

BuiCaSuS

Executive Summary

Competence centres for social Innovation – Building
Capacity for a Sustainable Society

Call for proposals VP/2020/010 Application ref. SWIM VP/2020/010/0126

31 May 2021

**European Social Fund and European Programme
for Employment and Social Innovation**



**Funded by
the European Union**



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

© BuiCaSuS 2021-2023

1. Executive Summary

BuiCaSuS aims to foster transnational cooperation to set up or consolidate national competence centres for social innovation (SI), in close alignment with the current and future programming activities of the European Social Fund and the EaSI programme. In order to do so, the consortium has opted to choose Option A of the call for proposals, bringing together experienced and less experienced organisations of the four Member States from the start.

Thus, the **general objective of BuiCaSuS is to foster transnational cooperation and mutual learning to create or strengthen institutions and organizations** acting as national competence centres to nurture an ecosystem of social innovation in the respective Member states.

This will be materialised by the following **specific objectives**:

- ▶ **To identify** and map the strengths, weaknesses and inspirational initiatives of partners' social innovation ecosystems as well as initiated and/or replicated social innovation initiatives, and foster a comparative view and experience exchange (WP2).
- ▶ **To learn from other countries** how they practically promote social innovation for addressing social needs and prepare and test replication or up-scaling of social innovation projects in between partner countries (WP3).
- ▶ **To facilitate cooperation** and experience exchange on methods, tools and approaches for promoting social innovation between the institutions and actors in four partner countries aiming to strengthen their capacities to foster the emergence of innovative approaches and establish national capacity building priority areas (WP4).
- ▶ **To develop strategies and establish conditions** for the creation or strengthening of Centres of Competences for Social Innovation that can be developed with the support of the ESF in the coming years (WP5).

To achieve these objectives, four countries are involved in the project, including **Spain (as Lead Applicant), France, Sweden, and Latvia**. This reflects both a diversity in the sizes of countries, geographic location within the EU, and socio-economic challenges, as well as different levels of maturity of the domestic SI ecosystems.

The partnership is formed by the Applicant Organisation (Managing Authority -MA- of the ESF in Spain-UAFSE), six Co-applicants (Secretary of State of Social Rights-SSSR, Spain; Society Integration Foundation-SIF, Latvia; Forum for Social Innovation Sweden-FFSIS, Reach for Change-RfC, and Inkludera, Sweden; and AVISE, France) and **20 Associated Organizations** comprising a variety of public and private bodies, including academia with different backgrounds and fields of expertise in social innovation.

This partnership will implement the **BuiCaSuS project for 24 months**, according to a workplan divided into five work packages, based on a multilayer design to foster transnational experience exchange by the respective national social innovation constituencies around defined spaces for exchange and learning.

Thus, the project entails two 'summative' **components**: WP2 on mapping, and WP5 on CCSI design, that are organized in a consecutive manner and WP5 builds upon WP2:

- ▶ **WP2** establishes the current situation conducting a criteria-based and participatory mapping of actors and experiences which departs from a review of existing literature.
- ▶ **WP5** is the conclusive part, which aims to materialize the ultimate target of setting up or consolidating a national institution that works as competence centre for social innovation.

Parallel to this, two 'formative' packages are delivered:

- ▶ On the one hand, **WP3** proposes two real pilot cases with an intense, multilayer design of mentoring and cross-national experience transfer.
- ▶ On the other hand, **WP4** offers a guided approach towards acquiring practical knowledge on the five core support areas for future CCSI (Upscaling and Replication, Catalytic action, Knowledge and methods creation, Advisory services and competence development, Cross sectoral meeting arenas) which will be debated and applied to four thematic areas of national importance that will be defined in a participatory process.

To implement its activities in an adequate manner, BuiCaSuS foresees a variety of methodologies and approaches.

Thus, WP1 will focus on the creation of governance and management structures by regular consultative support and exchange for transnational networking; WP2 will

do desk research and prepare analytical tools and grid for mapping experiences and actions and workshop discussion.

WP3 will focus on demand and consensus for the selection of experiences to transfer and use sophisticated methods for mentoring, training accompanying, learning from experiences and systematic analysis of transferring.

WP4 will involve the systematization of tools and methods, and capacity building for competences for innovation including a knowledge hub that facilitates cross-border exchanges around best-practices; and WP5 will develop a shared framework and analytical grid to support strategy and action plans for national CCSI.

As a result of **BuiCaSuS, impacts will take place at three levels**, and adapted to each Member State context and their respective SI ecosystems and practices:

- ▶ **At Project Level:** BuiCaSuS will generate an international knowledge injection to the development and strengthening of national social innovation ecosystems partaking in the intervention. Joint frameworks around social innovation capacity building structures will be elaborated and working methods and approaches refined.

The project will also solidify National ESF MAs' commitments to support the establishment of national competence centres for social innovation that are aligned with ESF+ programming period.

- ▶ **At Actor level:** Both public administration and private operators, including third sector and others, will be encouraged to consider new modalities of private-public cooperation and overcome well-known stalemates of social welfare reform due to policy fragmentation.

The actors engaged will be capacitated to adopt the best practices of generating and nurturing SI in their institutional routine.

Likewise, MAs and private actors will meet on a number of occasions for them to generate a shared understanding on SI, which will impact on the future formulation and approval of SI action in the dedicated operational programmes of the Member States, as well as in an extended use of the ESF+ window for transnational action.

- ▶ **At System Level:** WP5 foresees a structured discussion on the institutional features, organizational requirements and practical equipment with skills and knowledge of national CCSI.

Whilst each of the points of departure in Sweden, Latvia, France and Spain is different and, foreseeably, an adaptation to the respective national context is imperative, the National Blueprint Strategies and Action Plans CCSIs will drive the domestic policy debate forward and enable national plans for future legislative, policy, budgetary and institutional action to consolidate a national competence centre that can give expert support to Mas and national SI ecosystems.

The effort as such will increase the understanding of, and strengthen ties between, social innovation ecosystems in the member states of the consortium which over time can enhance the ecosystem development and SI replication potential across borders.



Sabiedrības integrācijas
fonds

“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.”