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# Mid-term conference

## Report

20/21 October 2022



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*The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Commission.*

**Deliverable 2.4.1.  
Mid-term conference  
summary of conclusions and main ideas**



Building  
Capacity for  
a Sustainable  
Society

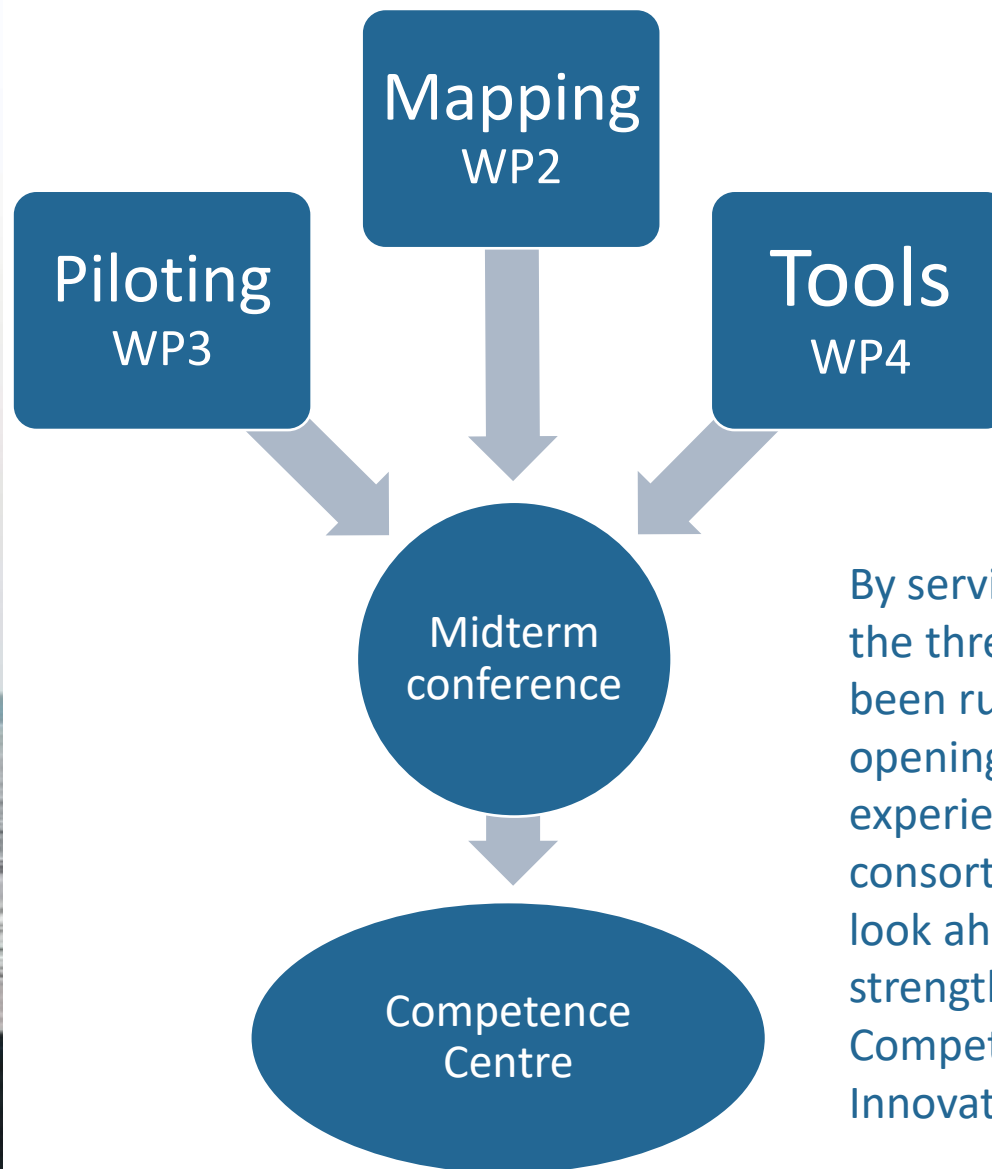
# Summary report of the Mid-term Conference

The **objective** of the conference was to promote experience exchange on how best to foster eco-systems of social innovation at national and regional level.





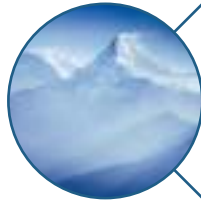
# BuiCaSuS pathway



By serving as a converging point of the three workstreams that have been running for the last year and opening up to other European experiences of other EaSI CCSI consortia, the conference meant to look ahead to the future task to strengthen or set-up National Competence Centres for Social Innovation.



# Specific Objectives



Present findings from the **country mapping** to generate a synoptic vision at the levels of initiatives, actors, and eco-system.



Expose **tools and methods** to accompany social innovation initiatives and strengthen social innovation ecosystems.



Reflect on the **use of European Funds** in the new programming cycle to strategically foster social innovation at national and regional level.



Foster experience exchange on institutional configurations mandates, services, and financing tools of **competence centres**.

# Participants



## Day 1 – 20 Oct: 8.30-17.00

Time		Session
09.00		Arrival & Registration
09.30		Welcome
09.45	1	Keynote 1: Social Innovation in Spain
10.15	2	The European Commission's Vision on Social Innovation
10.30	3	Sofa Talk 1 – Situating SI as public policy.
11.00		Coffee break
11.30	4	Working sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Upscaling (WP3)</li><li>- Tools for supporting SI ecosystems (WP4)</li></ul>
13.00	5	Keynote 2 - Social innovation, democratization, and civic capabilities
13.20		Lunch
15.00	6	Playful ways to facilitate social innovation
15.15	7	Sofa talk 2 Mapping eco-systems (WP2)
16.00	8	Keynote 3 – Evaluating Social innovation
16.30	9	Sofa talk 3 - Financing Social Innovation
17.15		Closure

## Day 2 – 21 Oct 2022: 8.30-14.00

Time		Session
8.30		Get together
9.00	10	Presentation of the day's programme
9.10	11	Sofa talk 4 - Social Innovation in the ESF+ Ops
10.15	12	Keynote 4: Trajectory of SI Portugal
11.00	13	Keynote 5: The future European Competence Centre for Social Innovation – mission and workplan
10.30		Coffee break
12.00	14	Institutional Configurations of CCSI: Design options
13.00	15	Feedback to plenary Discussion
13.15	16	Closing
13.30		Departure

# Programme



## General Conception

First day: Opportunity for Spanish stakeholders from both public administration and third sector operator to participate.

Second day: Working session in a smaller circle



# Day 1 – Summary

The first day was dedicated to expose the findings of the work process in the consortium.

Amongst them was the mapping exercise, the piloting of upscaling experiences, and the sharing of best practices in tools to supporting SI initiatives.

Also, it gave room to listen to keynote speeches on a vision why social innovation should permeate all public policies (Raúl Oliván, Spain), the relation between social innovation and deepening democratic participation (Kuba Wygnański, Poland) and new approaches to undertake evaluation oriented towards collective sense-making rather than administrative control (Gorka Espiau, Basque Country/Spain).

Furthermore, two roundtable discussions centred on the role of the state in social innovation, as well as on the design of financing vehicles for social innovation.

## Day 2 - Summary

The second day centred on the institutional design criteria for existing or future national competence centres of Social innovation.

First, the four representatives of the Managing Authorities of the European Fund lay out past implementation and the status of social innovation in the new programming cycle 2021-27.

Then a case study on the Portuguese Mission unit exposed both the successful Portuguese experience, as well as current debates on the restructuring and the renegotiation of the governance of the Unit.

Also, the newly instated European Competence centre presented its mission statement and work programme.

Finally, group work inquired into the conditions and design criteria for national support structures to innovation ecosystems. This work is now to be extended in the last of the work packages of the BuiCaSuS consortium which is to prepare road maps for setting up or consolidating national Competence Centres.

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# Welcome

Ignacio Álvarez Peralta

Secretary of State in the Ministry of Social Rights  
and Agenda 2030, Government of Spain

# Welcome address



Nacho Álvarez, State Secretary of Social Rights, Government of Spain

## *Social Innovation, as a method, needs to cut across ministerial departments*

The challenge is not only about promoting the capacity for social innovation that exists in our country. It is also about including social innovation in our own way of doing things in the public administration.

Beyond structures, we believe that including the logic of social innovation in our practice necessarily entails a change of mentality. In addition to planning and contributing to regulatory changes, we are incorporating a logic of listening. A listening that allows us to better understand which are the complex problems that need to be faced from a "missions" approach.

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# Session 01

Keynote 1: Social Innovation in Spain

**Raúl Oliván, Director General of Open Government and Social  
Innovation in Aragon, Spain**

# Keynote 1: Social Innovation in Spain



*We are facing a complexity tsunami. Traditional institutions cannot respond. Social innovation is the open-source code for new type networks and collective intelligence*

Raúl Oliván, Director General of Open Government and Social Innovation in Aragon, Spain

Ecosystems are communities of communities. Communities are network segments with high connective density. That is, groups of nodes (institutions, agencies, teams or individuals) closely linked to each other thanks to elements such as hubs (multiple ports) or clusters (affinity groups). Network density is increased by the shortening of distances and the strengthening of ties (meaningful relationships) that end up generating fluid conversations (always bidirectional) until synchrony is achieved (coordination and alignment of visions) and result in a feeling of belonging to the community. On the other hand, random connectivity, a certain level of freedom and chaos, favours creative productivity.





# Session 02

European Commission's  
policies and tools for social innovation

Laura Mangeng, European Commission

# EC policies and tools for social innovation



Laura Mangeng,  
European Commission

*The European Commission is genuinely committed to the promotion of social innovation. This has been recognised in the European Social Fund+ Regulation (art. 14) in a reinforced manner. Now, the Commission facilitates the funding, transfer and upscaling of social innovation across Europe, also promoting transnational learning.*

The Commission promotes social innovation in different ways. In the programming period 2021-2027, all EU Member States will fund social innovation projects, their transfer and upscaling. Importantly, the ESF Social Innovation+ initiative will support the transfer and upscaling of social innovation through EU-level calls for proposals and the creation of a European Competence Centre for Social Innovation.

While the grant scheme will support transnational projects, the European Competence Centre for Social Innovation will offer mutual learning, capacity building and networking activities for all social innovation stakeholders. It will run Communities of Practice and the Social Innovation Match - a database including social innovation initiatives and organisations from across the EU. Contributing to a reinforced social innovation ecosystem, the Commission is funding six consortia for transnational learning, which are delivering excellent work on setting up National Competence Centres in Europe. More info [ec.europa.eu/european-social-fund-plus/en/social-innovation-and-transnational-cooperation](https://ec.europa.eu/european-social-fund-plus/en/social-innovation-and-transnational-cooperation)

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# Session 03

Situating SI as public policy

# Situating Social Innovation as public policy



*In France, we wanted to prepare for the future of the economy by improving the national upskilling system. We decided to encourage social innovation through financial grants, but also through a different approach to investment. Beyond financing, we created innovation laboratories and learning communities to facilitate the appropriation of a social innovation culture.*

Andrés Bedoya - Policy officer for Innovation and facilitation, French Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion

*Portugal is using funds from the European Social Fund since 2014 to promote social innovation and stimulate the social investment market. From that top-down approach, we are now fostering a bottom-up approach to consolidate this policy area at regional and local level, in strong collaboration with Municipalities.*



Vera Egreja C. Barracho, Portuguese Mission Unit for Social innovation (PT)

This session departed from the experiences of France and Portugal to reflect on the role of the state in Social Innovation. It discussed the tools at disposition of the public administration – legislation, financing, coordination and services – to promote ecosystems of innovation. The speakers also conversed about how public servants might social innovation methods and thereby change bureaucratic practice and make public action fit for the future.

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# Session 04.1

Scaling up

Working groups

## Working group - Scaling up



Mickaël Barth, Head of the Consolidation and Scale Up Team – Avise, France

*Upscaling refers to a process by which an organization tries to maximize its social impact, by reinforcing its structuration and/or by leaning on its ecosystem*

This working session provided an introduction to the concept of upscaling and its variations and the approach that had been pursued in the BuiCaSuS project. It then offered a return on experience from different countries and stakeholders supporting the scaling up of social innovation : Avise (France), Genio (IE), Portugal Inovação Social (PT) and ESS France Chambre Française de l'Economie Sociale et Solidaire (FR).



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# What to consider to support upscaling ?

Return on experience from different countries and stakeholders:  
Arixe (FR), Genio (IE), Portugal Inovação Social (PT), ESS France (FR)

Thursday, October 15, 2020

11:30 - 12:00



*More information on ...*

## SCALING UP in the BuiCaSuS project



**You will find:**

- **Process design for upscaling exercise**
- **Reports on study visits**

[buicasus.eu/topic/replicating-and-upscaling](https://buicasus.eu/topic/replicating-and-upscaling)

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# Session 04.2

Tools for Social Innovation

Working groups

# Working group – Supporting Social Innovation



Anna Tengqvist, Coordinator,  
Forum for Social Innovation Sweden



Gloria-Karin López, Project Manager,  
Forum for Social Innovation Sweden



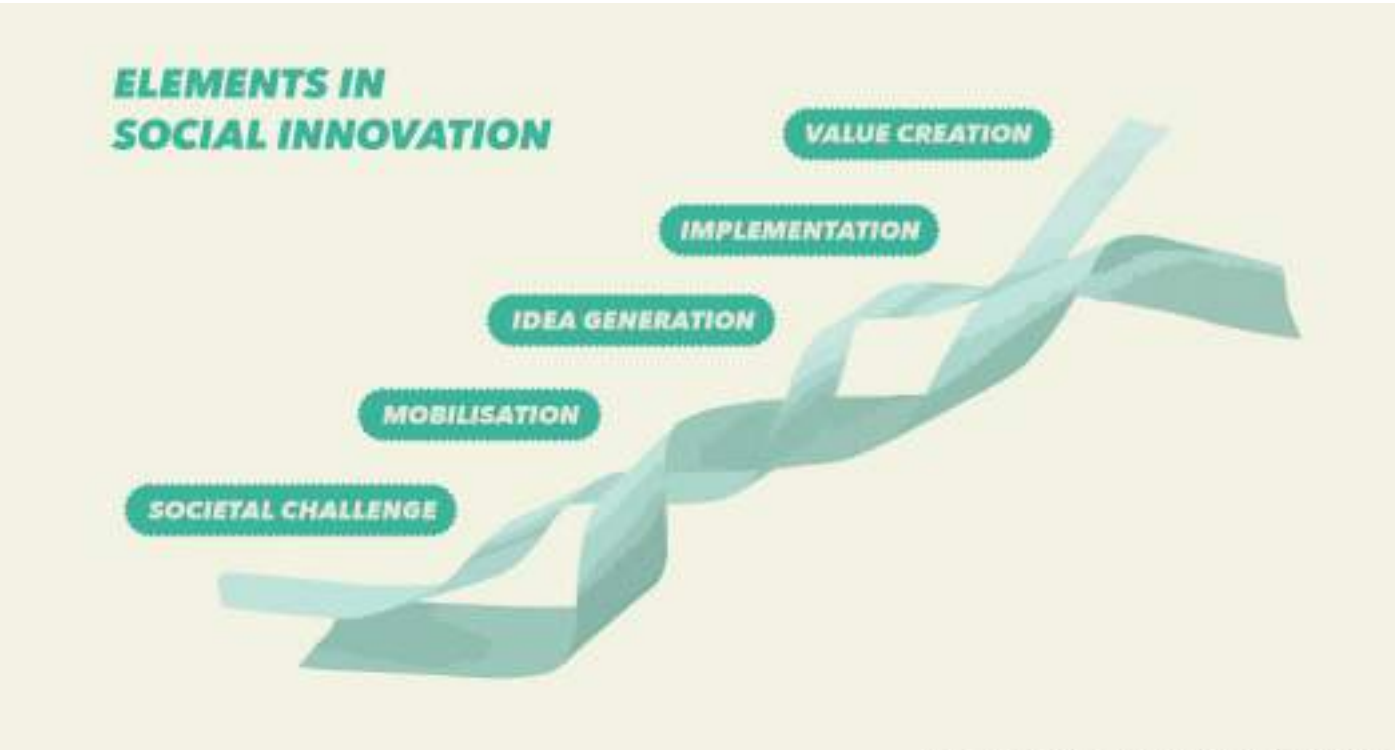
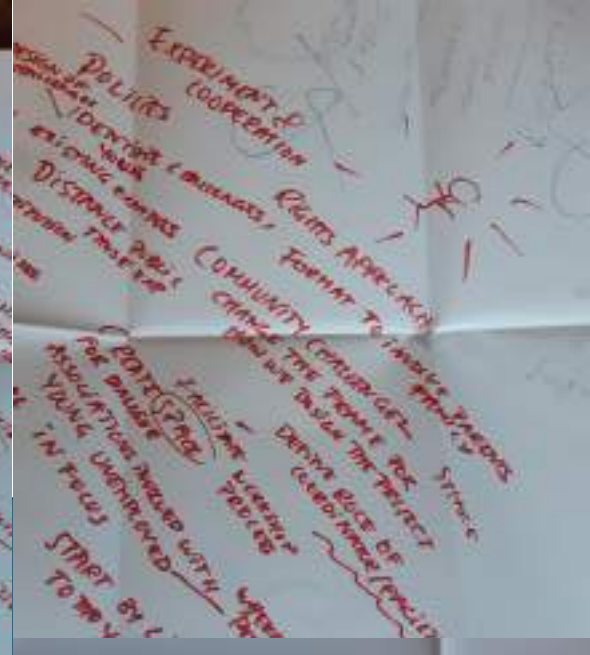
Alexis Bouges, Project Manager  
Avise France

*What are the key elements of social innovation processes, and how can we make them happen in practice? Based on what research tells us, tools and approaches are described that support co-creation and increased participation of those concerned when creating innovative solutions to social challenges.*

The objective of this workshop was to present and discuss best practices for supporting all elements of social innovation processes. After a short introduction on key findings and recommendations, a World café session was held.

Smaller groups brainstormed on ways to ensure cross-sectoral cooperations in work integration projects ; scale up successful social innovations or ensure the involvement of the beneficiaries for example.





*More information on ...*

## TOOLS AND METHODS in the BuiCaSuS project



**You will find:**

- **Case studies from four countries**
- **Summary report on SI methods**

[buicasus.eu/topic/tools-and-methods/](https://buicasus.eu/topic/tools-and-methods/)





# Session 05

Social innovation, democratization, and  
civic capabilities

**Kuba Wygnański**  
Director, Shipyard Foundation Poland

# Social innovation, democratization, and civic capabilities



Kuba Wygnański  
Director, Shipyard Foundation Poland

*More than a century ago, here in Madrid, José Ortega y Gasset warned – in “The Revolt of the Masses” – about the destruction of the European societies to come. Today, we see another time change. Social innovation, understood as renewal of the citizen engagement, might serve as a vaccine against the erosion of the social contract.*

Citizen engagement in complex decisions will ensure social cohesion. When megatrends, such as aging, climate change, energy scarcity and digitalization, generate new policy scenarios, the only way to find legitimate solutions is to open public administration to new forms of listening and generation of proposals. Civic panels in Poland are one of such instruments.

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# Session 06

Playful ways to facilitate social innovation

**Soledad Piñero Misa**

**CEO and founder of 'Retoy' and founder of Part of More**

# Playful ways to facilitate social innovation



*Social Innovation  
needs your heart  
and soul*

Soledad Piñero Misa



Departing from a biographical approach, this session reminded participants to make space and time for respecting the need for recognition and a sense of belonging. Play is a way to connect actors from all kind of backgrounds. It will unleash great potential and motivation.

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# Session 07

## Mapping SI Ecosystems

**Cross-Country Comparison  
of the national mapping exercises**

# Mapping SI Ecosystems



Inga Kalnina (Latvia)  
Alexis Bouges (France)  
Anna Tengqvist (Sweden)  
Stefan Meyer (Spain)

The session presented the findings of the four mapping exercises. It reflected on the maturity of the support to ecosystems, the need of legislative and policy sustenance, the creation of multi-actor networks, and the challenges to devise adapted financing tools.

*More information on ...*

## MAPPING in the BuiCaSuS project



**You will find:**

- **Analytical grid**
- **4 country studies**
- **Comparative report**

[buicasus.eu/topic/mapping/](https://buicasus.eu/topic/mapping/)



# Session 08

Evaluating Social innovation

**Gorka Espiau – Managing Director,  
Agirre Lehendakaria Centre for Social and Political Studies**



# Evaluating Social innovation



Gorka Espiau, Agirre Centre

*Evaluating social innovation needs curiosity to celebrate failures and a readjustment in the power dynamics to interpret the reality collectively*

New evaluation models require a developmental approach to adapt to changing environments. This means constructing an iterative processes of information gathering, dialogue and sense-making to assess the impact of the whole portfolio of a policy field, instead of assessing single point solutions. This 'developmental evaluations' provide real-time information that can be used to anticipate and adapt programmes to changing conditions.

The more traditional approach uses the logical framework to carry out prescribed activities in response to specific, pre-established objectives. In contrast, new evaluation approaches complement traditional impact tools with processes and indicators that provides evidence about the most significant change that our intervention is generating, why change is occurring, the impact on long-term structures, involuntary side effects and collaborative learning strategies.

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# Session 09

Financing Social Innovation

# Financing Social Innovation



Facilitator: Mickaël Barth, Avise France  
Elisa Famery, Treasury, Government of France  
Ylva Lundkvist Fridh, Mikrofonden, Sweden  
Gráinne Smith, Genio, Ireland  
Javier Castro, Gizalab, Govt. Basque Country

The session presented four different experiences of financing social innovation, through good practices, key conditions, obstacles and general reflections, shared by stakeholders from France, Sweden, Ireland and Spain.

# Statements - Financing Social Innovation



Elisa Famery,  
Treasury, Government of France

*Proin maximus lacus id commodo vulputate. Etiam vitae tortor pulvinar, lacinia urna non, bibendum lectus. Quisque a elementum ligula. Donec blandit nec risus et rhoncus. Nullam lacinia ullamcorper velit vel porttitor. Ut eget nulla consequat, feugiat mauris eu, fringilla ante.*

*Since the Public sector captures most of the economic profits that Social Enterprises create - through reduced costs related to social problems - it is logical that the Public Sector invests in social finance intermediaries. A significant example of this can be found in Gothenburg, where the city 10 years ago invested about 500 000 euros in the regional Microfund. It has resulted in the financial inclusion of more than 80 local, impact focused Social Enterprises.*



Gráinne Smith,  
Genio, Ireland

*Having clear published criteria against which funding applications can be measured is key. We also need to know how to judge when an innovation is ready for the type of funding being offered. And providing non-financial and financial support is good practice.*

*It's important to have a social innovation model that is easy to understand in order to convince private investors and policy makers to invest. Besides, we need to adapt the legal and financial tools that already exist in the innovation ecosystem, as well as clear evaluation models to demonstrate the social impacts of social innovations.*



Ylva Lundkvist Fridh,  
Mikrofonden, Sweden



Javier Castro,  
Gizalab, Govt. Basque Country



# Session 11

Social Innovation in the ESF+ OPs

**Representatives of the ESF managing authorities**

# Social Innovation in the ESF+ OPs



Facilitator: J6se-Manuel Fresno  
Dimitra Chrysomallis – France  
Ángel García Frontelo – Spain  
Kristine Lasmane –Latvia  
Johnny Karlsson – Sweden

The Discussants – representatives of Managing authorities (MA) in BuiCaSuS countries – presented the priorities for social innovation as defined in the National Operational Programmes. In each national context, a specific operational “interpretation” of the ESF+ regulations has been devised.



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# Session 12

The Portuguese Competence Centre in Practice

**Vera Egreja Barracho**  
**Portuguese Inovação Social**

# The Portuguese Competence Centre in Practice

Portugal  
INOVAÇÃO  
SOCIAL



Vera Egreja C. Barracho,  
Portuguese Mission Unit for  
Social Innovation (PT)

*Nearly a decade ago, Portugal was under strong austerity measures, social needs were increasing, and additional pressure was put on the limited public sector budget. But due to the joint work of the ecosystem it was possible to combine a vision (leadership), money (ESF 2014-2020) and talent (projects) to create a priority area of public policy in social innovation.*

PORTUGAL SOCIAL INNOVATION is a Portuguese public initiative created to develop the social investment market and promote social innovation and social entrepreneurship in Portugal. It mobilized 150 million euros of the European Social Fund (ESF) within the Partnership Agreement Portugal 2020 (2014-2020). This initiative is a pioneering experience in Europe, as Portugal was the only Member State to set aside part of the ESF budget until 2020 in order to experiment new financing instruments in an integrated public policy aimed at fostering social innovation and social investment.

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# Session 13

The European Competence Centre on Social Innovation

**Asta Jurgutė - European Centre for Social  
Innovation and Managing Authority Lithuania**

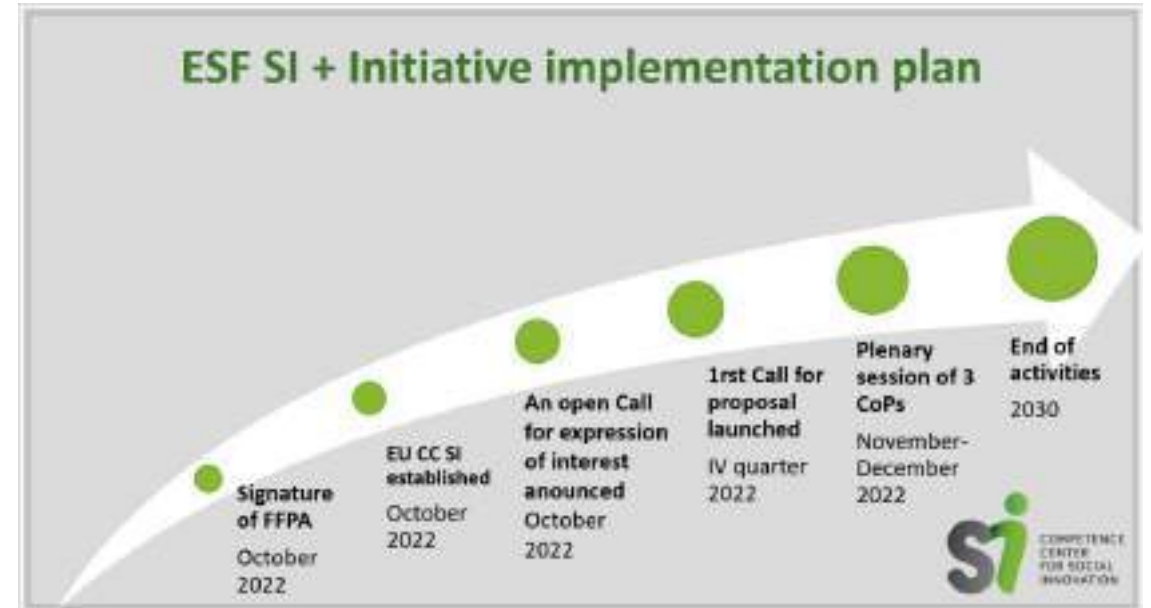
# The European Competence Centre on Social Innovation



Asta Jurgutė  
European Centre for Social  
Innovation and Managing  
Authority of Lithuania

*By setting up a European Competence Centre on Social Innovation the European Commission has committed to create a knowledge hub that supports local, regional and national social innovation actors across Europe.*

The European Competence Centre is to (1) support mutual learning between ESF+ managing authorities and stakeholders, (2) support the wider SI community in Europe with data and information, (3) support beneficiaries of the ESF+ SI calls and (4) communicate on social innovation value. The EU-CCSI It aims to create a community of practice and facilitate access to calls for proposals.



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# Session 14

Design features of National Competence Centres

**Working groups**

# Design features of National Competence Centres



*What is a National Competence Centre for Social Innovation?  
What is its role and mandate?  
Who takes the decisions? What services does it offer? How is it structured and what professional profiles does it deploy? Does it channel finance for social innovation initiatives?*

The participants broke down in four working groups mixed by countries and the profiles of organizations represented, whether public administration, non-governmental or otherwise. After a brief impulse on the analytical grid developed for WP5, the working groups were asked to relate the respective status in their countries and define options for the institutional design of future competence centres for social innovation.



*More information on ...*

## NATIONAL PLANS FOR COMPETENCE CENTRES

in the BuiCaSuS project



**You will find:**

- **Analytical grid and methodology**
- **4 roadmaps (forthcoming)**

[buicasus.eu/topic/national-plans](https://buicasus.eu/topic/national-plans)

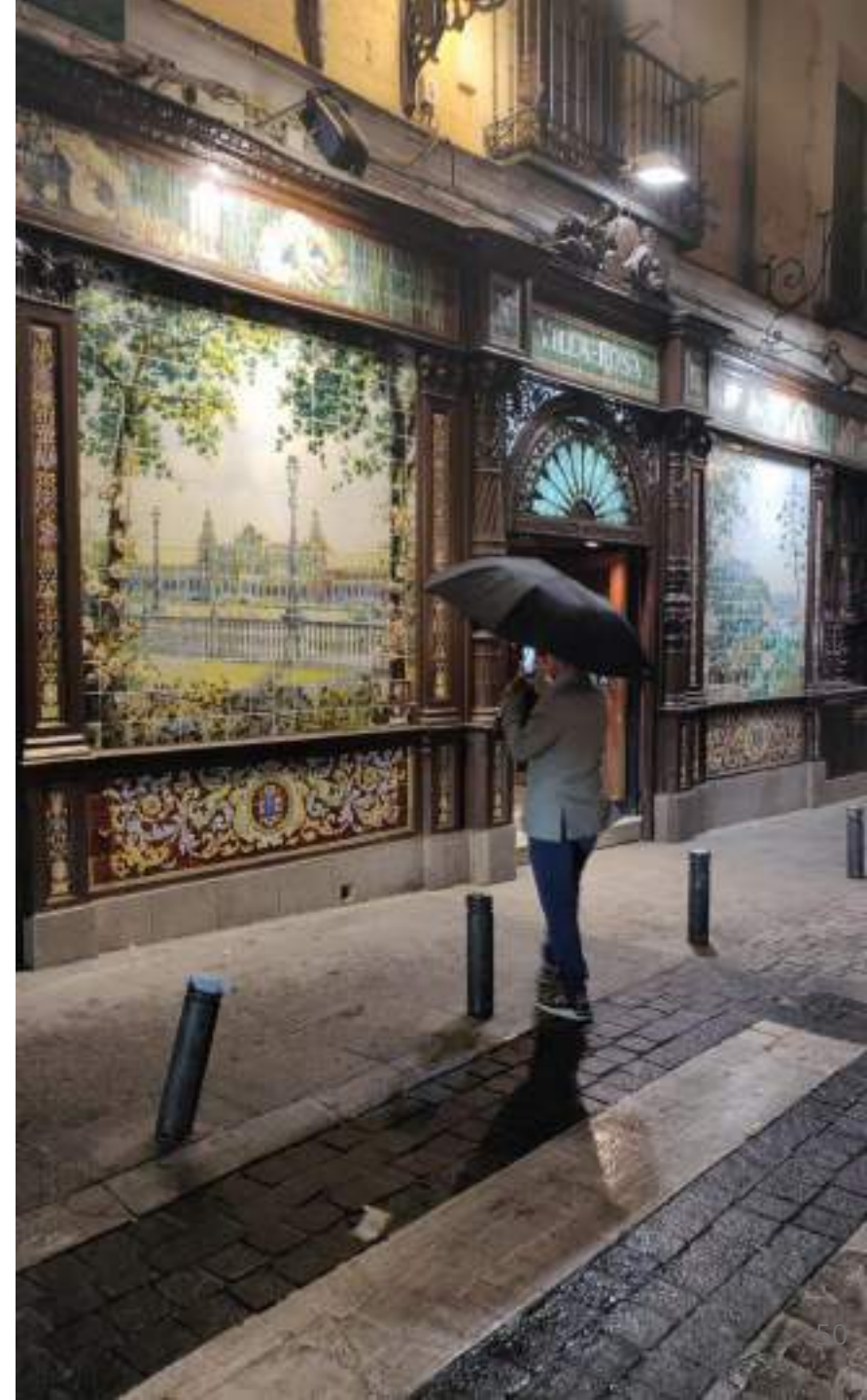


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# Social Agenda

Building Europe from below





# Partners



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