

Measure:

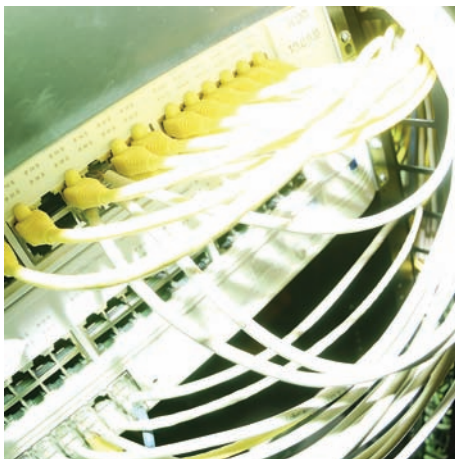
Knowledge Economy

Promoters:

Socia.net

Title:

**Broadband for the
Social Economy**



This project exploited the opportunities presented by broadband internet access and through a twelve-month pilot initiative, argued the case for extension of support to the Social Economy.

The project implemented broadband access for a range of thirty social economy organisations on both sides of the border and measured the feasibility and usefulness of this technology for the Social Economy Sector.

Ten organisations from each 'border corridor' area were selected to adopt satellite broadband as part of the project.

The main benefits to groups participating in this project include:

- **Better Access:** The "always on" connection means that each user can have access to the internet and emails constantly.
- **Sourcing Information:** a benefit expressed by most of the groups is the ability to source various types of information.
- **Better Informed:** Because information is now readily available and accessible, staff are now better informed. Their information is current, allowing them to provide a better standard of service to their clients.
- **Staff Development:** In addition to being better informed, staffs are constantly learning new skills and becoming more computer literate.

There was a general feeling among the social economy organisations that the introduction of broadband has created a lot of positive and exciting opportunities. It allows organisations to network with groups in other areas to learn about best practise and to create links. Groups can carry out more detailed research, keep their own websites updated and keep their knowledge up to date.

As one groups said, "It gives us the opportunity to share information. We never had that opportunity before. It is absolutely fantastic!"

Total Project Cost: €285,048

Grant Awarded: €142,838

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