

Strategy and action plan for Latvian Competence Centre for Social Innovations

Summary

05/04/2023

Oxford Research Baltic, SIA
Society Integration Foundation



Funded by
the European Union

This publication has received financial support from the European Union.

BuiCaSuS Deliverable N° 5.2.2



Funded by the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)

© BuiCaSuS 2021-2023

The content of the information is the responsibility of its authors and cannot be regarded as the official opinion of the European Commission

Overview

This is the strategy and action plans of the Latvian Competence Center for Social Innovation (further - CCSI). Its purpose is to promote the improvement of the ecosystem of social innovations (hereinafter - SI) in Latvia, laying the foundations for the creation of CCSI. The strategy and action plan have been developed within the BuiCaSuS project¹. The aim of this project is to build and strengthen the capacity of national social innovation competence centers. The project partners are from Spain, Sweden, Latvia and France. It is one of six consortia funded by the European Commission. In Latvia, the project partner is the Society Integration Fund (hereinafter - SIF). Within the framework of the BuiCaSuS project, SIF is leading the process of establishing the CCSI in Latvia and is ready to take on the role of its creation, maintenance and development. SI plays an essential role in achieving ambitious social policy goals at the EU level, and SI has also been identified as an important element contributing to the sustainable development of Latvian society. Therefore, in Latvia, coordinating and promoting activities are needed to support SI in all stages of development, that can be provided by Latvian CCSI. In the research conducted within the framework of the BuiCaSuS project, it has been identified that the most successful of the current CCSIs, apart from competence-building and promotion activities, are also engaged in the implementation and management of SI financing instruments. Therefore, in order to increase the stability of the organization, it is useful to view the development of SIKC in coordination with the management plans of grant programs, projects and other financial instruments.

Over 70 stakeholders in Latvia were invited to contribute to the strategy development and assessment process. The main identified needs reported by the SI ecosystem actors include:

Education and exchange of experience: the need for theoretical and practical education, including sharing of experiences from mature actors in SI initiatives; need for experience exchange in municipalities on SI takeover/scaling and financing as well as internationally

Information support: the need to provide SI initiative developers with information on all types of options, including up-to-date and upcoming project tenders and/or financial support opportunities.

Strengthening networking and leadership capacity: the need for mutual cohesiveness, discussions, meetings of SI leaders in which leaders strengthen each other.

¹ [Home - BuiCaSuS](#)

Administrative support and strengthening: the need for encouragement, assistance initiatives to overcome administrative barriers, which should be able to alleviate obstacles to the implementation of the SI, as well as to provide some kind of guarantee to cooperation partners. Supporter should act as a lobby for new SI and initiatives at all levels required. The need for support for SI project management or human resources capacity development, e.g., through knowledge transfer.

Regional coverage: the need for greater coverage of NGO/SI initiatives by improving cooperation with municipalities and regions through the deinstitutionalisation working groups and/or project teams of planning regions as responsible for the development of social services at regional level.

National Competence Centre for Social Innovation (NCCSI) vision, mission, purpose

Given the political context identified, the needs of the SI stakeholders and possible solutions, a proposal has been put forward for NCCSI to set the following objective, mission, and vision:

Vision

CCSI of Latvia is an enabler of IS - it listens, supports and helps to find a solution. CCSI has become a recognized leader in the field of social innovation, which collects and coordinates the development and use of social innovation competencies, ensuring the development of the entire social innovation ecosystem.

Mission

To create an environment that works for the development of SI, creating a unified, coordinated, strong, comprehensive social innovation expertise.

Strategic goal

To improve the social innovation support ecosystem by improving the effectiveness of the implementation of support mechanisms.

The fundamental role of NCCSI is to ensure that the parties involved in the SI process have sufficient access to the necessary competences within and outside Latvia. The secondary role is the development and creation of competences, as well as other specific support for social innovators or their supporters, which is essential but not sufficiently provided by other actors in the SI support ecosystem.

The strategy provides a detailed description of the functions and activities that CCSI will undertake:

1. Capacity building

- Annual SI ecosystem review
- Latvian SI database (already completed as well as in progress)
- Library/site of tools, methods and educational materials
- Awareness and awareness campaigns
- Training
- Consultancy

2. Development of cooperation network

- Contacts database
- Appointment and organisation of thematic working groups
- Piloting models of cooperation between SI ecosystem members
- Mission Teams

3. Exchange of experience and transfer of knowledge

- Knowledge transfer activities at national and international level
- SI thematic meetings

4. Sinergy creation

- Development and implementation of strategic planning recommendations for SI support
- Coordinating the development of social innovation support in Latvia in line the current trends and policies in the EU and EEA, while building on previous successful results of social innovation support

5. Organisation and management of SI financing

- Management of different SI and SI support financial programs