



## **Name of the Case**

### **REMADE IN EDINBURGH**

#### **Abstract**

Remade in Edinburgh is a community repair hub and second-hand shop, set up by a participant on the Good Ideas incubation programme, delivered by The Melting Pot.

The organization is a social enterprise with the Community Interest Company legal form.

#### **Website**

<https://www.edinburghremakery.org.uk/>

#### **Contacts (SIKE team)**

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## *SECTION 2: Case description*

# **REMADE IN EDINBURGH**

## **Objectives**

Remade in Edinburgh is a community repair hub and second-hand shop, set up by a participant on the Good Ideas incubation programme, delivered by The Melting Pot.

Their vision is to create an alternative to a disposable society by making repair education accessible to all, to build a stronger, waste-free community and support vulnerable people within Edinburgh.

They run workshops and teach different repair techniques and skills around sewing and textiles, IT, phones and computers, and furniture and woodwork.

They also refurbish and upcycle second-hand furniture items, textiles, and IT equipment, rescuing these from becoming waste and giving them a new lease of life. They then sell these quality and affordable refurbished items at the Edinburgh Remakery.

## **Clients, audience**

Local community of Leith and wider Edinburgh residents who are wish to increase their repair skills and access facilities.

Vulnerable people throughout Edinburgh and the UK, including refugee families and asylum-seeking children resettling in the UK and people coming out of homelessness.

Individuals looking for refurbished/reconditioned furniture.

## Position along the SI Spiral

Growing & scaling. After incubating the idea five years ago, Remade went on to prototype the idea in a small office before growing to a retail store in Edinburgh. They are now attempting to scale their idea by replicating the model in other cities.

## Relationship with HEI(s) (High Education Institutions)

- Sophie Unwin, founder of Remade in Edinburgh, is an Alumni of The Melting Pot's Good Ideas incubator, a specialised incubator programme of tailored support and resources to support founders of new/emerging socially innovative ideas.
- Sophie Unwin gained support around developing the business idea and in finding new premises. Through involvement in the programme the Remade in Edinburgh acquired a shop and arranged a service level agreement with council. After leaving the programme Sophie presented to the finances and resources committee of the City of Edinburgh Council who over turned decision not to reduce rent on property. She attributes this to the confidence that the programme provided to move the idea forward. Being able to discuss with peers and other social innovators was a benefit and relationships built during this time have continued. Sophie continues to receive mentoring from The Melting Pot's CEO, Claire Carpenter.
- Before involvement in Good Ideas Remade in Edinburgh had existed for 1 year as a community group with the idea to become a social enterprise.
- Remade in Edinburgh is currently looking at international replication through the Remade Network beginning with Brooklyn Remakery, in New York City.

## Finance model and resources

Remade in Edinburgh started in 2011 with £60 and a group of volunteers. In 2016 they have 10 employees, 20 volunteers and over 10 freelance tutors. In the last year the organisation taught over 1,000 people repair skills from upholstery to computer repair. Customers are charged on a sliding scale: offering a free weekly repair surgery at the Edinburgh Remakery in Leith, and charging companies and other organisations to go to them to deliver repair training. This is partly thanks to a partnership with local charity CHAI, and in return for them

providing furniture Remade in Edinburgh has helped them retain two jobs and continue to provide free furniture to vulnerable people across Edinburgh.

Remade in Edinburgh had funding to open the new centre from Zero Waste Scotland and Edinburgh Council, in 2016 received over 50 per cent of our income from business activities, and are on track to increase this to 80 per cent by 2018.

## **Methodology**

Remade collects donations of unwanted items from individuals and organisations. Workshops are delivered at the Remade premises where items are repaired and sold in the showroom.

## **Products, results**

Remade in Edinburgh provide both goods and services. They teach people how to repair electronics and household items and sell reconditioned items to the public.

## **Impact and results**

In the last year the organisation taught over 1,000 people repair skills from upholstery to computer repair. In the last year Remade in Edinburgh has tripled diversion of waste from 70 tonnes to 250.

## **Overall impact**

Remade have made a valuable contributed changing attitudes towards the disposal of household items and the corresponding impact on the environment.

## Images



Source: <https://www.edinburghremakery.org.uk/>