

RUN-EU STUDENT WEEK I GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RUN-EU GREEN CHALLENGE SAP's

LIT Thurles Campus based

1. RUN-EU Sustainable Development – Social Enterprise SAP Challenge

SAP Challenge Statement – *Sustaining Rural Communities*

Community resilience in sustaining rural communities is needed using real life solutions-based approach based on economic, social, cultural and environmental areas, anchored around the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

General Information

Regional policy, at the EU and member state levels, increasingly emphasises the sustainable development of regional and territorial resilience. The current global Covid19 pandemic has brought a renewed focus on community-level resilience associated with quality of life with greater emphasis on the local community and the importance of local landscape. This challenge looks at the difficulties facing communities to be able to live and work sustainably in their rural area. These difficulties include rural depopulation; derelict or vacant housing; single person occupancy; lack of affordable housing; existing housing stock that is not energy efficient; limited infrastructure in terms of public transport links and inefficient broadband connections; limited accessibility to renewable energy opportunities; tourism/entrepreneurial initiatives not fully developed; lack of awareness of potential of community assets and opportunities for tourism/entrepreneurial potential; the need for more access, preservation and education around cultural heritage, natural and built heritage; environmental degradation; need for community based climate change adaptations and community energy opportunities; the need for the development and support of entrepreneurial spirit and finally increased awareness of social enterprise and the potential benefits of social enterprise for the community.

There are a number of communities implementing positive change when it comes to building local resilience. Sometimes this change is being implemented in the face of or as a result of unsuitable policies stemming from a top-down central approach rather than policies that consider local particulars or the needs from a bottom up approach in certain policy areas. More can be done to empower communities by building their capacity to implement changes. This could then allow them to have a positive impact on their community in terms of maintaining a sustainable and pro-active community. Increased awareness is needed around the beneficial impacts of such an approach and help is needed for communities to identify and equip themselves with the knowledge, skillsets and competencies to develop sustainable communities that are best set to adapt, maintain and protect their environment and make places that people will be able to live, work and visit.

The ***RUN-EU Sustainable Development – Social Enterprise Challenge*** seeks applications from interdisciplinary teams proposing novel, sustainable solutions to the challenges outlined (and other

challenges identified by the students). With this challenge we are asking teams to propose innovative practices in respect of community resilience in achieving sustainable rural communities. There is a need for greater clarity in respect of what resilience means and by how it can be achieved. For example, individuals/communities working collaboratively, social enterprise, community cooperatives, social farming etc. This challenge involves investigating future needs and opportunities, engaging in vision-planning and future-proofing exercises and all the time aligning with the UN SDGs. You may wish to consider

- How is your challenge/ideas going to inspire those involved and others to be involved?
- How will this challenge support engagement with community stakeholders and public/private sectors?
- How can you use Social Enterprise to repurpose rural areas & re-ignite rural communities?
- How will this challenge support engagement between communities and public and private sectors?
- What current barriers are associated with this challenge and how they might be addressed
- What resources would be required to address the challenges?
- A SWOT/PESTEL analysis of your selected challenge idea
- The impact Covid has had on rural communities

The outputs of the ***Sustainable Development – Social Enterprise Challenge*** should be ambitious in terms of potential impact. The outputs should be realistic and achievable and ones that communities can deliver within a prescribed timeframe. You may wish to consider

- How your challenge idea is ambitious?
- What will the impact of this challenge be should it be successfully addressed?
- A SWOT analysis of your challenge idea could be carried out.
- Who are the beneficiaries of this challenge?
- What learnings can you take from best practice case studies throughout Europe & beyond?
- How will they benefit?
- Why will it require a novel, interdisciplinary-led solution?
- How can it be achieved in the timeframe?
- What resources are needed?
- What is the opportunity and why now?
- How can the learnings and outputs be

Areas for consideration could include:

- Economic – Employment, Housing, Infrastructure, Community Employment and Education, unemployment & lack of transport
- Social – Community well-being, Social Enterprise, Community Development
- Environment – Climate Change Action, Community Energy, Leadership & Engagement,
- Cultural – Community Heritage, Natural & Built Landscape. Ownership

Challenge Structure

1. Describe clearly the societal challenge?
2. Why is it important?
3. What's the opportunity for Europe?
4. How is it visionary and inspirational?
5. Identify which stakeholders/beneficiaries you would need to include to validate the challenge?
6. What are the key barriers that your team will address?
7. Describe clearly the solution proposed? This should not only be technical but also societal.
8. How is it novel and/or unconventional?
9. How will the proposed approach (technical/non-technical) lead to disruptive innovation?
10. How feasible/viable is the solution? What are the risks?
11. What outcomes will your solution deliver and when?
12. How will your solution transform society?

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this challenge-based SAP students will be able to

- Apply critical thinking, creative problem-solving concepts and design thinking models and tools for solving societal challenges
- Work in multidisciplinary, multicultural and co-creation environments
- Communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences clearly
- Propose solutions for societal real problems and challenges that demand innovation and a varied set of skills

Suggested Pre-Reading Information

- [Horizon Europe Sustainable Development Goals | European Commission \(europa.eu\) - The EU Research & Innovation Programme](#)
- <https://www.bordbia.ie/industry/news/food-alerts/frightening-facts-on-food-waste/>
- <https://www.ecologic.eu/16395>
- [Bio-waste in Europe — turning challenges into opportunities](#)
- <https://www.thejournal.ie/vacant-housing-ireland-5476812-Jun2021/>
- [Ireland's empty towns: High housing demand belies County Clare's dereliction problems \(irishexaminer.com\)](#)
- <https://www.thejournal.ie/motorways-m7-bpassed-2860860-Jul2016/>

- <https://www.rte.ie/lifestyle/living/2016/0705/800346-tonight-on-rte-one-bypassed/>
- [Ireland's empty towns: Even Tipp's flourishing towns are blighted by vacant properties \(irishtimes.com\)](https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/ireland-s-empty-towns-even-tipp-s-flourishing-towns-are-blighted-by-vacant-properties-1.4411111)
- <https://www.marei.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/How-do-we-Engage-Communities-in-Climate-Action.pdf>
- [https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/projectsandcentres/imagining2050/InnovativeMethodsofCommunityEngagement\(lowres\).pdf](https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/projectsandcentres/imagining2050/InnovativeMethodsofCommunityEngagement(lowres).pdf)
- <https://www.epa.ie/news-releases/news-releases-2020/using-green-and-blue-spaces-will-benefit-both-your-physical-and-mental-health-.php>
- <https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/ipbes-irelands-biodiversity-crisis/>
- <https://www.farmingfornature.ie/>

SAP Working Week Structure

1. Welcome
2. Project Objective
3. Team Building (including Outdoor Learning)
4. Learning / Teaching Strategy (Design Thinking, Challenge-Based experience, Double-Diamond, Collaborative Learning, co-creation...)
5. Introductory Sessions / Pre-reading / Master classes
6. Discovery of the Challenge! (Building understanding through data collection, analysis and immersion)
7. Define a Problem Worth Solving! (Problem Statement, Point of view)
8. Develop Solution!
 - Brainstorm, Designing, Visualising, Sketching
 - Designing and making a low fidelity prototype. Testing and experimenting the prototype. Designing MVP/Solution (if feasible within the challenge topic).
9. Delivering Solution!
10. Finalising Solution and Presentation
11. Final Presentations / Pitches
12. General Assembly presentation of winner
13. Learning Reflection (during the following week when they are already home).

SAP on the ground requirements

- Tools and Collaborative Platforms (canvases, Miro, Teams, etc...)

- Invited Guests / External Partner / Visits / Field Work/Case Studies/Outdoor sessions(team-building)
- RUN-EU Coaches