

Spain

Road map for a national Competence Centre for Social Innovation

Key messages

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1 Context

From May 2021 to April 2023, partners from Latvia, France, Sweden and Spain engaged in an experience exchange programme on Social Innovation. Funded by the European Commission, this transnational project was to give a new push to the conceptual reflection and practical application of social innovation and the policy options to foster social innovation ecosystems. BuiCaSuS has aimed to foster transnational cooperation to set up or consolidate national competence centres for social innovation (NCCSI), in close alignment with the current and future programming activities of the European Social Fund and the EaSI programme.

The BuiCaSuS project is one of the consortia funded under the European Commission's EASI (Employment and Social Innovation) programme 2014-2020. The EASI consortia, including BuiCaSuS, are part of a broader effort to promote social innovation and inclusive growth in Europe. The project was mandated to strengthen the capacity of regional stakeholders to develop and implement social innovation initiatives that address complex societal challenges in line with the call for proposals VP/2020/010.

	<p>Roadmaps for Competence centres for Social Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- analytical grid- roadmaps for France, Latvia, Sweden and Spain <p>https://buicasus.eu/topic/national-plans/</p>
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As a preparation stage for national strategies and action plans for NCCSI institutionalization or consolidation in each project state, a common **analytical grid** was developed to indicate criteria and factors to consider while establishing an effective and sustainable roadmap. The criteria included identification of the mandate, governance, structure, role, composition and actors, task, mission, and working method as well as options for a future work plan that shall be implemented for CCSI in the partner countries.

The analytical grid was built upon a screening of international and national practices for social innovation governance, analysis of several advanced national social innovation ecosystems, the vision of the European Commission on the NCCSI's role and development, and analysis of experiences of CCSIs and organisations similar to CCSIs in their core activities already developed in other countries. The findings of the mapping and piloting activities that have been undertaken within BuiCaSuS were also considered while developing the structure of the analytical grid.

Defined policy options and institutional design criteria facilitated the effort of the project members of each partner country to prepare the national strategies and action plans for the CCSIs. The National Roadmaps are the result of broader stakeholder dialogues at the respective Member States that engaged social innovation practitioners, policy makers and experts relevant to the national contexts.

2 The roadmap to a NCCSI in Spain

The Spanish roadmap acknowledges the importance of social innovation in providing new solutions to social problems and needs, particularly in the changing contexts of modern societies. It suggests that a CCSI could play a vital role in creating favourable environments for social innovation, supporting initiatives, connecting actors, and promoting learning processes. It recognizes the existing richness of self-standing initiatives at local and regional level, while it laments the lack of interconnectedness to generate a critical mass in ecosystems or innovation clusters, at national level.

It proposes the creation of a *CERISS Centro Estatal de Referencia en Innovación y Servicios Sociales* (State Reference Centre for Innovation and Social Services) with the following mission:

The mission of CERISS is to promote an ecosystem of social innovation that dynamizes, in an open and integrated way, a set of actors, methodologies and actions in order to address common challenges in the field of social services in Spain. The vision is to have a support system for the development of modern

social services that respond to the changing needs of the population and foster innovation on a continuous basis.

The roadmap proposes creating a Centre of Reference in Social Innovation and Social Services (CERISS) in Spain, outlining its objectives, areas of work, and actions. It argues that such a centre is needed to promote innovation namely in social services and social care. This had already been enacted in the draft law, the '*Anteproyecto de Ley de condiciones básicas para la igualdad en el acceso y disfrute de los servicios sociales*', which emphasizes the need to modernize social services and promote innovation and new technologies. The roadmap defines the following premises:

- It gives a fundamental role to public action, in its role of leading, convening and driving forward.
- The focus of attention is on the field of social services.
- It proposes a legal formula that provides fixed and continuous support in the form of a public foundation.
- It is created as a meeting place - as a platform - that allows initiatives at regional and municipal levels to converge and feed the search for innovation and quality through processes of systematisation, transfer, and upscaling.
- A system of open governance is foreseen that allows both public actors from different territorial levels and private actors, whether from the third social sector, philanthropy, or business, to have a voice.
- It is committed to mixed financing of the platform's activities.
- Planning and evaluation functions related to social innovation are promoted as an essential part of the institution's mission.
- It is conceived as an incremental process, based on experiences acquired in the framework of the pilot experiences in the deinstitutionalisation strategy.

The roadmap highlights the need for a continued commitment to innovation and reform in social services beyond the investment of funds. With that, it aligns with experiences in other European countries. It suggests that the professionalization of the sector is necessary to base interventions on evidence and promote continuous learning and modernization of professional profiles, intervention methods, and funding instruments. It notes that the social services sector requires a deep

transformation to provide better responses to citizens' needs and become more efficient.

Finally, the roadmap stresses the importance of social innovation and planning in achieving universal coverage of social services and fulfilling the state's obligation to protect citizens' rights. It argues that innovation is a critical component of public policy and management, particularly in the field of social services.

In order to carry out the mission, the lines of action of the CERISS will be the following:

- LISTENING AND MAPPING: Identification and catalysation of actors, needs, challenges, emerging challenges and initiatives in the different ACs and at national level.
- EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION: To promote cooperation, meeting and exchange between experiences of social innovation, connecting them so that they contribute value by working in a network.
- TRAINING: To train and advise different actors and promote innovation approaches, tools and actions.
- ADVICE: To support the planning and evaluation of public social policies and those linked to social innovation.
- SCALING AND TRANSFER: Support scaling and transfer processes of initiatives that have shown results.
- FINANCING: Facilitate the financing of projects and design specific financial vehicles according to the typology and phases of the innovation.



The BuiCaSuS outcomes for Spain

<https://buicasus.eu/topic/spain/>

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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