



# URBinclusion

Combating poverty  
in deprived urban areas

## Newsletter

Issue 6 – June 2019

**URBinclusion** is a project funded by the EU **URBACT** programme and it is focused on the **co-creation of new implementation solutions to reduce poverty in deprived urban areas**. Integrated strategies addressing social inclusion will be implemented by the nine partners cities composing the Network.

This project second Newsletter contains a description of:

- URBinclusion project
- Past and future steps
- Different articles presenting specific steps and partner cities actions and situations



URBinclusion Forth Transnational Meeting Thematic Seminar participants in Barcelona on the 27th of March 2019

### PROJECT PARTNERS:

Barcelona (Spain)  
Copenhagen (Denmark)  
Glasgow (UK)  
Krakow (Poland)  
Naples (Italy)  
Timisoara (Romania)  
Lyon (France)  
Trikala (Greece)  
Turin (Italy)

### URBinclusion contact details:

#### Project Coordinators:

*Luis Torrens Melich*    *Sebastià Riutort Isern*  
[ltorrens@bcn.cat](mailto:ltorrens@bcn.cat)    [sriutort@ext.bcn.cat](mailto:sriutort@ext.bcn.cat)  
[www.urbact.eu/urbinclusion](http://www.urbact.eu/urbinclusion)

#### Lead Experts:

*Anamaria Vrabie*    *Lorenzo Tripodi*  
[vrabie.anamaria@gmail.com](mailto:vrabie.anamaria@gmail.com)    [lorenzo@tesseræ.eu](mailto:lorenzo@tesseræ.eu)



**EUROPEAN UNION**

European Regional Development Fund

## The URBinclusion project

The proposal focus on different compulsory and optional implementation challenges that are shared by most of the partners

### Mandatory challenges

1. Ensuring the integrated approach in the delivery of the strategy and their related actions/projects
2. Maintaining involvement of local stakeholders and organizing decision-making for delivery
3. Setting up efficient indicators and monitoring systems to measure performance

### Optional challenges

1. Moving from strategy to operational action-plan
2. Enhancing funding of urban development policies through financial innovation (urban development funds, crowd-funding, etc.)

Socioeconomic disparities and other form of inequalities are a major issue in European cities, which hinder citizens from achieving a **decent quality of life**. The economic and financial crisis has further intensified the concentration of poverty and social exclusion in cities. European cities are threatened by the increase of **social polarisation**, which is a consequence of many parallel processes: an increasing income polarisation since

the 1980s, an **increasing volatility of employment** and a **huge recent increase immigration** to Europe and its cities. These factors are complemented by a progressively **retreating welfare state** and **privatisation of services** in several countries leading to higher costs for basic needs.

It has been increasingly observed that poverty does not only create **social differences** between people and groups; it also leads to **spatial differences**. Recent independent studies have demonstrated that "the widening gap between rich and poor is **leading to social divisions and**

**segregation** in more and more European cities. The rich and the poor are living at increasing distance from each other, and this can be **disastrous for the social stability and competitive power of cities**".

In this regard, URBinclusion Partners agree that the **level of integration and cross-fertilization of different approaches** is crucial to determine the success or failure of the implemented policies. Specifically, the common policy challenge addressed by URBinclusion is founded on an "**area-based approach**", concentrated on specific (deprived) geographic areas, with essentially place-based policies. They do not focus on individuals but on a specific **geographical unit or a set of units**. This area-based approach is in some cases articulated, both **with a sectorial approach regarding different dimensions related with poverty** like employability, education, health care, housing, citizens' empowerment, social economy, and **with a demographic approach, regarding different social groups**

like ethnic minorities, migrants, women, children, youth, elderly people, long term unemployed, Roma people, etc.

Some cities of this Network include **physical regeneration actions, linked**

**to social inclusion**

**measures**, mainly dealing with the recovery of public spaces and public buildings allocating social and cultural activities. Thus, **URBinclusion Partners plan to address the policy challenge through integrated strategies composed by different combinations of actions**, but always focused on the same aim: **fostering social inclusion and reducing poverty in deprived neighbourhoods of their cities**. In short, local actions included in the strategy should demonstrate their contribution in reducing poverty and improving social inclusion in the area.



A working session of the Final Conference in Barcelona

## Presentation of URBinclusion Network videos

By *Massimiliano Rumignani* – Project Communication officer – Barcelona URBinclusion Team

The URBinclusion partnership has delivered several short videos presenting the same project activities and some of the case studies analysed during the project implementation to better understand how to deal with five main challenges that cities face when implementing programmes, initiatives, actions and project at local levels.

### URBinclusion Project Videos

#### URBinclusion Project presentation

<https://youtu.be/L9yGLaf-yWg>

This video presents the URBinclusion network in the framework of the URBACT funding programme, the Network aims and partners. It presents as well the project focus and the implementation challenges analysed by the partnership.

#### URBinclusion Final Conference – Barcelona

<https://youtu.be/7PQeSjc9CAk>

This video summarises the activities and the outcomes of the URBinclusion network final conference, which was held at the end of March 2019 in the Sant Andreu district in Barcelona and the final statements of some political and technical representatives from the network cities.

### URBinclusion partner cities videos

#### Barcelona videos

##### Accompanying program for the rehousing of residents from “Cases barates” - Bon Pastor/Barcelona

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POTaVA5whBw>

This video presents the Barcelona case example of the “Accompanying program for the rehousing of residents from “Cases barates” of the El Bon Pastor neighbourhood” to new large building and, in this framework, the work done by La Fàbrica, a social initiative cooperative

supporting local residents to properly adapt to the new life style in the new large building.

#### The Esforsa’t project – Barcelona

<https://youtu.be/Vv5Auo7XWvE>

This video presents the Esforsa’t project, which works with young people from Barcelona neighbourhoods Bon Pastor and Baró de Viver, between 16 and 25 years old and it aims to promote healthy actions, such as sport, training, health and leisure, which reduce the risk indicators between the youth population.

#### Krakov video

##### Social initiatives in the Azory neighbourhood

<https://youtu.be/cuFK2R4HXww>

The video focuses the attention on the Azory neighbourhood, one the most deprived area in the city and with several social and infrastructure problems. Different initiatives implemented by the municipality and supporting the social inclusions of local citizens, also by bringing together senior citizens and kids are presented and their benefits described by the local residents. The main achievements of this initiatives are Residents integration, Residents activation, Public participation, co-governance and Trust.

#### Turin video

##### The Abito project

<https://youtu.be/Pnf1DdvfnNg>

This video presents the Abito project, implemented in the framework of the Torino Social Impact that is a policy for social innovation. This policy aims to reduce poverty and segregation through different initiatives. The Abito project aims to provide support to young foreigners to access a house in the residential market, to increase the trust between the owners and the tenants and finally to provide a successful model easily replicable in Turin and in other cities.

## Glasgow video

### Making Change Happen - inclusive education

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8KyPINgUD8>

The video presents the initiative of a school in Govanhill that has adopted an innovative approach to guarantee learning outcomes for local children. The school has a high number of children from Roma families and many other pupils are non-English speakers. The approach is tailored to the needs of the child. They have the evidence that children are learning and developing - but it is not in the format collected in other schools.

## Naples video

### Redesign your neighborhood project - Porta Capuana

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SuG6y98yg1Y>

The Naples video gives an overview of the changes that affected the Porta Capuana area in the last decades and presents some of the activities that have been monitored and analyzed in the framework of the URBinclusion network, such as the “Redesign your neighborhood” project that involved the association “Aste & Nodi” and the social cooperatives “Dedalus” and “Casba”.

## Copenhagen videos

### Copenhagen Community based living labs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FxhphaQqQvI&t=10s>

This video presents the views of different participants coming from the local community (Sydhavnen) and from Glasgow that participate and have participated to three living labs established in South Harbour focusing on Social inclusion, Energy and Circular Economy. Special attention is given to the ones focusing on social inclusion and specifically on the importance of reducing unemployment.

### Ankers Market

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZwqJGw90hY>

This video presents the results of a partnership between local business, NGOs and the public housing to organize a market place in the Anker Jørgensens

square. They have created a local market, that sells both locally upscaled (circular economy) products and more commercial Christmas gifts and decorations in order to create a more social and cultural inclusive urban life, and as well offer low skill jobs to the daily users.

## Lyon Metropole video

### Lyon Metropole Habitat Projet Métropolitain des Solidarités

<https://youtu.be/vKRy5RSmGQ>

This video presents different actions of concertation, citizens participation, democratic governance and personalized support with residents implemented by Lyon Metropole Habitat in some areas. Collective interventions training was provided to employees of LMH in order to build stronger collaborations with residents and gaining a stronger involvement of these in the different social initiatives implemented in the most disfavoured areas.

## Timisoara video

### Social inclusion initiatives in Kuncz neighbourhood

<https://youtu.be/KGUS67Jyk7I>

This video presents initiatives of Timisoara Municipality focusing on the Kuncz neighbourhood, one of the city most deprived area. Different interventions, implemented in the framework of the URBinclusion project, targeted marginalized residents with different kinds of interventions supporting their social inclusion through different and specific employment and support initiatives.

## Trikala video

### Local action plan for Roma integration

<https://youtu.be/kTZNDiukDE>

This video presents an ambitious plan to support Roma people in their main settlements in Trikala by improving their living conditions and by enhancing their social inclusion. This plan was designed in collaboration and consultation with spokespersons of all three Roma local settlements. The funding supported the construction of new infrastructures to support Roma vulnerable groups.



## The URBinclusion final conference: Networking for social inclusion in Europe

By *Massimiliano Rumignani, Sebastià Riutort, Marc Caballero* – Barcelona URBinclusion team.

**The “URBinclusion final conference: Networking for social inclusion in Europe” took place in Barcelona on the 28th of March. It involved civil servants, technical and political representatives from the Network nine cities in addition to URBACT network representatives and several local and international actors and stakeholders.**

The aims of the event were to present the current outcomes of this innovative URBACT Implementation Network, facilitate on the one hand the interchange of information about case examples and solution stories among partner cities and participants, and on the other one, a political assessment and commitment by partner cities in relation to the co-creation of new implementation solutions for combatting poverty in deprived urban areas considering URBinclusion main challenges.

The conference took place at Fabra i Coats compound in Sant Andreu district, in which it is located the neighbourhood Barcelona municipality is focusing on in the framework of this project. The seven local initiatives, whose representatives are involved in the Barcelona URBinclusion Local Group, are all ongoing in this area. Participants were welcome by URBinclusion Network project coordinator and manager, Mr. Lluís Torrens and Mr. Sebastià Riutort, from the Barcelona Municipality Area of Social Rights, who highlighted the importance of the URBACT programme and its networks

to support European cities in implementing their social policies and improving their effectiveness through a constructive interchange - they pointed out that this conference aimed to provide a contribution to this framework.

Ms. Anais De Muret presented the URBACT program data, activities and aims. Special attention was given to the specificities of the innovative Implementation Networks, such as URBinclusion, aiming to develop intelligence on how to better implement sustainable ur-



ban development projects and their key goal of producing joint and tested concrete solutions and policy instruments. She confirmed that at the end of 2019 there will be the presentation of programme outputs of these networks, through a good practices database coming from the 36 city partners involved and looking at their implementation challenges.

The Network lead experts, Ms. Anamaria Vrabie and Mr. Lorenzo Tripodi, presented the existing and main outcomes including the last draft of Urbinclusion Manifesto which gathers the main recommendation from

project partners in order to design and implement strategies to combat poverty in European cities. Experts explained its components one by one, including its shape (a loop, representing the conception of a continuous process) and the fact that monitoring and evaluation is situated in the center.

A bright contribution by Mr. Fernando Barreiro, URBinclusion passed away and greatly appreciated previous Lead Expert, was read: “We should take into account that not all the partners



are facing the same issues within each implementation challenge, that not all the partners have the same background on the different challenges and that not all the challenges have the same priority for each one of the partners. These conditions require a very flexible, diverse and creative process of exchanging and learning. We should take in consideration the different needs and priorities of the different URBinclusion partners ensuring so that all of them get a real added value by participating in the network.”

The following part of the conference consisted of six parallel sessions involving three cities each, lead experts, and Barcelona team representatives as facilitators and many local actors. “Case examples” and “solution stories” were presented and the key aspects of the implementation challenges faced by each city in relation to them were discussed. Cities used videos and presentations that provided key insights and analysis to participants. Cities were grouped as follows: Group 1: Barcelona, Glasgow, Timisoara; Group 2: Turin, Copenhagen, Trikala; Group 3: Naples, Lyon, Krakow. These sessions resulted being very dynamic and promoted a constructive interchange of views, experiences and possible solutions among the participants that most probably will contribute to a better understanding for practitioners of how facing their implementation challenges in the future.

The final part of the conference was an animated roundtable discussion with the following technical and political representatives of six partner cities: Mr. Farkas Imre, Deputy Mayor - Timisoara (RO), Mrs. Laia Ortiz, Second Deputy Mayor, in charge of the Area of Social Rights - Barcelona (SP), Mrs. Paola Pisano, Counsellor of Innovation, Smart City and Participation Services - Turin (IT), Mr. Konstantinos Psichos, Deputy Mayor of Social Affairs and Solidarity - Trikala (GR), Mrs. Sia Boesen, Chief Project Officer Integrated Urban Renewal South Harbour, Technical and



Environmental Administration - Copenhagen (DK), Mrs. Corinne Aubin Vasselin, Director of the Housing division - Metropolitan Lyon (FR). In spite of their different characteristics and situations they clearly agreed on the importance of promoting stronger dialogue and collaborations among EU cities that are facing common challenges such as the growing inequalities among their citizens and the different neighbourhoods and the risks that these imply for our democratic systems. They emphasized the importance of jointly finding and testing new solutions and effective implementation methodologies for these emerging and growing problems, through a key and effective interchange of good practices focusing on poverty and social inclusion.





## The 4th and last URBinclusion transnational meeting in Barcelona

By Sebastià Riutort – Barcelona URBinclusion Team

**URBinclusion project coordination team. The meeting was held in Barcelona on the 27th of March, the last opportunity for a presential partnership discussion on URBinclusion implementation.**

Partners met in the public library of Bon Pastor's neighbourhood, which is the one URBinclusion is focusing on. Bon Pastor is located in the North-East part of Barcelona very close to the Besòs River. It is one of the neighbourhoods that have historically experienced territorial isolation with regard to the rest of the city. Nowadays, as partners could notice, a new metro line has highly improved its transports connection. The meeting took place in one of the most important facilities of the neighbourhood due to library's role in favour of community cohesion.

Partners were welcomed by the local team and Lead experts Anamaria Vrabie and Lorenzo Tripodi introduced the agenda of the day and its objectives. Since it was the last transnational meeting, the sessions



were thought to deal with the last steps of the URBinclusion journey, linked to the delivery of outputs and the contributions to the Final Conference that would take place the following day in Barcelona, too. The meeting started with a very interesting session about the content of the last draft of the "URBinclusion Manifesto/Recommendations". Since the meeting in Trikala (February 2019), the partnership began to work on the elaboration of a pragmatic set of recommendations coming from the concrete experiences of all nine cities on implementing principles that are mainly recognised but not often applied. These principles are linked to the policy challenge of combating urban poverty and the well-known project implementation challenges. The discussion was very fruitful. Remarks and comments about the different parts of the document will be taken into consideration for the elaboration of its final version by Lead experts. The Manifesto will be largely disseminated at the end of the project. Afterwards, some minutes were used for talking about the Final Conference. Last instructions were given to partners for the presentation of cases examples during the parallel sessions and to check if the sessions dynamic was clear.

The following session was dedicated to the OIF output. Once again, we were happy to have the presence of Mr. Peter Ramsden (URBACT). He has been attending other network meetings and following the development of our project with a lot of interest. His always constructive and illustrative comments and his English sense of humour have been with the network for a long time. The network has taken the advantage of his knowledge and expertise and his accompaniment has allowed



**THE URB INCLUSION CYCLE**

The document reflects the recommendations and call for action of the URBinclusion project network, composed by the cities of Barcelona, Copenhagen, Cluj-Napoca, Trikala, Napoli, Timişoara, Trikala and La Ferté.

Establishing the connection of stakeholders inside the network of cities is a priority during the learning journey of the URBinclusion project in the view of more implementation solutions to reduce poverty in deprived urban areas.

Recognising that they pursue specific regional policies to provide sustainable implementation of an urban process for tackling urban poverty in deprived urban areas.

The partnership has agreed to make the following set of recommendations:

**POVERTY HAS MANY FACES**

It is not only deprivation of money, but also of knowledge, access, vision, voice, opportunities and dignity. There is a need to tackle the many sides of poverty – related to income, energy, housing and social and economic inclusion in a fully integrated approach.

To combat poverty we must engage multiple agents, instruments and languages.

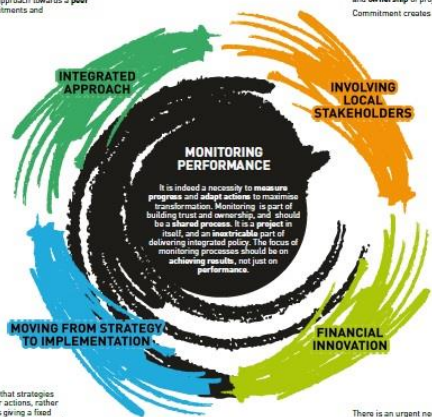
That requires integrating policies, involving citizens and local stakeholders, increasing financial capacity, moving from strategy to implementation and monitoring progress. Implementing strategies for combating poverty in neighbourhoods is not simply a linear task. It implies a critical process made of recursive actions and feedbacks that produces stable conditions of engagement. It is based on commitment, social ownership and innovation capacity.

The **integrated approach** calls for breaking barriers among sectors and tiers in public administration. The role of the public administration needs to be constantly redefined and new agile structures need to be developed that can best fit a real process of co-creation alongside the targeted citizens. The **horizontal dimension** is crucial. To challenge the many faces of poverty we need to develop a **communication with many faces**, one that values direct communication with peers, over one through representatives. The overarching scope of public interventions should be to **foster independence, sense of initiative and self-organising capabilities** of the citizens targeted by the actions. Their role needs to go beyond a 'beneficiary' approach towards a **peer approach**, with shared commitments and responsibilities.

Participation in policy practice is not about creating instruments, but **establishing principles** for the creation, reproduction and management of common goods.

Involving local stakeholders is not only to take decisions with people and to co-design solutions; it makes sense when it is aimed at establishing a **long-term conditions of engagement**. Frameworks where participation of stakeholders is just expressed through a vote and implemented by others do not work. **Without commitment and responsibility** of stakeholders there is no participation. Building mutual trust is essential to create a shared **responsibility** and **ownership** of projects.

Commitment creates community.



We need to remind ourselves that strategies are a **roadmap** for guiding our actions, rather than stand-alone instruments giving a fixed route. They should be **adaptable** to change and incorporate the **findings** from the implementation process in an agile manner. They are relevant and useful for implementation if they incorporate realistic **expectations, benchmarks and timelines**. Above all they must be flexible.

People need to see things happen. Real results foster continuity, engagement and empowerment.

There is an urgent need to **innovate** on the finance for projects. We need to reconsider how available **financial tools** and mechanisms can be adapted by cities to tackle the many faces of poverty. Innovation is not only necessary on financial instruments themselves, but also in the way we understand and produce **value** in the social context. It is important to expand the role that cities can assume in fostering the development of **social economies** and **share the risks** related to investments tackling social issues.

making the elaboration of the OIF a friendlier task. He animated this session in which every partner explained at which point they were regarding the OIF and what they were including in it. Different approaches were pointed out: e.g. from the Barcelona's "fishbone structure" to the Copenhagen's "look to the past to go ahead" approach.

The last session before lunch break was dedicated to URBinclusion cases examples and their specific links to the implementation challenges. The aim consisted in connecting the cases with the ideas written down in the Manifesto sections and explaining the reasons behind. It was an individual and collective exercise of moving from the abstract to the concrete, from the principle to the practice and vice versa. Both exercises matter to illustrate URBinclusion recommendations.

It could seem unfeasible but, at the end, during the Mediterranean lunch there was even slot for a short presentation. Tonet Font, advisor for social innovation in Social Rights Area of the City Council of Barcelona, gave a quick overview about the history and urban evolution of Bon Pastor and the current social situation of the area. In that way, partners were introduced to the local context and to the site visit that started thereon.

A shining sun and nice community practitioners walked with the URBinclusion partners through Bon Pastor. During this walking tour, partners had the opportunity to know some actions more in detail and acknowledge the challenges of the area. Aritz Garcia ([La Fabrica cooperative](#)) explained the history of Bon

Pator "cheap houses" and the accompanying program to resettle inhabitants to new social housing. Three ROMA community leaders explained the program Transforma't (led by [Espai Coneix cooperative](#)) whose objective is to increase the social engagement and visibility of the Roma community in the area. Miquel Àngel Lozano (responsible for the [Neighbourhood Plan for Bon Pastor and Baró de Viver](#)) explained a pro-



gramme to improve the living conditions of certain buildings with specific social and structural complex characteristics. Finally, Bru Laín and Israel Ureña, from the Social Rights Area, explained the main features of the [B-MINCOME project](#), a two years pilot that consists in testing the efficiency and effectiveness of combining a guaranteed minimum income (GMI) with active policies of socio-economic inclusion.

After the site visit, there was a last session (that took place again in the venue) in which some partners shared their case example videos. It was a kind of "premiere", where partners were able to have an overall picture of the compendium of URBinclusion videos and also the diversity of formats. Then, it was time to go to the city centre for attending the official reception that closed the day. The Deputy Major for Social Rights, Ms Laia Ortiz, hosted this reception in the Barcelona City Hall located in the old district. There were short speeches by Lluís Torrens and Tià Riutort on behalf of the Lead Partner team and by Anaïs de Muret, representative of the URBACT secretariat. Afterwards, partners had the chance to visit some enigmatic rooms of the City Hall and to go to the terrace, where they delighted the beautiful views while appreciating a stunning sunset on the city.





## Steps implemented

- ✦ URBinclusion Kick-off virtual meeting 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2017.
- ✦ Participation of member cities to the URBACT Programme Seminar on Capacity implementation in Paris on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2017.
- ✦ URBinclusion First Transnational meeting in Copenhagen on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2017.
- ✦ Preparation and improvement of the partners' cities Implementation Plans.
- ✦ Start of the preparation of cities' OIF - Operational Implementation Framework.
- ✦ Since December 2017 the URBinclusion Network website was made available for publication on the URBACT website <http://urbact.eu/urbinclusion>. Several articles were published and advertised through the URBinclusion Twitter account [@URBinclusion](https://twitter.com/URBinclusion).
- ✦ URBinclusion First Thematic Seminar in Lyon on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2018.
- ✦ Creation of an Implementation Overview Matrix, which will be used as a Network Exercise. By Mapping activities, interests and challenges, the results will be used to establish proper and efficient links among partner cities.
- ✦ Boosting the URBACT Local Groups.
- ✦ Delivery of the URBinclusion Dissemination Plan.
- ✦ Preparation of the actions / interventions of all cities to be exchanged and shared among partner cities according to their different interests and priorities.
- ✦ URBinclusion Second Transnational Meeting in Krakow on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2018.
- ✦ Boosting bilateral relationships among partner cities.
- ✦ URBinclusion Second Thematic Seminar in Glasgow on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018: Enhancing funding of urban policies by exploring financial innovation.
- ✦ URBACT City Festival –Lisbon, 13-14 September 2018.
- ✦ URBinclusion Third Transnational Meeting in Turin on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2018.
- ✦ URBinclusion Third Thematic Seminar: ULG Seminar - making co-creation and co-re-responsibility real in Naples on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2018.
- ✦ Cities' Case Examples, focusing on specific good practices and experiences, successfully implemented in partner cities and presenting possible solutions to project implementation challenges.
- ✦ URBinclusion Fourth Thematic Seminar: Workshop title: Social Economy and its role in making cities more equal in Trikala on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2019.
- ✦ Cities' Solution Stories, describing in details how problems and threats were tackled in the city and how difficulties were overcome.
- ✦ URBinclusion Fourth Transnational Meeting in Barcelona on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2019 and URBinclusion Final Conference "Networking for social inclusion in Europe" in Barcelona on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2019.
- ✦ Organization of local dissemination events
- ✦ Finalization of production of outputs and deliverables.