

Bui
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Final conference

Report

16-17 February, 2023
Rīga, Latvia



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the European Union

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

Deliverable 5.3.1.
Final conference
summary of conclusions and main ideas



BuiCaSus
Competence Centres for Social
Innovation Building Capacity for a
Sustainable Society (BuiCaSus):
Final Conference
February 16, 2023
Wifi network: BARCA
Password: barca2022pullman
Slido: #buicasus

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Building Capacity for a Sustainable Society

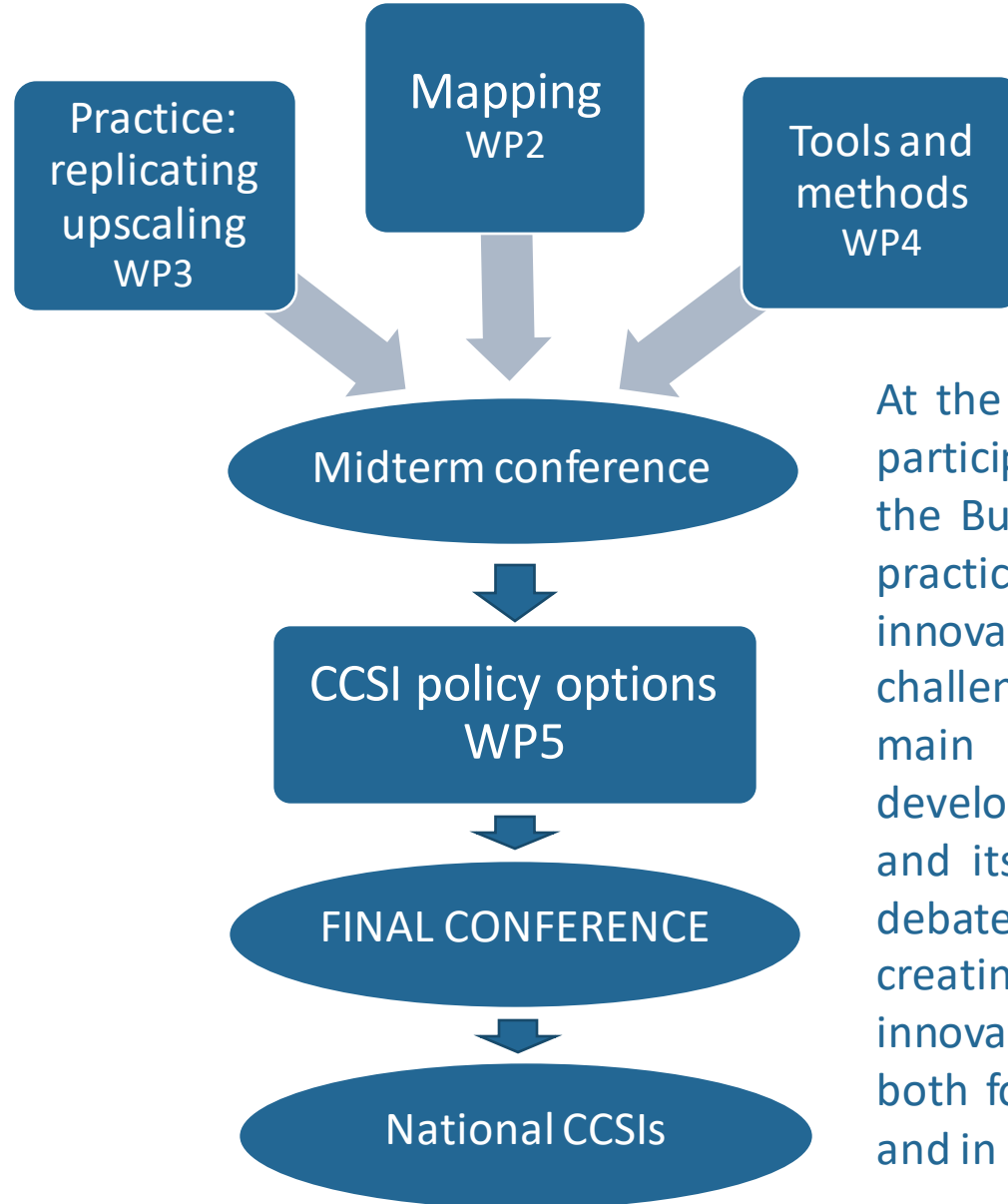
Summary report of the Final Conference

The **objective** of the conference was to present the BuiCaSuS results and generate a marketplace for experience exchange in which the specific pilot project, the transnational learning as well as the system level perspective meet.





BuiCaSuS pathway and outcome



At the conference, experts and its participants discussed the results of the BuiCaSuS project, shared good practice on strengthening social innovations to effectively solve challenging society problems. The main obstacles hindering the development of social innovations and its support institutionalization debated including road maps for creating or improving social innovation competence centers both for BuiCaSuS project partners and in other European countries.

Specific Objectives



Stocktaking on the work of the BuiCaSuS consortium on WP5 - the National roadmaps and action plans.



Transnational experience exchange on institutionalizing support to social innovation ecosystems



Foresight on how EC policy, financing and facilitated workspace will reinforce social innovation practices during the coming programming period, including POs, designation of intermediary bodies and EASI programmes.

Participants



Day 1 – 16 Feb: 8.30-17.00

Time		Session
08.30		Arrival & Registration
09.00		Welcome
09.35	1	Networking activity
10.40		Coffee break
11.10	2	Sofa talk 1: Complexity and Co-production. How to Generate Change not Resentment?
12.10	3	Sofa talk 2: Future of Social Innovation Policy and Funding till 2030
12:40		Lunch break
14.00	4	Welcome from Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda, Government of Spain
14.20	5	Presenting the Results of the BuiCaSuS Project
14.50		Coffee break
15.10	6	Keynote 1: Livable Proximity: Urban Planning and Care
16.00	7	Interactive reflection
17.00		Closure

Day 2 – 17 Oct: 8.30-13.30

Time		Session
8.30		Arrival & Registration
9.00	8	Experience exchange: NCCSI Road Maps Presentations
10.00	9	Transnational experience exchange: Implementation of NCCSI Strategies and Road Maps within Consortia
11.30		Coffee break
12.00	10	Speed experience exchange: Room for future upgrade
12.20	11	Sofa talk 3: Future Collaboration, Setting up Structures for Future ESF Implementation
13.15		Closure

Programme



General Concept

First day: Opportunity for Latvian and international stakeholders from public administration, third sector and SI enterprises to network and get the information about the SI concept development in the EU.

Second day: Working session in a smaller circle

Day 1 – Summary

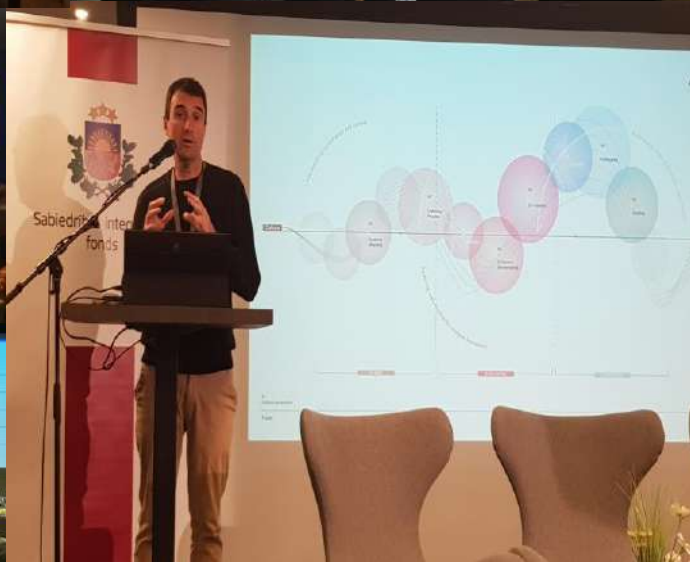
The first day was dedicated to discussing the results of the BuiCaSUS project.

- To offer a broader perspective on the social innovation, several discussions, involving social innovation practitioners as well as managing authorities of different countries, were offered for the participants (Sofa talks 1 and 2).
- One of the main thinkers and lecturers on social innovation and design (professor E.Manzini) shared his vision on the topic, linking his view to the proximity issues and care crisis.
- Also, acknowledging an important role of networking and personal connections in the current state of the development of the social innovation concept, there was a significant room for socialising: both structured and informal. Communication and formal experience and opinion exchange was an important part of the conference.

Day 2 - Summary

The second day was centred on the road maps and strategies for existing or future National competence centres of Social innovation.

- First, the four representatives of the BuiCaSuS partner countries introduced the current state, findings and challenges related to strategies and road maps development.
- Then the representatives of SEED, PEnCIL and SI PLUS consortia shared the information about their consortia, followed by the debated about the situations in the countries, shared challenges and regional or systematic similarities.
- Finally, the representatives of the EU Social Innovation Competence Centre and the European Commission discussed future social innovation sector development possibilities and EASI collaboration after April 2023.



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Welcome 1

Ingus Alliks

Society State Secretary of the Ministry of Welfare of
the Republic of Latvia

Welcome address 1



Ingus Alliks, State Secretary of the Ministry of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia

An important prerequisite for the further development of social policy is innovation and international cooperation

Current social conditions are one of the most pressing issues, both from the perspective of the citizens of the European Union as well as the member states themselves.

The mission of the Ministry of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia is to create a respectful, socially safe, inclusive and equal environment for everyone. In order to effectively solve and prevent problems in the welfare sector, it is important to create, test and scale new ***innovative solutions at all levels of policy and decision-making.***

For Latvia, participation in BuiCaSuS was an important step to strengthen competences in social innovation, gain experience and use it in the designing and successful implementation of EU fund investments in the new planning period.

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Welcome 2

Zaiga Pūce

Society Integration Foundation (Latvia), Director

Welcome address 2



Zaiga Pūce, Society Integration Foundation (Latvia), Director

Recently, it seemed that social innovations are a bonus, something that can only be allowed by the welfare state

The new generation no longer wants to participate in the consumerist culture, but demands a contribution and assurance that processes do not harm the environment, nature, and society. A socially responsible approach to everything we do is in fact a necessity of today's everyday life, which can be mobilized by social innovations to allow moving forward.

The responsibility of the state administration is to create an environment and opportunities where social innovations can be created and developed. Based on the experience gained in the BuiCaSus project, the Society integration foundation would like to strengthen in the SI ecosystem in Latvia by operating in 4 important directions:

- Capacity building of all involved parties
- Networking and cooperation
- Supporting social innovation in all its development stages
- Awareness raising in society and approach promotion.

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Welcome 3

Jeroen Jutte

Head of Unit, Unit G.1 European Social Fund+, Directorate-
General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion,
European Commission

Welcome address 3



Jeroen Jutte, Head of Unit, Unit G.1 European Social Fund+, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Social innovation - very sexy concept indeed, but isn't it too blurry to work with on the EU level? How about country contexts to take in mind?
/SLIDO/

16-17 February, 2023

Basis has been created for strong European ecosystem of social innovation

Change in the time of changes means innovation, which requires new technologies combined with human measures and adapted to local needs.

Meeting social innovation actors in the countries and creating national road maps and action plans for national competence centers proved that BuiCaSuS and other EASI consortia were a vital element for boosting SI at the European Union level.

There is a considerable budget and are ambitious plans for SI. In the coming years **ESF+ will contribute 2bn EUR, together with national co-financing 3bn EUR for social innovations: projects, upscaling and sharing.**



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Session 01

Getting to know each other

Networking activity

As a part of the networking program the participants had a chance to meet and get to know each other. Seemingly simple questions transformed into extensive discussions on social innovation and everyone's contribution in its development across organisations, positions and countries.

ROUND 1: Game – 2 truths and 1 lie



Really interesting with this idea if prototyping a new profession that can catalyse social innovation. Would like to hear more about it!

/SLIDO/

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ROUND 5: What is the most challenging in your work? How do you overcome these challenges?

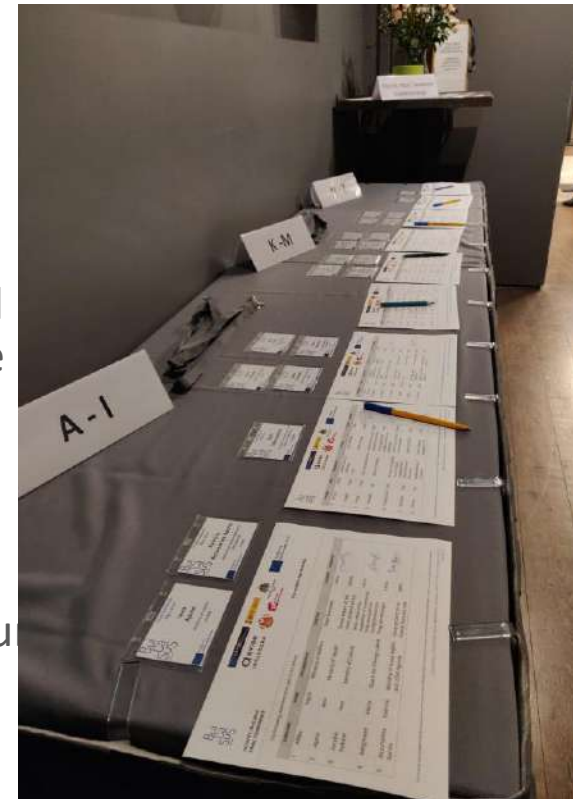
ROUND 4: What do you like the most in your work? What does motivate you?



ROUND 3: What does social innovation mean for you? Share an example from your country



ROUND 2: What are your expectations for this conference



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Session 02

Sofa Talk 1: Complexity and co-production.
How to generate change not resentment?

Reflecting on the practice of social innovation as a tool to generate systemic change



Aija Rūse, Social anthropologist, researcher and change agent (Latvia)

From practical experience the key ingredients for social innovations are a long-term vision, comprehensive strategy, collaboration, the professional team, policy interaction. There resentment at social innovation processes will always be in place due to challenges to existing rules, traditions and habits. For instance, resentment of policy makers after successful pilots will be related to the demand of meaningful continuation, more money, more support, more meaningful data and integrated policy, which is a big mess.

Traditionally innovations were seen either as improvement of products/services/processes or as initiatives. Currently, the mainstream vision is combining both visions, which was incorporated in the strategy of the EC to embrace complexity and reflected in transition from projects to collaborative societal missions. Nonetheless, when try to proceed you have all the procedures of the Commission evaluating your work as a single point solution, which exactly contradicts the discourse.



Gorka Espiau Idoiaga, Agirre Lehendakaria center (Spain)

The discussion provides a bridge from conceptual talk and theorizing about social innovation to practice. The speakers framed the challenge of social innovation in the complex environment and defined key ingredients and minimum standards of a social innovation initiative that aims to generate systemic change. Facilitation a transition via social innovation methodologies were discussed along with a set of skills essential for a social innovation promoter.

How are "portfolio" processes practically managed and implemented? Doesn't it increase the budget and the timeframe of a project? It does reduce risk, but how do you persuade managing authorities? How are parallel experiments practically maintained?
/SLIDO/

What is a direction of EU in regard to the disruptive/incremental innovation initiatives. Is it looking into the disruptive or incremental direction?
/SLIDO/

Should there be a policy for social innovation if it is about "breaking" the system and pushing the borders in a new way and creating new value?
/SLIDO/

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Session 03

Sofa Talk 2: Future of Social Innovation
Policy and Funding till 2030

Support for the social Innovation and NCCSIs development in the next 7 years



Kristīne Lasmāne, Ministry of Welfare, Senior Expert, LATVIA



Ana Belén Sanz, ESF Spanish Managing Authority, SPAIN



Johnny Karlsson, Swedish ESF-council, National Coordinator, SWEDEN

The objective of this workshop was to present and discuss the key financing tools and policy implementation priorities that are foreseen by the national managing authorities in the field of social innovation in the next planning period, specifically related to the provisions of article 14 of the ESF+ regulations.

- How were the “policy owners” – e.g., for employment pathways, social inclusion, child protection, education etc. – linked to the development of the financing tools in the formulation of the operational programme? How did they consider social innovation in their respective fields?
- What novel financing tools do you have in the portfolio as compared to the former programming cycle? How do they respond to the specific needs of social innovation initiatives?
- How does the Operational Programme consider the National Competence Centres? In terms of instrument to channel funds? In terms of contributing to the structural cost of the Centre?

What will the relationship between the Managing authority and the national competence center for social innovation look like in your countries?
/SLIDO/

Will it be possible to create a support portfolio for social innovations in Latvia, which was mentioned by Gorka earlier?
/SLIDO/

If soc. innovations at their early stage are something that goes against the norms and the law, how then can innovation be supported on an institutional level?
/SLIDO/



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07

Future of Social Innovation Policy and Funding till 2023

Kristīne Lasmane, Ministry of Welfare and Senior Expert
Ana Belén Sanz, ESF Spanish Managing Authority
Andersson, Swedish ESF-council and Senator, S



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Session 04

Welcome from the Ministry of Social Rights
and 2030 Agenda, Government of Spain

Welcome address from BuiCaSuS leading partner

Need to innovation is a response to the crisis of care that reassamble all social and humanitarian resources going beyond traditional social services

How National Centres for Social innovation might arise? All trajectories and pathways in the EU member states and regions are different. However, there are many shared challenges such as climate change, artificial intelligence, future jobs, democracy, diversity, digitalisation and all the other dystopic issues. More effort is needed to consider not only the economic activity but also social and cultural well being along with sustainability. **Reorganising societies to better share the tasks of caring is a major transition.** The Spanish approach is to focus the creation of the NCCSI around this issue and from there crate practices and methodologies to tackle other changes.

16-17 February, 2023



Patricia Bezunarte Barrio, Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda, Government of Spain, BuiCaSuS MGM



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Session 05

Presenting the results of the
BuiCaSuS project

Results of the BuiCaSuS project



Stefan Meyer,
"Fresno Consulting", Senior
Consultant, SPAIN

BuiCaSuS has been an enriching journey. Delivered by a group of countries from the Centre, North, East, and South of Europe and a great variety of the institutional mandate of the country leads, the geographical and organizational diversity turned into conceptual abundance, inspiring contrast in practices, and dense mutual learning

What is the nature of the national strategies that have been developed to the governments? Is it a recommendation or in any way binding?
/SLIDO/

Please, tell more about the EU's future plans on this - what's next?
/SLIDO/

BuiCaSuS is one of six projects mandated by the European Commission to strengthen of set up competence centres. It has been running since May 2021 and will come to end in April, 2023. The session discussed the main results and achievements of the project, including the very beginning of the idea and search for partners, which resulted in the most diverse team out of all current EASI consortia, mapping of domestic ecosystems and lessons taken home from the results in four countries, success of preparing and testing the up-scaling of social innovation projects, as well as current situation on defining roadmaps for Competence Centres at national Levels. Thoughts on the future of the social innovation initiatives in Europe were shared as well.

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05

Presenting the results of the
BuiCaSuS project

Stefan Meyer

Senior Consultant, SPAIN

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More information on ...

RESULTS of the BuiCaSuS project



<https://buicasus.eu/results/>

You will find:

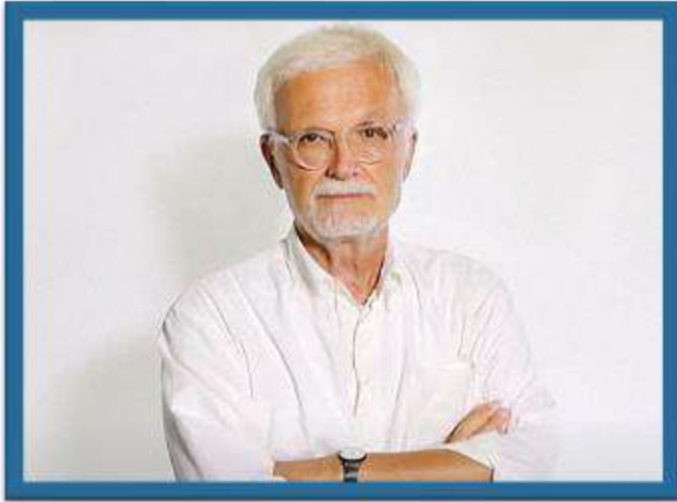
- [National documents and policies](#)
- [Best Practices](#)
- [Tools and Training Materials](#)
- [Key Learnings](#)
- [Conferences and Events](#)
- [Reports](#)
- [Other documents](#)
- [Press Releases](#)

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Session 06

Livable Proximity: Urban Planning and
Care

Livable proximity as a design-orienting scenario and the precondition of care



Professor Ezio Manzini,

Design academic and researcher, writer, and educator, Design for Social Innovation and Sustainability (DESIS) Network, ITALY

How can we scale social innovations so that they don't become monsters?
Did they lose proximity when transforming from an idea to a practical reality?
/SLIDO/

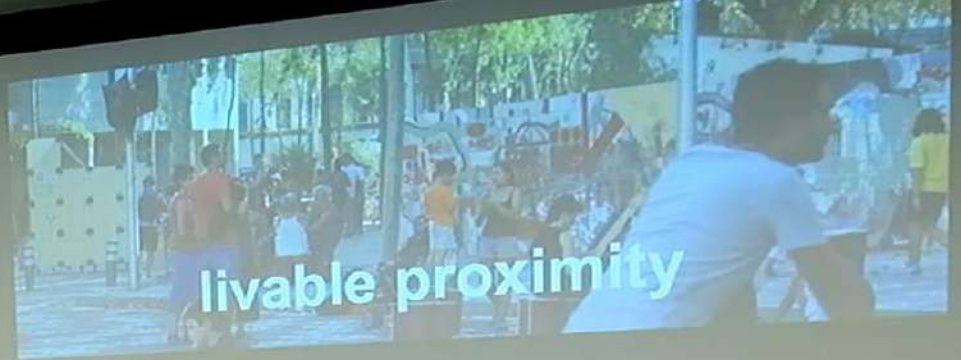
What if proximity is much more costly than globalization?
/SLIDO/

***Social innovation** means more than just good social practices, social changes, grass-root improvements and grass-root activities. By referring to any innovation, technological or societal, we assume that it starts with an **invention**. After the world follows the idea that the invention has offered, it is crucial to evaluate it from time to time and see where you are at the trajectory of that social innovation.*

Professor Ezio Manzini is one of the leading lecturers and thinkers in the field of social innovation and its development; for more than three decades, professor has worked in the field of sustainability design. His intervention promoted a deeper understanding of the topic of social innovation in a wider societal context and highlighted the relevance of the issue in the European region.



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livable proximity

social innovation

public policies

design for proximity



Session 07

Interactive Reflection

1. What did I get from this conference?
2. What did inspire / impress me the most?
3. Are there any questions raised for me that has no clear answers?
4. What am I sceptical / critical about?
5. How I will use gains from the conference in my daily work?

"It was very inspiring to move from thinking about social innovation in terms of numbers, investments, priorities etc. to what is social innovation what it is not, what are the conditions etc."

"I came with a skepticism on how social innovation can really be beneficial for society, since it is so complicated and hard to do. Now after all the sessions, networking and conversations I am definitely more optimistic – everything is possible!"

"In the morning I had a clear understanding of what is "social innovation". By the end of the day my unanswered questions is "What social innovation really is?"

"For me as a social entrepreneur, it was very important to reestablish the link with the broader European perspective.»!"

"The MA's we had from Latvia, France and Spain were exemplary MAs, who care about SI!"

"Now I am thinking, what are the cases, when social innovation is actually not needed and system is just enough».

"I definitely got inspiration for my future work, especially on proximity issues, we are currently working on, and also the portfolio approach for social innovation."



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Session 08

Experience exchange

NCCSI Road Maps Presentations

NCSSI Road Maps Presentations: France, Latvia, Spain, Sweden



Prunelle Gorget,
Program Director at
Avise, FRANCE



Alexis Bouges, Project
Manager at Avise,
FRANCE



Alda Sebre, Head of the
Social Cohesion
Department at Society
Integration Foundation,
LATVIA



Sara Ulla Diez, Institute
for the Older People and
Social Services (IMSERSO),
Coordinator of Studies
and Technical Support,
SPAIN



Anna Tengqvist, FFSIS,
Forum for Social
Innovation, SWEDEN

The session presented the current status of the development of the national CCSI road maps and strategies as an integral part of the BuiCaSuS project. It was reflected on situations in each partner state, the need of legislative and policy sustenance, and on differences both in maturity of the concept as well as on approach and visions of the strengthening or set up.

More information on ...

ANALYTICAL GRID for understanding the analytical design of National SI Competence centres (Strategic national plans for NCCSI)

buicasus.eu/analytical-grid-for-understanding-the-institutional-design-of-national-competence-centres/

NCCSI STRATEGIES, ROAD MAPS AND ACTION PLANS in the BuiCaSuS Project

buicasus.eu/results (in April, 2023)

You will find:

- **Analytical grid**
- **4 country studies (in April, 2023)**
- **Synthesis report (in April, 2023)**



Session 09

Transnational Experience Exchange

Implementation of NCCSI Strategies and Road Maps
within Consortia

Implementation of NCCSI Strategies and Road Maps within Consortia: SEED, PEnCIL, SI PLUS



Amalia Zepou,
Kollektiva, Co-
Founder, GREECE



Caroline Meyers, ESF
Flanders (Europa
WSE), Expert
Transnational
Cooperation and
Knowledge
Management,
BELGIUM



Jörg Mirtl, L&R Social
Research, Researcher,
AUSTRIA

What are the main achievements within each consortium?

What is the situation with the CCSI development and/or road map and strategy production in each respected consortia/country?

The session aimed to draft a picture on the social innovation and national CCSI development across Europe in each of the consortiums: SEEF, PEnCIL and SI PLUS. This provided an opportunity to understand the processes and approach for NCCSI development in various regions of the EU, share good practices as well as discuss difficulties. For instance, lack of the SI concept ownership at the national governmental level is evident in several countries across the consortiums resulting in reluctance to offer active participation and support on behalf of the decision makers and gate keepers.

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Session 10

Speed Experience Exchange

Room for Future Upgrade

Reflecting on the EASI initiative implementation

1. If the consortium phase would start all over again - what would you do differently?

2. Share one difficult issue that the country/consortia faced while working on the EASI project. What could be a possible solution?

3. What is the one valuable personal encounter that the consortium phase brought to you?

4. What was the one thing that you saw in another member state country that you would wish to implement in your own?

5. If you were the state and had a lot of budget to allocate - what is the one thing you would fund in your country if you wanted to foster social innovation ecosystems?



The session presented an opportunity to speed share experience in pairs or small groups on the implementation of work in the EASI consortiums, reflect on existing state of affair and think what could have been done differently in order to use the experience in future projects or during the final stages of the ongoing.



Session 11

Sofa Talk 3: Future collaboration,
Setting up Structures for Future ESF+
Implementation

Discussing future SI sector development possibilities and EASI collaboration after April 2023



Živilė Čimolauskaitė,
EU Social Innovation
Competence Centre,
LITHUANIA



Laura Mangeng,
Policy Assistant, DG
Employment, Social
Affairs and Inclusion,
BELGIUM



Council recommendations, in their latest version, specifically provide a recommendation to member states to enhance the recognition of the contribution of the social economy to social innovation along with a recommendation to create a favourable ecosystem for social innovation with a reference to National Competence Centres for Social Innovation.

The speakers discussed the newest ESF+ developments and possibilities for the social innovation support in the EU, along with the initiatives that the EU level institutions wish to come from the member states actors, both public and otherwise (civil society, NGO service providers, academia etc.). The debate continued with best case scenario discussion in the context of ESF+ programs implementation during the ongoing planning period.

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