

## ‘This is European Social Innovation’

### 1. An Unjust Kingdom

Not long ago, just five years back,  
Spurred by some kind of cranial smack,  
A humble banker, with a noble vision,  
(Which all aside was beyond derision),  
Arrived in Africa to pursue his studies,  
(And this is where the water muddies).

Of all the complaints made by teachers,  
(Hardly the most stoic of God’s creatures),  
The one that most irked these struggling tutors,  
Was the utter lack of good computers.  
This concern was echoed by their pupils,  
And began to play on the banker’s scruples.

Back at home in Dublin City,  
(And here’s the plug- it’s very pretty),  
On a university campus, one summer’s eve,  
Our banker friend was most aggrieved,  
When he passed a skip, stacked to the brim,  
Of great pcs left to be binned.

Armed with little but a good idea,  
(And probably a healthy dose of fear),  
He set off and founded an NGO,  
(Beset by a perennial lack of dough),  
With the most high-minded of intentions,  
To address the problem aforementioned.

### 2. Social Innovation Heroes

Choosing a name isn’t as easy as it seems,  
Particularly when nobody knows what it means.  
From the outset Camara quickly drew,  
And infected en masse a motley crew.  
First to fall was an academic,  
Who was quick to spread the new pandemic.

Next in line was a computer geek,  
Who quickly developed a new technique,  
Of refurbishing old computers,  
Good to go to their new users.  
After that a comely Scottish lass,  
In a vain attempt to add a pinch of class.

At this point it’s best to veer into generalities,  
For fear of causing offense; or worse, fatalities!  
Though it’s certainly worthwhile to note,  
(And there are far too many to name by rote),  
The volunteers, who, with great rapport,  
Kindly ignore the bad decor.

And finally it’s best to mention,  
(If just for the sake of staff retention),  
Our Hubs in Africa who battle hard,  
To bolster schools in this regard,  
As jobs go it must be demanding,  
And they get it done notwithstanding.



### 3. The Innovation Journey

On a road beset by toil and worry,  
Our heroes embarked upon their journey.  
Their first terror was the awful spectre,  
Of servants from the public sector.  
But in Ireland (lest we court rejection),  
They quickly proved the proud exception.

Next on the path was an early finding,  
(and the discovery here was really blinding),  
That sending computers is all well and good,  
But the teachers using them really should,  
Be trained to use them or as we've learned,  
Computer class is soon adjourned.

### 4. The Battle

A second lesson, soon learned well,  
(And one on which we're prone to dwell),  
Is that computers for all their uses,  
Are largely built of wire and fuses.  
And without belabouring a specificity,  
They generally rely on electricity.

'Another thing', teachers pointed out,  
(While computers are great without a doubt),  
Is that even with the best intentions,  
They aren't the simplest of inventions,  
So to best improve the education system,  
You really need someone there to fix them'.

### 5. The Way Back Home

While our heroes were oft beset by culture clashes,  
(most physically manifested as car crashes),  
The recurring theme in all the folly,  
Was the aforementioned lack of lolly.  
It slowly dawned that the best of all solutions,  
Was to make some friends in rich institutions.

So to conclude this brief but awesome epic,  
There is a cure for this pandemic.  
A little exposure in high places,  
Would bring a smile to our heroes' faces.  
Not because we're needy loners,  
But it would be great to meet some donors.



