

Cooperative contribution in establishing competence centre for social innovation. The project “SEED”

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“SEED - Social Innovation Ecosystem Development” is one of the six projects supported by the European Commission in order to establish national competence centers for social innovation across the European Union. During two years (2021-2023) social innovation organizations, research centers, ESF (European Social Fund) managing authorities and other partners design and develop competence centers, which can help their countries to promote social innovation, including with funding from ESF+ and other EU programmes.

The project has received financial support from the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) and the European Social Fund (ESF).

The specific objective of SEED is to stimulate and support the establishment of four competence centers for social innovation in Italy, Greece, Romania and Slovenia, where researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and civil servants will work together to create public and open infrastructures capable to assist national ESF managing authorities to better employ the ESF+ funds for the mainstream of social innovation as public sector innovation approach to societal challenges.

Cooperatives and social solidarity economy (SSE) organizations have important role in establishing competence centre for social innovation and -among others- in stakeholder engagement for social innovation capacity building. Specifically, in the enlarging of the competence centers network through a process of stakeholder engagement on the territories and through different levels of governance (local, regional, national) to support the process of capacity building in the short and long run of the national competence centers.

The main goals of the social innovation capacity building programme are (among others) the increasing capacity of social innovation stakeholders in promoting and delivering social innovation interventions, including a better and leveraged use of ESF funds and creating a network of policy makers and practitioners and facilitating their aggregation around thematic communities.