



# Social Innovation in Interreg

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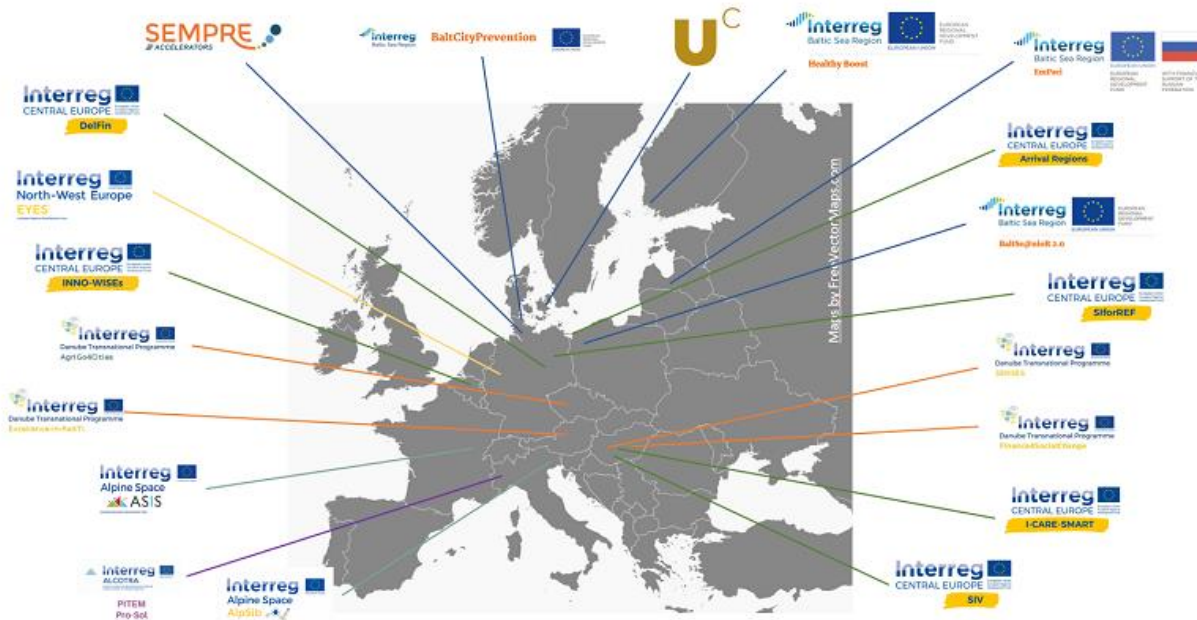
12 May 2021

Connect Alpine Space Workshop on social innovation, 12 May 2021



# Social Innovation





Virtual showcase of social innovation projects:  
<https://www.socialinterreg.eu>

← → ↻ 🏠 <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:

**U<sup>C</sup>**

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

[read more](#)

**Interreg North Sea Region Like!**

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

[read more](#)

**Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE CE RESPONSIBLE**

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

[read more](#)

**Interreg Alpine Space ASIS**

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

[read more](#)

**SEMPRE**

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

[read more](#)

**SEMPRE ACCELERATORS**

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

[read more](#)

# Social innovation definition/concept

- SOCIAL – addresses social or societal needs
- INNOVATION – novel approaches or solutions
- SOCIAL INNOVATION – based on a collaborative approach that includes beneficiaries

Social innovations are “innovations that are social both in their ends and in their means.”

(The Young Foundation, Open Book of Social Innovation)

# 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/social services
- help in making territorial and social imbalances visible and overcoming them
- 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, e.g. by improving accessibility or improving participation in public decision-making
- 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, evaluate and benchmark social innovation strategies and funding schemes and improve the social innovation ecosystem
- help find new solutions to societal changes that are the same, but under socio-economic conditions that are different in the regions
- make it possible to test new and unproven approaches
- help create a critical mass in (rural/lagging) regions where the knowledge base is weak
- provide a stimulus for organisational learning and rethinking of working structures and methods

# Social innovation in 2021-2027 – Observations

- Social innovation projects have proven their value in 2014-2020
- Programming processes are almost finalised:
  - Social innovation seems to be a topic just as much as previously
  - More focus on social innovation being a means than an end: social innovation in connection with Green Deal objectives
- Territorial cohesion and just transformation remain important topics (Territorial Agenda)
- COVID-19 effects seem to have affected programming (focus on resilience, importance of digitisation and equal access to it)

farm2fork  
climate change mitigation  
circular economy  
mobility

# Social innovation in 2021-2027– Recommendations for Programmes

- Lower the thresholds for participation (e.g. of smaller NGOs!)
  - Pre- and co-financing is difficult
  - Allow smaller projects and micro projects
- Allow and accept open processes with uncertain results!
  - Be flexible, accept results that deviate from the original plan
  - More qualitative evaluation, visit projects to see the change they make
- More exchange between projects and programme areas (socialinterreg.eu can continue to be a platform)!



# Social innovation in 2021-2027– Recommendations for Projects

- Be more and less ambitious at the same time!
  - Don't make projects too complex, focus on key issues
  - In these key issues, strive to achieve great results
- Work cross-sectorally!
  - Bring together the established welfare sector, the public sector and the social entrepreneurship scene!
  - Combine social themes with green themes
- Bring about organisational change!
  - Start with your own organisations, don't forget your colleagues as a target group!

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