Social Innovation Match (SIM) Database Factsheet

What is the SIM database?

The SIM database serves as a hub for social innovation, showcasing successful projects to inspire and support others. Its primary goal is to promote the transfer and scaling up of social innovation across Europe.

It is managed by the European Competence Centre for Social Innovation under the ESF+ Social Innovation+ initiative.

How can the SIM database help me and my organisation?

It allows stakeholders to:

- showcase their social innovation activities,
- search for social innovation projects developed and tested in other countries,
- identify other organisations whose work might be a source of inspiration,
- search for potential partners for European calls for transnational projects.

What entries can be uploaded to SIM?

Organisation entry only: Only for newcomers who have no current experience with social innovation projects and are seeking partners/collaboration for future initiatives.

Organisation and project entries: For organisations already implementing social innovation projects.

A social innovation can be uploaded if it aligns with the investment areas of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), including active inclusion, social integration, employability, and equal access to education and services.

The submission must introduce a novel approach to addressing social challenges and include a clear description of the project's objectives, methods, target groups, outcomes, and impacts in sufficient detail to demonstrate its relevance and success.

The innovation can be funded through any financial instrument or support mechanism and must be submitted in English.

Who can upload SIM entries?

Promoters of social innovation projects and all other stakeholders, including those from the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

How to create a new entry?

- **Option 1**: Direct method (requires registration in the EU system; allows uploaders to save drafts before submission and make updates directly in the system at any time after submission).

  1. Click here to access SIM.
  2. At the top of the page, click **'Log in'** and **'Create an account'**, or log in with your EU login if you already have an account.
  3. Once logged in, click on **'My SIM entries'** in the **'My menu'** on the left.
  4. Click on the button for the type of entry you want to create (*Organisation* or *Case Study*) and follow further instructions.
  5. Once you have entered all the required information, change the **'Moderation state'** to **'Awaiting validation'**. The information you have provided will then be sent to the responsible validator for evaluation.

- **Option 2**: Indirect method (no registration required; allows uploaders to save drafts before submission; updates can only be made by contacting the SIM coordinator).

  1. Click here to submit the information through the EU Survey.
  2. Once you have entered all the required information, click **'Submit'**. The information you have provided will be transferred to SIM and sent to the responsible validator for evaluation.

Funded by
the European Union

What happens after I have created a new case study?

All case studies are validated before publication, ensuring that they align with the scope, are appropriate, and meet the required quality standards. The average validation process takes 15 working days.

National, regional or local projects are validated by nominated national validators, experts within the country's social innovation ecosystem. This ensures that the validation occurs closer to the organisations involved and provides the validator with better access to relevant contextual information.

Transnational projects and/or projects from EU-level organisations are validated by the European Competence Centre for Social Innovation.

Here is a validation scheme:

```
              NEW UPLOADED SIM CASE STUDY
              │                         │
              ▼                         ▼
        ┌──────────┐          ┌───────────────────────┐
        │ EU level │          │ Local/Regional/National│
        └──────────┘          └───────────────────────┘
              │                         │
              │     Validation entity   │
              ▼                         ▼
  ┌────────────────────────┐   ┌────────────────────┐
  │ European Competence    │   │  National validator │
  │ Centre for Social      │   │                     │
  │ Innovation             │   │                     │
  └────────────────────────┘   └────────────────────┘
```
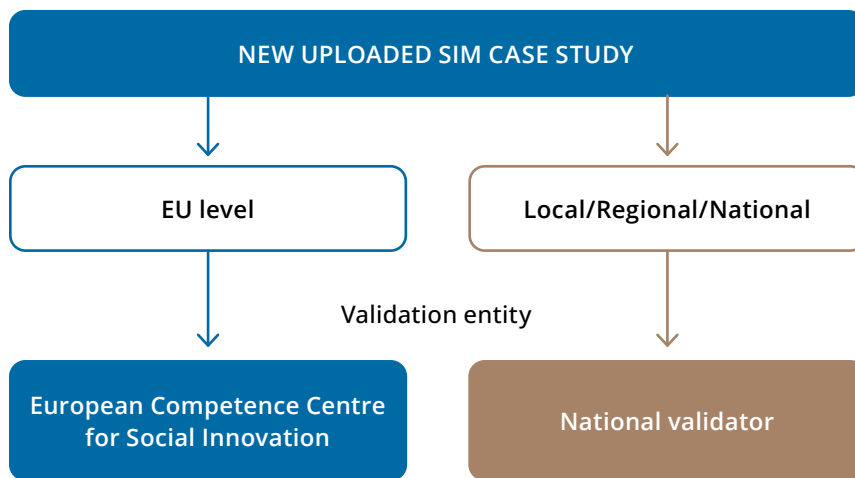
What happens after the validation process?

Once the validation process is complete, the uploader receives an email notification. They can then view the validation result in the system.

- If the case study is successfully validated, it is published in the database and becomes publicly available.
- If the case study is rejected, the uploader is encouraged to review the validator's comments, make any necessary updates to the case study, and resubmit it for validation.

How to get help and technical support?

For any problems or questions regarding SIM, please get in touch with the European Competence Centre for Social Innovation by email at SIM@socialinnovationplus.eu.