



Enabling Social Innovation

EU Funds: how can they facilitate social innovation?

Moderator:

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Speakers: Daniele Bregoli (SSE)

Freddy Jussien (EASPD)

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Caroline Meyers (ESF Flanders)



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Agenda:



1. EU Funds = opportunities for social innovations!

Freddy Jussien (EASPD)

2. How to get your social innovation EU funded ?

Caroline Meyers (Flemish Managing Authority)

3. Inspiring and innovative EU Funded project Poweria (ESF+ Finland)

Kosola Maisa (KVPS)

4. Guidance on how to facilitate access to EU Funds for social innovation

Daniele Bregoli (SSE)

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Why this workshop?

EU Funds: A challenge for social service providers



[EU Funds for Social Services - HELPDESK \(eufunds4social.eu\)](http://eufunds4social.eu)

Goal: Facilitate the use of EU funds (in particular **ESF+ and ERDF**)

Who: 16 partners from different social sectors and countries
sectors: Disability, elderly, Families and children in poverty, homelessness, work integration

How: A Helpdesk for social service providers.

2 main priorities:

1. Support **Social Services** in accessing EU funds (ESF+ and ERDF)
Support service, information on EU funds, Training/MOOC
2. Help **Managing Authorities** use EU funds to finance quality interventions in the field of social services.
Facilitation toolkit, Technical Guidance

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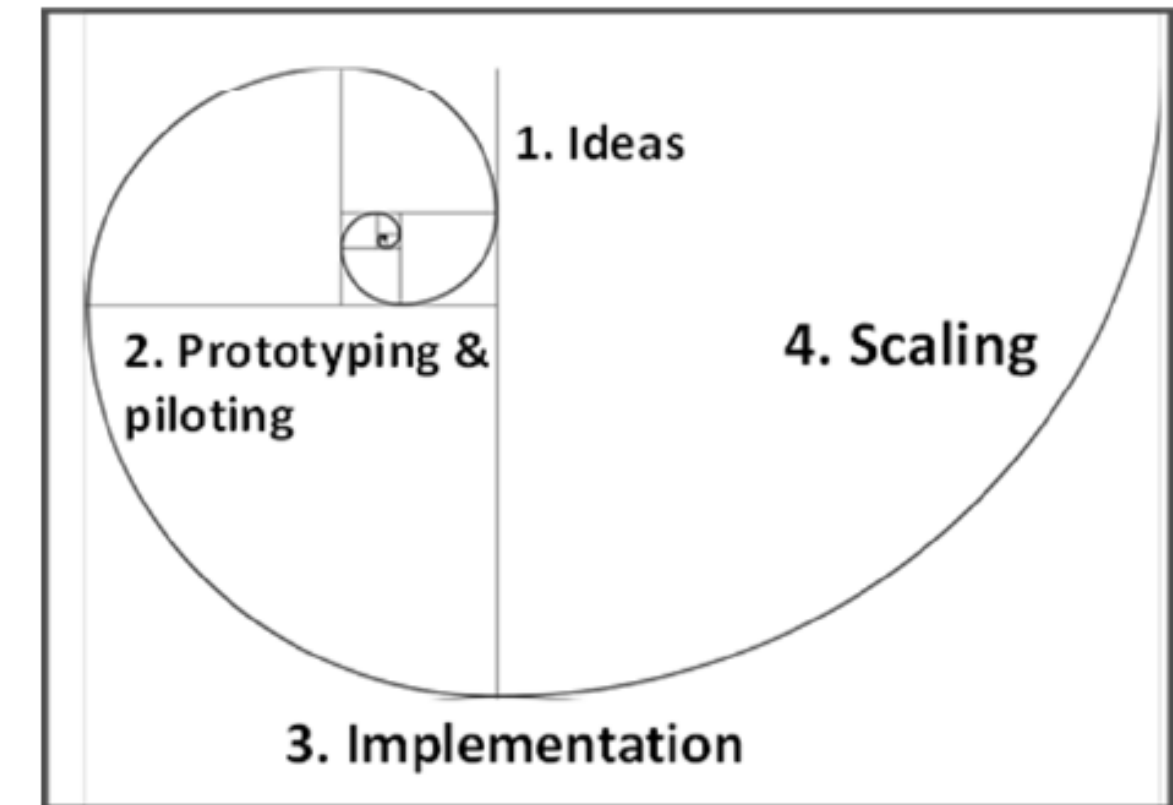
Why this workshop?

Funding: A challenge for social innovators

*When you are innovating the last thing you need to be doing is chasing money or chasing funds because you lose a lot of what you are trying to do at those early stages at least. And you get very frustrated, **a lot of ideas die because they can't get funds to move from a first stage to the second stage**"*

(Brian Smyth from Social Farming Ireland – EASPD Concept of social innovation in the disability field)

The spiral model of social innovation showing the four stages⁹



European Commission 2013: Guide to social innovation

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EU Funds = opportunities for social innovations!



Enabling Social Innovation

I. Definition and objectives of social innovation in the field of EU Funds

II. Ideas of **TOPICS**, **STAGE of SOCIAL INNOVATION (SI)**, **PROJECTS** that could be supported by EU FUNDS

For more SI-EU funded projects: [Kohesio](#), [ESF+ projects](#),
Helpdesk booklet of promising Practices (to come soon)

Disclaimer: Scope limited to ERDF and ESF+ in shared management

As EU Cohesion Policy Funds has been identified as:

- more challenging for social service providers
- main source of opportunities for social service providers

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Education and Training > Vocational Training

Developing and Piloting

VIRTUS - Vocational training programme using Virtual Reality for people with autism



Erasmus+

323 504,00 €



VIRTUS



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Recalling the context: ESF+ and ERDF



- Policy framework: **EU Cohesion Policy + EU Policies in the field of disability**
(EU Pillars of social rights, UNCRPD, EU disability Strategy...)

- **Shared management**
(except: ESF Social innovation+ initiative + EaSI strand)

- **392 billion** euros (2021-2027 EU)



European Social Fund (ESF+) : Employment, Education and training, Social inclusion (25%)

- Development and monitoring of services (i.e. activities, staff cost, trainings)

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) : Social, economic, territorial cohesion

- Investment in infrastructure, social economy (social enterprises), research and innovation

Both funds can be used **in synergy!**

What is social innovation in the field of EU Funds (Cohesion Policy)?

Art. 2 ESF+ Regulation

social innovation means an **activity**, that is **social** both as to its ends and its means and in particular an activity which relates to the **development and implementation** of **new ideas** concerning products, services, practices and models, that simultaneously **meets social needs** and creates **new social relationships or collaborations** between public, civil society or private organisations, thereby benefiting society and boosting its capacity to act;

social experimentation means a policy intervention that aims to provide an innovative response to social needs, implemented (and measured) on a small scale (...) prior to being implemented in other contexts

Why social innovation is so important for the Cohesion Policy?

- Provide efficient and local **responses to complex and pressing social needs**
- Capable of involving various stakeholders in **new ways of working together and involving users**

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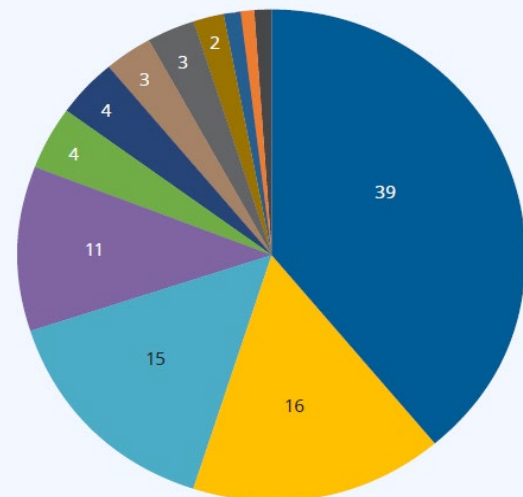
Social innovation priorities for ESF+ in the field of disability

Member States' (MS) contribution to social innovation becomes **compulsory**.

MS must dedicate **at least 1 priority** to SI in their national/regional programmes (**up to 95% of co-financing**).

Priorities of SI in ESF+ Regulation

- ESO4.8. Active inclusion and employability
- ESO4.11 Equal access to quality social and healthcare services
- ESO4.12 Social integration of people at risk
- ESO4.1. Access to employment and activation measures for all
- ESO4.2 Modernising labour market institutions
- ESO4.5 Improving education and training systems
- ESO4.6 Quality and inclusive education and training systems
- ESO4.4 Adaptation of workers and enterprises to change
- ESO4.3 Gender balanced labour market participation
- ESO4.7 Lifelong learning and career transitions
- ESO4.9 Integration of third country nationals
- ESO4.10 Integration of marginalised communities such as Roma



CoP Social innovation – Analysis of Social Innovation dedicated Priorities within ESF+ Programmes (2021–2027)

Priorities of ESF+ in the disability field

Common Provisions Regulation

- **promotes the transition from institutional to family and community-based care**
- Promotes **Accessibility**
- Framework for the implementation of the **UNCRPD**

ESF+ regulation

- Active inclusion of people far from labour market
- Equal access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services
- Access to housing and person-centred care, family and community-based care services.
- Inclusive education, including ECEC
- Accessibility

ERDF regulation

- Developing social infrastructure
- Improving access to inclusive and quality services in education through developing accessible infrastructure
- Promoting socioeconomic inclusion through measures including housing and social services

ES F+: **Topics**, **Stage of SI** -> **PROJECT**

Social inclusion: New methods of rehabilitation services for people with disabilities

DEVELOPING, PILOTING

Digital Services and Virtual Reality in the Social and Health Care Services of Children, Youth and Families



© Diaconia University of Applied Sciences

[More info](#)

This project explored **digital tools as means for social services to further support rehabilitation** of persons who have some form or degree of autism. Through the development of an adventure game, autistic children learn how to interact with fellow students and teachers. This project also gives social workers the opportunity to improve their digital skills.

Partners: Diaconia University of Applied Sciences - Social service providers

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ESF+ Finland - 228 832 €

ERDF: **Topics**, **Stage of SI** -> **PROJECT**

Boost the scale of products and services for independent living

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, PILOTING, UP-SCALLING (commercialisation)

Integr@tención- Cross-border platform for scaling up innovative solutions in socio-health care



[More info](#)

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Integr@tención project aims to **promote the scaling of products and services for independent living**, resulting from R & D & I activities of transboundary ecosystems. The project aims to adapt 10 technologies to the specific needs of users, of which 3 will benefit from the scaling pilot action and a patentability study. (Innovations: Smart home, Rehabilitation software etc.)

Partners: Start-ups – social services (Social enterprises)

FEDER - INTERREG Spain Portugal (POCTEP) - 553 999.38 €