



Lesley Maltman

Event Facilitator







Julie O'Brien



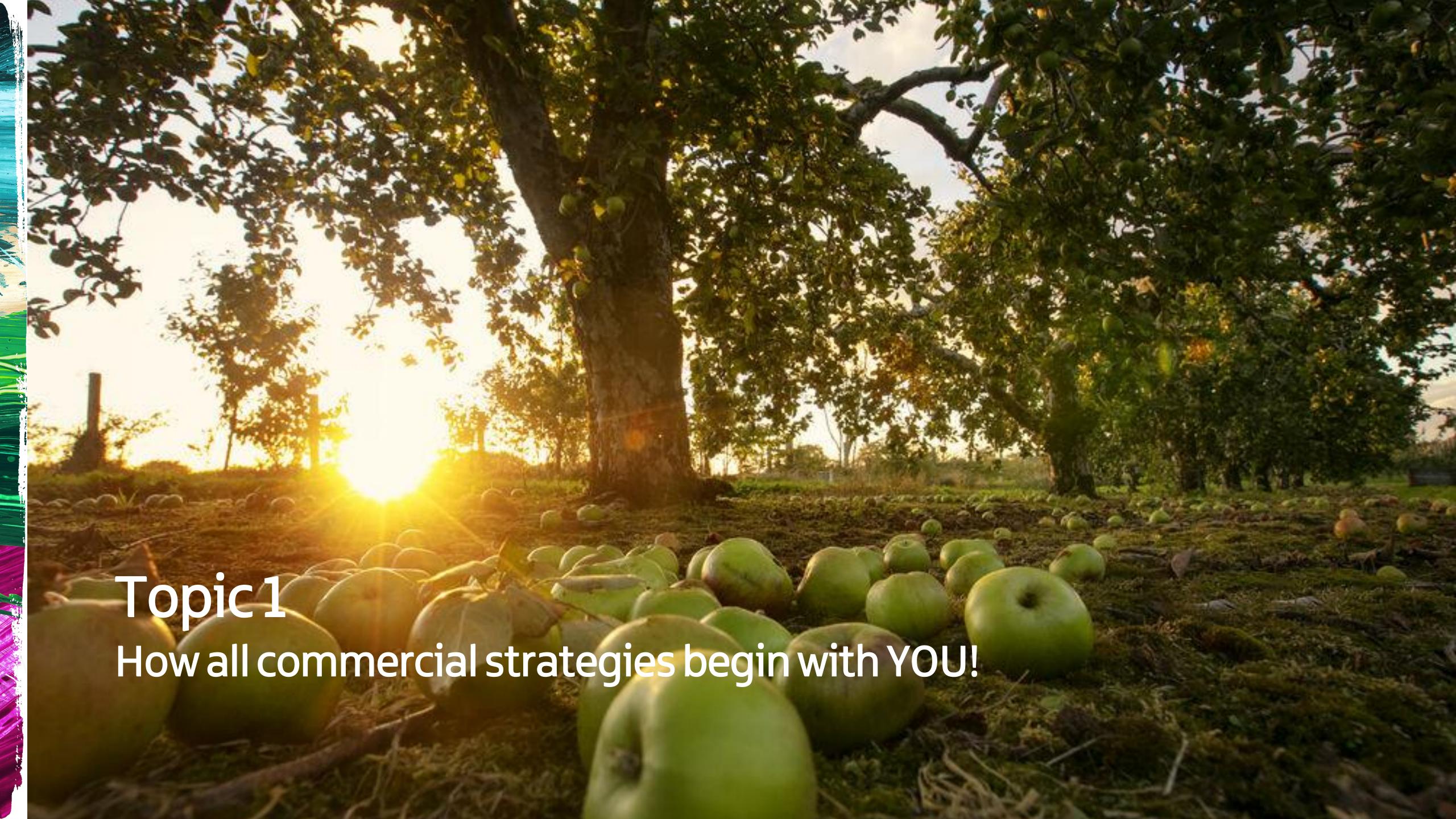




Topics

- The importance of YOU in commercial strategies
- Where do all commercial strategies begin?
- The KEY role of COLLABORATION
- 4 Prioritising low and no cost solutions
- 5 The importance of measurement
- Building commercial opportunities to grow your event/festival for the future





The People Behind Events & Festivals

- In the tourism industry, successful experiences & services blend magic ingredients
- These ingredients are HIGHLY evident in the people behind events and festivals
- These ingredients include:

DRIVE

PASSION

SOUL

INEGRITY

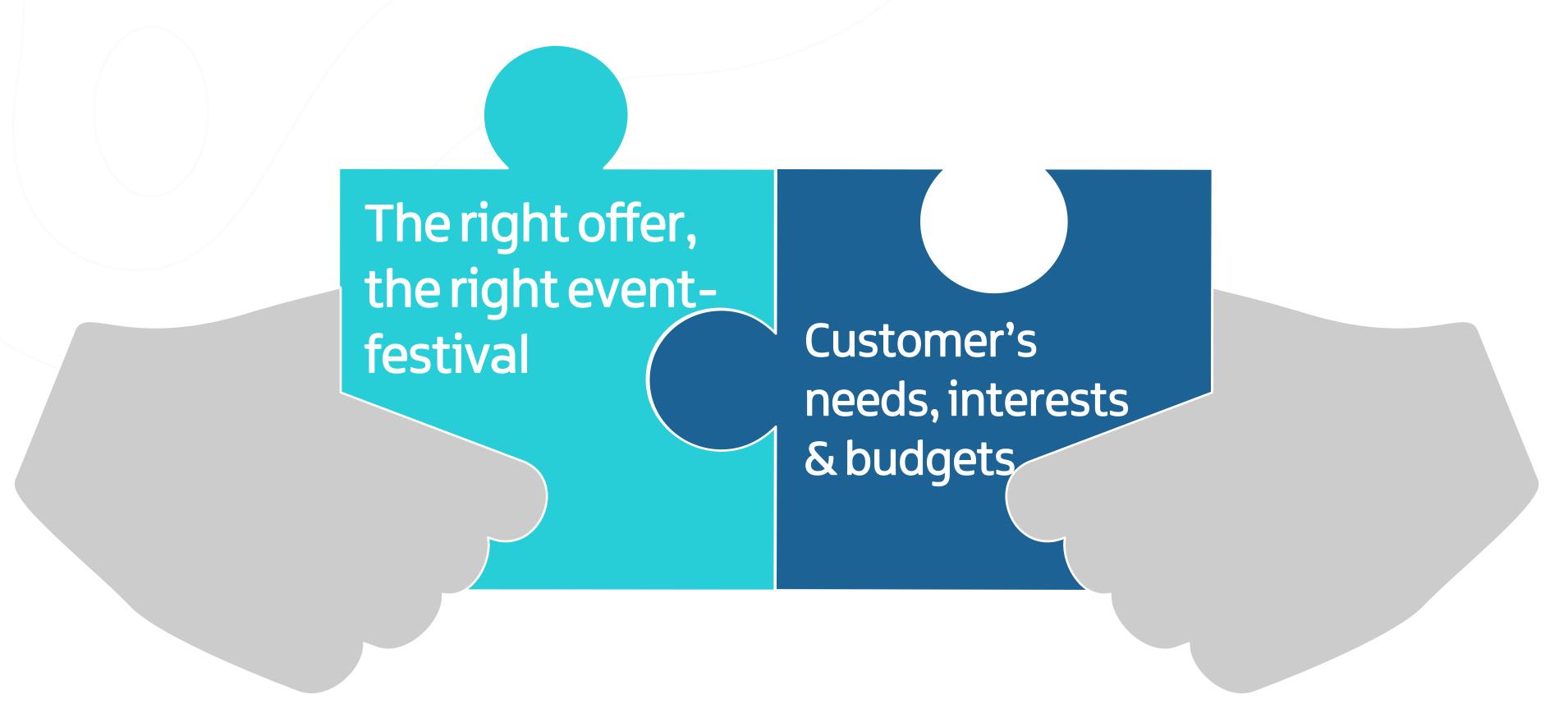
From the Customer's Perspective:

• There is nothing more compelling than an event or festival that is built on a desire



The MOTIVATION for events & festivals comes from a good place: people want to be part of that

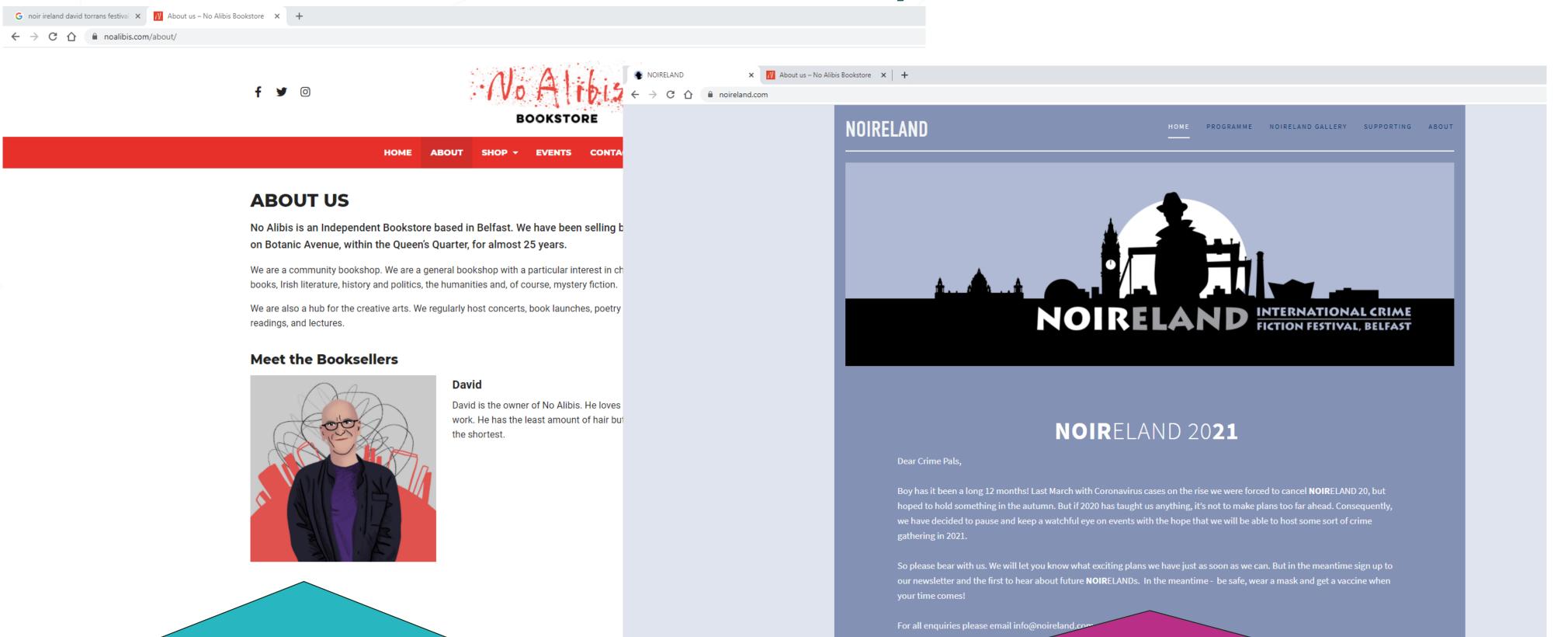
Commercial Strategies are about MATCHING



MATCHING applies to Events & Festival too.

Yet, there is something about the **passion, soul, drive and integrity** of the Event/Festival Organiser/s and the **connected environment/communities** they create that can compel a wider audience to book.

The Festival/Event Organiser | Examples



It all started with a LOVE of books in childhood

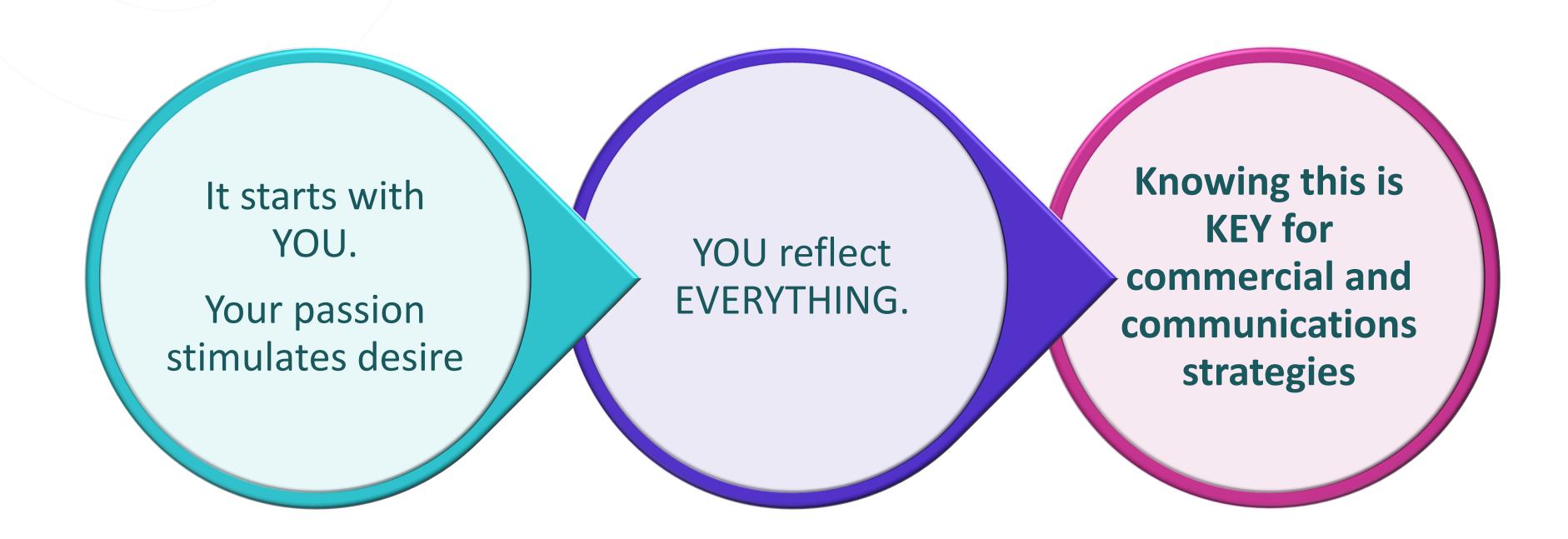
From David's PASSION & CHILDHOOD LOVE, NOIRELAND

- celebrates crime fiction
- showcasing Ireland's talent in this genre.
- exploring crime writing from across the world
- looking at the impact Ireland has had on the genre
- HAS A POSITIVE SOCIAL, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC IMPACT ON DESTINATION BELFAST AND NI



The Festival/Event Organiser

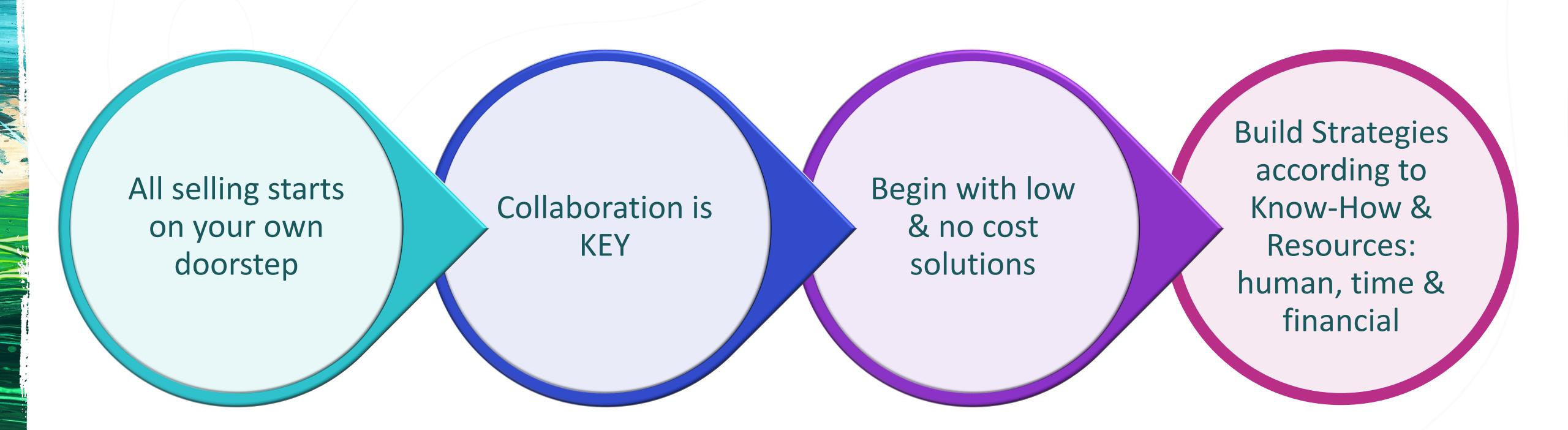
- All of the above begins with the festival organiser
- The spirit of the organiser filters down through teams, volunteers and onwards into commercial strategies
- This SPIRIT becomes a brand that compels us to engage and book







Where do all commercial strategies begin?





Defining your Next Steps

Everyone's Strategic Plan is Unique

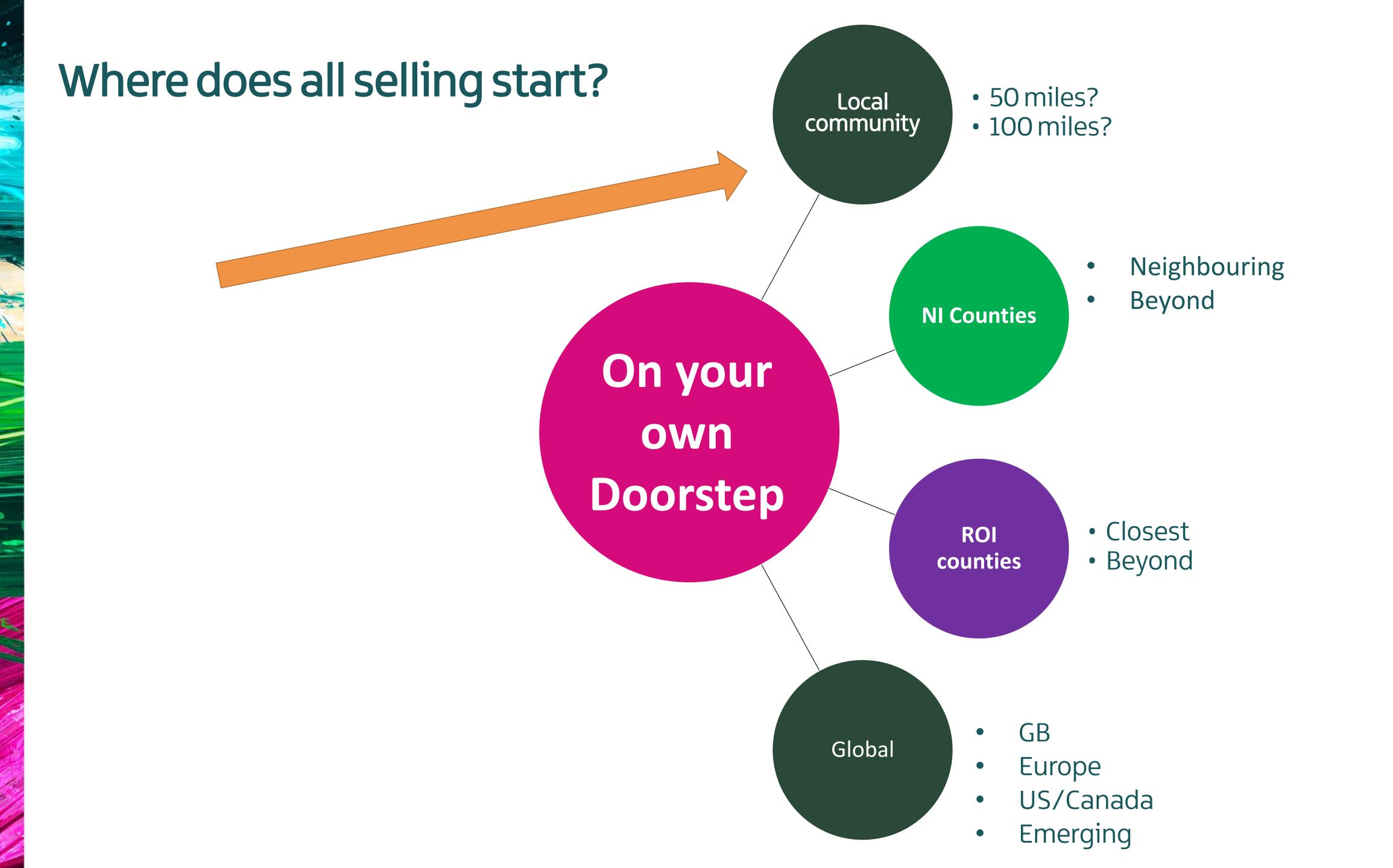
- Strategic Inputs Expand and Grow as the Event/Festival Expands and Grows
- Choosing strategies according to know-how and resources: building as these increase
- Build annually in a stepwise manner as know-how & resources grow

Know-How



Resources: time, human and financial





TASK

Clearly identify know how:

What you know. What you need to learn to build for the future

Cleary identify resources: what you have. Ways to secure more.

TIME- community/volunteers | HUMAN- volunteers | FINANCIAL

Map out the audiences you have the potential to reach

Local | NI Counties | ROI Counties | Global - starting where?

- •Map out HOW you will reach these audiences using a) your know-how and b) your available resources:
- •immediate future (within 1 year) | near future (2-3 years) | distant future (3-5 years +)



4



Nothing Happens Without Collaboration

Without Collaboration, you will not gain traction

It is step one of commercial strategies & a hallmark of successful event/festivals and destinations



Building Your Event/Festival within your Destination

Think about people

- in your community/destination
- who you can support
- who can support you
 - to raise revenue for your event/festival
 - your destination
 - destination NI

Think TEAM! By working together, you create:

- Revenue generation for your event/festival
- Revenue generation for other businesses
- Creating economic benefits and employment
- Social impact: raising pride and identity in your community



Building Your Event/Festival as a community within your Destination





Diverse offerings coming together to

MATCH diverse customers interests, needs and budgets!

Selling for one and for all is a winning strategy for everyone and the destination as a whole

The approach:



Ways to collaborate



Referrals: starting in your community

Draw up a list of your contacts

- Record them
 - Record the outcomes
- Reach out
 - Knowing how to present yourself
 - Being clear on what you need to ask
 - Being clear on when/how you can reciprocate referral
- Nurturing this relationship
 - Knowing that it takes time to build relationships
 - Expressing THANKS for opportunities delivered via referrals
 - Building the relationship/partnership year after year



Referrals: starting in your community

EXAMPLE: ACCOMMODATION PROVIDER

Hello, my name is [...] and I represent [name event/festival].

Through what we do visitors get to [...]

We are REALLY passionate about raising the profile of our event/festival because...

Most importantly, we want to raise the profile of our destination... To that end, we would love to figure out ways that we can work together to achieve that ...

For example, do you think you could refer our festival on your website year-round to raise awareness?.... Could we find a way to inform your team including reservations and reception team so that they can let others know what we do?.... Could we discuss ways that you can promote our festival to your social media channels?... Could you copy our offering to guests enquiring or booking over our festival dates?... Could we offer tickets as a prize so that you raise awareness among your guests through a social media campaign?... Could we create a package?....

From our end... this is what we can do to promote you....

Packages

When two or more parties come together to create an offer

- Define which business/es would be the right fit for you
 - Draw up a list
 - Reach out and ask for the opportunity
 - Remember to say THANK YOU for opportunities that arise
 - Record the contact, the opportunity and the outcome
 - the outcome: number of bookings, enquiries etc.
 - Build for the future

Sample Itineraries

Show the customer what can be done | spell it out for them

- Give insights into
 - your event & festival with things to do places to visit
 - local secrets: a hidden beach a wonderful woodland a delicious dish

awaken their imaginations & delight them! give them reasons to book/visit

- Define which business/es would be the right fit for you
 - share suggested itineraries offline and online

Natural-fit Partnerships

- Food festival & craft brewery or local distillery?
- Horticultural festival & garden centre?
- Dance festival & wellness business?
- Partnering with organisations: Translink? Libraries?

Think about natural-fit partnerships for your festival

- Reach out to create opportunities
- Recording contacts, opportunities and outcomes

TASK

Define minimum 10 referral opportunities in your destination/community Plan your approach. Then reach out to create opportunities.

Define minimum 2 package opportunities in your destination/community Plan your approach. Then reach out to create opportunities.

Define minimum 2 itinerary opportunities in your destination/community Plan your approach. Then reach out to create opportunities.

•Define minimum 2 natural-fit partnership opportunities in your destination/community. Plan your approach. Then reach out to create opportunities.



4



Hallmarks of Successful Events & Festivals

Begin selling on own doorstep

Know how to collaborate

Know to Prioritise Low & No Cost Solutions

- TNI and Discovernorthernireland.com
- Tourism Ireland
- Lead Generation and Conversion
- Digital

Hallmarks of Successful Events & Festivals



discovernorthernireland.com: official website for Tourism Northern Ireland Opportunity to upload your event/festival

Further opportunities include potential to be considered for

- Online editorial inclusion
- Email marketing
- Social Media
- Competitions
- Digital partnerships
- Influencer Marketing

https://tourismni.com/globalassets/grow-your-business/marketing/marketing--sales-opportunities-2020.pdf

discovernorfiernire and com

Annual reach:

- Via discovernorthernireland.com: 3 million visits
- Via ireland.com: +23 million global visitors
- FB: + 190,000 followers
- IG: +69,000 followers
- Twitter: +70,000
- Email database: + 100,000 users

How to get involved:

E: tidi@tourismni.com | T: 028 90441 551

Already involved?:

- Check your listing | update annually
- Reach out | lean on the support | make opportunities happen



Online marketing toolkits
Viewhere

Tourism NI's consumer website: discovernorthernireland.com

Local tourism providers can use Tourism NI's consumer website discovernorthernireland.com to promote their offering. In 2019* the consumer website received over 3 million visits from tourists seeking information on events, attractions, accommodation and things to see and do in Northern Ireland.*(Figures based on period Jan - Dec 2019)

For more information on promoting your tourism business on discovernorthernireland.com please download and read our Contributor Agreement (for events please download the Events Contributor Agreement).

If your offering (e.g. attraction, certified tourist accommodation premises or event etc.) meets the criteria please contact a member of the Visitor Information team at tidi@tourismni.com or telephone 028 90441551.

Once your tourism business is included on Tourism NI's consumer website discovernorthernireland.com it will be automatically included on Tourism Ireland's international consumer website ireland.com within 48 hours. The ireland.com website delivers +23 million annual web visits from consumers all over the world.

To make the most of your unique listing on discovernorthernireland.com check out our guide to making the most of your online web presence.

To view the content plan for our digital and social platforms 2019, please click here.

Marketing campaigns

The destination marketing team delivers a compelling all-Ireland marketing and communications programme, designed to change perceptions of Northern Ireland through increased positive messages in the domestic and international markets. A range of advertising campaigns are delivered throughout the year in Tourism NI's key markets of Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

To find out about our current campaigns please click here.

For more information contact marketingcampaigns@tourismni.com

Social & digital marketing

With a continuously growing consumer and corporate footprint on social media, Tourism NI have a significant online presence.

Facts & Figures

- Our Facebook page has over 160,000 likes and the figure is growing every day
- We have over 100,000 followers on @DiscoverNI Twitter
- We have over 60,000 followers on @NITouristBoard Twitter
- We have over 40,000 followers on Instagram
- We have an email database of over 100,000 users
- Rapidly growing presence on LinkedIn

https://tourismni.com/Grow-Your-Business/marketing/

discovernorthernireland.com

In light of Covid-19

- The Tourism NI team is looking for content
- AIM: to keep NI present in the minds of NI, ROI and Global Customers

Being aware of these opportunities

- Regularly checking in
- Being proactive
- Making things happen!

https://tourismni.com/Grow-Your-Business/marketing/

What can I contribute?

This is a difficult and worrying time for all of us and your obvious business priority is supporting your team and local partners, but if you would like to join the conversation and align to these five themes on your social channels you can do so via **#discoverni** or **#EmbraceAGiantSpirit**, and on Instagram (@discoverNI), Facebook (@discovernorthernireland) and Twitter (@discoverNI)

We would also very much welcome the below from our industry:

- Northern Ireland Recipes (include images and video where possible)
- Playlist suggestions (featuring your favourite NI bands and singers)



- Virtual material (such as virtual video tours of museums)
- Quiz ideas and trivia questions
- Any other innovative ideas you may have of how we can maintain a warm dialogue with consumers about Northern Ireland at this time.

You can email us digital@tourismni.com with this content and your thoughts and ideas.

How can I get involved?

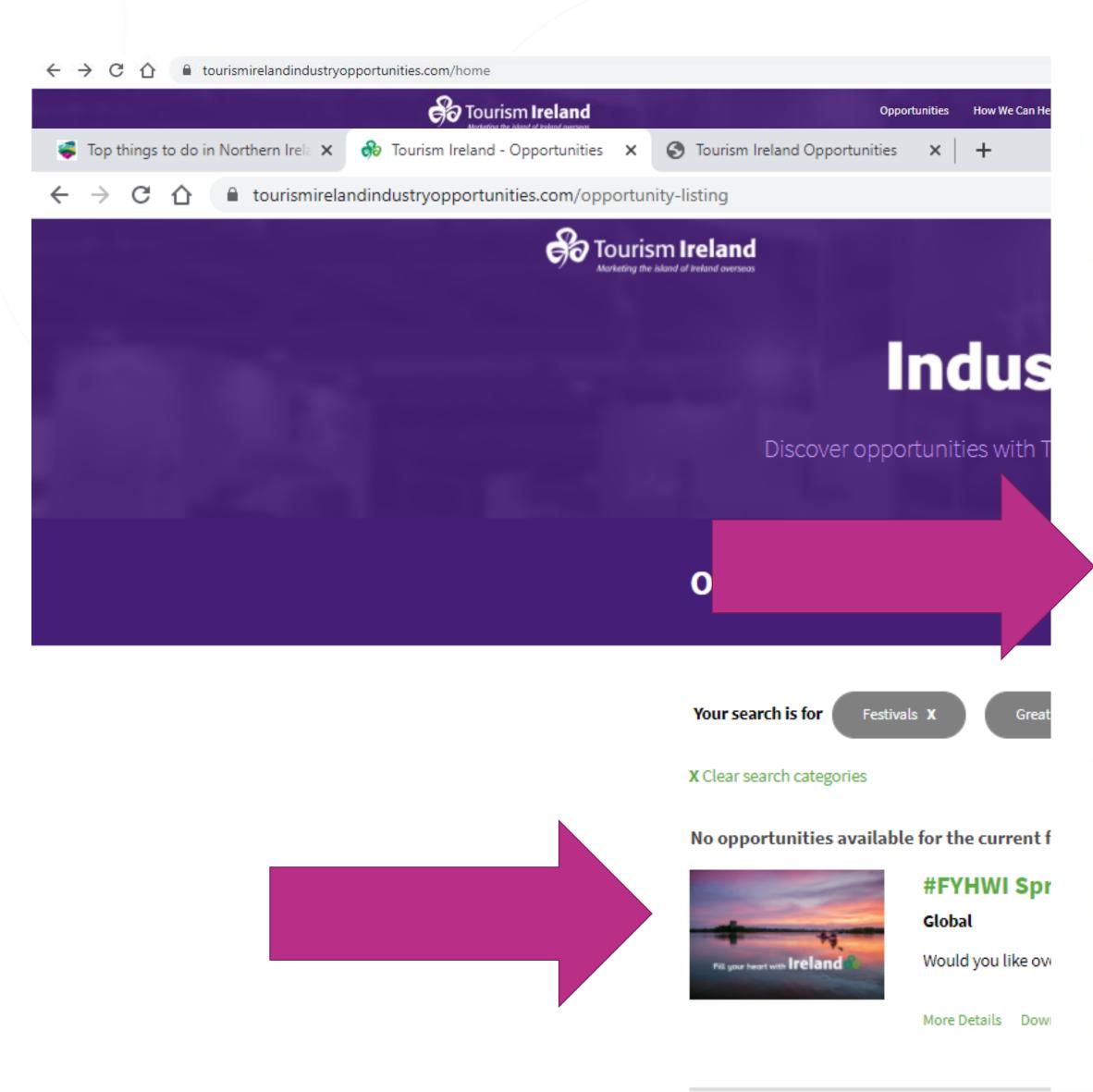
- If you have interesting stories or quirky facts about your tourism business or local area, share
 your stories. If you are out and about, take great pictures. You can share your content using
 our #discoverni.
- Encourage your visitors to share their experience using #discoverni.
- Tourism NI run a number of activations and campaigns each year. In line with this, why not upload a special offer to our website?
- You can submit offers at any time of the year. These may be themed or seasonal such as Halloween events, Belfast festivals etc.



For some tips on how to get involved in our Spring marketing campaign, click here.

You can send all content, features, ideas and suggestions for consideration to digital@tourismni.com.

Tourism Ireland Industry Opportunities | reach global markets



#FYHWI Spring Campaign

Activities: Advertising, Direct & e-marketing, Publicity activities, Trade activities, Social media

Suitable for: Accommodation groups and associations, Outdoor activity providers / Wellness, Air and Sea carriers, Attraction groups and associations, Business tourism, Transport - Car hire & Coach hire, Dining and entertainment, DMC, Festivals, Golf, Individual accommodation properties, Individual attractions, Market tour operators, Tourism networks, Shopping, Guided tours

From: 15/02/2021 To: 30/04/2021

Sign up by: 28/02/2021

For More Info: Geraldine Egan Tourism Ireland Dublin

Help us fill our overseas consumers' hearts with Ireland!

Tourism Ireland has been working with our overseas audiences to keep the island of Ireland top of mind in these most difficult times through our engaging Fill Your Heart With Ireland social campaign. Because people aren't travelling right now and cannot experience our warm welcome, unspoilt nature or rich tapestry of cultural experiences first-hand, we are bringing Ireland into their homes.

Using the hashtag #FillYourHeartWithIreland, we are sharing inspirational content that speaks to the world at this difficult time and connects people with the island of Ireland. #FillYourHeartWithIreland covers a range of themes in alignment with our passion points: Views and Landscapes, Living Culture, Built Heritage, Food and Drink, TV & Movies and Soft Adventure, to bring the best of Ireland onto people's screens and make them smile. Anything from enjoying a trad music session, to learning how to Irish dance, taking a virtual tour of a distilliery or visitor centre, exploring colourful towns and villages, tuning in to theatre and film, trying out recipies, going on a virtual surfing lesson or hike or even enjoying a fun TikTok video from Ireland. We need your help to bring our passion points to life.

To date the campaign has had a total of 1047m impressions (eyeballs) on Tourism Ireland's Facebook channels with 50m views and 9.1m engagements (reactions, likes etc.). There have been 245k engagements (reactions, likes etc.) on Twitter and 8.7m engagements (reactions, likes etc.) and 8.4m likes on Tourism Ireland's Instagram channels. Our engagement levels on Facebook are +39% on the same period last year. It has also helped to drive a publicity EAV of €150m since March 20th

Our aim is to engage overseas audiences with content that they will share with friends and family and we need your help to do this!

To learn more about the best performing types of content that we share on social media with overseas consumers and further information about #FillYourHeartwithIreland, click here or get in touch with gegan@tourismireland.com.

For examples of our weekly communication of FYHWI posts to our overseas partners click here.



Tourism Enterprise Development Programme

Lead Generation

Finding contacts | reaching out | bringing leads to conversion

Research and identify strong potential leads

Plan communications

Reach out to the lead

Aim to bring the lead to conversion

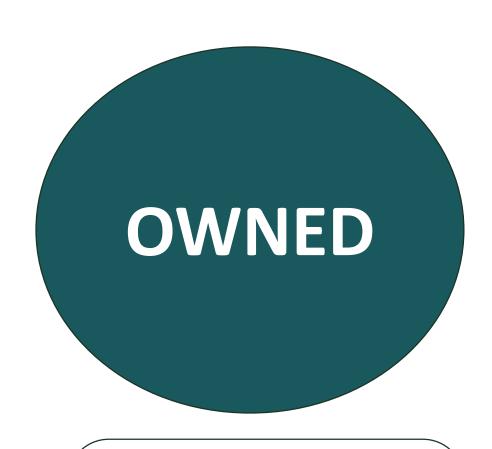
Leads can come from a variety of sources. E.G:

- Local businesses | Top 100 Northern Ireland businesses
- NI, ROI & Global associations/societies
- NI, ROI & Global academic institutions
- THINK ABOUT THE LEADS THAT ARE EASILY REACHED
 - Via your own contacts | contacts in your local community | contacts from outside your immediate community

NB: when a lead you have pursued, offers an opportunity... show appreciation | be prompt replying on the day or within 24 hours

Digital

The channels available to you:



Website, blog, app, social media

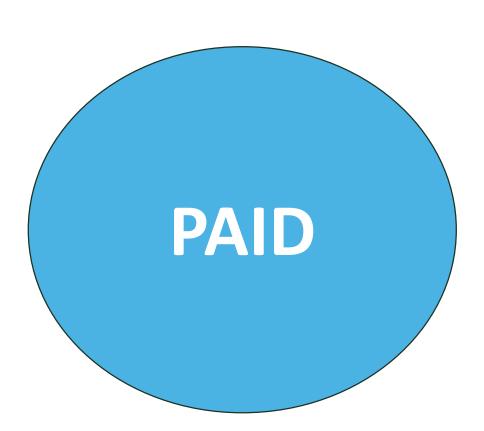
Be consistent.
E.G. 3-5 compelling posts
per week. 8-10 stories?





Bloggers,
Collaborations,
User generated
content

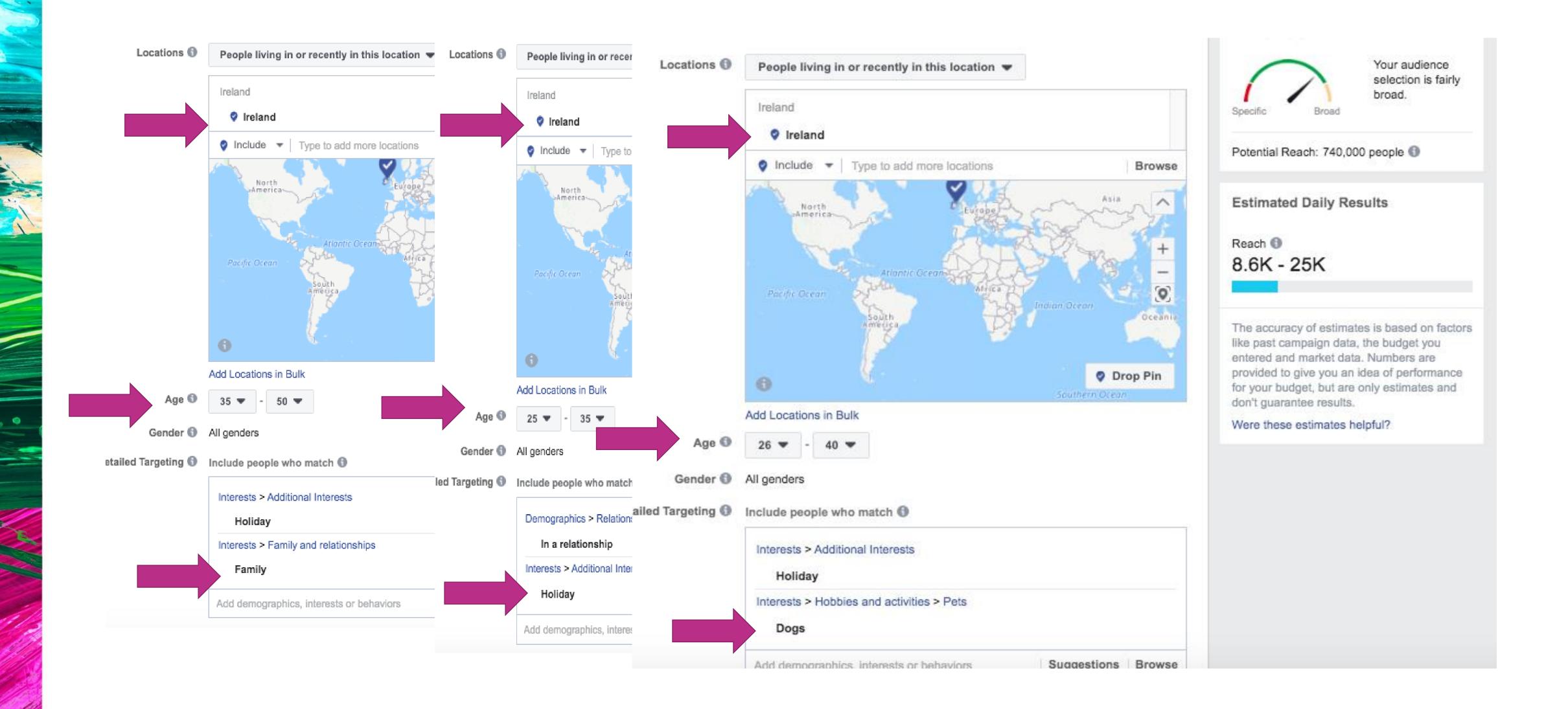




Paid ads- Google,
Social
Display Ads etc.



Digital | paid social media campaigns

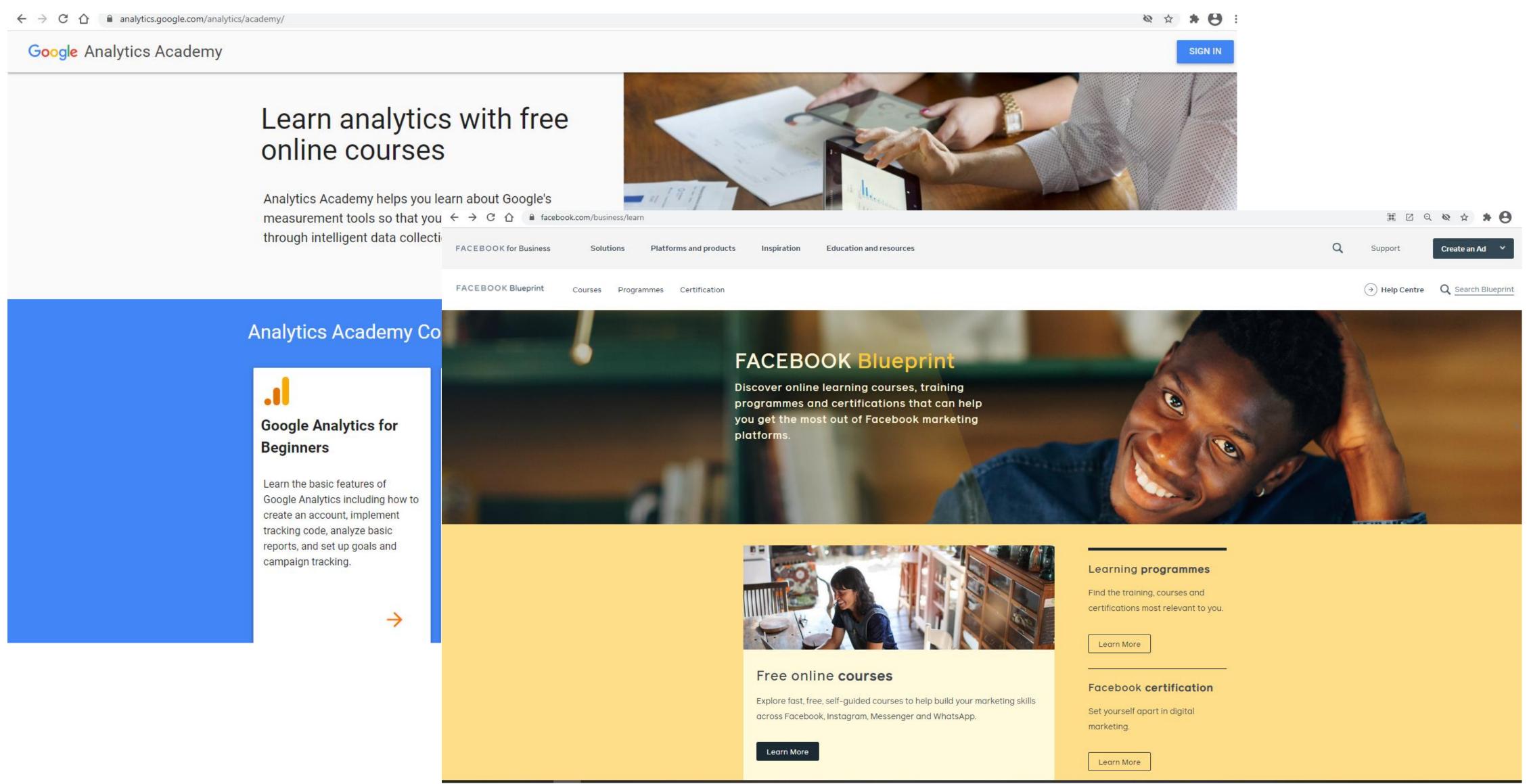


Low on Resources?

Achieve more by leaning on your community | volunteer, contra-deal or low-cost basis

- Retired experts? | volunteers?
- Schools, colleges that can support lead generation, digital campaigns etc.
- Radio station: tickets in return for spot prize or mention?
- Corporate companies that will work in partnerships: offering pro bono support?
- Non-for profit organisation?
 - Research FREE supports including advertising via Google
 - Research FREE database management systems via SalesForce
- Training? Research FREE opportunities
 - Google Analytics- monitoring/tracking website activity: https://analytics.google.com/analytics/academy/
 - Facebook, Instagram & Whatsapp: https://www.facebook.com/business/learn

Low on Resources?



TASK:

1

- Create/update your discovernortherireland.com listing
- Review and update annually
- Check in monthly for opportunities and be proactive about creating opportunities

2

Tourism Ireland | Industry Opportunities

Review monthly. Be proactive about creating opportunities. NB: allow a lead in time to raise awareness of your event (global markets need time to book)

Lead Generation

Research and identify 10 leads. Plan the resources to bring these leads to conversion. Track outcomes. Build for the future.

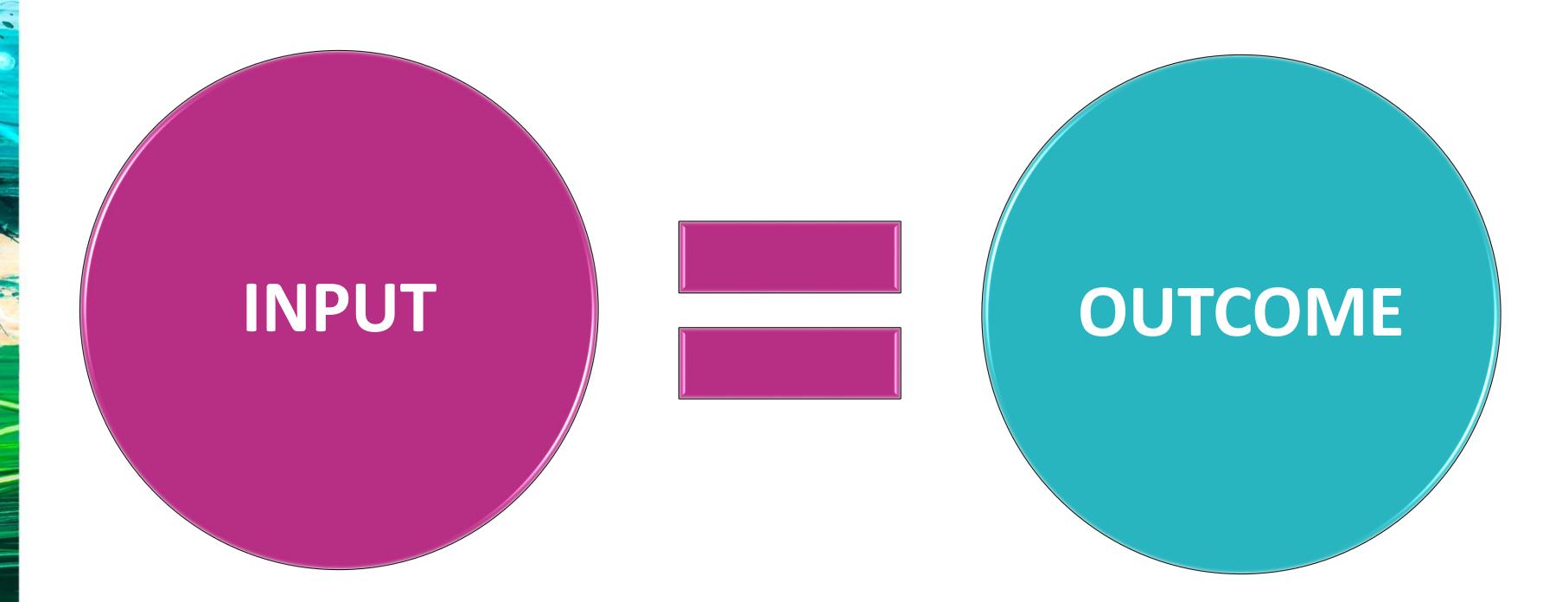
4

•Digital: know your resources. Plan to expand resources if possible. Choose your strategy based on resources: owned, earned, paid





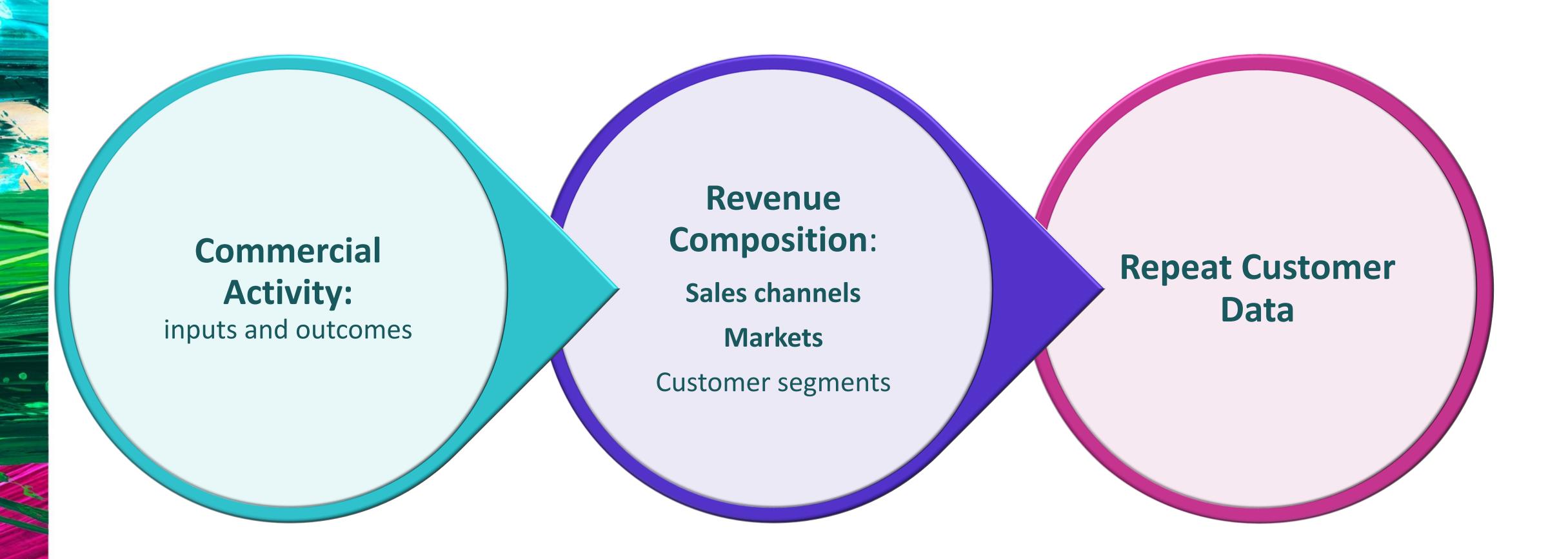
Commercial strategies:



All INPUTS must be MEASURED for their associated outcome

- CRUCIAL for measuring ROI
- CRUCIAL for achieving sponsorship and/or funding

What needs to be measured?



What needs to be measured? Commercial Activity

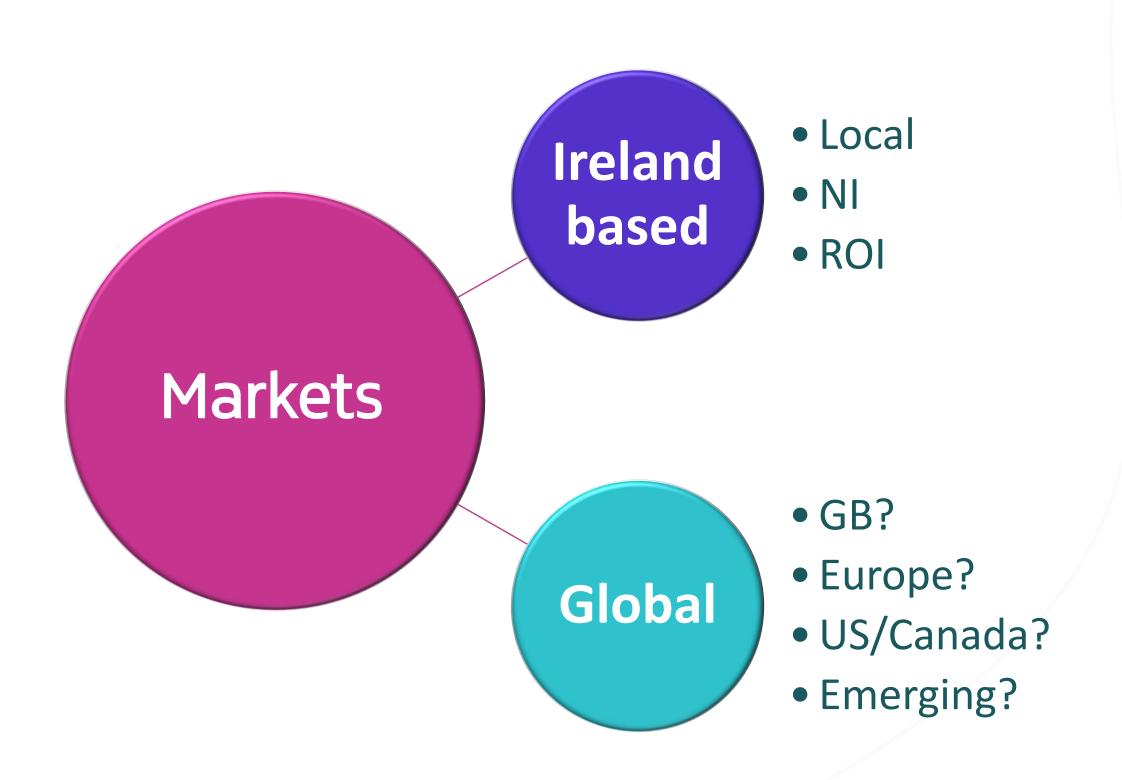
4	А	В	С	D	Е	F	G	н	I	J	к	L
1	Week	Dates	SEGMENT	OBJECTIVE	PROMOTION	ACTIVITY	DATE OF ISSUE	PROVIDER	TOTAL COST	NOTES	ROI	OUTCOME
												Delighted with this, aim
												to send out a similar
				Drive advance								offer for 2022. Repeat
				purchase tickets.						Fun quirky message with 10% off	8% of recipients booked	with new offer in March
2	1	January	Direct Customers	Target: min. 60	Customer database	Ezine	07-Jan	In house	NA	advance purchase tickets	by end Feb 2021	2021.
					Festival included on hotel							
				Create direct referral	website. Staff informed					This is a test promotion for 2021.		
				bookings via Rose	about how to promote					Will regularly check in with this		
				Hotel. Target: min. 20	festival. Festival included				,		Will update post event	Will update post event in
3	2	January	Referral	ticket sales	on hotel's social media.	Partner	07-Jan	In house	NA	post event for full data outcomes	in September 2021	September 2021
											By end May 2021, there	
				Convert 2 new							are two provisional	30 new leads have been
				bookings equating to						This is a learning promotion for	bookings X 24 tickets	identified to target for
				minimum 30 ticket	Proactively contacting a					us. We will build the activity based	and one confirmed	new opportunities. Grow
4	3	February	Leads	sales	database with 30 leads	Lead Generation	01-Feb	Volunteer	NA	on outcomes.	booking X 15 tickets	this activity for 2022
										Ad 1: Family message		
										Ad 2: Young Couple message		Sucessful. But feel we
				Increase social media						Ad 3: Pet-friendly message		could achieve a better
				traffic to website by						Each ad will use event campaign		ROI with tighter
				10%.	3 x targeted ads to run on					branding but have a unique	95 tickets booked.	targeting. Will repeat
				Potential reach XX,000.	FB and Insta repeated					message.	Social media traffic to	activity with these new
		June and		Achieve min 100 etc.	over 5 weeks. Repeat the					Call-to-action: Visit website book	website increased by	learnings and monitor
5	3	July	Paid Social Media	direct bookings.	ad for weeks X, X and X	Social Media	01-Jun	Community partner	£2890.00	now page for tickets	XX%.	outcomes
e	ı		I	I	1	ı		I	I	1	I	

STRATEGIC INPUT

MEASURED OUTCOME

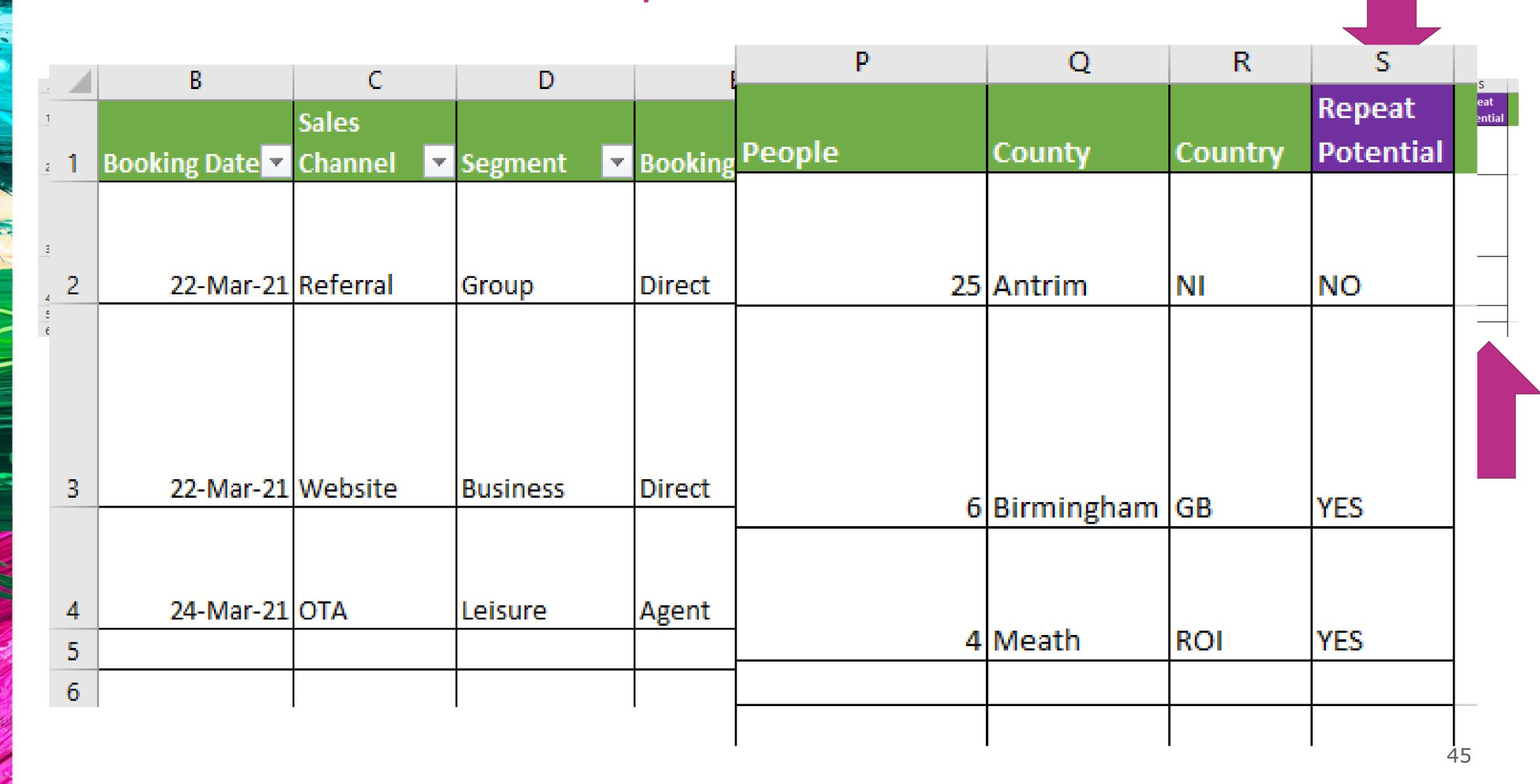
What needs to be measured? Where your Revenue Comes from







What needs to be measured? | Sales Channels and Markets



What needs to be measured? Repeat Customer Data

Repeat Customers | VALUABLE revenue source

- ONLY collect necessary data
- GDPR compliant data
- Only used for compelling and respectful communications

REPEAT CUSTOMERS YOUR FAMILY & CLUB



Additional Measurement Considerations

Additional measurement tools

- Wrist bands | local community discounts (e.g. for free events)
- Follow up meetings with partners | recording data and booking via (e.g.) accommodation provider bookings
- Professional surveys | Surveys conducted by volunteers
 - Measuring and taking feedback for a defined audience (e.g. 50/100 participants) on
 - how customers booked: sales channels
 - where the customer comes from: markets
 - event feedback



TASK:

•Clarify how you will measure

2 Create necessary tools and supports

Implement the strategy and assign resources for same.

•Record and Measure outcomes. Retain for comparison purposes in the future.



4



Building commercial opportunities to grow your event/festival for the future

Immediate | Near | Distant Future

- Maximise immediate opportunities
 - Via available resources and know-how
 - Define the period: e.g. 12 months
- Look to the near future for how you can grow
 - 2-3 years
 - Building as resources and know-how grow
- VISION for the future
 - 3-5 years
 - Where would you like your event/festival to be
 - What are the steps to get there



There are NO shortages of commercial solutions. It is all about planning your ROUTE AND BUILDING.

Mindful of Know-How and Resources!



Three KEY ways to grow Revenue

Sales Channels
 Direct & Indirect

2. Markets
Domestic & Global

3. Customer Segments

2

- 1. CLEAR destination narrative
- 2. CLEAR product offering

CLEAR PRODUCT: core | premium | upsell

VALUE: price | price inclusions

Business Offering | Story | Destination | Experience Brand

Tools for Revenue Generation Sales
Proactive & Reactive

Marketing
Offline & Online

Revenue/Demand Management

PR & Brand Awareness CRM & Database Management



