to facilitate disparate actors working towards a common goal.
3. Engage with key individuals internationally in knowledge and action domains within the fields of social innovation and social change, and record and reflect on meaningful interaction with them.
4. Communicate social innovation for societal challenges and social change to a non-specialist audience