



Building Capacity for a Sustainable Society (BuiCaSuS)

BuiCaSuS is building up national competence centres for social innovation in France, Latvia, Spain and Sweden. It seeks to build the relevant capacity of the stakeholders involved, promote their interaction and enhance exchanges at the transnational level to allow setting-up the most appropriate structures and/or strengthening the existing ones.

Building national competence centres for social innovation in the EU Member States

BuiCaSuS is one of the six projects supported by the European Commission in order to establish national competence centres for social innovation across the EU. During two years (May 2021-May 2023) social innovation organisations, research centres, ESF managing authorities and other partners design and develop competence centres, which can help their countries to promote social innovation, including with funding from ESF+ and other EU programmes.

The national competence centres will focus on several functions:

Capacity-building:

- Building capacity among a range of stakeholders: ESF+ managing authorities, local and regional authorities, practitioners, support organisations, donors, etc.
- Raising awareness of the social innovation concept.
- Developing tools and methods to achieve and scale-up impact.

Networking, synergies and resources:

- Collaboration between public, private and third sector organisations, academia, etc.
- Synergies between different EU funding schemes.

Transnational exchange

- Sharing knowledge: what does/does not work?
- Beyond sharing: cooperating in joint endeavours, active mentoring and partnerships.

Expected results for each country



Competence centre for social innovation



Blueprint for a strategy and action plan



Analysis of strengths, weakness and sources of inspiration



Collection of initiatives started or replicated

Each project will test the replication or scaling-up of one or two social innovations.

Overview of Building Capacity for a Sustainable Society (BuiCaSuS)

27 organisations



France

- Avise
- Common Laboratory Destins, Macif Foundation
- General Delegation for Employment and Professional Training, Godin Institute, La 27e Région, SAS INCO Ventures



Latvia

- Society Integration Foundation



Spain

- Ministry of Labour and Social Economy
- Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030
- Association Project Human Being, Cepaim Foundation, Action Against Hunger Foundation, ONCE, Foundation for Historical Heritage Santa María, Foundation for Roma people, Spanish National Research Council, Spanish Red Cross, Innobasque, Basque innovation agency, Social Reality Observatory Navarra



Sweden

- Forum for Social Innovation at Malmö University, Inkludera, Reach for Change
- Jönköping University, Luleå University of Technology, Umeå University, Örebro University

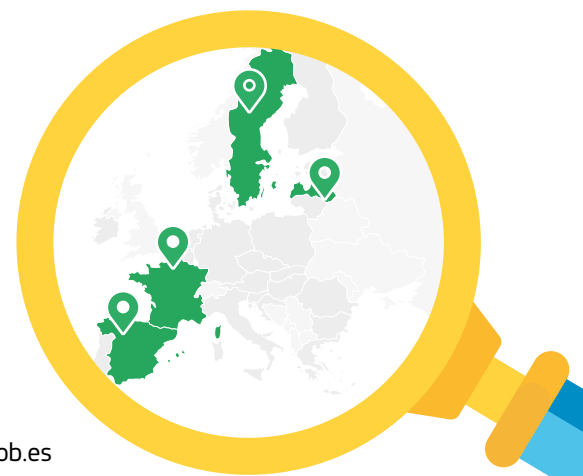
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Project website buicasus.eu



Background

- The project includes organisations from four different countries, two of which have begun to implement social innovation initiatives only recently (Latvia, Spain). The institutional pathways of each country give different mandates to the implementing organisations, with France and Spain more regional in nature than Latvia and Sweden.

Activities planned at national level

○ France

- Project partners will stocktake social innovation projects, actors and systems, including existing experiences of social experimentation (EaSI) and social innovation (ESF).
- The project will develop a national strategy and action plan for social innovation.

○ Latvia

- The Society Integration Foundation will stocktake social innovation projects, actors and systems, including experiences of social experimentation (EaSI) and social innovation (ESF).
- Avise, supported by Reach for Change and Inkludera, will organise online training to provide Latvia (and Spain) with the necessary tools and skills to support the piloting of projects. The Society Integration Foundation will create an action plan and report on scaling-up strategies.
- The Society Integration Foundation will develop a national strategy and action plan for social innovation.

○ Spain

- The Spanish partners will conduct a national scoping exercise and systematic review of existing social innovation projects, actors and systems, including experiences of social experimentation and social innovation.
- Avise, supported by Reach for Change and Inkludera, will organise online training to provide Spain (and Latvia) with the necessary tools and skills to support the piloting of projects. The Spanish partners will create an action plan and report on scaling-up strategies.
- The project will develop a national strategy and action plan for social innovation.

○ Sweden

- The Swedish partners will stocktake social innovation projects, actors, and systems including experiences of social experimentation (EaSI) and social innovation (ESF).
- They will develop a national strategy and action plan for social innovation.

Activities planned at transnational level

- BuiCASuS will undertake a comparative review to identify the institutional set-up of competence centres in other EU countries, together with their mandates, strategies and working methods.
- The project will identify and select the thematic focus areas and best practice cases most suited to creating learning exchanges that reflect societal needs and challenges.
- The project will design the methodology and pedagogical approach for a knowledge hub that will facilitate cross-border exchanges on best practice tools, methods and capacity-building approaches to social innovation.
- The project will define national capacity-building priorities. Within the project, roundtable meetings will allow exchanges of learning and reflections on national priorities.
- Latvia and Spain will visit social innovation project owners in France and Sweden. These two learning expeditions will allow Latvian and Spanish partners to see the projects in practice.
- The project will develop a shared framework and analytical grid for the competence centres and create a development roadmap. A common analytical grid will map the legislative provision, public policies, stakeholders and initiatives, as well as bottlenecks and implementation barriers, at project, actor and system level (national or regional coverage). It will include developing key criteria to map social innovation as well as methods and tools to identify and categorise social innovation and involved actors during a desk review.

Cross-fertilisation experiment

- Aise will support practical joint transnational work by replicating or scaling-up successful Swedish and French social innovation projects in Latvia and Spain. Each pilot project will address one common social challenge in each country. The challenges and learnings from this pilot will enable Latvia and Spain to support the replication or scaling-up of further social innovation projects in the longer term.

Want to know more about other competence centres for social innovation?

More factsheets available on the [ESF+ website](#)



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