

Impetus Trust

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Year founded	2003
Sector focus	Charities and social enterprises working with the economically disadvantaged to effect far-reaching change, particularly those which focus on increased educational attainment, skills and employment
Geographical focus	Charities with their headquarters and significant portion of their management in England, with a small number operating internationally
Size of fund	€16.8 million (£14.4million) including co-investment and the value of pro bono expertise
Investment support	Strategic funding, management support and targeted capacity building
Investment size	€175,000-€580,000 (£150,000-£500,000), including co-investment, with support over 3-5 years

Impetus Trust is the UK's first venture philanthropy fund. Impetus uses a model of strategic funding coupled with expertise to transform the performance of the charities it backs, so they can turn around more lives of economically-disadvantaged people. As of January 2009, Impetus' portfolio charities have achieved, on average, a 53 per cent annual growth in the number of people helped and a 29 per cent annual increase in income.

Impetus leverages its direct funding by seeking co-investment and using its network of corporate partners and experts, who volunteer their skills. By actively seeking this leveraged approach, it has turned every £1 donated from Impetus to its portfolio charities into an additional £4 in value for the charities.

Impetus has made thirteen investments to date. Portfolio charities include: *Speaking Up*: empowers people with learning difficulties; *St. Giles Trust*: ex-offender resettlement and training; *beat*: information and support to eating disorders sufferers; *Leap Confronting Conflict*: conflict resolution programmes for young people; *Naz Project London*: support and prevention advice on sexual health issues for Black and Minority Ethnic communities in London; *Keyfund Federation*: skills development for disadvantaged young people; *Camfed International*: tackling poverty and AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa through education of rural women; *The Fairtrade Foundation*: improves the lives of poor and marginalised farmers in developing countries by promoting fairer forms of trade; *IntoUniversity*: engages young people from deprived backgrounds to attain either a university place or another chosen educational aspiration; *Acumen Development Trust*: social and economic regeneration through learning, enterprise and employment; *Street League*: uses sport to develop skills towards long-term education, employment and independence; *Children Our Ultimate Investment (Teens & Toddlers)*: reduces teenage pregnancy and raises aspirations of at-risk youth; *Blue Sky Development & Regeneration*: offers paid employment to ex-offenders to help break the cycle of re-offending.