



The Wheel

Collaborations, Partnerships and The Wheel: a summary overview

June 2017

This paper provides an overview of the different types of collaborations and partnerships that The Wheel has and how they fit into the implementation of our strategy.

Partnerships with a structured and/or written agreement for delivery of specific services:

Area / Project	Details and Relationship to Strategy
Employer Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.erb.ie website and quarterly email/newsletter on HR issues of relevance to CV sector employers. • It is a partnership between original developers of the service: The Wheel, the Carmichael Centre and Adare HR. • All financial costs shared 50/50 between The Wheel and Carmichael Centre. • Adare providing the HR expertise/content onto site. The Wheel is webmaster for site, and also puts the newsletter together and sends out. • Concept of 'ownership' of the service shared three ways Relevant to Objective 3 'Drive the continuous improvement of organisational practice within the sector' of our strategy.
Governance Code Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.governancecode.ie website and corporate governance standard. • Formal agreement between 8 CV sector orgs as well as three 'expert commercial organisations'. The organisations share the concept of "ownership" of the Code equally. • The Wheel is an active member of the Working Group and is currently providing web-hosting and secretariat services. • The Wheel manages the registry of compliance with the Code and also sends out periodic updates to mailing list.

Area / Project	Details and Relationship to Strategy
Newsweek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wheel produces the NewsWheel Member Newsletter 11 times a year. It goes to 5,000 readers every month. • Content is produced by in-house, as well as via a panel of half a dozen external content providers (including the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and Clann Credo). The newsletter also carries one-off stories and special offers from external partners and contacts from across the Irish community and voluntary sector, all with the specific purpose of benefiting our members.
Irish Charities Engagement Monitor (ICEM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A public attitudes survey of attitudes to a range of Irish charities and charity-related issues. • The Wheel working collaborative with ca 20+ other charities which pay varying amounts in a pool to cover these regular waves of surveys. • Specifically, The Wheel shares a 'seat' with Charities Institute Ireland in the larger consortium and the two organisations cooperate to identify questions that both are interested in.
Volunteer Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate formally on the 'Better Together Charity Hero' campaign • Worked well and likely to continue. • Less structured, but strong relationship exists between The Wheel and VI in relation to advocacy work.
The 'Training Links' networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every three years, we roll out a grant-giving programme and select between 10 and 20 networks of organisations (each of which has a minimum of ten organisations in it) with whom we will work for the following 2 years. • Each network applies for a grant to fund 80% of a training programme to build capacity in the member organisations of that particular network, which will be implemented over two years. • Each network forms part of an actual Programme which we run over 2 years whereby each network has a coordinator that comes to regular meetings with a Wheel project manager to understand how best to make the funding work for them and also to share experiences amongst networks. • This is a programme which is funded by the National Training Fund. • This is a hugely successful programme that we have modelled on 'Skillnets' and is effectively a Skillnets for the voluntary sector.
www.goodcharity.ie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration amongst: The Wheel, Dochas, Fundraising Ireland, Total Fundraising and Whitebarn Consulting to develop a public-facing website with some key public-interest messages re charities. • The (relatively low) costs are split between all parties.
ResourcePoint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ResourcePoint service continued to serve as an innovation member-benefit (i.e. cost-cutting), as well as a business development tool for The Wheel. • ResourcePoint partnerships established and/or proactively maintained include: 2into3; Achilles; Adare;

	Avcom; BHP; Chris Mee; Doggett; Energia; Fornax; HSF; Recosi; The Office Centre; Three.
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Partnerships / Coalitions for Advocacy purposes:

SEETF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Task Force – a coalition of ca 12 organisations which have an interest in changing national policy to support the development of social enterprise and entrepreneurship. • Five of these orgs, including The Wheel, pool funding of €2,500 each to fund the advocacy resources which works for this coalition.
CV Pillar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coalition of 17 national orgs over last 15+ years, which originally existed to participate in the national social partnership framework. Continues to exist to pursue shared social policy aims through the bilateral 'structured dialogue' – which social partnership has morphed into. • Specific funding is received under the 'social partnership grant scheme' for part of the cost of the Director of Public Policy position and this enables us to perform at the necessary level.
Miscellaneous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2014 and 2015, we worked/will work actively within the following coalitions / groupings in a leadership way either on 'core'/central working groups of same, or the equivalent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Claiming Our Future ○ People Talk ○ The Open Government Partnership Initiative ○ Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESC Rights group) ○ Comhlámh Supporter Network for the Code of Good Practice on International Volunteering
Access Europe programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2015 The Wheel has been in partnership with Access Europe, an initiative set up to increase funding from the European Union to Irish civil society organisations, in particular, though not exclusive to, former grantees of Atlantic Philanthropies. • In 2017 The Wheel took over the implementation of this project in the Republic of Ireland and collaborates with Early Years NI, who implement the work in the North.
Coalition 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wheel is a member of Coalition 2030, which was launched in March 2017 • Coalition 2030 is an alliance of leading civil society groups working for the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 in Ireland and across the globe.
European Parliament Project 2016-2017: Shaping Our Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2016 The Wheel secured funding for a project to encourage and facilitate dialogue between Irish civil society organisations and members of the European Parliament. The project is led by The Wheel but also implemented in partnership with European Anti-Poverty Network and the Irish Environmental Network.
Campus Engage (IUA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wheel was a strategic partner on a new report on <i>Engaged Research</i>, highlighting opportunities and best

	practice for research collaboration between Higher Education Institutes and the C&V sector. The report was produced by Campus Engage, an initiative of the Irish Universities Association.
National Rural Network programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NRN is a component of the EU's Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020 • The programme aims to maximise the beneficial outcomes of the RDP for people living and working in rural communities • The Wheel is a partner in the consortium implementing the NRN; Irish Rural Link is the lead partner and the other consortium partners are the School of Geography and Archaeology in NUI Galway and Philip Farrelly & Co. (agricultural consultants)
National Pay & Benefits survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Foundation for Ireland, in association with The Wheel, Dochas and Fundraising Ireland [to end 2016], is the lead partner and funder of biannual National Survey on Pay and Benefits in Community, Voluntary and Charitable organisations in Ireland. • This survey [the next edition to be available in autumn 2017] details everything from rates of pay across the sector to conditions of employment (including pension schemes, paid leave and other benefits), along with other supporting materials.

Business Development / commercial in nature:

Area / Project	Details and Relationship to Strategy
ResourcePoint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See reference above
Various sponsorships / project-related	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples include companies: Ulsterbank, Crowe-Horwath, as well as philanthropic trusts e.g. Carnegie Trust (UK), Newmans Own. • Each agreement connects The Wheel's brand together with the 3rd party in similar and different ways.
Various marketing partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From time to time, The Wheel enters partnership / affinity relationships with 3rd parties and we have a set of guidelines which dictate the process for agreeing same.

International

'Sister councils' in Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales	<p>The Wheel has agreed a joint 'concordat' between the following organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) • Welsh Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) • Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) • Northern Irish Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA) <p>Meetings are held twice per year in revolving locations in the five jurisdictions and a programme of information sharing and assistance, and sometimes, joint funding applications from the EU are developed.</p>
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Ad-hoc partnerships / collaborations

Disability Federation of Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structured MOU from about 6 years ago which meant information exchange meetings twice or three times a year. Regularity has faded off in last 2 years.
National Youth Council of Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A specific project to research and identify indicators that might act as a link between policy positions and decisions taken by the state and the associated social outcomes was done in 2013 & 2014. Plans to move it on in 2015
Carmichael Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet informally but regularly, to exchange information and coordinate loosely on activities and strategic approaches.
Other 'infrastructure' organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate ever more regularly with Fundraising Ireland, ICTR, Carmichael Centre, Boardmatch Ireland and Dochas - usually on various events and/or programmes. The media-handling during end 2013 / early 2014 saw an organised collaboration around organising a sector-wide conference on February 2014 and associated follow up.
Europe for Citizens Programme	<p>To promote opportunities we have collaborated with the following organisations to do events, marketing and capacity building:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creative Europe Sub-Culture Programme (Arts Council) Erasmus+ (Leargas) EC representation in Ireland (e.g. National Ploughing event)
Better Together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An annual collaboration with 20+ charities to roll out and develop the Better Together public awareness and awards competition every autumn.
Irish Research Council	<p>To promote opportunities for C&V sector in research, and under Horizon 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irish Research Council Irish Universities Association

'ad-hoc' partnerships continued

Area / Project	Details and Relationship to Strategy
Collaborations around competitions / judging panels	<p>We have worked / still work as members of selection panels on the following schemes/programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Coca Cola Thank You Fund The Bord Gais Book Club Award The Local Authority Management Association (LAMA) Awards Chambers Ireland CSR & Excellence in Local Government Awards. Social Entrepreneurs Ireland Awards

Significant Contracts we commission:

Accredited Leadership Development Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One with a consortium of: All Hallows College & Quality Matters A second with Community Action Network (CAN) Both resulted from an open tendering process and a selection based on application of pre-published criteria and on which an independent panellist was sitting.
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