

Social Innovation Plus – Competence Centres (SI Plus) Network “Sustainable Development“: Kick-Off Meeting

Thursday, 10 November 2022 (online)

Social Innovation (SI) is a useful element of the new innovation framework necessary for sustainable development. SI increases the accountability of measures related to sustainable development and empowers different groups to take part in the green transformation. This is why sustainable development was made one of the thematic networks being implemented in the framework of the SI PLUS project, a project that aims at establishing National Competence Centres for Social Innovation in Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary and Slovakia and at fostering their transnational cooperation.

In the framework of this network, particular emphasis shall be put on the interrelation between **social innovation, green jobs and labour market policy**. Moreover, in the context of the ESF+, green transitions have a crucial role to play when it comes to promoting skills for the green economy and respective re- and upskilling. Education and training systems are at the heart of a greener Europe and sectors related to the environment, climate, energy and circular economy/bioeconomy need the upskilling of the labour force – a need that is already reflected in the major strategies of our time such as the Paris Agreement or the European Green Deal. With the invasion of Russia in Ukraine, energy transition and a related transformation of the labour market have become even more important. In the light of these developments and an ever-changing global socio-economic environment, the concept of social innovation becomes a social reality and at the same time an economic necessity.

With regard to these aspects, the targets of this meeting are the following

- Bring together stakeholders from different fields and start a discussion how the National Competence Centres for Social Innovation integrate sustainable development into their agenda;
- Discuss and define the future activities and goals of the network;
- Discuss the opportunities that the green transition entails;
- Establish a discourse on sustainable development in the social innovation scene.

Draft Agenda

Registration link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pdO-urTlqGNX6A7C-On1bgVybKM5LIQUp>

Facilitation: Barba Willsberger/Jörg Mirtl, L&R Social Research

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09.00	Welcome	Barbara Willsberger/Jörg Mirtl L&R Social Research
09.15	Introduction by the EC/DG Empl	Michael Grosse
09.30	Icebreaker	all
09.45	Thematic input from the EC/DG Empl	Frank Siebern-Thomas Mihai Palimariciuc
10.15	The foundation for environment in Austria	Paul Köfler, Aufleb, Austria
10.45	Coffee break	
11.00	Presentation of the KAKAWCO+ project	Martina Matejíčková, Slovakia
11.30	Presentation of the LAB project	Kristijan Rehsmann, 4everyoung, Austria
12.00	Discussions of next steps - How can the national Competence Centres integrate the experiences of this meeting? - Next steps for the network - Which opportunities does the green transition entail for fostering social innovation?	all (potentially break-out rooms)
12.45	Conclusions from the discussion	all
13:00	End of the Meeting	Barbara Willsberger/Jörg Mirtl L&R Social Research