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+RESILIENT Newsletter 3



+RESILIENT Mediterranean Open RESouRcEs for Social Innovation of SociaLly Responsive ENTerprises

+RESILIENT puts together a 4-helix partnership of 8 MED countries to tackle the need for innovation conducive to increased socially-responsive competitiveness of SMEs & stimulate new jobs, especially for companies operating in the social economy. It aims to kickstart a process of policy change at regional level in the involved areas resulting in the integration of successful elements into the new Cohesion policy (EU2020+). It is an integrated project that establishes a structural approach to policy & practice improvement of emerging dynamics in social innovation through an overarching process based on the intertwined use of open data & the creation of a transnational socially-responsive value chain. This includes studying existing initiatives, adapting and testing, with the final objective of capitalizing them in the MED area.



MORE RESILIENCE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION



In the first 18 months of the +RESILIENT project, partners have been engaged in studying and assessing how the Clusters with Social Vocation and Responsiveness (SVRC) operate in the eight countries involved in the project. The 4-helix model is essential for social innovation, as the internal and external interactions of the clusters show. All clusters are embedded into one of these three macro scenarios:

1. Delivery of public innovative services for new social needs
2. Support to Social Vocation & Responsive SMEs
3. Capacity building of social enterprises

The scoping workshops and the elaboration of the Use-case scenarios represented the logical conclusion of the benchlearning process and create a bridge for the design of pilot actions that are to be implemented in the next part of +RESILIENT.

BASELINE SITUATION AND POTENTIAL OF OPEN DATA FOR SVRC AND SOCIAL INNOVATION



In this project, social innovation is considered in its larger dimension as a means to promote welfare and social, economic, environmental and cultural development from an approach based on solidarity, social cohesion and social justice. In this sense, all identified clusters have some type

of relationship with Social Innovation, although focused on different areas:

- Use of digital technologies
- Relationships between public administration and citizens
- Social entrepreneurship
- Stable and quality employment
- Agriculture and rural areas
- Demography
- Information exchange and networking
- SME support.

The relationship with Open Data is almost non-existent. In general, Open Data technology is almost unknown, including its potential benefits, or return on investment.

SKILLS AND CAPABILITIES ASSESSMENT OF SVRC



SOFT SKILLS

- Interpersonal skills
- Collaboration capacity

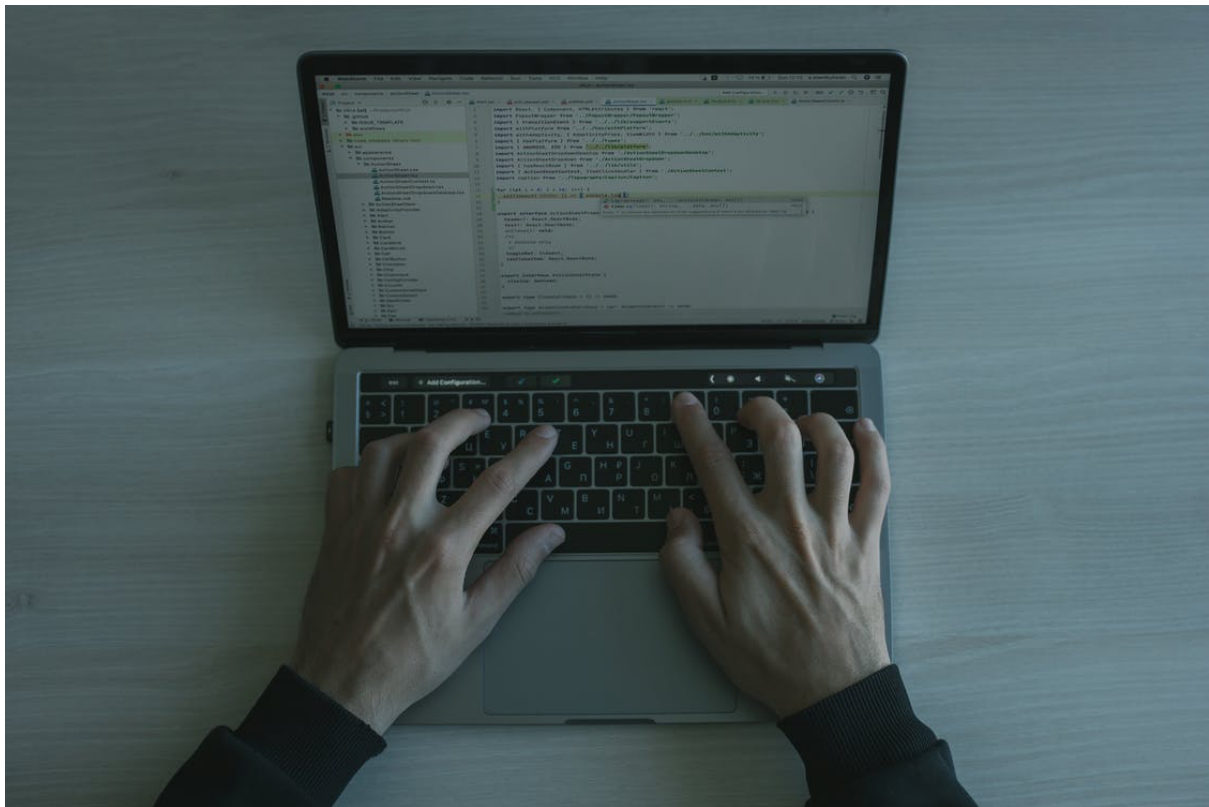
HARD SKILLS

- Digital skills and digital data analysis

- Adaptability/flexibility
- Creativity and the capacity to design new solutions.
- Social awareness and commitment
- Responsibility and ethic consciousness
- Analytical capabilities
- Self-management skills
- Openness to change
- Leadership skills
- Self-confidence
- Technology friendly
- Socio-analytical skills
- Communication/dissemination skills
- Project Management
- Team Management
- Sector-specific knowledge
- Interdisciplinary skills
- Knowledge of Legal and Public Policies.
- Business Management

The transnational analysis of the results revealed the most relevant skills at individual level to promote social/digital innovation are interpersonal skills, digital skills, creativity, and openness to change and sector-specific knowledge.

OPEN DATA AND PUBLIC SERVICE INFORMATION (PSI) ANALYSIS



The desk research conducted by +RESILIENT partners on the availability of Open Data allows to conclude that there are several initiatives both at local, regional, and national levels around Open Data, in all regions/countries involved in the project and that available Open Data cover a large set of categories, including, for example, demography, employment, science and technology, education, environment, health and social services, citizenship and citizen's participation, transports, agriculture, housing, business, etc.

Difficulties/problems that the use of Open Data can help to solve

The most interesting findings resulting from this approach refer to:

- Low level of interaction among SE organisations operating in the same territory.
- Lack of communication between citizens and the public administration.

Open Data could be a particularly useful tool for both problems,

promoting a better communication and supporting the sharing of reliable information about the public and private resources and assets, therefore enhancing the possibilities for their re-use and promoting overall efficiency.

BENCHLEARNING OUTCOMES AND GOOD PRACTICES

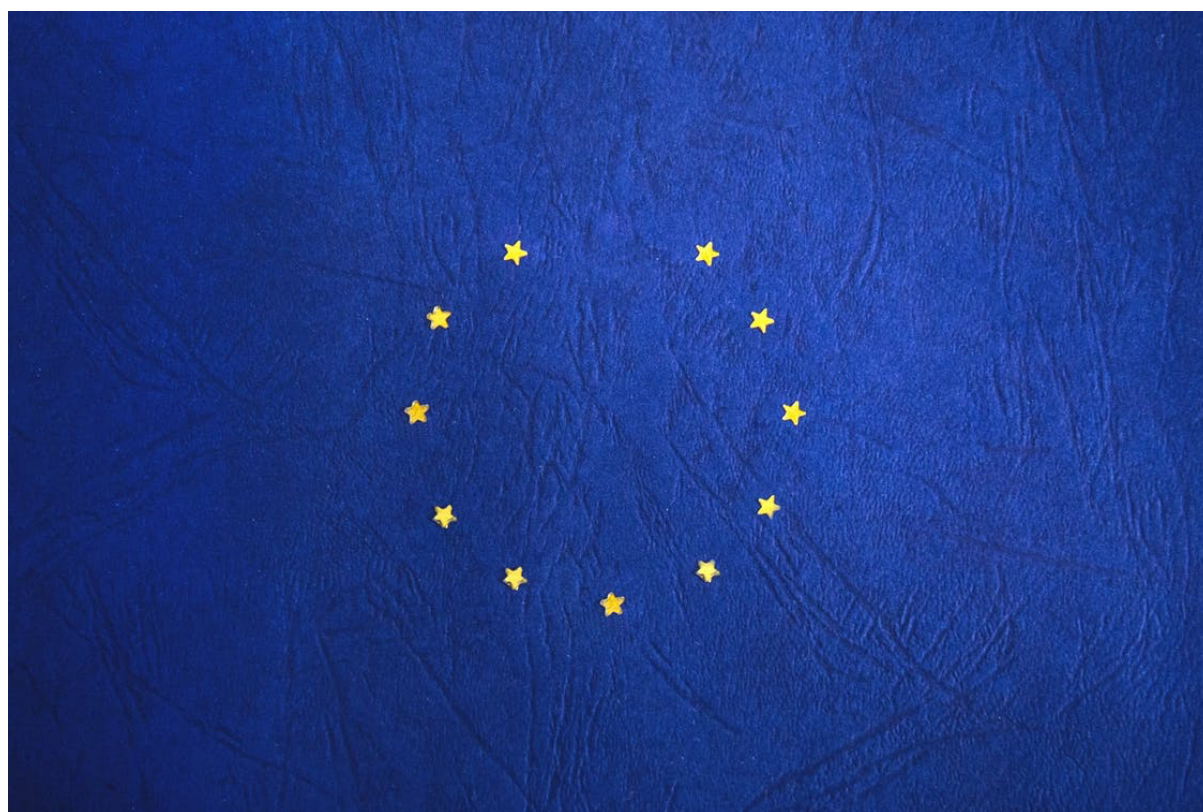


The goal of benchlearning is to learn from the strengths of other organisations, to learn the things they do well, to search for inspiration in one's own work and to learn from and avoid the mistakes that others have made. Project partners ran a benchlearning process with the stakeholders in their regions to identify needs and experiences and to seek inspiration for new solutions. All partners organised benchlearning workshops, which lasted 3 to 6 hours and gathered 11 to 25 participants. A large diversity of stakeholders took part in these meetings, from

social economy organisations, private enterprises, public authorities, or administrative bodies. The main inputs for the workshops were the SVRC state of play and the Open Data analysis presented in the previous sections, together with the results of the study visits that took place in Spain, France, Slovenia, and Italy.

The five +RESILIENT study visits that took place between November 2018 and March 2019 were selected according to identified relevant scenarios and were carried out as peer-reviews.

POLICY INPUTS



+RESILIENT addresses the goal of policy change, therefore partners have also consulted with regional and local policy makers on the main issues and priorities emerged in the project's activities from different stakeholders.

The +RESILIENT approach is totally consistent with the regional

strategies referring to social innovation and is also in line with initiatives promoted by regional governments and municipalities to benefit more vulnerable groups or to create social innovation processes based on urban regeneration.

The +RESILIENT project is seen as an opportunity to improve regional policies or to raise attention to shortcomings in the regional strategies.

SELECTION OF LOCAL AND TERRITORIAL CASES



The creation of the platform and the pilot actions

The selection phase to move forward to the next phase of Testing included a two-step activity:

- a) the scoping workshops
- b) the elaboration of the Use-case scenarios

These two activities represent the follow-up of the analysis and the priorities already highlighted in the benchlearning process. Nine scoping workshops reports produced by the partners inform the selection process.

The open data platform functionalities

The analysis sheds light on the main potential and criticalities concerning the value of open data. The analysis of the use-case scenarios reinforces the main results of the qualitative phase of investigation and it gives indications for the creation of a +RESILIENT platform that will contain tools/functions as follows:

- Understanding and contributing to the quality of data
- Links to existing open data resources
- Awareness raising on open data, including training formats
- Exemples of use of open data in the design, implementation, and evaluation of social innovation

Read more on OpenSocialCluster.eu: <https://opensocialclusters.eu/>

THE OVERALL +RESILIENT STRATEGY



The strategy, based on the main outcomes of the study phase, intends to guide and provide common principles, an operational framework and indications for the next phases of the project,

namely the pilot actions, the actions to scale-up and scale-out the pilot actions, and the capitalisation and streamlining of the innovations. The strategy finds middle ground with two objectives that are consistent with European Territorial Cooperation: the regional priorities and the added value of transnational cooperation.

A common action plan that provides a general vision and framework to define the local action plans has been designed. While flexibility for the implementation of the local pilot actions is left to partners, a general framework for action is provided.

CONCLUSIONS



The study roadmap of +RESILENT has helped the partnership to find common ground for the exploration of innovative ways to support the consolidation of still emerging and oftentimes informal, recently established, or less structured SVRCs. SVRCs are

cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder in nature. In many cases they have a strong or potential link to Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS 3) of the involved regions. The exploitation of Open Data and Public Service Information remains widely underrated and appreciated. The importance of improving and transferring skills and capabilities for individuals and organisations operating in the SVRCs is high and should be addressed as part of the education and training provision, but also as work-based learning strategies of involved organisations. Partners have learned and have been inspired by the knowledge generated. They are moving on with the testing phase with identified scope and focus of action which are coherent with the +RESILIENT three macro-scenarios. Time to move on with testing, transferring and capitalising.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Lead Partner



Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

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