

Exploring Social Innovation through Interreg



20 April 2023

Online





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20 April 2023

Online 10:00-12:00 (CET)

Outlines

Europe is a work in progress! It is moving, changing, and reinventing itself in the face of new challenges demanding and inspiring new approaches to deliver fair and inclusive solutions. Interreg has a lot to offer to build stronger territorial resilience and better respond to future shocks through social innovation.

Social innovation provides a platform for addressing complex challenges that cannot be solved through traditional means. By involving a wide range of stakeholders, including marginalised communities and vulnerable populations, social innovation ensures that solutions are inclusive and responsive to the needs of all members of society. In addition, social innovation fosters the development of skills that are critical for building resilience being in the centre of the European Year of Skills campaign.

As previous discussions have shown, the concept raises curiosity among the Interreg programmes, but also a certain cautiousness indicating a need for further exchange on practical work.

Objectives

The webinar aims to continue the discussion exploring the concept of social innovation and how Interreg is and can support social innovation processes and initiatives. Furthermore, the webinar aims to share practices and lessons learnt, as well as provide space for exchange gathering inspiration for the calls and practical work with social innovation. Special focus will be paid to social innovation within the context of boosting competitiveness, training, and upskilling opportunities for, e.g., young adults.



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Thursday, 20 April 2023

10.00 – 10.15

Introduction and welcome words

Interact

Estelle Roger and Katalin-Julia Penzes, DG Regio, EU Commission

10.15 – 10.30

Setting the scene: Social Innovation Made by Interreg

Hauke Siemen, Socialinterreg.eu, REM Consult

Objectives of the session: This session aims to highlight and discuss Interreg contribution to social innovation with an outlook on 2021-2027 period. The session builds on the reflects from the joint work of social innovation projects cooperating within the platform socialinterreg.eu.

10.30 – 11.00

Discussion with the programmes – implementation practices and challenges

Objectives of the session: The programmes will exchange on the implementation practices addressing certain challenges, as well as sharing understanding of social innovation and how it can be supported in practice. Special focus will be placed on the role of social innovation within the context of boosting competitiveness, training, and upskilling opportunities for young adults.

11.00 – 11.10

Comfort break

11.10 – 11.50

Building closer synergies with the ESF+ programmes – discussing practical cooperation aspects

Risto Raivio, European Social Fund +, DG EMPL, EU Commission

Agnė Buividačiūtė, European Competence Centre for Social Innovation

Objectives of the session: ESF+ presents a high potential for synergies because of complementarities in the areas of sustainable and quality employment, educational and vocational training, and social inclusion of vulnerable groups. These topics are shared between ESF+, and thematic areas that are covered by Interreg programmes – given that these are societal challenges common to many regions. This offers a possibility to build closer synergies between the initiatives funded by both funding sources. But how to do it in practice? This session will focus on discussing practical cooperation possibilities.

11.50 – 12.00

Conclusions and closure