

# TENDER DOCUMENT

KICKSTART FUND 2022  
AMICITIA & SPÉIRE NUA





# ABOUT

---

**AMICITIA ARE A  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
ORGANISATION BASED IN  
ATHENRY, CO. GALWAY.**

---

**THEY CO-CREATE  
INITIATIVES WITH THE  
RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN  
TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF  
LIFE, HEALTH AND  
WELLBEING.**

---

Amicitia's projects include a social hub, biodiversity projects, a sustainable energy community and technology supports for older people and those with disabilities. In 2022, their social hub will be renovated into a community cafe with funding secured through the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund.

The long-term ambition of the project is to establish a multi-stakeholder cooperative to facilitate a Just Transition in rural communities. The project has won a number of awards working towards these aims including Rethink Ireland's Social Enterprise Development in 2020 and work commissioned by Science Gallery Dublin.

Amicitia have also provided mentoring and training to a number of social enterprises across the country and value working in solidarity and collaboration with other groups to strengthen the social economy.

# KICKSTART FUND

In 2021, the Department of Justice launched its Working to Change: Social Enterprise and Employment Strategy 2021 – 2023. The Probation Service, in collaboration with the Irish Prison Service, invited applications from social enterprises in Ireland for Round 3 of the KickStart Fund to support implementation of the Working to Change Strategy under the Dormant Accounts Fund Action Plan 2021.

The objective of KickStart Round 3 is to “support and encourage new and existing social enterprises to create meaningful jobs for people with criminal convictions, as a stepping stone to mainstream employment”

Amicitia are delighted to receive funding through this programme to conduct a feasibility study in partnership with Damien Quinn and his Spéire Nua project. Damien has had a troubled youth which resulted in criminal behaviour, addiction and prison. While in prison he took the opportunity to reconnect with education and is an advocate for lifelong learning and for change around systematic barriers for people with convictions.

In Ireland, currently, over half the people that get out of prison end up back in there within the first three years and Damien believes that this is directly linked to a lack of opportunity and an unwillingness of people to engage with those with convictions. He understands the reservations people may have but unless people are afforded a few chances along the way, the revolving door will continue to spin, having a negative impact on those that are trying to change. This also has a negative impact on the communities that they come from. You can explore Damien’s story in more depth on the The Two Norries Podcast

Amicitia has mentored Damien during ideation phase of Spéire Nua which uses a derivative of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) to assess where someone is currently at with regards to moving on from their past behaviour. Prior learning may have been acquired by formal, non-formal or informal routes. The process of RPL includes the gathering of information in a portfolio building process which is weighted towards a set of benchmarks set out by institutions within the Criminal Justice System CJS. The portfolios will be developed with trained ‘peer mentors’ and passed on to be assessed by the CJS then either rejected or validated and then certified. This process will be an ongoing assessment model which can be revisited by the client as often as required.

# KICKSTART FUND

This idea originated from Damien's research for his MSc in Cooperatives and Social Enterprise at UCC and when he studied with Equal Ireland to become a trained RPL practitioner. His dissertation is titled Spéire Nua – Life after Prison for the Reformed Individual – Opportunities or Barriers?

Recently, the Spéire Nua project received seed funding from Social Entrepreneurs Ireland through their Ideas Academy and they have invited Damien back to take part on The Action Lab and to avail of further support to make his idea a reality. The Kickstart Fund will aim to expand on this work and integrate Spéire Nua with the Amicitia project.

Amicitia are the host social enterprise throughout this process and we are committed to providing Damien with a platform to establish Spéire Nua and assist people across the country who wish to disentangle themselves from the consequences of their convictions. Ex-offenders identified through this process will also have the opportunity to take part in training and internship programmes with Amicitia. Damien has also joined the board of directors at Amicitia to strengthen the partnership and overall governance of the project.

**Through the KickStart Fund a total of €12,000 ex. VAT has been allocated to work with a private consultant to carry out a feasibility study and investigate this partnership between Amicitia and Spéire Nua. The final delivery deadline is March 1st 2023.**

# OBJECTIVES

There are a number of aims and objectives that this feasibility study will seek to achieve.

- Evaluate the Spéire Nua project with its approach to Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and certification of employability. The study should investigate the potential for a dedicated RPL service for ex-offenders and the revenue model to support this.
- Map the Amicitia project and its various streams of revenue (established and emerging) to identify future resource requirements and design a training/internship programme that can support ex-offenders into meaningful employment. This programme should have the potential to scale to other social enterprises across the country.
- Based on this work the overall aim of the study should be to deliver a strategy that positions Spéire Nua as a leading voice in the reform of the prison sector through the creation of innovative peer-to-peer mentoring and training services.
- Background research on international approaches to certificates of rehabilitation/good conduct i.e. US and Norway. Also research on similar social innovations such as those that have launched successful internship programmes and peer-to-peer support models to inform this work.
- The feasibility study should also identify future funding opportunities and collaborative partnerships and be presented to Amicitia, Spéire Nua and their funders as part of a final report.

## Resources

Amicitia and Spéire Nua will make available all the necessary documents and information to support the consultant on this project. Amicitia will also facilitate a group workshop in their social hub throughout this process. This will bring together stakeholders from across the probation sector to inform the project and support the consultant in their work.

# TERMS OF COMPETITION

This document has been prepared for the purposes of obtaining quotations (tender) from suitably qualified and competent service providers (tenderers) to deliver a study in line with the project brief.

While every effort has been made to provide comprehensive and accurate information, Amicitia does not accept any liability or provide any express or implied warranty in respect of any such information. Tenderers must form their own opinions, approach and methodologies to deliver a plan that meets the requirements set out in this document.

Amicitia does not bind itself to accept the lowest priced or any quotation. A fee of €12,000 has been allocated as part of the funding and tenderers are advised to work towards this full amount detailing an hourly rate for consultancy. This document does not constitute an offer or commitment to enter into a contract.

No contractual rights in relation to Amicitia will exist unless and until a formal written contract has been executed by or on behalf of Amicitia. Any notification of preferred bidder status by Amicitia shall not give rise to any enforceable rights by the tenderer.

Amicitia may cancel this competition at any time prior to a formal written contract being executed by or on behalf of Amicitia. The award of a contract does not confer exclusivity on the successful tenderer.

**Tenders must be received not later than Monday 20th of June at 5pm and emailed to [patrick@amicitia.org](mailto:patrick@amicitia.org)**

The assessment of tenders will be a comparative assessment between tenders received.

The sum of the tenderer's marks will constitute their overall score.

The tenderer with the highest overall score will be awarded the contract.

# TENDERS

The contract will be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender(s) as identified in accordance with the following criteria:

<b>Criterion A Previous Experience</b>	<b>25 marks</b>
Provide a list of relevant, similar services undertaken in the past 5 years.	
<b>Criterion B Approach and methodology</b>	<b>35 marks</b>
Outline the Tenderer's approach and methodology to delivering the services as outlined in this document. Maximum 3 A4 pages.	
<b>Criterion C Programme for delivery</b>	<b>15 marks</b>
Provide a programme for delivery of the service.	
<b>Criterion D Price</b>	<b>25 marks</b>
As funding has been allocated and the budget is fixed for all tenderers this criterion will be marked based on the level of work and the hours committed to the project. Tenders should provide a price per hour for services.	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Price Marks = Lowest Price received x Marks available for price.</u></b> <b>Tenderer's price</b></p>	

All costs and expenses incurred by tenderers relating to their participation in this competition including, but not being limited to, site visits, correspondence, meetings, demonstrations and/or presentations shall be borne by and are a matter for discharge by the tenderers exclusively.

All prices quoted must be all-inclusive (i.e. including but not being limited materials, ancillary costs and all other costs/expenses), be expressed in Euro only and exclusive of VAT.

The VAT rate(s) where applicable should be indicated separately. Tenderers must confirm that all prices quoted in the quotation will remain valid for 6 months commencing from the date of submission of the quotation.



# CONTACT DETAILS

All queries relating to any aspect of this request for quotation must be directed to the following email address:

[patrick@amicitia.org](mailto:patrick@amicitia.org) or by phone on (091) 877 007

More details on the Amicitia project can be found here:

<https://amicitia.org/>

Damien Quinn of the Spéire Nua project can be contacted on

087 462 3327 | [damienspeirenua.org](mailto:damienspeirenua.org)