+RESILIENT- Mediterranean Open REsouRcEs for Social
Innovation of SociaLly ResponsIve ENTerprises

CAPITALIZATION AGREEMENT

Project partners

Lead Partner

DELIVERABLE SUMMARY	
PROJECT INFORMATION	
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Project website address:	https://plus-resilient.interreg-med.eu/
Lead partner organisation:	Veneto Region – Operational Unit for EU and State Relations
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FOREWORD

+ RESILIENT stands for Mediterranean Open Resources for Social Innovation of Socially Responsive Enterprises, its assumption was to kickstart a process of policy change at regional level in the involved areas resulting in the integration of successful elements of social innovation into Cohesion policy. At the end of the 4-year project, the partners are counting the tools, results and approach that not only can be adapted and reused the 2021-2027 EU policy, but also address key objectives of the Agenda 2030 and SDGs and offer examples of social innovation in local systems that can support more just digital and ecological transitions.

The starting point has been the definition of local ecosystems that form "Clusters with High Social Vocation and Responsiveness" (SVRC henceforth) operating to detect and respond to social needs. More often than not, such clusters are emerging networks that use technology, open data, participative models with social relevance and impact to reinforce socially-responsive value chains. They address emerging social needs linked to social and demographic change, new forms of exclusion, digitalization and other global dynamics that characterize the different involved areas.

Because SVRCs are usually codified at local level, the project has addressed the transnational dimension by means of territorial networking and capacity building. This has been useful to prompt participative and integrated approaches to increase the emerging SVRCs' role in dealing with different scenarios. This overarching process was based on the use of open resources for the creation of a transnational socially-responsive value chain. It has included the study of existing initiatives and local systems, the adaptation and test of methods, tools and shared solutions with the final objective of capitalizing them in the MED area.

We described the SVRCs as *"loosely connected and diverse companies, private/public, profit/no-profit working for a positive social impact- e.g., social enterprises dealing with social cohesion, ageing and sustainability, they include the social-related aspects and impacts of regions' Smart Specialization Strategies addressing synergies to be streamlined into cohesion policy and funds."*

A step beyond Corporate Social Responsibility, "responsiveness" to social needs entails a cross-sectorial approach, a greater agency of public and private stakeholders, strong values that don't clash with other legitimate economic values but, rather, find new social markets, win-win opportunities for both communities and economic actors and companies.

Such emerging clusters have been embedded into three interconnected macro-scenarios that reflect the diversity of the partners involved in the project and that have helped partners direct their analysis and action.

1.   Delivery of public innovative services for new societal needs

2.   Support to Social Vocation & Responsive SME's

3.   Capacity building of social enterprises

To enhance accessibility and the quality of data currently usable, the creation of a more intuitive open-source database/platform was suggested as a possible solution. The platform was created to integrate and interact with the institutional tools already available to overcome the problems identified. Following such input, the creation of the + RESILIENT platform (www.opensocialcluster.eu) has ensued.

Opensocialclusters.eu has been updated in order to be an online Knowledge hub, providing toolkits and guidelines for participatory decisions and policy making, as well as support to SVRCs.

The section "Library" and the section "Training Material" was included under the new section "Knowledge hub", along with the sub-section "policy briefs".

New training material, about entrepreneurship and the social economy was uploaded to the platform, and the policy briefs developed by each partner are now included in the platform.

After the finalization of the activity the six transfer webinars were uploaded on the +Resilient Open Data Platform as training material to be transferred and capitalized form other users of the platform, as well. Finally, the platform supported their dissemination, since an announcement for each one was published under the "news and events" section

Also the Knowledge hub section was updated, in order to include the white paper of the project and the map and list of stakeholders and partners was updated with new lists of stakeholders.

In order to strengthen the cooperation and give sustainability to the network and the future opportunities, also in the framework of the new programming period 2021-2027, partners have developed two tools which have been developed through consultations at local and a transnational level.:

1) +RESILIENT CHARTER OF SOCIALLY INNOVATIVE 4-HELIX NETWORK IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA.

It is a charter that guides and sets out the golden principles of the + RESILIENT network. Project partners and stakeholders have recognized the main challenges, which restrain the development of social innovation and social entrepreneurship at the local, regional and national level and commit to further work in a multistakeholder approach initiated by the project..

2) The + RESILIENT White Paper on Social Innovation which is a political tool aimed at advocating and capitalising the Interreg MED +Resilient project.

In particular, it should encourage high policy dialogue in the definition of Clusters with High Social Vocation and Responsiveness (SVRCs) and their contribution in the effective implementation of the European Union's Cohesion Policy.

Therefore, the White Paper is intended for fostering the adoption and dissemination of operational instruments that enhance social innovation among territorial ecosystems, including Small and Medium Enterprises of different sectors, and support the establishment and development of multi-stakeholder clusters pursuing specific social, just and sustainable impacts, also in the framework of the post-pandemic, Next Generation EU and the new priorities of the EU structural funds 2021-2027.

Sharing the results with the larger MED and EU community during the final events and activities of the project has also made it possible to identify further opportunities for cooperation which are described in the following pages. Considering all this, and with a view to further cooperation

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REGIONE DEL VENETO   ISTARSKA ŽUPANIJA   Aix-Marseille université   Region of East Macedonia & Thrace   rCDI   CAMERA DI COMMERCIO TREVISO - BELLUNO · DOLOMITI bellezza e impresa   ITAINNOVA

GFOSS   Ajuntament de Barcelona / Barcelona Activa   GenTIC   UOC R&I   PRIZMA Foundation for Improvement of Employment Possibilities   and   U.C.C.I.AL

+ RESILIENT PARTNERS AGREE ON THE FOLLOWING:

PURPOSE

The purpose of this agreement is to capitalize on the results achieved during the 4 years of the cooperation in the + Resilient project and to explore more opportunities for exchange and further development of the tools/methods/outputs of the project.

This will happen in a dynamic way, where opportunities at the regional, cross-border or transnational level will be shared among partners, who agree to maintain an agile coordination for further collaboration.

SCOPE

The scope of this agreement refers to the general topic of the + RESILIENT project (social innovation) and refers to the key principles agreed in the + RESILIENT CHARTER[1] and the actionable inputs of the + RESILIENT WHITE PAPER [2]. Furthermore, it is also coherent with the policy briefs[3] and policy commitments signed by some of the partners at the local/regional level, which consolidate the policy change prompted by the project.

The domains of this agreement refer to four interconnected areas:

1) the capitalization through continuing reference to the platform https://opensocialclusters.eu and further amplification of its potential and content where possible
2) The three scenarios identified in the project, with a view to renewing them, in light of the changing scenarios and in line with the new EU political agenda, including the new programming period priorities as well as the NExtGenerationEU.

   I.   the delivery of innovative public services (innovation govlabs, social entrepreneurship development, e-health, vulnerable groups, long-term unemployed, migrants and refugees, elderly people etc),

   II. support to SMEs with social vocation and responsiveness: (businesses linked to smart specialization, ex: social farming, sustainable tourism, education etc)

   III. capacity building of social enterprises, sharing economy, third sector, citizens' organizations, crowdfunding initiatives etc.

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[1] LINK TO CHARTER
[2] LINK TO WHITE PAPER
[3] Link to policy briefs

![Interreg Mediterranean + RESILIENT logo]

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT

The implementation of the present agreement commits partners to fair and transparent relations in future opportunities and cooperation.

The agreement will be operational through periodical exchanges such as conference calls, sharing of opportunities, development of new initiatives/projects, sharing of information and networking.

Partners – according to their mission, expertise, strategic interests – will propose or participate in new endeavours and joint initiatives that will capitalize the work done in the project and move further to tackle dimensions, fill gaps, find innovative ways to solve specific societal challenges.

This agreement does not constitute an obligation of signatories to cooperate exclusively or in all the dimensions of future cooperation with one another.

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1.Open Data Platform and beyond

During the project, Open Data for social innovation have been the topic of several activities' results and tools, for example:

> *+ RESILIENT Platform : https://opensocialclusters.eu*
> *ITAINNOVA – Creation of open resources and data for 4-helix SVRC*
> *RDCI – Alentejo Regional portal for social care*
> *AMU – Opération désert alimentaire (Food desert operation)*

Partners agree on the following:

- The development of the +RESILIENT Open Data Platform represents a major contribution to the networking activities.
- The main benefits of the activities carried out consist of a continuous process of capacity building about open data and the baseline support for the project activities fostered by the platform.
- The platform will be maintained available for the next 5 years by the developer GFOSS and – in case of new initiatives it will be capitalized – also by individual partners by making use of the material, information and resources available on the platform
- The + RESILIENT Charter, published on the platform, will remain open to other stakeholders who will want to subscribe to its principles.
- The Stakeholders' needs of open data highlighted:
  o Lack of awareness about OD and how they can benefit from them
  o Specific requests about categories that are of interest for Social Innovation
  o Training Required
  o Data Providers are willing to open up data
- In light of this, partners will continue to provide meaningful information that concerns open resources should this be the case of new initiatives that focus on the use of open data and resources, and to use the material of the platform to raise awareness about the importance of open data for social innovation.
- Partners also understand that the topic of Open Data can be ascribed to a larger domain, related to the digital transition and data-driven (social) innovation, an approach that can also be explored for further cooperation.

2.Delivery of Public Innovative Services

Throughout its duration the project produced, several activities, studies and tools to improve the delivery of public (and public-private run) services to answer to complex society needs, for example:

> *Research on skills and capacities for digital social innovation*
> *Veneto Region - SVR-Community of Practice to overcome labour mismatch*
> *ANCI – Social Innovation and Generativity in the Mediterranean City*
> *PRIZMA virtual social innovation hubs for social innovation policies and participatory budgeting*

Partners agree on the following:

- In times of ecological and digital transitions, the skills to be able to socially innovate and to upskill and reskill people and organizations remain crucial, as the study phase of the project demonstrates and will remain a topic of further cooperation
- Skills mismatch poses a structural issue for the future of jobs, social justice and cohesion. Adaptive ways to deal with this phenomenon can be activated through social innovation and four-helix stakeholder involvement, mostly as communities of practice
- Urban and territorial governance and regeneration, engagement of the community and role of local/regional authorities to make cities and territories smarter, greener, more just and inclusive for all, pilot actions focusing on this topics have contributed to define some viable methods and tools (ANCI, Prizma)
- Digital tools and technology can support such processes, as shown in the use of digital solutions during the pandemic, Key Enabling Technologies will increasingly become part of the innovation in public services delivery
- Partners will promote the results and work further to mainstream policy and practice that the project has initiated through a number of ways:
  1) Work at the local level with public services to further develop ideas, methods and tools that the project has developed, used or codified.
  2) Cooperate in new transnational initiatives that focus on the objectives of smarter more social and closer to citizens' Europe of the 2021-2027, namely in new projects, collaborations and development of joint proposals consistent with specific objectives of EU cohesion policy
     i. Digitisation for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities
     ii. Effectiveness and inclusiveness of labour market, access to quality employment, social economy
     iii. Equal access to health care, health systems
     iv. Inclusion of marginalised communities, low-income households and disadvantaged groups
     v. Sustainable integrated territorial development

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3. Capacity building of social enterprises

The recognition of the value and the increased capacity of social enterprises for the ability to respond to the changing and complex social needs – both in sectoral and cross-sectoral approaches have been the focus of some activities, tools and methods during the project.

> *Barcelona Activa – Care sector upskilling and training*
> *Open University of Catalonia- Transnational Study on Skills for social digital innovation*
> *REMTH – Social enterprises training*
> *Transfer Webinars and training material*

Partners agree on the following:

Societal changes such as ageing, migrations, diversity and discriminations, new poverties (including educational), and the uncertain geopolitical situation all contribute to enhance the vulnerabilities of individuals and communities, the social economy and social enterprises play a crucial role in supporting, advocating and operating for social justice, equal opportunities and aid.

Social enterprises and the social economy, including volunteerism and activism are not innovative per se, but can benefit from capacity building and training that helps them better respond to the digital and ecological transitions with a just and equitable approach to leave nobody behind.

The different legal frameworks and cultures in which social enterprises operate make it very difficult to develop and scale up in many EU countries, and support needs to be constant and swift. Special centres and social enterprise support bodies and tools are essential and need to be developed in some regions.

Partners are aware that the EU has published "Building an economy that works for people", the Social Economy Action Plan (SEAP) in December 2021, and intend to promote further cooperation along the SEAP three pillars:

1. Business environment: improving policy and legal frameworks enabling social economy to thrive, through studies, pilot actions, also in economic and financial terms
2. Opportunities and building capacity: all actions (training, support services, knowledge generation) that support sustainability and scaling-up, to maximise the social economy's contribution to the green and digital transitions. EU policies and initiatives and funding that promote exchange and innovative capacity-building actions will be taken into consideration
3. Awareness and recognition: actions promoting the positive impact of the social economy among citizens, in particular new generations.

In this regard, partners will seek opportunities and cooperation and exchange in opportunities offered by instruments such as HORIZON Europe, ERASMUS + and other programmes or own initiatives.

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4. Support to SMEs and ecosystems with Social Vocation and Responsiveness

Several activities carried out have highlighted that territories and 4-helix stakeholders form diversified and flexible, place-based ecosystems, where structured or unstructured networks and relations converge towards initiatives, strategies, operations, projects that can and do entail social innovation. In this project we have called these social innovation ecosystems Social Vocation and Responsiveness Clusters (SVRCs). They remain a pivotal concept, which is consistent with literature and EU trends on the recognition of such Clusters. Examples of the activities are:

> *Benchlearning and scoping participatory approach*
> *Chamber of Commerce Treviso Belluno: Support for social innovation of SMEs (tourism and agrofood)*
> *Foundation for partnership and civil society development – Regional centre for social innovation – ReCeD'Istria (www.recedistria.com)*
> *Presentation of the results of the +Resilient Study on Skills and Organizational Elements for Social Digital Innovation in International Conference on Knowledge, Culture, and Change in Organizations, Open University of Catalonia (UOC)*

Partners agree on the following:

SVRCs have meant a +RESILIENT proposed definition to define ecosystems that operate on social innovation in its many facets, and the role and engagement of actors that do not necessarily operate in the social sector. Such an approach is consistent with general international trends (for example the increasing number of for-profit businesses that operate in the most wide-ranging sectors who become "public benefit" corporations or mission-driven ones) and – importantly – with the recent effort of the EU to recognize the economic, social and environmental value of such clusters. The definition of the DG-GROW of the existence of Clusters of Social and Ecological Innovation in the European Union (CSEI) will represent one of the venues for future cooperation, especially in endeavours to support and further reinforce these multifaceted clusters particularly in the framework of just transitions and the European Green Deal strategy.

The project has given the opportunity and tools/methods to activate or reinforce participatory approaches that include different multi-level and multi-sectoral stakeholders in the different phases of identification of needs, development, implementation and – although to a limited extent- monitoring and evaluation of social innovation to be capitalized and reused as value-based methodological approach to regional development and cohesion. Such an approach should guide future local-based and transnational cooperation.

Future cooperation, by means of joint projects, research, initiatives and exchange of information and know-how will focus on strengthening actions initiated by the project and to fill some remaining gaps and weaknesses detected during the evaluation of the activities. To the aim of enlarging SVRCs with more involvement of key economic sectors (tourism, culture, primary sector and environmental actors, industry and services) as well as research institutions and actors, other forms of innovation, notably technological and ecological innovation will be subject of further cooperation. In addition, further actions refer to the topic of governance, especially in the capacity-building of local/regional authorities to be more capable to steer, facilitate, make connections in an integrated way, which means, horizontally with different territorial actors and vertically, creating coherence with higher-level policies and frameworks.

Final provisions

The present agreement has an undetermined duration. The agreement can be changed, modified and/or integrated over time with the approval of all signatories. Partner/signatory organization can recede from this agreement at any time, providing a written recession letter.

The signatories:

1. Regione del Veneto – International Relations Department - Director Mrs Annalisa Bisson
2. RCDI - Development and Innovation Network. Alexandra Mendonça (Chairperson of the Board of Directors)
3. PRIZMA Foundation for Improvement of Employment Possibilities, an institution (Dušanka Lužar Šajt, director)
4. Barcelona Activa. Cristina Gil (International projects Director)
5. Open University of Catalonia (Internet Interdisciplinary Institute, director name)
6. Aix-Marseille University - Camille de Garidel-Thoron (Director of Strategic Projects and Networks, International Relations Office)
7. REMTH - Region of East Macedonia and Thrace- Evangelos Stambologlou (General Manager of Development Planning, Environmental and Infrastracture Department)
8. Foundation for partnership and civil society development - Helga Možé, director
9. Technological Institute of Aragon (ITAINNOVA) - Esther Borao, manager
10. Camera di Commercio Treviso Belluno - Francesco Rossato (International and EU projects Dpt. Director)
11. ANCI(name and function)

LP: REGIONE DEL VENETO

Name and title of signatory

_____

place and date

_____

stamp (if applicable)

PP 2: (name)

Name and title of signatory

_____

place and date

_____

stamp (if applicable)

PP 3:PRIZMA Foundation for Improvement of Employment Possibilities, an institution

Name and title of signatory

Dušanka Lužar Šajt, director

place and date

Maribor, 21. June 2022

PP 4: (name)

Name and title of signatory

_____

place and date

_____

stamp (if applicable)

PP 5: (name)

Name and title of signatory

_____

place and date

_____

stamp (if applicable)

PP 6: Aix-Marseille University

Name and title of signatory

Camille de Garidel-Thoron, Director of Strategic Projects and Networks, International
Relations Office

Place and date

Aix-en-Provence, France - 20 June 2022

Stamp (if applicable)

PP 7: (name)

Name and title of signatory

_____

place and date

_____

stamp (if applicable)

PP 8: (name)

Name and title of signatory

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place and date

_____

stamp (if applicable)

PP 9: (name)

Name and title of signatory

_____

place and date

_____

stamp (if applicable)

PP 10:
Treviso and Belluno Chamber of Commerce

Name and title of signatory

Francesco Rossato (International and EU projects Dpt. Director)

place and date

Treviso, 21/06/2022

IL Dirigente Area Sviluppo Imprese
e Promozione Territorio
dr.Francesco Rossato

PP 11: (name)

Name and title of signatory

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place and date

_____

stamp (if applicable)

PP 12: (name)

Name and title of signatory

_____

place and date

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stamp (if applicable)

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