

Webinar

Exploring Social Innovation through Interreg

Interact / 20.04.2023

Interact



**Co-funded by
the European Union**
Interreg

Welcome

Objectives

- 1) Explore the concept of social innovation and how Interreg is and can support social innovation processes and initiatives
- 2) Learn more about ESF+ initiatives and discuss possibilities for synergies

A typical social innovation project financed by Interreg programmes in 2014-2020..

Themes

SME and entrepreneurship, social inclusion

Thematic Objective

TO 1 / Strengthening research, technological development and innovation

Outputs

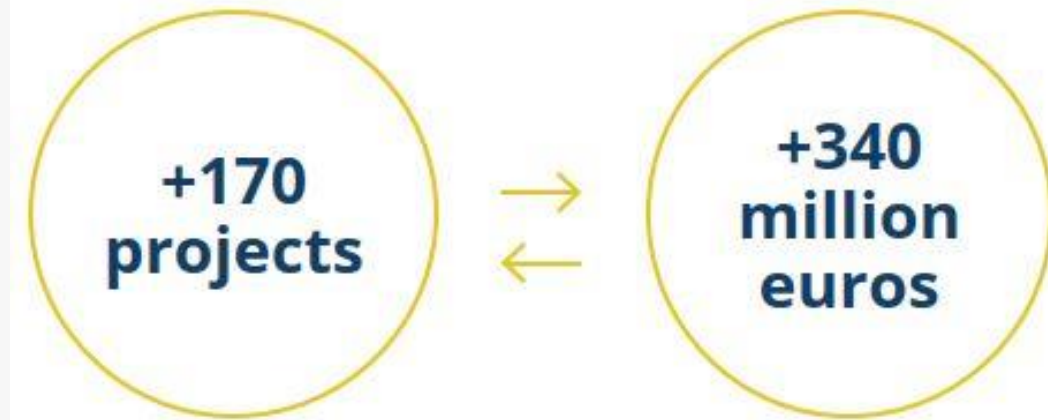
Training, instruments and tools, and methodologies

Budget

€ 1,900,000

What is social innovation to you?

Join us on [sli.do](#) and use the code
#1803645



2014-2020 period

social
needs

new
ideas

social
relations

boosting
capacities



Welcome words

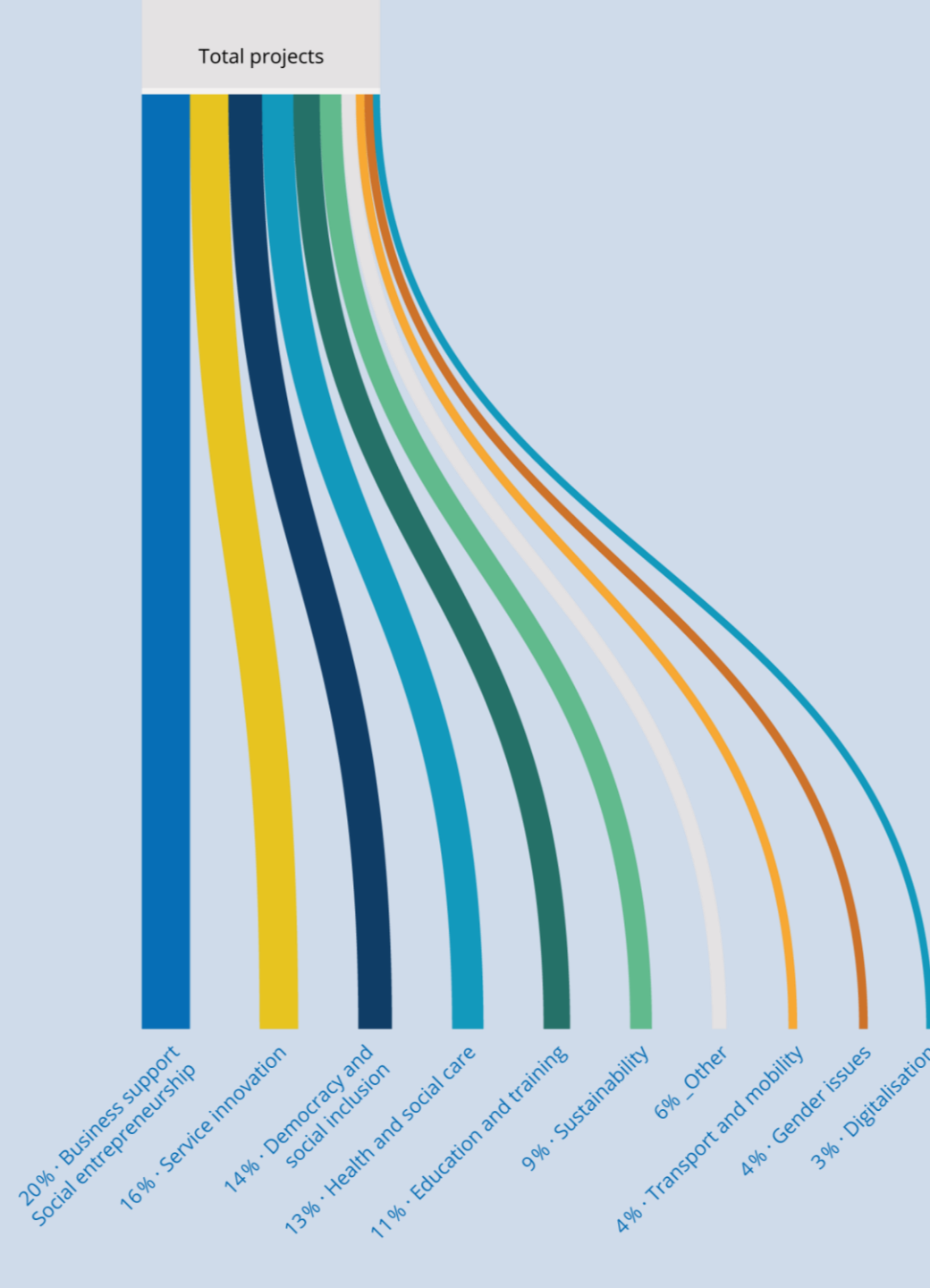
Estelle Roger

Katalin-Julia Penzes

DG Regional and Urban Policy

European Commission

2014-2020 project analysis show that social innovation was a horizontal topic



Project **Examples** (2014-2020)

Nordic NaBS

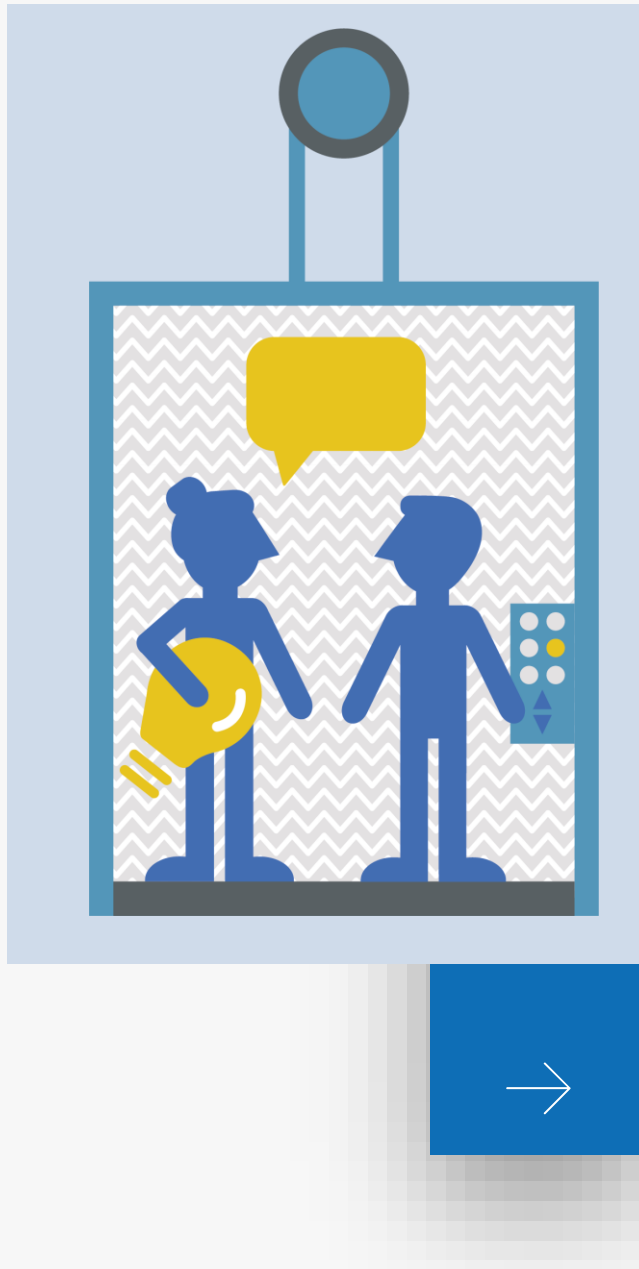
New Nordic Nature Based Service Models

Entrepreneurs in developing business and service models that are suitable for northern conditions, strengthening the off-season business prospects of entrepreneurs in the natural resource and tourism industries.

DIVA

Supporting cross-border innovation through Creative Industries

21 pilot projects focused on testing and developing new solutions for traditional sectors. For example, FOL - The Future of Learning project developed a prototype supporting certified self-learning through networking and the use of artificial intelligence.



Setting the scene

Hauke Siemen

Socialinterreg.eu

REM Consult

Social innovation and Interreg - odd couple or perfect match?

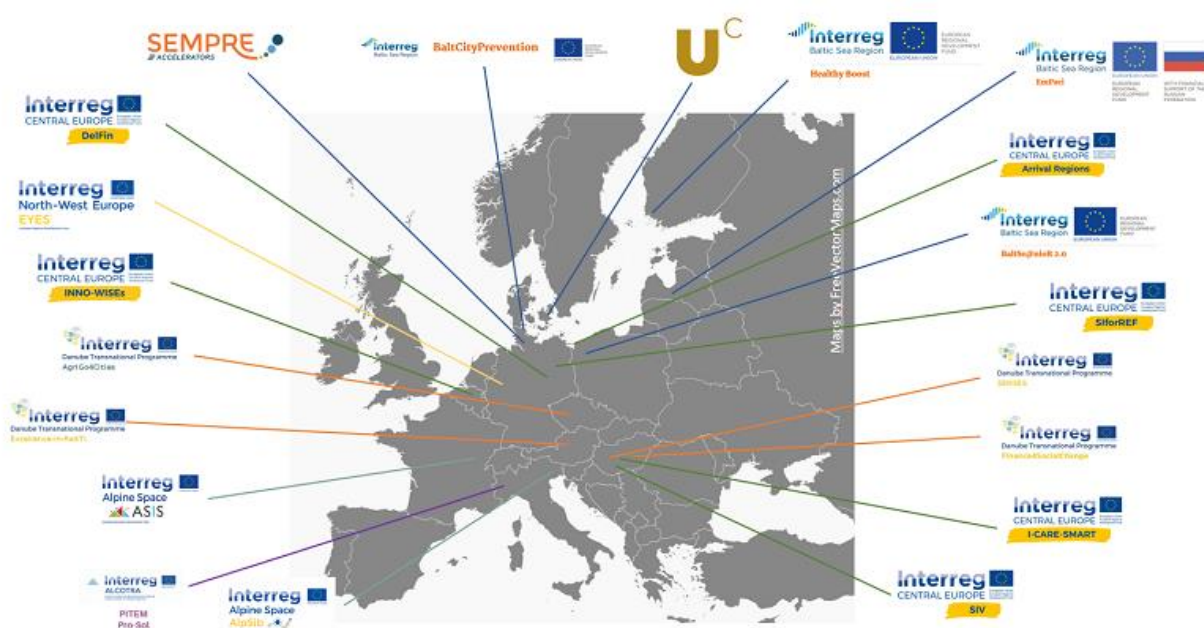
Results of the [socialinterreg.eu](https://www.socialinterreg.eu) initiative

Hauke Siemen, REM Consult

<https://www.socialinterreg.eu>

INTERACT Webinar, 20 April 2023





Virtual showcase of social innovation projects in Interreg 2014-2020:

<https://www.socialinterreg.eu>

Update for 2021-2027 coming soon!

← → ↻ 🏠 <https://socialinterreg.eu/social-innovation-projects/>

#SOCIALINTERREG
Social Innovation in Interreg

Why Social Innovation? Projects Social Innovation Spotlight About & Contact Legal

SOCIAL INNOVATION PROJECTS

We have collected brief profiles of around thirty Interreg projects that deal with social innovation in one way or another. Please feel welcome to browse through these profiles to explore the wealth and variety of social innovation(s) in Interreg. Click here for [extended search options](#).

Focus Programme

UrbCulturalPlanning (Cultural Planning as a Method for Urban Social Innovation): Cities in the Baltic Sea ...

[read more](#)

LIKE (Building a local digital innovation culture): Like! aims to significantly enhance the capacity of ...

[read more](#)

CE RESPONSIBLE (Empowering Social Business in Central Europe): CE Responsible aims at improving skills and ...

[read more](#)

ASIS (Alpine Social Innovation Strategy): ASIS aims at defining a new vision of innovation that ...

[read more](#)

SEMPRE (Social Empowerment in Rural Areas): Outward migration and economic downturn adversely affect the provision ...

[read more](#)

SEMPRE ACCELERATORS for Service Co-Creation: SEMPRE Accelerators empowers providers and users of social services to ...

[read more](#)

Social Innovation

Exemplary project topics in 2014-2020



Common Ground: social objective AND social methods

Findings – why does Interreg need social innovation?

Social innovation projects can

- inspire change in the public sector and provide better and/or cost-saving solutions for delivery of public and social services
- stimulate inclusive economic development, by creating (self-)employment as well as business opportunities in social entrepreneurship
- make regions more attractive places to live and work in
- broaden the range of actors and lower thresholds for participation in transnational cooperation

Findings – why does social innovation need Interreg?

Transnational cooperation can

- help public authorities develop and benchmark social innovation strategies and funding schemes and improve the social innovation ecosystem
- help find solutions to common societal challenges
- make it possible to test new and unproven approaches
- help create a critical mass in regions where the knowledge base is weak
- provide a stimulus for organisational learning and rethinking of working methods

Social innovation in Interreg in 2021-2027 – Observations

- Social innovation projects have proven their value in 2014-2020
- The concept of innovation used by programmes has become more open – it's no longer only about tech, R&D and start-ups
- Programmes have recognised that social innovation is not only for the social sector – it can help reach objectives in the fields of climate change, circularity, etc.
- Social innovation and digitalisation is a topic that has not yet been covered much

Social innovation in 2021-2027– Recommendations for Programmes

- Allow and accept open processes with uncertain results!
 - Be flexible, accept results that deviate from the original plan
 - More qualitative evaluation, talk with the projects!
- Encourage and support cross-sectoral partnerships
- Lower the thresholds for participation (e.g. of smaller NGOs)!
 - Pre- and co-financing is difficult
 - Allow small projects **and micro projects**
- Encourage exchange between projects across programme areas, e.g. on participatory methods

#socialinterreg has been part-financed by the German Federal Ministry of the Interior and its Federal Programme Transnational Cooperation.



Hauke Siemen

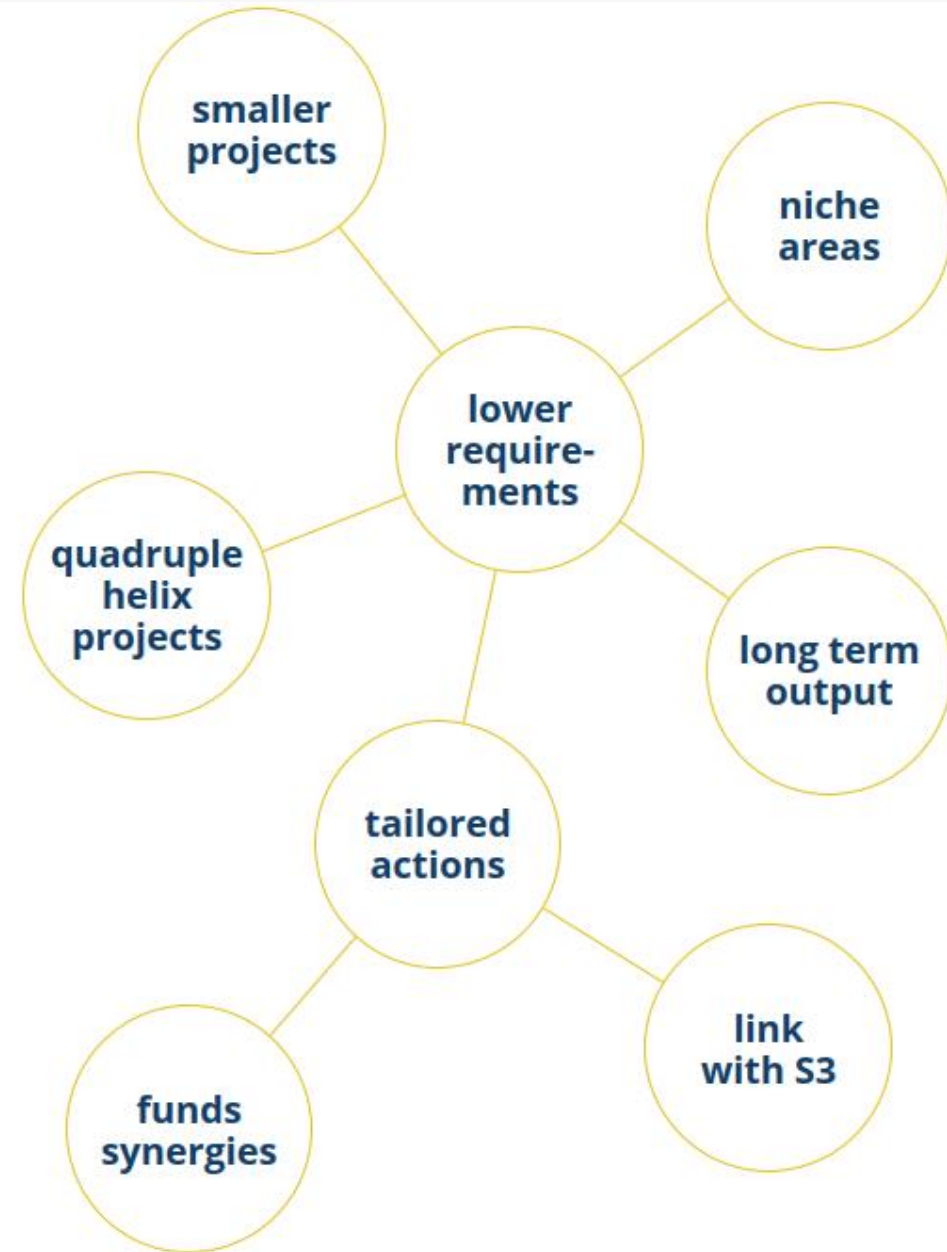
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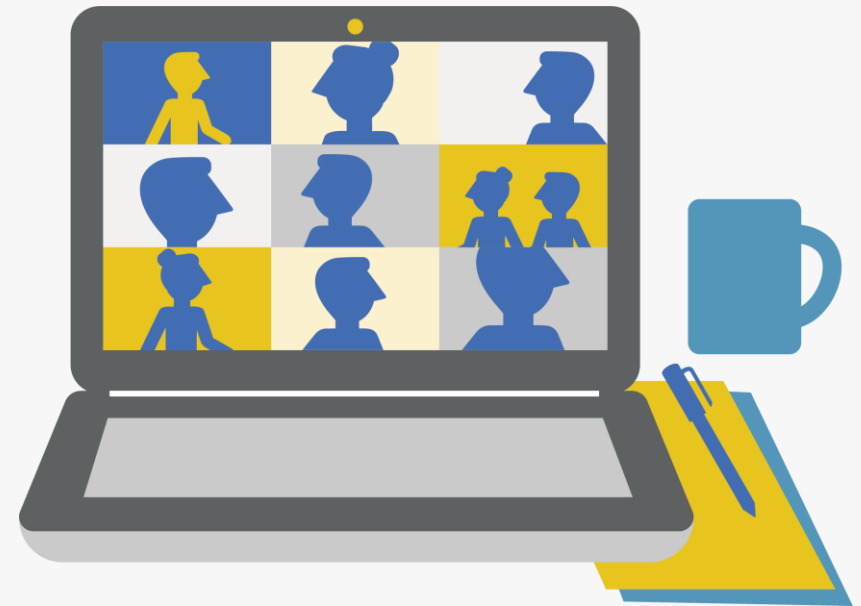
Keep in touch: <https://www.socialinterreg.eu>

Discussion

Key recommendations for 2021-2027 period



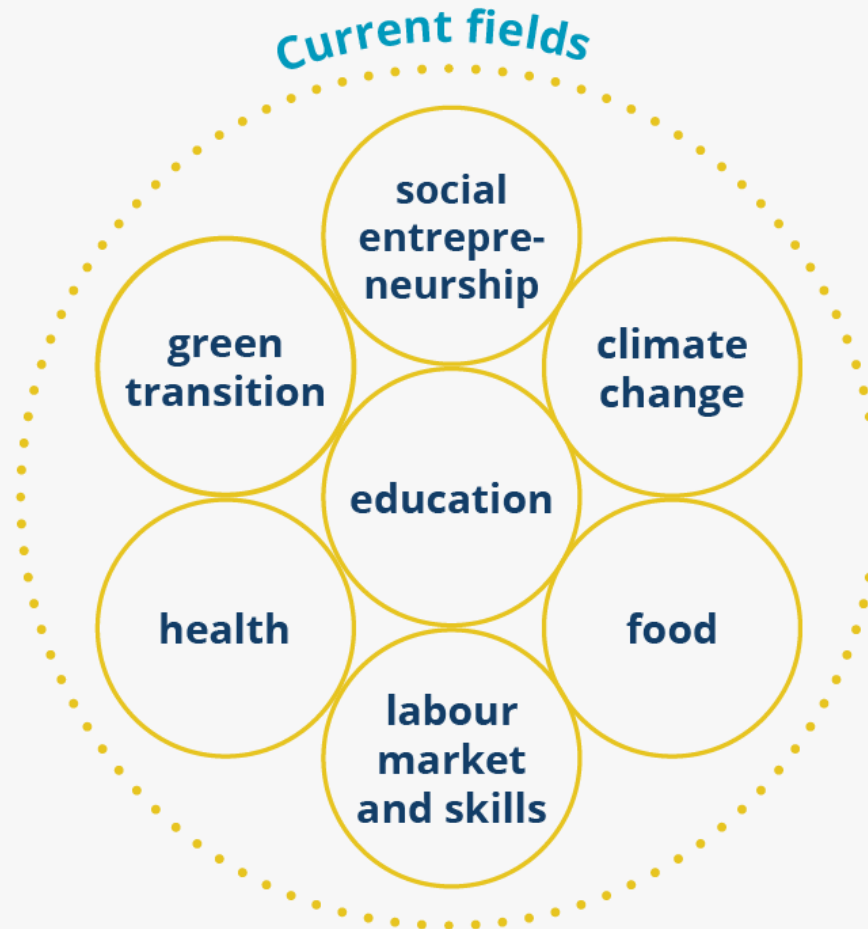
Comfort break



Building synergies

Interreg synergy level	Programme	EU Fund	Beneficiaries	Main policy areas
●●● High	ESF & ESF+	European Social Fund	Individuals and organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment • Education • Skills
●● Medium/High	Horizon 2020 & Horizon Europe	Horizon Europe	Scientists, researchers and business	Research and Innovation on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health • Culture & Inclusive Society • Civil Security for Society • Digital, Industry & Space • Climate, Energy & Mobility • Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment
●● Medium/High	Erasmus & Erasmus+	Erasmus+	Individuals and organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Youth • Sport

Areas with high potential for synergies



Potential fields where Interreg can play a significant role





Learning more about ESF+ activities

Risto Raivio, DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion, European Commission

Agnė Buividavičiūtė, European Competence Center for Social Innovation



ESF+ support to social innovation

Risto Raivio

European Commission, DG EMPL

20 April 2023



Support to social innovation under the ESF+

Shared management

- Dedicated priority
- Explicit reference to scaling up (Art. 14 ESF+)

Ca. 2 billion EUR

Indirect management

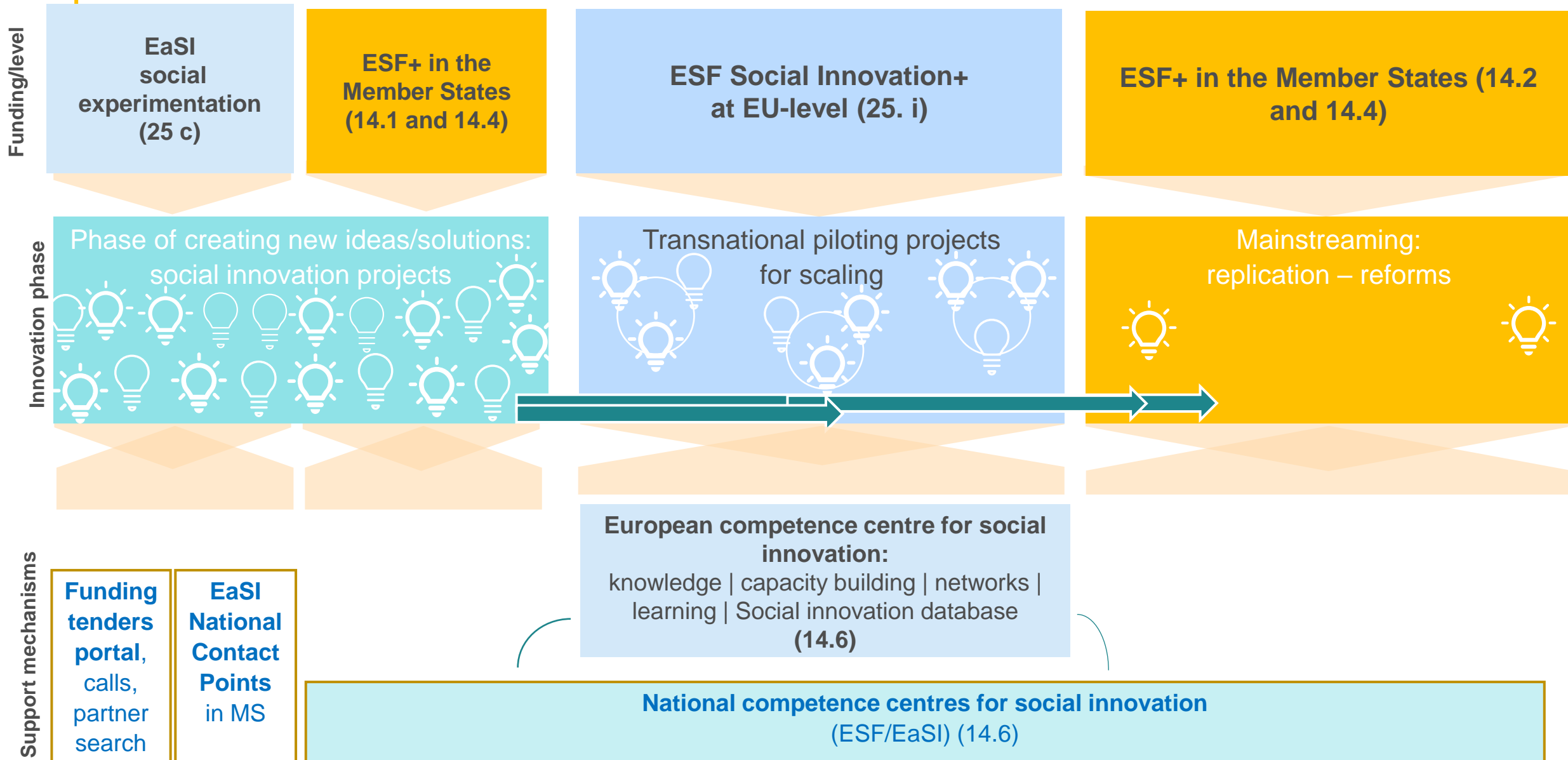
- Transnational projects, focus on scaling up (Art. 25(i))
- Capacity building, mutual learning, networking, dissemination etc. (Art. 14.6)
- **197 MEUR + EaSI top-up**

Direct management (EaSI)

- Social experimentation projects
- EU level networks

ESF S I +:

EU level boost for scaling up and replication in the Member States



Thank you



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ESF+ Social Innovation+ Initiative

European Competence Centre for Social Innovation

Agnė Buividavičiūtė
20.04.2023

ESF+ Social Innovation+ Initiative



1. GRANT SCHEME (EU-LEVEL CALLS FOR PROPOSALS)

Transnational projects facilitating transfer and/ or scaling up of social innovation

2. EUROPEAN COMPETENCE CENTER FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION

Mutual learning, data and information, communication, and social innovation database

Calls for proposals in 2022 - 2023



Funded by
the European Union



2022

ALMA
(€ 15 000 000)

2023

National
Competence Centres
for Social Innovation:
Building-up and
Consolidating the
Capacity (summer
2023)
(€ 8 000 000)

Social innovations
for the upskilling of
young people not in
employment,
education, or
training
(NEETs)(summer
2023)
(€ 7 000 000)

Societal
consequences of the
war in Ukraine in the
EU (November 2023)
(€ 22 000 000)

Key areas of the European Competence Centre for Social Innovation

TASK1. Social Innovation Knowledge Centre and capacity building

TASK2. Support for beneficiaries of EU level calls of the ESF+ SI+ initiative

TASK3. Analysis, monitoring, evaluation, policy development of SI activities, ecosystems and supporting policies

TASK4. Validation, dissemination, and support to scaling up of SI initiatives

TASK 5. Increasing visibility and awareness raising of the value of Social Innovation

Transnational cooperation activities

Communities of Practice (CoPs)

Employment
education, and
skills

Social inclusion

Social
innovation

Migrants
integration

Material
support
(Former FEAD)

Networks

EURoma

ALMA initiative

Social innovation Ecosystem mapping



- Analysis of the National Competence Centers' mapping reports.
- Learning group for the methodology, and common indicators.
- Continuous monitoring with the help of NCCs.

Experts | Call for expression of interest



External experts to support ESFA throughout the implementation of the ESF SI+ initiative



Open call (in continuous) during the ESF SI+ initiative period



Expertise and professional experience for the policy areas set out in article 4 of the ESF+ Regulation

Open call for expression of interest 2022-2030:

www.esf.lt

Thank you!

Contacts

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Websites

<https://www.esf.lt/en>

https://commission.europa.eu/index_en

Expert registration form

<https://www.esf.lt/en/call-for-external-experts-who-would-be-interested-in-assisting-esfa-in-implementing-the-esf-social-innovation-initiative/1081>

Expression of interest form to join the CoPs

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KCHJXT6>

Cooperation **works**

All materials will be available on:

Interact website