



# Enabling Social Innovation

## Social innovation in the disability field

Gabriela Munares

**K**veloce



#Innovation4Inclusion



Co-funded by  
the European Union

Have you ever heard  
about social innovation?

#Innovation4Inclusion



# MIT News

ON CAMPUS AND AROUND THE WORLD

## European Innovation Council



Home > News > Meet the winners of 10th edition of the European Social Innovation Competition!

NEWS ARTICLE | 2 February 2023

### Meet the winners of 10th edition of the European Social Innovation Competition!

### MIT PKG IDEA Challenge grants student-led teams to tackle societal issues

The Priscilla King Gray program empowers communities to tackle societal issues

Helen Wajda | PKG Center for Social Innovation  
June 12, 2023



**CHALLENGE PRIZE WINNERS**  
EFFICIENT ENERGY TECHNOLOGY GMBH - RE LEARN - SOSTRE CIVIC SCCL

The infographic features three circular images of the winning teams. The first circle shows a group of people in white shirts standing in front of a 'SOLMATE' smart plug-in storage system. The second circle shows a group of people sitting on a bench. The third circle shows a group of people wearing red hard hats. Below each image is a purple box with the team name and their country.

Team Name	Country
EET	Austria
RE LEARN	Italy
SOSTRE CIVIC	Spain

The European Social Innovation Competition (EUSIC) winners have been awarded today by the Commission and the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA). [The 2022 challenge](#): "the future of living" was designed to attract applications from diverse fields tackling



laboration among interested parties in rural areas to have an economic impact that could help improve the quality of life in these areas? ... highlighted as concept in urban environments because many are headquartered in major metro centers. Rural areas are in the areas that are more resource-constrained in terms



**Enabling Social  
Innovation**

# What is social innovation?

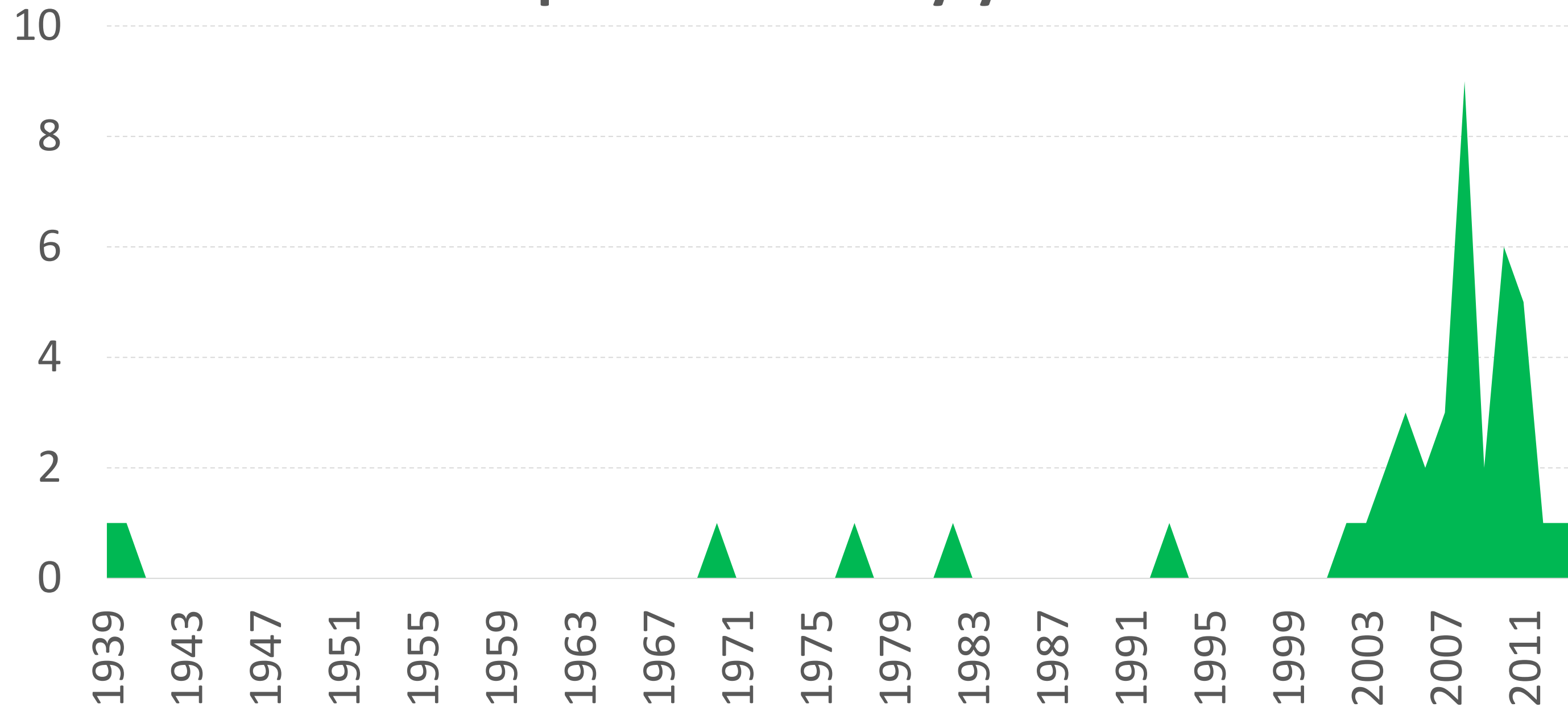
#Innovation4Inclusion



Co-funded by  
the European Union



## Number of definitions identified in scientific publications by year



Source: Own elaboration

#Innovation4Inclusion



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# Social innovation elements

## **Driven by social needs**

Participation & involvement of users

Enhance society's capacity to act

**Contribute to combat a specific social problem**

Create new social relationships or collaborations

## **Novelty**

Empower people & communities

Improve welfare and wellbeing of individuals & communities

Idea is born from beneficiaries

Potential to be transferred

Improve social inclusion

Source: EASPD (2023) The concept of social innovation in the disability field





**Enabling Social  
Innovation**

# What is social innovation in the disability field?

#Innovation4Inclusion



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# Questions...

What is needed to improve their welfare and wellbeing?

What are the main social problems and issues that people with disability is currently facing?

What are the main needs and wishes of people with disabilities?

#Innovation4Inclusion



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# People with disabilities seek for solutions that...

## Minimum requirements

..enable to fully enjoy all human rights by:

- enabling and promoting independent living & inclusion in the community
- enabling access to inclusive education
- promoting their inclusion in an open labour market and their employability
- enabling effective participation in the society

...respect and promote their voice, choice and control

... respect persons' ability to make choices and be accountable for their decisions

..are based on free, full and informed consent

..establish measures to ensure respect for privacy

..ensure accessibility



**People with disabilities seek for  
solutions that ...**

**... comply with the  
minimum  
requirements**

...are person-centred

..enable the development of people  
with disabilities ' full potential

...aredriven by people with disabilities  
who play an active role in all stages  
(design , implementation , etc.)

... aregender , sexual and culture  
sensitive, considering  
intersectionalities



# Proposed definition

“Social innovation in the disability field refers to the generation, development, testing and implementation of **groundbreaking ideas** and practices in a specific context that respond to people with disabilities’ **needs and wishes . . . .**”

Source: EASPD (2023) The concept of social innovation in the disability field

#Innovation4Inclusion



“... These practices must be **person-centred solutions** that enable people with disabilities to **fully enjoy all their human rights** , respect their **voice, choice and control** , promote their **independent living within the community** , and ensure their **participation** in every area of life including public affairs. ...”

Source: EASPD (2023) The concept of social innovation in the disability field

#Innovation4Inclusion



“... In addition, people with disabilities have to play an **active role** , not only in the design of these new practices and solutions but also in their implementation, validation, and other stages, **creating new partnerships and collaborations** , while **transforming social relations** and **empowering people with disability’s capacity to act.**”

Source: EASPD (2023) The concept of social innovation in the disability field

#Innovation4Inclusion



**Enabling Social  
Innovation**

# Criteria

#Innovation4Inclusion



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# Criteria

“Groundbreaking ideas in a specific context.”

## Novelty

**New need**

**New service / product**

**New ways of doing things**

**New actors are involved**



# Criteria



**Enabling Social  
Innovation**

“Respond to people with disabilities’ **needs and wishes.**”

**Effectively improves welfare and  
wellbeing of people with disabilities**

#Innovation4Inclusion



Co-funded by  
the European Union





# Criteria

“Solutions that enable people with disabilities to fully enjoy all their human rights.”

Exclusion

Institutionalization

Lack of education

No control over  
treatment, care,  
etc.

**Contribute to  
combat a specific  
social problems**

Lack of employment

Lack of effective  
participation in the  
society

Lack of accessibility

#Innovation4Inclusion



# Criteria



**Enabling Social  
Innovation**

**Minimum requirement fulfilment – human  
rights and legal framework**

**Person-centred solutions based on a  
human rights based approach**

**Solutions are gender, sexual and  
culture sensitive**

[#Innovation4Inclusion](#)



Co-funded by  
the European Union

# Criteria

“people with disabilities have to play an active role ... in the design [...] implementation, validation,”

**Is driven by people with disabilities**

**Follows a bottom -up approach**

#Innovation4Inclusion



# Criteria

“people with disabilities have to play an active role ...[...]  
empowering people with disability’s capacity to act.”

**Empowers people with disabilities, their  
families & communities**

**Enhances people with disabilities  
capacity to act**

#Innovation4Inclusion





# Criteria

“[...] transforming social relations ”

**Creates new social relationships or  
collaborations**

**Contributes to positive changes in  
attitudes, mindsets, and values**

#Innovation4Inclusion





# Challenges



Discuss, debate within the disability community

What happens to new solutions that imply an improvement but do not meet all these minimums, or do meet them but only partially?

Warranty minimum requirements: voice and control

Identify needs and wishes and keep the list updated

Promote participation and involvement of people with disability in social innovation

#Innovation4Inclusion



**Enabling Social  
Innovation**

# Thank you

Gabriela Munares

[gmunares@kveloce.com](mailto:gmunares@kveloce.com)

**Kveloce**



#Innovation4Inclusion



Co-funded by  
the European Union