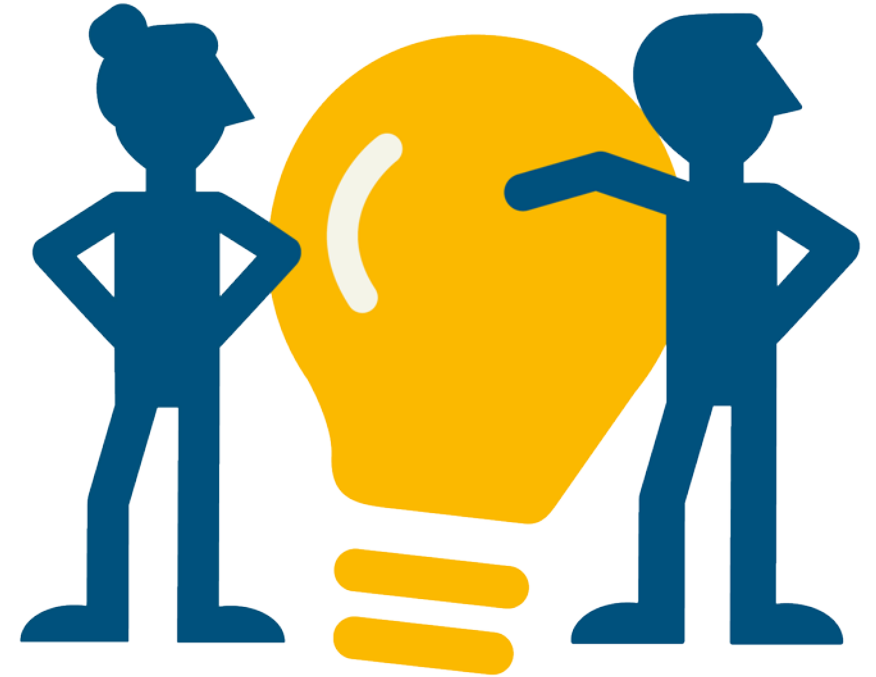


# **Resilient societies and economies - social innovation made by Interreg**

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Welcome

24 November 2021 | online



# Agenda

**09.10 – 09.15** Opening remarks

**09.15 – 10.00** From emerging challenges to social innovation, inputs from:

- *Joint Research Center, EU Commission*
- *Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*
- *Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policies*

**10.00 – 11.25** Programme debate – from 2014-2020 period to 2021-2027

# Opening remarks

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**Slawomir Tokarski**, Director for the European Territorial Cooperation, Macro-regions, Interreg and Programme Implementation, DG Regio, European Commission



# Key notes from welcome notes from Slawomir Tokarski

- Social Innovation resonates with the aspiration of young people, concern about fairness and justice. This is the reason why social innovation evolved from an economic perception to a more mainstreamed one.
- Social innovation links with the idea of democracy “*For us, with us and by us*”. Lincoln.

This concept shows a strong relationship between social innovation and the whole community.

- New technologies and Green & Digital transition brings new opportunities: Attract talents.
- Social Innovation mediates between technology & digitalization and the community, putting people at the center.

# Emerging issues, uncertainties and choices shaping the future of Europe

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**Giulio Pasi**, Joint Research Center, European  
Commission (video input)



# Key notes from Giulio Pasi's speech

- From “change of age” to “age of change”= Transition that should be fair to all= JUST TRANSITION.
- Social innovation is not a new concept Each time there is a new industrial revolution, social innovation comes as a solution.
- A pragmatical approach for Social Innovation:
  - 1) New solutions, products, services, models, process, markets that simultaneously lead to new capabilities and relationships and a better use of assets and resources.
  - 2) Social Innovation must be good for society
- Social economy: a good ally to social innovation for a JUST Transition
- How to make social innovation works? By changing mindsets from being a problem solver to a solution driver. From being sectorial to strategic.

# Inputs from **DG EMPL** and **DG REGIO**

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**Risto Raivo**, DG EMPL, European Commission

**Estelle Roger**, DG REGIO, European Commission





# ESF+

Support for social innovation

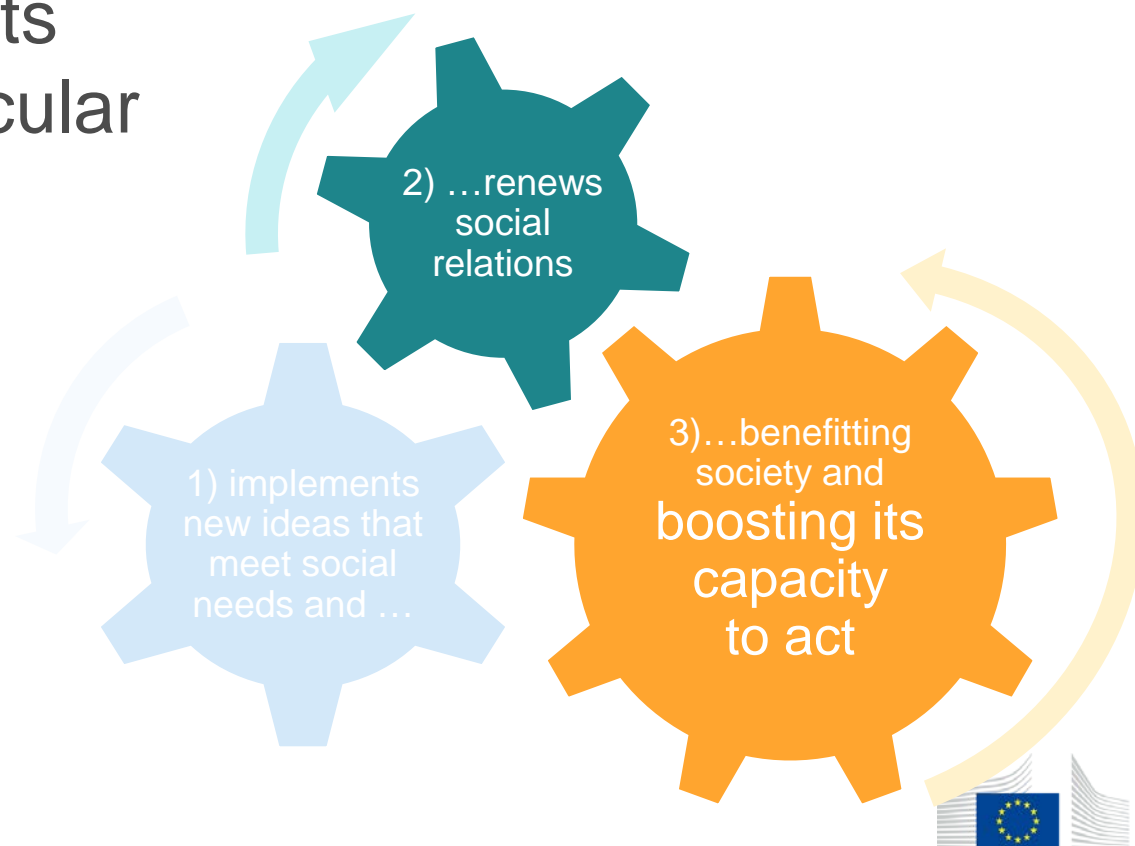
*Risto Raivio*

*Senior Expert, DG EMPL*



# Social innovation in the ESF+ Regulation

**‘social innovation’** means an activity, that is social both as to its ends and its means and in particular an activity which...



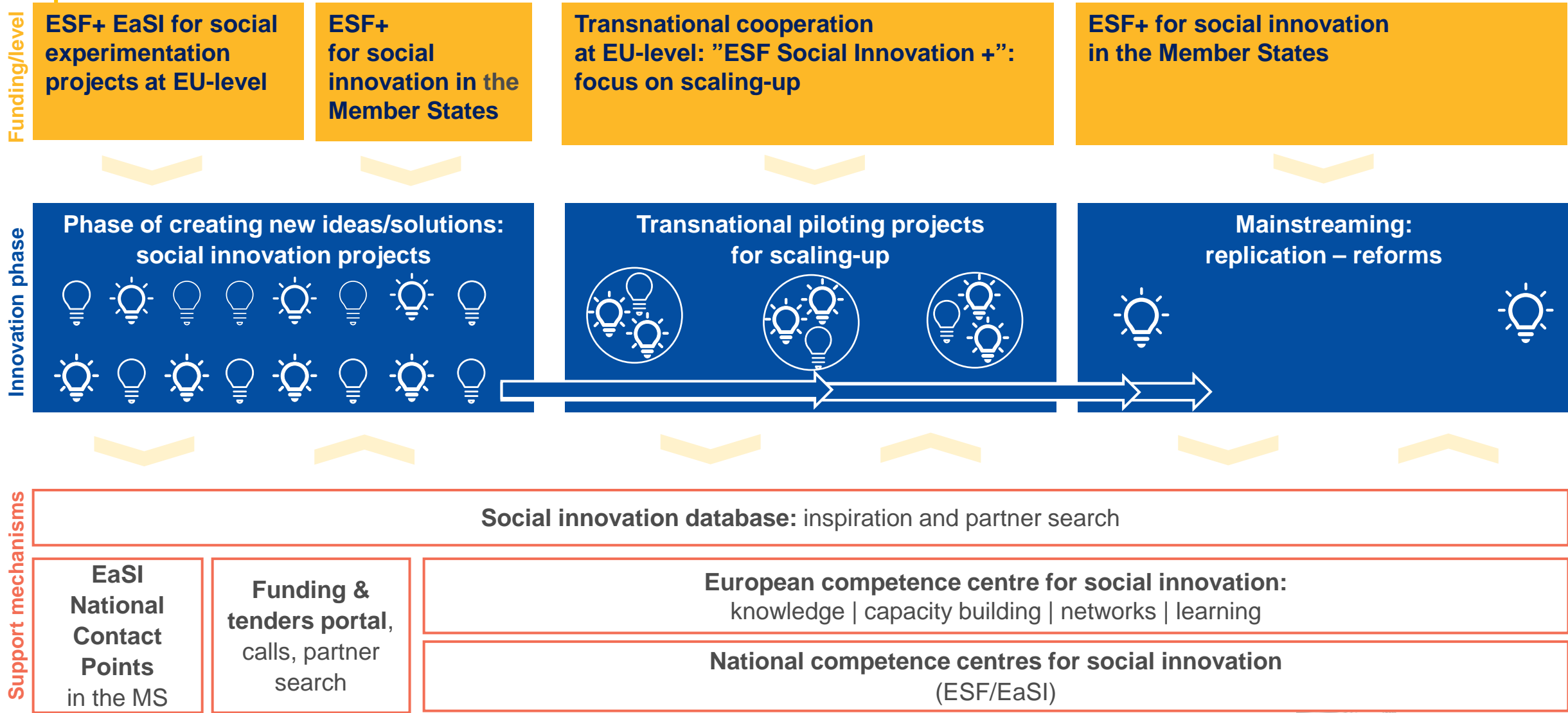
(ESF+ regulation, article 2 (8))

# Definition of social innovation

(Art 2.1(8) \_REGULATION (EU) 2021/1057 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 24 June 2021 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013)

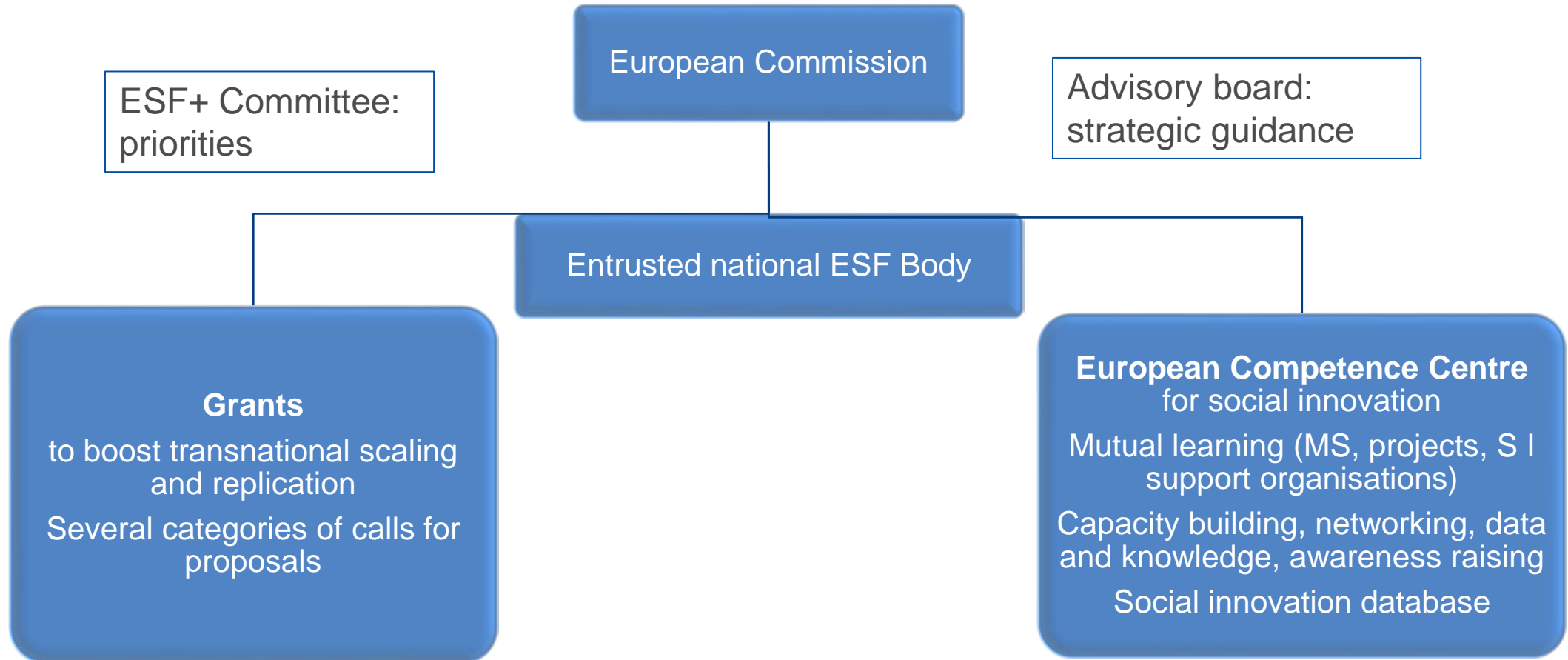
It means an activity, that is social both as to its ends and its means and in particular an activity which relates to the development and implementation of new ideas concerning products, services, practices and models, that simultaneously meets social needs and creates new social relationships or collaborations between public, civil society or private organisations, thereby benefiting society and boosting its capacity to act.

# ESF+: an enhanced support for social innovation



# ESF Social Innovation+

## 197 MEUR for 2021-2027



# Why national and EU competence centres for social innovation?

## Provisions in the ESF+ regulation



**Minimum requirement: social innovation specifically addressed in every Member State**



**Explicit attention to scaling-up of innovative models**



**A new way and resources for organising transnational exchange and cooperation**



**A mandate for capacity building and networking**

**Need to boost non-financial support and organise the ownership both at EU and national levels: Towards national and European competence centres**



**Diversity of situations in the Member States**



**Stakeholder demand for an EU level "observatory"**

**Observations from the field**

# National competence centres for social innovation: towards recognised mission entities



## Capacity building

- Awareness about the **concept**
- **Tools and methods** for achieving and scaling-up impact
- **Whole range** of stakeholders: ESF managing authorities, local and regional authorities, practitioners, support organisations, donors, etc.



## Networking, synergies, resources

- **Collaboration** between public, private and third sector organisations, academia, etc.
- **Synergies** between various EU funding schemes



## Transnational exchange

- Sharing knowledge: **what works** and what does not?
- **Beyond sharing:** cooperating in joint endeavours, active mentoring and partnerships



## Enabling ecosystem

- Key players **connected**
- **Right framework** conditions at place (funding, regulations, institutions, etc.)

# Building national competence centres: a transnational learning exercise

6

projects

25

countries covered

148

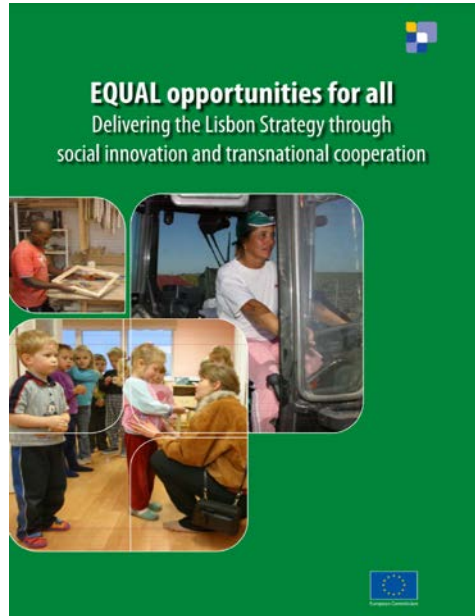
organisations

PEncCIL	BE	CZ	FI	LT	■ ■ ■ ■	5	
SI PLUS	AT	BG	HR	HU	SK	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	9
National Competence Centres for Social Innovation	EE	DE	DK	PL	UK	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	25
BuiCaSuS	ES	FR	LV	SE		■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	27
FUSE	BG	CY	IE	PT		■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	28
SEED	EL	IT	R O	SI		■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	54

- Ministry
- National public body
- Sub-national public body
- City
- NGO / Foundation
- Research institute
- Enterprise
- Employer organisation
- Chamber of commerce
- Innovation centre

# Social innovation on the EU agenda, some milestones

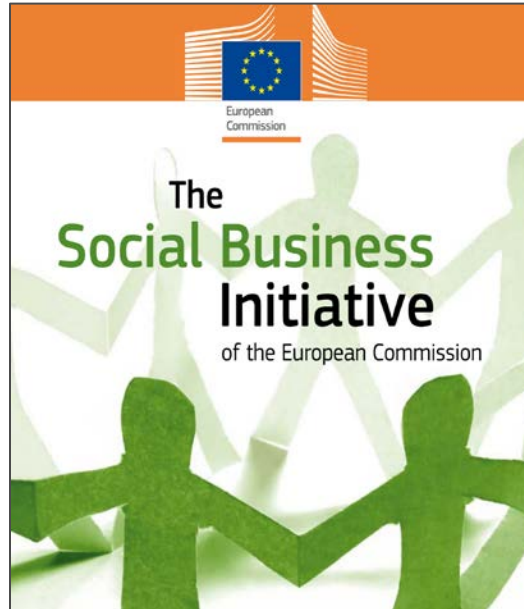
2000-2006



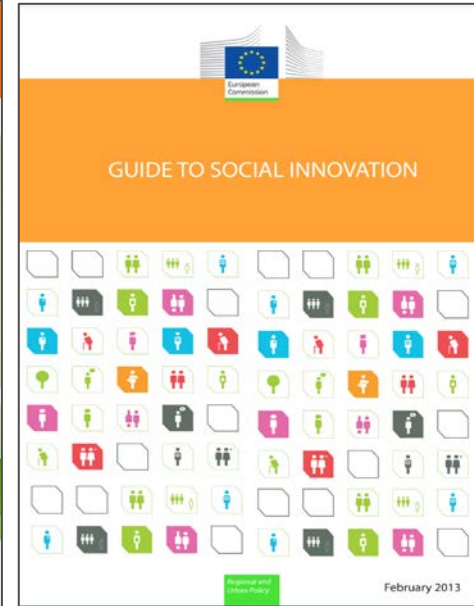
2010



2011



2014-2020



2014-2020



2013 -



2017



2021

European Action Plan for Social Economy ... to enhance social innovation

2021-2027





# Thank you



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# ERDF/Interreg and social innovation

- *ERDF/Interreg provide space and resources for EU-wide experimentation*
- *Social innovation can be supported under any Policy Objective/ link to intervention logic*
- *ERDF/ESF+ Recitals: promoting social innovation through “social economy” contributing to economic and social resilience*
- *Explicit focus under “Policy Objective 4: a more social and inclusive Europe”*

EMPLOYMENT

EDUCATION,  
TRAINING

SOCIAL  
INCLUSION

HEALTH

SOCIAL INCLUSION  
AND INNOVATION IN  
CULTURE AND  
TOURISM

# 2021-27 Specific objectives/social economy

## ERDF 4.1.

Enhancing the effectiveness of labour markets and access to **quality employment** through developing **social innovation** and infrastructure:

Business incubators and investment support for self-employment, SMEs, business/jobs creation, social innovation and social entrepreneurship.

## ERDF 4.6.

Enhancing the role of culture and tourism in economic development, **social inclusion and social innovation** (*examples of actions to be supported under Interreg already presented in Interact workshop*)

# Selection criteria: questions to be answered

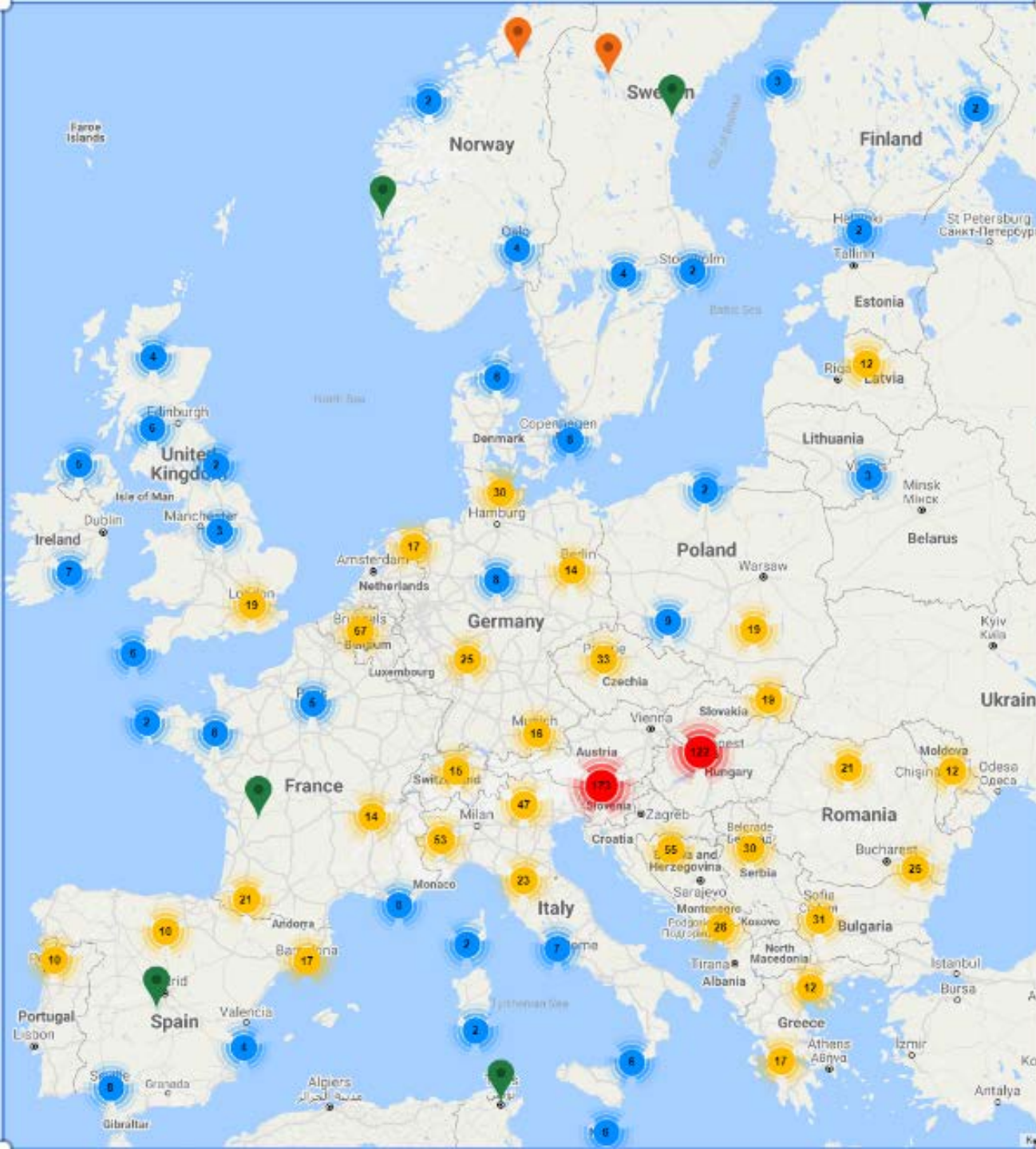
## *(Guide to social innovation)*

- Innovation: Does the project address a usually untreated issue? Does the project address these needs in a more effective way than other methods? Is the project carried out through a novel cooperation or governance mechanism or with the participation of unusual actors?
- Aim: What is the aim of the project? Does it address a social need or societal challenge?
- Means: What means are used to address these needs? Are the – human, financial, technical or administrative - resources ensured in a social way?
- Involvement: Is there a strong involvement of stakeholders and users?
- Up-scaling: Is the impact of the project or programme measured? Are evidences used within the project or for the benefit of other projects? Is there an up-scaling foreseen to regional, sector or national level?
- Sustainability: Is sustainability ensured?

# Setting the scene – Interreg support to social innovation

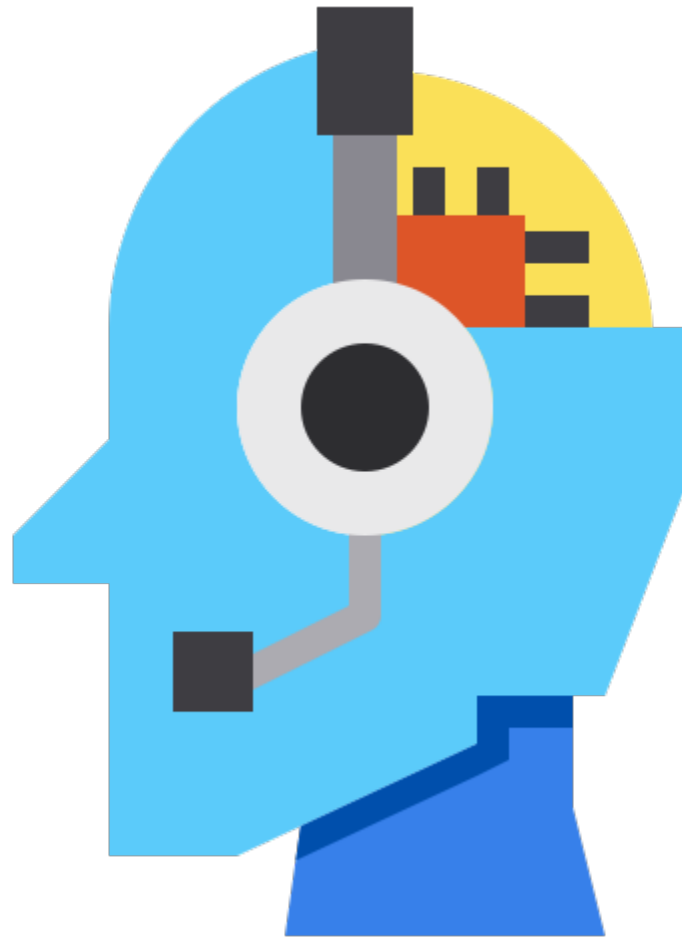
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- Approximately 145 projects approaching social innovation in 2014-2020 period
- More than 1200 partners involved
- More than 250 million EUR invested

# Business support



- Cluster support, SME support, access to financing (24 projects)
- Social entrepreneurship (28 projects)
- Creative and tourism sector (8 projects)
- Digitalisation (6 projects)



Innovative ways to involve private investments to finance services of social interest

The [AlpSib project](#) project is addressing NEET and senior's needs by introducing innovative solutions. The project is set to accelerate social impact investments (SII) and focuses especially on social impact bonds (SIB).



[VekselWirk](#) creates network, co-creation activities and visibility for the cultural and creative industries across the Danish and German borders.



## PROMETEA

PRoMozione della Multifunzionalità  
dEl seTtorE Agro-turistico



[PROMETEA](#)



RESENS – Regional utveckling och  
sammanslagning i Norge-Sverige

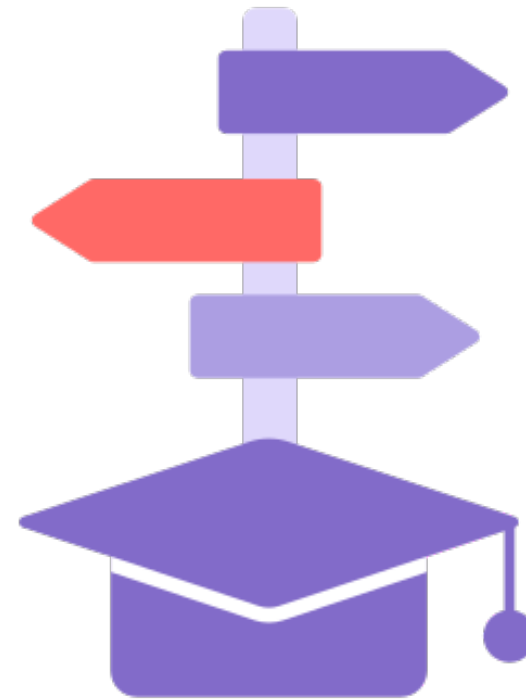
[RESENS project](#) is aiming to stimulate entrepreneurship and renewal processes in sparsely populated regions by demonstrating how regional renewal can benefit through social entrepreneurship and social innovation

## Health and social care



42 projects

## Education and training

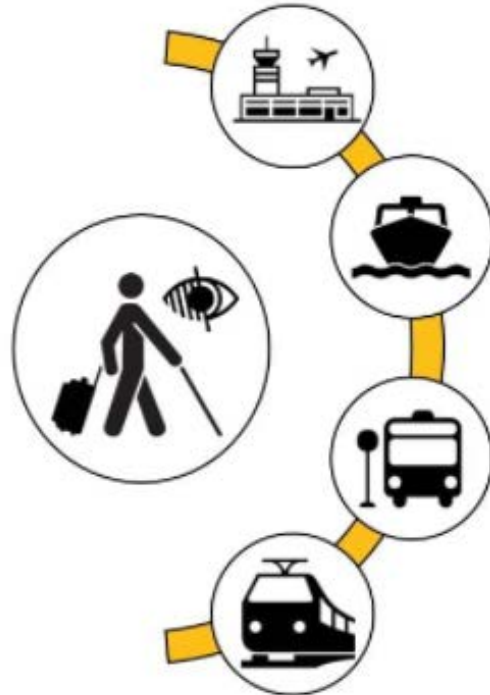


10 projects

# Service innovation/ new ways of working



- Services to specific target groups (e.g., youth, women, refugees) (14 projects)
- Addressing specific sector (e.g., mobility, energy sector, waste management, green and blue infra) (14 projects)



**DANOVA:**  
**Innovative transportation  
services for blind and  
partially sighted passengers  
in Danube region**



# **Programme debate – from 2014 - 2020 period to 2021-2027**

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**Marta Ślęzak-Warszycka**, Interreg Baltic Sea Region

**Michela Di Donato and Dua'a Qurie**, ENI CBC  
Med Programme

**Marko Perić**, Interreg IPA CBC Croatia – Bosnia and  
Herzegovina – Montenegro, and Interreg IPA CBC Croatia –  
Serbia



# Summary points from programme input

## What was your programme's approach towards social innovation in 2014-2020 period?

- Focusing on innovation infrastructure elements alone is not sufficient to enable change in the region. Therefore, Interreg Baltic Sea Region introduced a specific objective on nontechnological innovation in the period 2014-2020. This SO provides room for ideas supporting changes in the organisational mindset and capacities to find new ways how to design and deliver processes, products and services, as well as build social innovation networks. In this way creating space for social innovation projects.
- Social innovation aspect is implicit also in the activities supported by the ENI CBC Med programme and is an integral part of some of the specific objectives selected for the period 2014-2020. The bottom-up approaches coming from the funded projects in this period have provided an inspiration for the Managing Authority, also feeding in the 2021-2027 period intervention logic. Social innovation approach helps to better understand the needs of end users (final recipients) in the region.
- 2014-2020 period marked the first generation of both IPA CBC programmes. Although the programme did not highlight social innovation through the selected focus, there are several examples in the project portfolio emerging from the beneficiaries' demand. These bottom-up ideas helped to shape the new period objectives.

# Summary points from programme input

Has your approach changed regarding the new period 2021 – 2027 and what are your expectations?

- Interreg Baltic Sea Region will put a focus on transition towards greener and more resilient societies and economies implying a more cross sectoral approach and encourage work on practical solutions to the challenges in the region. Social innovation is considered in each aspect of the new programme. To allow certain flexibility in the way projects work on solutions, it is expected that partners would start their work from having a clear analysis of the target group challenges. The development and selection of the solutions will be carried out through a piloting phase, which is an integral part of each project in the new period.
- The new Interreg Next Med programme is built on the notion of continuity learning from the experience of the existing projects, paying also attention to cross sectoral approach. Social innovative in the new programme context is seen in a cross-cutting way. Projects will have to demonstrate a significant contribute to at least one of these aspects: societal, technical or regulatory/policy aspects. The programme is also foreseeing a larger focus on youth, and involvement of youth led organisations in the projects. Programme also provides room for many activities leading to social change in the region through ISO1.

# Summary points from programme input

Has your approach changed regarding the new period 2021 – 2027 and what are your expectations?

- Building on the observations from this period and inspired by the new regulation, social innovation is more considered as a top-down approach in the programming of both IPA CBC programmes. The programmes would also have a certain role in building a shared understanding, way of thinking among the applicants and project community. Although social innovation is seen as a cross cutting issue, it is explicitly mentioned under PO4 selected for both Interreg IPA CBC Croatia – Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro, and Interreg IPA CBC Croatia – Serbia programmes (especially tourism and culture, making these sectors more accessible to socially marginalised groups).



# Links to projects

1. [SEMPRE project](#), funded by Interreg Baltic Sea Region
2. [MAMBA project](#), by Interreg Baltic Sea Region
3. [BALTSE@NIOR project](#), by Interreg Baltic Sea Region; also, check the [BALTSE@NIOR postcard](#)
4. [RESMYLE project](#), ENI CBC MED. Also, check the [RESMYLE postcard](#)
5. [HELIOS project](#), ENI CBC MED
6. [InnovAgroWoMed project](#), ENI CBC MED
7. [MoreThanAJob project](#), ENI CBC MED
8. [MoreThanAJob: 10 winning projects to promote social and employment inclusion of vulnerable groups](#)

# Links to projects

1. [Stand Up! project](#), ENI CBC MED - Sisters for the World, a new generation of healthy, environmental and affordable menstrual pads
2. [Stand Up! project](#), ENI CBC MED - LvPxAlsama, an upcycling service transforming clothes with hand-embroidery in Lebanon
3. [CROSSDEV project](#), ENI CBC MED
4. [VISITUS](#), IPA CBC Croatia-Serbia
5. Horizon 2020 project: “[Social Innovation Community](#)”, which includes some resources both for policy making and project level.
6. Other interesting sources:
  - [EU Regional health atlas](#) (by Euregio Meuse-Rhine)
  - “This is Europe”. The episode 4 titled “[The power of social inclusion](#)”

# Useful links

## Publications:

- [Guide to Social Innovation](#) (European Commission)
- [Visions and trends of social innovation for Europe](#) (European Commission, 2017)
- Report [Proposed approaches to social impact measurement in European Commission legislation and in practice relating to EuSEFs and the EaSI](#) (European Commission)
- Publication [“Interreg supports healthcare: How we responded to COVID-19”](#)
- [Study on the possible significant differences in the distribution of COVID-19](#) in the Netherlands, North Rhine-Westphalia and Belgium (by EU Prevent)
- [Gide to Social Innovation](#) (European Commission, 2013)

## Databases:

- [Database of social innovation projects in Interreg](#)
- [KEEP database](#)

# Cooperation works

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[www.interact-eu.net](http://www.interact-eu.net)

