

# Defining national capacity building priorities – A synthesis report

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# Contents

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>1. Background.....</b>   | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>2. The roundtable processes.....</b>   | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>3. The identified capacity-building priorities.....</b>  | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>4. Conclusions.....</b>  | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>Appendix 1: Summary of prioritized support in relation to the different elements of the social innovation process.....</b> | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>Appendix 2: Country report from Spain on the roundtable process.....</b>   | <b>13</b> |
| <b>Appendix 3: Country report from Latvia on the roundtable process .....</b>   | <b>28</b> |
| <b>Appendix 4: Country report from France on the roundtable process.....</b>  | <b>37</b> |
| <b>Appendix 5: Country report from Sweden on the roundtable process .....</b>   | <b>45</b> |

## 1. Background

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Within the transnational consortia Building Capacity for a Sustainable Society (BuiCaSuS), each partner has been on a path of strengthening either existing or establishing new National Competence Centres for Social Innovation (NCCSI). In order to gather input from key social innovation stakeholders regarding capacity-building areas for the NCCSIs, a round table process was carried out. The process was supported by the developments in other WPs, which contributed with key learnings from national mappings of the ecosystems for social innovation (WP 2) and an analysis of best practices on how to support social innovation (WP 4.2).

This report summarizes the roundtable process and the identified capacity-building priorities in the four countries.

## 2. The roundtable processes

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The respective national roundtables have been carried out in different ways due to the unique national ecosystems for social innovation (SI ecosystem) and the different development statuses of the NCCSIs.

In Spain, the SI ecosystem consists of multiple social innovation initiatives that have public funding and are developed mainly by civil society entities. Some institutions, promoted at the regional level, also focus on promoting and supporting social innovation. There is, however, no institution with this task at the national level that can resemble an NCCSI. The roundtable was carried out as a participatory meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2022, gathering 29 participants from 23 organisations. It contained both expert presentations and discussions concerning ecosystems for social innovation, public social innovation, and competencies supporting social innovation.

In Latvia, there are a limited number of social innovation actors in the SI ecosystem, and none act as an NCCSI. The roundtable was carried out as a participatory meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2022, gathering 18 participants from several sectors. It contained both a presentation of the mapping of the national SI ecosystem and group work followed by a joint discussion to define joint priorities for the future NCCSI.

In France, there already is an NCCSI – the BuiCaSuS-partner Avise. Thus, Avise has been in a different position than the partners in Spain and Latvia when conducting the roundtable process. The roundtable was conducted in two cycles. Firstly, as a public consultation during the 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 and secondly as individual auditions during December 2022 and January 2023. This roundtable process was conducted with over 400 people from the SI and social economy ecosystem in France.

In Sweden, the Forum for Social Innovation Sweden (MSI), based at Malmö University, is the NCCSI. The roundtable process built on the meetings and dialogue with actors in the ecosystem during the work of the competence centres' first two years, mainly the interactive processes of writing reports in WP 2 and 4, where meetings and interviews have been carried out with key stakeholders in the ecosystem for social innovation. The process of writing the application for the continuation of the competence centre's work has also been part of the process. In August 2022, the Swedish ESF Council launched a call for proposals for the continuation of the Swedish CCSI. At the end of December 2022, the application was granted, and MSI will continue as the NCCSI in Sweden. The round table process with the key actors in the ecosystem will continue through a dialogue meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April 2023, a dialogue process that will continue through the coming years of the competence centre.

A summary of these differing roundtable processes can be seen in table 1.

Table 1. The dates, focus, and which appendix that give more information about the roundtables held by the BuiCaSuS-partners.

| BuiCaSuS-partner                         | Method and date for the national roundtable process  | The focus of the roundtable  | More info about the roundtable process |
|--|--|--|--|
| Spanish State Secretary of Social Rights | One roundtable meeting on the 15 <sup>th</sup> of September 2022.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Ecosystems for social innovation.</li> <li>▶ Public social innovation.</li> <li>▶ Competencies supporting social innovation.</li> </ul>   | See Appendix 2                         |
| Society Integration Foundation           | One roundtable meeting on the 4 <sup>th</sup> of November 2022.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Identifying which key aspects of capacity building can be recognised as a priority for the Latvian national competence centre for social innovation.</li> </ul>   | See Appendix 3                         |
| Avisé                                    | An open consultation between the 18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> of October, and via individual auditions throughout December 2022 and January 2023.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The social innovation support ecosystem and its needs.</li> <li>▶ Expectations from the NCCSI.</li> <li>▶ Main challenges of social innovation in France and/or in Europe.</li> <li>▶ The expected role of the NCCSI regarding challenges.</li> <li>▶ Specific actions that could be implemented by the NCCSI.</li> </ul> | See Appendix 4                         |
| Forum for Social Innovation Sweden       | Ongoing meetings with key actors in the ecosystem in relation to the competence centre work and in the process of writing the application for funding from the Swedish ESF Council. Round table set for the 18 <sup>th</sup> of April. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ How to cooperate on the coming work of strengthening the ecosystem for social innovation</li> <li>▶ Capacity-building areas for the NCCSI.</li> </ul>   | See Appendix 5                         |

### 3. The identified capacity-building priorities

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The capacity-building priorities identified have common traits between the countries, but also diverge and reflect the different contexts of the different member states.

The clearest joint priority is the need to develop the support for mobilization via the continuation, refinement, and development of funding instruments. This can for example be through the “Design of specific financial vehicles according to the type of innovation and the phase of innovation (idea, experimentation, evaluation, scale)” brought up by Spain, by giving “Support in identifying and obtaining (consultations on requirements) available financial sources” identified by Latvia, or by “Integrating inflation into the amounts of subsidies granted” as formulated by France (see appendix 1). The other clear priority, meaning that it was also listed by all four BuiCaSuS-countries, is to give support to the realization of social innovation. This can for example be by giving “Advise on the formulation of public policies for social innovation” as phrased by Spain, or by “identify[ing] key players outside the usual ecosystem for social innovation” as stated by Sweden and to thereafter work with “The[ir] awareness raising and training [...]” as formulated by Latvia.

The capacity-building priority of giving support to the visualization of achieved impact was chosen by Spain and Latvia as a priority for their future NCCSIs and this capacity could entail that it “Collects data at different levels ensuring cross-sectoral and long-term impact evaluation” (Latvia) or the “Promotion of guidelines and public tools for the management and evaluation of own and third-party initiatives” (Spain). Relating to the factor that the BuiCaSuS-partners in France and Sweden – in contrast to the ones in Spain and Latvia – already have their NCCSIs, this difference in capacity-building priority might reflect that there already are actors in the Swedish and French SI ecosystems who conduct this, or that the NCCSI themselves already provide this support and hence doesn't prioritize it for the development of the NCCSIs respectively, or both.

The capacity-building priorities can be looked at through the lens of what research has identified as key elements of social innovation processes. A summary of prioritized support in relation to the different elements of the social innovation processes can be found in appendix 1.

For further reading on the selected priorities of the four countries, please see each country's report, in the appendixes.

## 4. Conclusions

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The roundtable processes have provided good opportunities for actors in the different countries to exchange experiences and identify themselves as being part of their respective SI ecosystems. It has also been a way to explore the possibilities for the ecosystem in each country, and in so doing, strengthen the SI ecosystems. The process became a place where actors jointly could discuss the state of the ecosystem, acknowledge what's already there, and complement each other's views on the challenges and needs to address ahead. This resulted in the definition of capacity-building priorities for the respective NCCSI. The selection of priorities has common traits between the countries concerning the need for support mobilization and realization, but also differ due to the diverse SI ecosystems in the BuiCaSuS-countries.



## Appendix 1: Summary of prioritized support in relation to the different elements of the social innovation process

| Type of support/competence  | Activities of each competence/support for social innovation (SI) per country  |  |   |   |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|   | Spain   | Latvia   | France  | Sweden  |
| <p>Support to identification and analysis of societal challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Providing a diverse understanding of societal challenges</li> <li>▶ Gathering stakeholders to analyse and describe societal challenges</li> <li>▶ Considering voices of those directly affected</li> <li>▶ Involving researchers in understanding societal challenges</li> <li>▶ Challenging the challenges by expanding norms</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Promote cooperation and exchange of international experiences.</li> <li>▶ Specific studies on topics related to innovation.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Provide the appropriate support for the respective SI development stage.</li> <li>▶ Maintain access to expertise in various fields.</li> <li>▶ Collection, analysis and dissemination of data, statistics, and research on existing SI and social problems.</li> <li>▶ Access to information on international practices.</li> <li>▶ Facilitate data activation: the NCCSI collects information about already existing problems and further delegates it in the form of tenders or taskforces so that the data does not remain only in the form of reports.</li> </ul> |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The CCSI should ensure participation and influence for target groups in support of SI.</li> <li>▶ The CCSI should focus on how the role of academia and research in SI can be strengthened.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>Support to mobilization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Mobilizing, coordinating, and connecting actors</li> <li>▶ Community involvement</li> <li>▶ Mobilizing resources</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Identify the actors and initiatives that promote innovation in Spain.</li> <li>▶ Enable spaces for meeting and exchange between Spanish actors.</li> <li>▶ Design specific financial vehicles according to the type of innovation and the phase of innovation (idea, experimentation, evaluation, scale).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Provide the appropriate support for the respective SI development stage.</li> <li>▶ Coordination and consulting of different SI ecosystem players and national-level SI.</li> <li>▶ Support in identifying and obtaining (consultations on requirements) available financial sources.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Having a reasoned use of calls for projects and of the externalization of services.</li> <li>▶ Ensuring that national policies are also supported and financed by the decentralized services of the State.</li> <li>▶ Mobilizing other ministries to support the Social and Solidarity Economy and SI</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ There is a need for improved long-term financing of social innovation. The CCSI needs to focus its work on this area.</li> <li>▶ The CCSI should focus on how the role of academia and research in social innovation can be strengthened.</li> </ul> |

|   |  |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
|   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Manage grant programs/funding allocation awarding money directly from NCCSI to SI implementers.</li> <li>▶ Strengthen and coordinate the ecosystem without competing with other existing networking instruments.</li> <li>▶ Bring players, and potential partners together, and maintain partner search tool.</li> <li>▶ Facilitates international cooperation.</li> <li>▶ The primary role is to coordinate by informing ecosystem participants about the opportunities in the field.</li> </ul>                                      | <p>in their sectoral policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Integrating inflation into the amounts of subsidies granted.</li> <li>▶ Supporting partnerships and collective dynamics.</li> <li>▶ Mobilizing funding from decentralized State services to supplement the funding of local authorities, particularly in support of the Fabriques à Initiatives.</li> </ul> |  |
| <p>Supporting ideation – developing and testing new solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Gathering stakeholders to develop solutions to societal challenges</li> <li>▶ Challenging traditional silos and structures</li> <li>▶ Involve those who can address the challenge</li> <li>▶ Strengthen actors to be part of cross-sectoral co-creation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Design specific financial vehicles according to the type of innovation and the phase of innovation (idea, experimentation, evaluation, scale).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Provide the appropriate support for the respective SI development stage.</li> <li>▶ Maintains database for various ideas and needs.</li> <li>▶ Provides expertise as to whether the proposed idea/solution is an SI: whether something similar has not already been implemented.</li> <li>▶ Promotion of intersectoral cooperation at the state, municipal, private initiative, and international levels.</li> <li>▶ Provide intersectoral data analysis.</li> <li>▶ Ensure networking tools for intersectoral partnership.</li> </ul> |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ There is a need for support of co-creation and cross-sectoral cooperation.</li> <li>▶ Coordination and involvement of ecosystem players need to be facilitated and systematized. The competence centre should focus on strengthened coordination and cross-sectoral collaboration for social innovation.</li> </ul> |
| <p>Supporting realization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Incubation programs</li> <li>▶ Supporting innovation/</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Design specific financial vehicles according to the type of innovation and the phase of innovation (idea, experimentation, evaluation, scale).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Provide the appropriate support for the respective SI development stage.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Favouring multi-annual objective agreements with public authorities.</li> <li>▶ Strengthening the DLA</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Integrate social innovation in the day-to-day activities of actors supporting social innovation but also identify</li> </ul>  |

|   |  |  |   |  |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <p>business promoters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Strengthening the ecosystems</li> <li>▶ Connecting and matching actors for scaling</li> <li>▶ Strengthening policies on social innovation</li> <li>▶ Integrating innovation into existing systems</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Economically encourage the start-up or scaling of projects, for example, through seed budgeting.</li> <li>▶ Interconnect regional initiatives of social innovation.</li> <li>▶ Train in innovative skills and promote the use of proven methods and tools.</li> <li>▶ Accompany the processes of experimentation and advise on the transfer and scaling of initiatives.</li> <li>▶ Advise on the implementation of specific projects and develop mentoring processes.</li> <li>▶ Strengthen the capacities of public administration to lead and foster social innovation and its ecosystems.</li> <li>▶ Ongoing training of civil servants.</li> <li>▶ Review of processes for the formulation and implementation of social policies for their adaptation to the logic of SI.</li> <li>▶ Advise on the formulation of public policies for social innovation and on the normative development related to social innovation.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Knowledge and best practice transfer: practical guidelines, providing information about available solutions that could be transferred to the problem being targeted, as well as template documents for standard activities.</li> <li>▶ Acts as an intermediary.</li> <li>▶ Acts as an indicator for the ecosystem development direction.</li> <li>▶ Being a lab (test field) providing expertise allows for validating the proposed idea/solution: is the innovation or an idea viable?</li> <li>▶ Provide information and support for SI upscaling.</li> <li>▶ Training and consulting for SI implementers, only in cases where the necessary support from existing players is not available on the market.</li> <li>▶ The awareness raising and training at the level of public administration for politicians, and civil servants.</li> <li>▶ Intermediary between SI implementers and the public sector, informing state institutions about the necessary initiatives in society, as well as ecosystem participants about national initiatives targeting existing problems.</li> <li>▶ Lobby – protection of interests at the national, and municipal level, demand for a new clear policy in the field of SI.</li> </ul> | <p>(“Dispositif Local d’Accompagnement”).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Strengthening support for SSE network heads, including CRESS (“Chambres Régionales de l’ESS”)</li> <li>▶ Supporting the reception, information, and orientation of project leaders in the territories</li> </ul> | <p>key players outside the usual ecosystem for social innovation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Support of projects</li> <li>▶ Analysis and evaluation for scaling of innovations.</li> <li>▶ Support the Swedish ESF Council and other key actors in the implementation of the ESF+ program</li> <li>▶ Support the ecosystem at large.</li> <li>▶ The ecosystem needs clearer political leadership on national, regional and local levels. The competence centre needs to provide input to dialogue with policymakers and use relevant capacity and methods for this work.</li> <li>▶ There is a need to promote the NCCSI but also local and regional platforms for social innovation.</li> </ul> |
|---|--|--|---|--|

|  |  |   |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|
|  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Delegates delivery of the state order to the ecosystem participants.</li> <li>▶ Maintaining and ensuring expertise regarding national policies in various related areas and action plans.</li> <li>▶ Informing the ecosystem participants about national policies.</li> </ul>  |  |  |
| <p>Supporting visualization of achieved impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Supporting impact assessment</li> <li>▶ Supporting the narrative of social innovation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Design specific financial vehicles according to the type of innovation and the phase of innovation (idea, experimentation, evaluation, scale).</li> <li>▶ Development of methodologies for evaluating innovation initiatives and measuring ecosystem vitality.</li> <li>▶ Promotion of guidelines and public tools for the management and evaluation of own and third-party initiatives.</li> <li>▶ Carry out mappings and databases of innovation initiatives and feed the European database.</li> <li>▶ Maintenance of communication channels and accessible repository of information.</li> <li>▶ Make reports on the progress of innovation (possibly an annual report).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Provide the appropriate support for the respective SI development stage.</li> <li>▶ Collects data at different levels ensuring cross-sectoral and long-term impact evaluation.</li> <li>▶ Informing society at all levels about the nature of SI, popularizing the concept.</li> <li>▶ Creating a narrative in society about SI.</li> <li>▶ Promotion of interest through contests and awards for the best SI (e.g., annually).</li> </ul> |  |  |

## Appendix 2: Country report from Spain on the roundtable process

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# Capacities for social innovation in Spain

Findings on national capacity-building priorities  
Results of deliberations in working groups in Spain

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# Contents

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|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Introduction .....</b>  | <b>15</b> |
| <b>Contexto.....</b>   | <b>16</b> |
| <b>The Mission, objectives and areas of work of CERIS .....</b>        | <b>19</b> |
| <b>Summary .....</b>   | <b>21</b> |
| <b>Anexo 1 – programa de la jornada del 15 de septiembre 2022.....</b> | <b>22</b> |
| <b>Anexo 2 – documentación visual .....</b>                            | <b>24</b> |
| <b>Anexo 3 – listado de participantes .....</b>                        | <b>26</b> |

## Introduction

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BuiCaSuS is a transnational project that aims to strengthen skills for social innovation. The partners come from Spain, Sweden, Latvia and France. It is one of six consortia funded by the European Commission. Among its tasks is to map the current systems of social innovation in the four partner countries. The immediate objective is to develop policy proposals for National Competence Centres (CCSI).

Within the framework of Work Package 2, a mapping of the current situation in Spain has been prepared. During this process there was a validation mechanism in May 2022. In addition, within the framework of Work Package 4, a scan of support structures for social innovation initiatives has been carried out. Bringing together these two work trajectories, the Secretary of State for Social Rights has convened a meeting to exchange ideas to discuss capacities for social innovation in Spain. <sup>12</sup>It was held on September 15, 2022 at the headquarters of the Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030.

This initiative includes the mandate of the European Commission to promote the creation of competence centers at State level (CCSI). This document describes the reasons articulated there why a Reference Center for Social Innovation in Spain (CERIS) should be created, the objectives, areas of work and actions.

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<sup>1</sup> Spanish stakeholders meet to validate the mapping of social innovation ecosystems – 12 May 2022  
<https://buicasus.eu/spanish-stakeholders-meet-to-validate-the-mapping-of-social-innovation-ecosystems/>

<sup>2</sup> Best practices show key components in supporting social innovation <https://buicasus.eu/best-practices-supporting-social-innovation/>

## Contexto

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La innovación social pretende dar nuevas respuestas a problemas y necesidades sociales en un contexto cambiante de nuestras sociedades. Las instituciones europeas insisten en la necesidad de fomentar procesos de innovación y ponen a disposición fondos europeos para fomentarlos. Los procesos de innovación social emergen, consiguen desarrollarse y alcanzar más impacto si cuentan con los entornos y apoyos adecuados. Los CCIS pueden jugar un papel fundamental contribuyendo a crear estos ecosistemas favorables a la innovación social, apoyando iniciativas, conectando los actores y capacitándoles, así como desarrollando otros procesos de aprendizaje mutuo, apoyo y estímulo.

La Comisión Europea pretende que en cada uno de los Estados miembros se ponga en marcha al menos un CCIS. Para ello ha promovido proyectos piloto en los que distintos países se han agrupado para intercambiar experiencias y conocimiento en este ámbito; España lidera el proyecto BuiCaSuS. En el marco del FSE 2021-2027 se ha previsto que todos los países puedan programar acciones específicas de innovación social en las que la financiación europea puede llegar al 95%.

La Unión Europea define la innovación social como:

*"la actividad que es social tanto por sus fines como por sus medios, y en particular la actividad que se refiere al desarrollo y la puesta en práctica de nuevas ideas relacionadas con productos, prácticas, servicios y modelos que, simultáneamente, satisface necesidades sociales y genera nuevas colaboraciones o relaciones sociales entre organismos públicos, organizaciones de la sociedad civil o privadas, beneficiando de esta forma a la sociedad y reforzando su capacidad de actuación"* Regl. FSE+ Art 2(8)

The radical changes we are experiencing in our society associated with demographic challenges (depopulation, population ageing, migration...), technological (industry 4.0, digitalization, virtual reality, internet of things...), social (increase in inequalities, aggravation of social exclusion phenomena, new social risks ...) and environmental (climate change, loss of biodiversity, soil degradation ...) have made innovation is at the centre of policies. Many of these challenges are defined as "*wicked challenges*" due to their complexity, transversality because they affect several sectors and administrations, and the necessary collaboration required by public, private, organized civil society and community actors, to address them from their respective logics of action.

Social innovation initiatives typically arise in a complex, multi-stakeholder ecosystem. Mature innovations that become socially accepted and promoted through public policies are often the result of intense support processes. They give a systematic work that goes through the conception of the response, prototyping, experimental implementation, evaluation and scaling. Innovation in the social



sphere is especially complex because experimentation processes are subject to context conditions and multiple circumstances that can condition their success. On many occasions, the key to social innovation is not only in the "what" but in the "how"; That is, the key is not in the conception of the response but in an adequate implementation. Access to finance for innovators and publicly funded support for social innovation initiatives is a key challenge.

The experience of European countries that have made more progress in social innovation shows that for innovation to emerge and be sustainable, it is necessary to create adequate ecosystems. In the creation of these ecosystems, the "Social Innovation Competence Centers" (SICCs) play a fundamental role; These centers that exist in several countries can fulfill different functions always attracting talent. These include:

1. Identify actors, perform mapping and databases of initiatives
2. promote cooperation, and enable spaces for meeting and exchange of national and international experiences;
3. training in competencies and promoting the use of tested methods and tools;
4. accompany the processes of experimentation and advise on the transfer and scaling of initiatives;
5. economically incentivize projects, and design specific financial vehicles according to the type of innovation and the phase of innovation (idea, experimentation, evaluation, scale);
6. Advise on the formulation of public policies for social innovation.

In Spain there is no initiative at the national level that can resemble the CCIS; at the regional level there are, or are promoting, some relevant experiences in this area. Among others we can highlight the Agirre Centre, LAAAB Aragón, idtUPM, Gerencia SSSS CyL, ORS Navarra. Some social entities have been developing social innovation projects and initiatives for years. With the implementation of RRF funds, new initiatives have been launched, especially in areas such as deinstitutionalization.

In Spain there are multiple social innovation initiatives that have public funding and are developed mainly by Third Sector entities. There are also some institutions, promoted at the regional level, that focus on promoting and supporting social innovation. However, there is no institution with this task at the national level; Given the current context, European recommendations and funding opportunities, the time is ripe to create it.<sup>3</sup>

Some European countries have extensive experience in IAOCs. Among them are Portugal, Sweden, Ireland or the United Kingdom. Other countries, such as France or Germany, are currently setting up these centres, or entrusting this function to

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<sup>3</sup> Meyer, S., Gonzalez, B., & Berzunatea, P. (2022). Mapping the social innovation ecosystem in Spain—BuiCaSuS Building Capacity for a Sustainable Society. BuiCaSuS. <https://buicasus.eu/mapping-of-social-innovation-initiatives-in-spain/>

existing entities or networks, many of them related to the social economy or social entrepreneurship. The organisational configuration and legal form of these centres is varied in the different European countries: in some they are public agencies (Portugal), in others they are centres promoted publicly but managed by private initiative (Ireland, France), in others they have emerged promoted by private initiative, but have a mandate or public recognition (Sweden, United Kingdom). In all cases there are common characteristics among which public-private cooperation, public commitment and support, the identification and involvement of actors with greater innovative potential, the ability to create alliances and the involvement of private for-profit, non-governmental actors and the administration itself.

The European Union through the EaSI programme has taken the initiative to foster networks and alliances between different countries to encourage the creation or strengthening of IAOCs, with the aim of having at least one in each country, which can be supported by the ESF in the period 2021-2027. In one of these projects, the BuiCaSuS project, Spain participates together with France, Sweden and Latvia. These projects, which should be completed in April 2023, will make recommendations and proposals on how to promote or strengthen the IAECs in the different countries and the structure that they should have.

At the same time, the EC promotes a mutual learning network at European level and a European Competence Centre has been set up, delegated by Lithuania. In these spaces, in addition to sharing methodologies on mapping, piloting, scale, etc., the possible institutional designs of the CCSI to be created and how to promote those that already exist are contrasted.

In view of the growing awareness of the need to actively promote social innovation processes, the European Union has included among the priorities of the ESF (Article 14) a specific one focusing on social innovation. In order to prepare the implementation of this line of funding, the EC promotes the creation of "competence centres" in each Member State (IAOC). Within this framework, the BuiCaSuS project is generating a series of experiences, knowledge and relationships both in Spain and at the transnational level that can guide the creation of a Reference Center for Social Innovation in Spain (CERIS).

In the future, this Center could provide services to improve the capacities of actors in Spain to implement quality transformative initiatives, in addition to strengthening ecosystems for innovation and a space for the exchange of good practices promoted by public administration.

It could also manage funding instruments to channel funds to social innovation initiatives. ESF+ projects that are promoted from the call to the state level (POISES) should be aligned with the political priorities of the SEDS and with the actions that will be carried out from the CERIS.

## The Mission, objectives and areas of work of CERIS

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The mission of CERIS could be to promote social innovation in Spain, contributing to foster ecosystems so that it emerges and reinforcing the innovation processes that already exist by interconnecting them.



The main objectives and areas of action of CERIS:

Document, communicate and raise awareness

1. Identify the actors and initiatives that promote innovation in Spain.
2. Carry out mappings and databases of innovation initiatives, and feed the European database
3. Maintenance of communication channels and accessible repository of information

Connect

1. Enable spaces for meeting and exchange between Spanish actors.
2. Promote cooperation and exchange of international experiences
3. Interconnect regional initiatives of social innovation.

Analyze and evaluate

1. Make reports on the progress of innovation (possibly an annual report)
2. Specific studies on topics related to innovation
3. Development of methodologies for evaluating innovation initiatives and measuring ecosystem vitality

## Qualify

---

1. Train in innovative skills and promote the use of proven methods and tools
2. Accompany in the processes of experimentation and advise on the transfer and scaling of initiatives
3. Advise on the implementation of specific projects and develop mentoring processes

## Innovate from the public

1. Strengthen the capacities of public administration to lead and foster social innovation and its ecosystems
2. Ongoing training of civil servants
3. Promotion of guidelines and public tools for the management and evaluation of own and third-party initiatives
4. Review of processes for the formulation and implementation of social policies for their adaptation to the logic of SI

## Finance

1. Design specific financial vehicles according to the type of innovation and the phase of innovation (idea, experimentation, evaluation, scale);
2. Economically encourage the start-up or scaling of projects, for example, through seed budgeting

## Advise

1. Advise on the formulation of public policies for social innovation and on the normative development related to social innovation

## Summary

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The mapping exercises of existing social innovation initiatives and support structures in Spain have contributed to an exchange of experiences both within the respective countries, between the four partners and their organisations, and further in the two sessions held with public administrations, third sector operators and academics. Participants have been sensitised to assess the specific key features of their respective social innovation ecosystems, such as legal provisions and policy frameworks, funding instruments, support structures and evaluation methods. The new programming cycle of the European Funds, as well as the transformative experiences of the current implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) allow to place the issue of social innovation firmly on the agenda to create more resilient responses to perverse problems and, ultimately, build more sustainable societies as foreseen in the 2030 Agenda. Now, the question of the institutional design of a reference center and the next steps to be taken are firmly on the table.

## Anexo 1 – programa de la jornada del 15 de septiembre 2022

### Jornada de debate

Título de la jornada: Competencias en los ecosistemas de innovación social

Día: 15 de septiembre.

Duración del encuentro: 4 horas, de 11 a 15.

Lugar: Ministerio de Derechos Sociales y Agenda 2030.

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Objetivo de la jornada: esta jornada tiene un objetivo doble:

1. Ofrecer un espacio de encuentro e intercambio entre las personas colaboradoras del proyecto Buicasus en España.
2. Generar reflexión y obtener conclusiones y propuestas sobre las competencias necesarias a promover a nivel estatal para el desarrollo de la innovación social.

Metodología: se propone una sesión de trabajo sobre tres preguntas (a definir), cada pregunta será planteada y contextualizada por una persona experta en la temática. Después se realizarán mesas de debate para cada una de ellas. Cada participante podrá participar en dos mesas y, por tanto, en cada mesa se realizarán dos rondas. En la segunda ronda de debate se partirá de las conclusiones de la primera de forma que en la segunda ronda se pueda profundizar sobre las cuestiones planteadas, así como se definirá la propuesta de conclusiones. En cada mesa estará siempre presente (en las dos rondas) un facilitador que será la misma persona que ha introducido la pregunta de esa mesa. Tras las dos rondas cada facilitador explicará al resto de participantes las principales conclusiones para luego abrir un debate que permita añadir valor a lo planteado y generar nuevas preguntas.

Escaleta:

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11,00 – 11,20 (20 minutos) - Café y bienvenida de Patricia y presentación de las mesas y de la dinámica de la jornada.

11,20 – 12,10 (55 minutos: 45 ponencias más 5 para presentación) - Presentación de las mesas de preguntas:

- 15´- Explicación y contexto pregunta/mesa 1: Ecosistemas de innovación social. Gorka Espiau.
- 15´- Explicación y contexto pregunta/mesa 2: ¿Una nueva generación de organizaciones a través de la innovación social?. Raúl Oliván.
- 15´- Explicación y contexto pregunta/mesa 3: Competencias para la innovación social. Susana Mañueco.

Distribución de las personas participantes en tres grupos, uno por mesa

12:10 – 13:30 (80 minutos) - Ronda por mesas de todos los participantes. Cada persona hará tres rondas, pasando así por cada una de las mesas. (20 minutos por mesa más 10 minutos para cambiar de una mesa a otra en total)

13:30 – 14:00 - Presentación de los resultados de cada mesa. (10 minutos por grupo)

14:00 – 15:00 - Debate para añadir valor. Dinamizan Stefan y Berta.

Preguntas

Pregunta/mesa 1: Ecosistemas de innovación social. Gorka Espiau.

Pregunta/mesa 2: Innovación social pública. Raúl Oliván.

Pregunta/mesa 3: Competencias para la innovación social. Susana Mañueco.

## Anexo 2 – documentación visual

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Introducción Patricia Berzunatea, SEDS



Presentación Gorka Espaiu, Agirre Centre



Presentación Susana Mañueco, COTEC

Grupos de trabajo





## Anexo 3 – listado de participantes

| Nombre                      | Organización   | Cargo  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Julián Andújar Péres        | Fundación Tecnologías Sociales (TECSOS)  | Técnico de proyectos   |
| Skye Bain                   | Fresno Consulting  | senior consultant  |
| Patricia Bezunatea          | SSSR/SEDS  | Directora General  |
| Luis Campos                 | ORS Observatorio de la Realidad Social de Navarra  | Director ORS   |
| Inmaculada Carrasco de Dios | Dirección General de Planificación de la Investigación - Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación                  | Jefa de Servicio - Sub. Gral. de Planificación, Seguimiento y Evaluación - |
| Javier Castro Spila         | Gizalab  | Asesor del Gobierno de Euskadi en al ámbito de la Innovación Social        |
| Toni Codina                 | Fundación iSocial para la innovación en la acción social   | CEO & co-founde  |
| Gorka Espiao Idoiaga        | Centro de Estudios Sociales y Políticos ALC - <a href="http://www.agirrecenter.eus">www.agirrecenter.eus</a> | Director Agirre Centre   |
| Arantza Fernández Espiñeira | FSG - Fundación Secretariado Gitano  |  |
| Daniel Ferrer Gallart       | Fundación Bofill   | Director de Desarrollo y Alianzas  |
| Jose Manuel Fresno          | Fresno Consulting  | Director   |
| Rosa Gallego                | Asociación Española de Fundaciones   |  |
| Alicia García-Madrid Colado | Acción Contra el Hambre (ACH)  | MANAGER OF EUROPEAN SOCIAL-LABOUR INCLUSION PROGRAMMES                     |
| Adela García Aracil         | Ingenio - CSIC - UPV   | Coordinadora SUIA  |
| Berta Gonzalez Antón        | SEDS Secretary of State os Social Rigths   | Assistant of the Secretary of State for Social Rights                      |
| Itziar Herrero Larrea       | ORS Observatorio de la Realidad Social de Navarra  |  |
| Rafael López-Arostegi       | Consejera del Departamento de Igualdad, Justicia y Políticas sociales  | Asesor   |

|                           |  |  |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| José Javier López Macarro | EAPN España  | Director en EAPN-ES  |
| Susana Mañueco            | COTEC  |  |
| Stefan Meyer              | Fresno Consulting  | consultant   |
| Anna Muñoz                | Fundación NOVATERRA  | Dpto. Proyectos, expansión y alianzas.                           |
| Raúl Oliván               | LAAAB, Laboratorio de Aragón Gobierno Abierto - Government of Aragón<br>www.laaab.es |  |
| Ana Peñalver Blanco       | Fundación de Tecnologías Sociales - TECSOS   | Project Management at Fundación de Tecnologías Sociales - TECSOS |
| Xosé Ramil                | Centro de Innovación en Tecnología para el Desarrollo Humano - itdUPM                | Comunicación   |
| Natalia Serrano Serrano   | Fundación Santa María la Real  | Directora del Área de Empleo y Emprendimiento                    |
| Luis Tarrafeta            | ORS Observatorio de la Realidad Social de Navarra                                    | Director of Service of the ORSN                                  |
| Luis Torrens              | Ayto Barcelona   | Director, Unidad de Innovación Social                            |
| Maria Tussy-Flores        | Fundación ONCE   | Jefa de Unidad Programas Europeos                                |
| Sara Ulla Díez            | IMSERSO  | Coordinadora de Estudios y Apoyo Técnico                         |

## Appendix 3: Country-report from Latvia on the roundtable process

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# Defining national capacity building priorities

Roundtable Latvia

24 November 2022

Authors:

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# Contents

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|                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| 1. Background .....              | 30 |
| 2. Round table process .....     | 30 |
| 3. Round table key outcomes..... | 32 |

## Background

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As a part of the project BuiCaSuS WP4, a roundtable to enable the consortium's structured reflection process around key capacity-building areas that are crucial for the National social innovation competence centre (further - NCCSI) was organised and held in Latvia. In accordance with the project inception report, the roundtable was focused on identifying which key aspects of capacity building can be recognised as a priority for the Latvian national competence centre for social innovation. The event aimed to build on the knowledge gained from previous work packages undertaken by national mappings (WP2) and the knowledge hub's capacity building sessions (WP4). In addition, the round table discussion was intended as a stepping stone to strengthen the social innovation (further - SI) ecosystem in Latvia. Collaboration and brainstorming on issues highly relevant to the field strengthens the bond and self-identification as the SI ecosystem players among the SI implementers and supporters. During the roundtable, the combination of words "social innovations ecosystem" was promoted, creating a sense of belonging, an identity.

The methodology of the roundtable as well as the outline was prepared based on the bilateral consultations with the WP4 lead partner Forum for Social Innovation Sweden.

This report, summarising the capacity-building priorities of the Latvian NCCSI, acknowledged by the ecosystem players, is prepared in order to contribute to the WP4 synthesis report on capacity-building priorities of the partner organisation countries and to support development of the National Blueprint Strategy and Action Plans for Latvian CCSI within WP5.2.

## Round table process

In Latvia, the roundtable discussion "Priorities of the National Social Innovation Competence Centre in the field of capacity building in Latvia" took place on November the 4th, 2023 in a face-to-face format.

A total of 18 participants, including 4 Society Integration Foundations' (further - SIF) representatives, took part. It was important to ensure non-homogenous participation, therefore, a balanced number of representatives of various fields of SI were invited. In the round table discussion took part 5 SI implementers (28%), 4 ecosystem representatives providing direct support for social innovators and/or facilitating the ecosystem development (22%), 4 representatives of the Latvian Ministry of Welfare (22%), 4 representatives of the SIF (22%), as well as one representative of the academia sector (6%).





Picture 1. Round table discussion working process.

The SI sector as such is quite limited in number in Latvia. Most of the sector representatives has been already addressed and invited to participate in one or another of the BuiCaSus activities. Therefore, the existing contact list was deployed, inviting participants who previously demonstrated a strong interest in the BuiCaSus project implementation, while, nonetheless, focusing on ensuring representatives from different sectors of SI. In addition, it is important to highlight that the event involved representatives from different departments of the Ministry of Welfare: the Department of Social Services and Disability Policy, the European Union Funds Department, as well as Department of Social Policy Planning and Development.

In the invitation sent to the participants, it was highlighted that the aim of the event is to identify the most relevant areas of SI ecosystem capacity strengthening in order to make the operations of an institution that is planned as the Latvian NCCSI, as efficient as possible.

The roundtable discussion consisted of two parts: (1) Information about the findings of the Social Innovation Development Ecosystem Mapping Report in Latvia (BuiCaSus WP2), focusing on provisional services of the Latvian NCCSI to build the base for the future discussions within the event; (2) A group work on defining priorities of the NCCSI for strengthening the capacity of different players involved in the development of SI ecosystem. The participants were divided into two non-homogenous groups and given the task of defining ten priority tasks/activities of the Latvian NCCSI. At the beginning of the task, it was decided that a perfect situation should be considered meaning that we have unlimited resources available to meet all the essential needs.

As the support material for defining the priorities of the NCCSI, a list of possible priority activities based on the main steps of the SI development was provided. This

list was developed based on the Analysis of Best Practices on Support to Social Innovation Processes *Making Social Innovation Happen*, prepared by the team of the Forum for Social Innovation, Sweden. After the two groups presented, the common list of the ten priorities was developed via discussions and consensus among all participants.

At the final part of the discussion, the participants were provided with the information about the BuiCaSuS ongoing activities aimed at the development of the Latvian NCCSI strategy blueprint and the action plan and the final conference. The participants were also encouraged to support the strategy development by participation in the consultations for their opinion, that is foreseen within the WP5.2. later this year.

As a continuation of the round table process, it is planned that current discussion will made a base for future consultations and negotiations regarding tasks of the Latvian NCCSI to develop the National Blueprint Strategy and the Action Plan for the Latvian CCSI.

## Round table key outcomes

As a result of the group work, the following 10 priorities of the key aspects of capacity building services were defined for the Latvian NCCSI. The reasons for choosing these priorities are based on the participants' practical experience of working in various sectors of the SI ecosystem. The priorities are not ranged and/or presented as a hierarchy, but rather have equal importance, depending on the area of implementation. In addition, it should be taken into account that the defined priorities are interrelated and interact, thus, the division is nominal and aims to structure main activity areas not to provide a list of isolated tasks.

### 1. Umbrella support to the SI ecosystem

- Includes coordination and consulting of different SI ecosystem players, as well as national level SI.
- Knowledge and best practice transfer: practical guidelines, providing information about available solutions that could be transferred to the problem being targeted, as well template documents for standard activities.
- Maintains access to expertise in various fields.

### 2. Financial support

- Support in identifying and obtaining (consultations on requirements) available financial sources
- Manages grant programs/funding allocation awarding money directly from NCCSI to SI implementers.



### 3. Promotion of the cooperation & networking

- Strengthens and coordinates the ecosystem without competing with other existing networking instruments.
- Brings players, potential partners together, maintains partner search tool.
- Acts as an intermediary.
- Acts as an indicator for the ecosystem development direction.
- Facilitates international cooperation.

### 4. Research & data analysis

- Collection, analysis and dissemination of data, statistics, research on existing SI and social problems.
- Access to information on international practices.
- Collects data at different levels ensuring cross-sectoral and long-term impact evaluation.
- Facilitates data activation: the NCSSI collects information about already existing problems and further delegates in the form of tenders or task forces, so that the data does not remain only in the form of reports.
- Maintains database for various ideas, needs.

### 5. Inspection, testing and validation of SI

- Being a lab (test field) providing expertise allowing to validate the proposed idea/solution: is the innovation or an idea viable?
- Provides expertise as to whether the proposed idea/solution is an SI: whether something similar has not already been implemented.

### 6. Support in developing SI at different stages of innovation

- Provide information and support for SI upscaling.
- Provide the appropriate support for the respective SI development stage.

### 7. Promotion of intersectoral cooperation

- At the state, municipal, private initiative, international level.
- Maintaining and ensuring expertise regarding national policies in various related areas, action plans.
- Provide intersectoral data analysis.
- Ensure networking tools for intersectoral partnership.

### 8. Training



In addition to the defined tasks/activities of the Latvian NCCSI, the following overall aspects important for the development of the SI ecosystem in Latvia, as well as the Latvian NCCSI vision and operations, were formulated during the discussion:

- It is mandatory to agree on the SI definition at the governmental/legal level.
- It is important to work along with the existing ecosystem actors in order to promote the common understanding of the situation and facilitate communication.
- In order to fulfil all functions, the role and rights of the NCCSI must be clearly defined and binding on all levels of national and local government.
- Consequently, it is important to grant the NCCSI not only with the right to inform, but also with the right to implement.
- The NCCSI should be created as a "one-stop shop" where the SI innovator/other actors can receive a full range of services and/or information.
- At the same time, its location at the SI ecosystem must be clearly defined to ensure the functions and tasks do not overlap with the functions of already existing organizations, excluding competition between members of the ecosystem. This is especially relevant to individual support to early- to mid-stage individual social innovators, including traditional services of accelerators/incubators.
- The practical aspect of all activities highlighted. For example, it is important not only to collect examples of good practices and talk about them, but also to be able to adapt them.
- Transfer of practices and solutions. Latvia is small, however the situation in municipalities differs due to a lack of horizontal communication and exchange of experiences.
- Therefore, regional support is relevant, similar to the Latvian Investment and Development Agency's composition that includes representative offices in all regions and big cities.
- Last but not least, individual characteristics and attitude of the NCCSI colleagues mentioned highlighting the importance of humane and friendly attitude along with specific functions. Moral support to social innovators, especially in the Latvian context where the field is still very young, was indicated as an equally important factor as practical support. For the NCCSI employees being "human not a snob" is highly welcomed.

Besides the defined list of the capacity-building priorities for the National competence acknowledged by the SI ecosystem players, other outcomes of the round table discussion included building identity and feeling of community belonging among social innovators, as well as strengthening collaboration within the ecosystem that already resulted in further knowledge exchange and communication.

Currently, to support the development of SI ecosystem, cooperation with the Ministry of Welfare on the implementation of ESF+ activities under the specific priority "Social Innovations" of the European Union Cohesion Policy programme 2021-2027 has been started.

## Appendix 4: Country-report from France on the roundtable process

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# Defining national capacity building priorities

Roundtables in France

07 March 2023

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# Contents

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|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>1. Background.....</b>                                       | <b>39</b> |
| <b>2. Roundtable process.....</b>                               | <b>40</b> |
| 2.1. Rencontres Nationales des Accompagnateurs de l'ESS.....    | 40        |
| 2.2. Auditions.....   | 41        |
| <b>3. Key outcomes .....</b>                                    | <b>43</b> |
| 3.1. From the RNAESS.....                                       | 43        |
| 3.1.1. Regarding public policies to support the SSE and SI..... | 43        |
| 3.1.2. Around non-financial support to the SSE and SI .....     | 44        |
| 3.2. From the auditions .....                                   | 44        |

## Background

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As part of the Work Package (WP) 4 from the BuiCaSuS project, a roundtables method was suggested by the WP lead partner (Forum for Social Innovation Sweden), in order to gather inputs from key social innovation stakeholders, regarding capacity-building areas for the national Competence Centre for Social Innovation (CCSI).

In the French context, AVISE being the French CCSI, such consultation processes are regularly carried out, through [Avisé's strategic orientation committee](#) on one hand, and through its multiple communities, working groups, events and programs on the other hand, involving various public and private social innovation stakeholders, at local and national levels.

Out of these gatherings, the "Rencontres Nationales des Accompagnateurs de l'ESS"<sup>4</sup>, held in October 2022, represent a large form of roundtable.

Besides, as part of BuiCaSuS WP 5's work of developing a national blueprint strategy and action plan for a French CCSI, Avise conducted auditions with key stakeholders from the social innovation national ecosystem.

This report summarizes these two endeavours and their key outcomes.

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<sup>4</sup> Two days of meetings gathering professionals and experts of social innovation and social and solidarity economy sectors in France

## Roundtable process

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The first consultation process presented here, the “Rencontres Nationales des Accompagnateurs de l’ESS”, was a national event gathering the social innovation support ecosystem in October 2022, which resulted in a list of proposals for the support ecosystem and its needs.

The second one consists of individual auditions conducted by Avise in December 2022, with key social innovation stakeholders: funders, public innovators, academic researchers, among others.

## Rencontres Nationales des Accompagnateurs de l’ESS

On October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of 2022, Avise held in Paris the first national gathering dedicated to non-financial supporters for the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) and social innovation (SI): the “Rencontres Nationales des Accompagnateurs de l’ESS” (RNAESS). Around 400 participants and 60 speakers gathered over two days in order to share best practices and to contribute to strengthen support ecosystems all over the country.



Picture 1. Informal discussions at the Rencontres Nationales des Accompagnateurs de l’ESS, October 2022

These support ecosystem players co-facilitated and took part to more than 25 workshops, covering specific topics such as supporting the scaling-up of social innovations, developing partnerships with public local authorities or strengthening their support regarding financial issues.

This national gathering opened up its doors during the afternoon of Day 2 to a wider public of stakeholders which financially support SSE and SI and were interested in



getting to know better the support programs offered by the members of the communities coordinated by Avise: “Émergence & Accélération”, “la Fabrique à initiatives”, “Créa’rural”, “DLA, Dispositif local d’accompagnement de l’ESS”, “Social Value France”.



Picture 2. Workshops at the Rencontres Nationales des Accompagnateurs de l’ESS, October 2022

These two days ended with a conference, punctuated by testimonies between SSE and SI supporters and their committed partners, as well as speeches on the issues and levers to be activated to reinforce non-financial support programs in France. Following these discussions, Marlène Schiappa, Secretary of State for Social & Solidarity Economy & Associative Life took the floor in order to reaffirm the importance of non-financial support to develop the social and solidarity economy.

## Auditions

Based on findings from BuiCaSuS WP 2 and 4 and following the RNAESS discussions, key areas for the French SI ecosystem and around which the French CCSI can be further strengthened were identified, including public social innovation, academic research and financing social innovation.

Several relevant experts were then interviewed through individual auditions in order to gather additional thoughts and inputs for the National Blueprint Strategy and Action plan for a French CCSI (BuiCaSuS WP 5).

A list of questions was sent out previously to each interviewee, regarding:

- their expectations from the national CCSI;
- the main challenges of social innovation in France and/or in Europe;
- the expected role of the national CCSI regarding these challenges;
- specific actions that could be implemented by the national CCSI.

11 semi-structured auditions (30-minutes format) were carried out through videoconference in December 2022:

- La 27<sup>e</sup> Région
- ESS France
- FAIR
- Fondation MACIF
- France Active
- INCO
- Institut Godin
- LabCom DESTINS
- Lab DGEFP
- Nadine Richez-Battesti (Senior Lecturer and Co-director of the Social and Solidarity Economy and Human Resources Masters program, Aix-Marseille University)
- Timothée Duverger (Senior Lecturer and Head of the Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation Masters program, Sciences Po Bordeaux)

Specific discussions will be carried out between Avise and other public stakeholders, such as the French ESF+ Managing Authority and French Treasury, in January 2023.

## Key outcomes

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### From the RNAESS

At the end of the first day of the Rencontres Nationales des Accompagnateurs de l'ESS, suggestions from the participants were collected by Avise during the plenary session, regarding the key messages they wished to transmit to public decision-makers on how to better support SSE and SI ecosystems in France.



Picture 3. Plenary session - Day 1 of the Rencontres Nationales des Accompagnateurs de l'ESS, October 2022

These key messages fall in two categories and are summarized in the following paragraphs.

### Regarding public policies to support the Social and Solidarity Economy and social innovation

- Having a reasoned use of calls for projects and of the externalization of services
- Favouring multi-annual objective agreements with public authorities
- Ensuring that national policies are also supported and financed by the decentralized services of the State
- Not using the SSE as a tool to compensate for the shortcomings of the State
- Mobilizing other ministries to support the SSE in their sectoral policies
- Supporting the SSE and social innovation as the French Tech or R&D ecosystems are supported

- Integrating inflation into the amounts of subsidies granted
- Supporting partnerships and collective dynamics

## Around non-financial support to the Social and Solidarity Economy and social innovation

- Mobilizing funding from decentralized State services to supplement the funding of local authorities, particularly in support of the Fabriques à Initiatives
- Strengthening the DLA (“Dispositif Local d’Accompagnement”)
- Strengthening support for SSE network heads, including CRESS (“Chambres Régionales de l’ESS”)
- Supporting the reception, information and orientation of project leaders in the territories

## From the auditions

The key outcomes from the auditions fall within two main categories, according to the interview’s guiding questions:

- Issues and needs of the French social innovation ecosystem
- Strategic roles and possible actions of the national CCSI

As each stakeholder was interviewed in a relatively flexible format, these auditions enabled them to highlight specific point of views and to share their ideal vision of a national CCSI and the roles and missions it should undertake, according to them.

These inputs both supported and completed some of the observations made by Avisa throughout the BuiCaSuS project, particularly in the report “Mapping and analysis of the French social innovation ecosystem”, while they also provided valuable insight as to which specific actions from the national CCSI could benefit them and the overall ecosystem.

These elements will be a part of the National Blueprint Strategy and Action plan for a French CCSI, which Avisa will work on during the first quarter of 2023, according to the WP 5 schedule.

## Appendix 5: Country-report from Sweden on the roundtable process

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# National capacity building priorities

Roundtable process Sweden

16<sup>th</sup> January 2023

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## Contents

|                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| 1. Background .....              | 30 |
| 2. Round table process .....     | 30 |
| 3. Round table key outcomes..... | 32 |

## Background

In order to gather input from key social innovation stakeholders regarding capacity-building areas for the national Competence Centres for Social Innovation (CCSI), a round table process was suggested as part of Work Package 4 (WP4). In Sweden, the process consisted of the following parts:

1. Gathering of background information through the process of writing the two reports for WP2 and WP4 (Ecosystem mapping and analysis of support to social innovation)
2. Meetings related to the application for funding from the Swedish ESF Council for the continuation of the Swedish CCSI
3. Round table/dialogue meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup>
4. Continued dialogue with key social innovation stakeholders will continue based on the outcomes of the meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Swedish ESF Council launched a call for proposals in August 2022 for the continuation of the Swedish CCSI. The focus of the call was based on the EaSI-call for national competence centres, the findings of the first reports for Sweden from BuiCaSuS and the needs of the ESF Council in relation to supporting efficient and sustainable innovations through the ESF+. It was therefore decided by Forum for Social Innovation Sweden (MSI) to wait with the actual round table until the call was finalised since the focus of the call for proposals would make the CCSI focus and resources clearer. At the end of December, the application was granted, and MSI will now continue as the Swedish CCSI. Because of this, the round table will be held at the end of the BuiCaSuS project period (April), and the results from the actual meeting will not be included in this report.

The report, however, summarizes the outcomes of the dialogue thus far and describes the focus of the continued work. The report will support the development of the National Blueprint Strategy and Action Plan for the Swedish CCSI within WP5.2.

## Method and material

Information gathering from report writing in BuiCaSuS

The WP2-report on the mapping of the Swedish ecosystem for social innovation summarises the results and conclusions from several studies and reports. It describes the ecosystem around social innovation and social enterprise in Sweden,

with challenges and preconditions. Since the studies were produced by key actors in the ecosystem (for example Sweden's innovation agency Vinnova, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (Tillväxtverket), the European Commission, the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Forum for Social Innovation Sweden (MSI), Lund University, Region Stockholm, Reach for Change, Ashoka and others) the report is based on input from key stakeholders on the Swedish ecosystem, its challenges and conditions.

The WP4-report on the support of social innovation involved the collection of best practices in Sweden. This has also been a relevant process of dialogue and input from the ecosystem at large. In Sweden, 11 key actors in the ecosystem were interviewed on their support practices, but also about what they perceived as needs and preconditions for the ecosystem. These findings provide input to the capacity-building areas for the Swedish Competence Centre for Social Innovation (CCSI), described below, under chapter 3.

#### Application process – CCSI

A call for projects was published by the Swedish ESF Council in August 2022. This was intended as funding for a Swedish Competence Centre for Social Innovation. MSI replied to the call to continue as the Swedish CCSI, in cooperation with the National Network of Coordination Associations (Nationella nätverket för samordningsförbund, NNS). NNS is a national forum for Sweden's 75 coordination associations (samordningsförbund), that since 2004 is a legalized Swedish form for local cooperation to finance work-rehabilitation between the Swedish Public Employment Service (Arbetsförmedlingen), the Social Insurance Agency (Försäkringskassan), municipalities and regions. Another partner is the Region of Örebro, which has extensive experience in providing a platform for social innovation.

Through the funding, MSI will provide coaching, coalitions and evaluations to the funded projects, evaluation and analysis, support for the ecosystem for social innovation in Sweden as well as learning exchanges and analysis support for the Swedish ESF Council.

In the process of writing the report, meetings were held with actors who will be involved in the deliveries of the Swedish CCSI, such as NNS, Region Örebro and further experts to be involved. Meetings and contacts were also held with key actors in the ecosystem for social innovation. These actors have furthermore been invited to the round table in April.



## Round table – meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup>

In order to further involve key actors of the ecosystem, a round table meeting will be held on April 18<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the focus of the Swedish CCSI's work on support to the ecosystem, with the aim of starting a process to strengthen the ecosystem for social innovation in Sweden. The meeting will also explore how the key actors can be involved in the other parts of the CCSI's work, such as taking part in coalitions, analysis meetings, etc.

The round table will take the key recommendations from the ecosystem mapping of needs to strengthen the ecosystem (see below) as a starting point for the discussions.

## Key outcomes

Some key input from the key social innovation stakeholders from the processes above regarding capacity-building areas for the national Competence Centres for Social Innovation are:

- The ecosystem needs clearer political leadership on national, regional and local levels. The competence centre needs to provide input to dialogue with policy makers, and use relevant capacity and methods for this work.
- There is a need for improved long-term financing of social innovation. The competence centre needs to focus its work on this area.
- There is a need for support of co-creation and cross-sectoral cooperation. Coordination and involvement of ecosystem players need to be facilitated and systematized. The competence centre should focus on strengthened coordination and cross-sectoral collaboration for social innovation.
- There is a need to promote the national CCSI but also local and regional platforms for social innovation.
- The competence centre should ensure participation and influence for target groups in support of social innovation.
- The CCSI should focus on how the role of academia and research in social innovation can be strengthened.

- Integrate social innovation in day-to-day activities of actors supporting social innovation but also identify key players outside the usual ecosystem for social innovation.
- The tasks of the Swedish CCSI will be to focus on:
  - Support of projects funded in Program Area E – social innovation
  - Analysis and evaluation for scaling of innovations in PAE.
  - Support of the Swedish ESF Council and other key actors in the implementation of the ESF+ - program
  - Support of the Ecosystem at large.
- Research has identified key phases of social innovation processes. In order to make social innovation happen, support is needed throughout the whole social innovation process – therefore the identified elements need active support, with suitable methods, resources, and actors. Knowledge and methods for this should be used in support of ESF projects, analysis, in support of the Swedish ESF Council and also in the support of the ecosystem at large.
- It is also crucial to support the involvement of people affected by societal challenges in social innovation processes, which will be integrated into the work of the Swedish ESF Council.

# Bui Ca SUS

# Building Capacity for a Sustainable Society

“BuiCaSuS is a transnational project aimed to strengthen the capacities of national competence centres for social innovation. Partners come from Spain, Sweden, Latvia, and France. It is one of six consortia funded by the European Commission. Amongst its tasks is to map current social innovation systems, support piloting and upscaling schemes, foster transnational learning on tools for innovation, and develop policy propositions for National competence centres.”



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