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Social Innovation Plus – Competence Centres (SI Plus)

Kick-Off Meeting – 23 June 2021, 10 a.m. (CET)

Online

Draft Minutes

Welcome & introduction

Barbara Willsberger (LP, AT, L&R Social Research) welcomed the participants and provided an overview of the genesis of the project. She expressed her gratitude to the partners of the project and highlighted that the goal of the project is to promote social innovation in the participating countries. A joint wording for social innovation shall serve as a start for the further steps in the project. Moreover, the establishment of the Competence Centres in the upcoming months is going to be one of the main objectives of the project.

Maria-Anna Paraskeva from the Commission (DG EMPL) commented on the role of social innovation in the ESF, starting with EQUAL initiative. She drew the attention to the role of tools such as CLLD and content-related issues such as institutional care. She highlighted the learning aspect as well as the importance of cooperation within the transnational activities. SI should respond to the needs of the ground. She gave an overview over various institutional developments and commented on the respective role of SI.

The welcome was followed by a warm-up (see slides annex 2).

Tour de table

Project partners presented their plans in their respective national frameworks.

AT/L&R; The LP (Claudia Sorger, Katharina Aufhauser) shared a proposal of criteria for the operationalisation of social innovation. These criteria are also part of an online-survey, which should be sent to all relevant stakeholders to initiate a participate process. This survey could be adapted to the local needs of each partner. The LP highlighted that it is essential to reach a common understanding. LP has defined criteria for social innovation and shared it with the consortium. LP asked for feedback to the proposed survey.

HU/IFKA (Anna Meszarós) is also going to conduct a survey for the sake of the mapping with a specific focus on social enterprises.

Monika Jakubecová (ESF MA, SK) stated that the SK has created a team of experts to be hired for the project, in order to start the mapping, reach a common wording on the national level. The website is currently being designed. The proposed survey is going to be considered by SK.

Sevdalina Voynova (SDA, BG) commented on their relationship with the MA and related political developments. The focus in BG will be employment and employability, as well as overcoming regional disparities and the post-COVID social economy. BG highlighted the



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importance of a joint definition. The survey provided by the LP can serve as a basis for the mapping in BG, however the MA is going to have a say in this process.

Patrizia Bussi (ENSIE) brought the commitment of ENSIE to the fore and highlighted the important role of associated partners in the project.

Common Wording:

All partners agreed that the definition in the ESF+ regulation 1057/2021 will be used in our partnership and that the partners work on criteria for the operationalisation of Social Innovation:

[S]ocial 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.

Transnational activities

Anna Meszarós (IFKA, HU) commented on the different activities in the transnational WP, see annex 5.

Preliminaries and Technicalities

Willsberger (L&R) shared recommendations by the Commission and pointed out that it is of utmost importance to keep the records of all the activities that are conducted within the project. (see annex 6).

Annexes

1. Agenda of the meeting
2. Results of the mentimeter warm-up
3. Criteria for operationalization, proposed by the LP
4. Transnational activities as proposed by IFKA
5. Presentation by the EC