EU MISSIONS
Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges

Social Innovation Catalyst Fund
In support of EU Missions

#EUmissions #HorizonEU
What is social innovation?

Social innovation concerns the development of new products, methods, and services for and with society involving citizens, public authorities, business and industry, and academia — the “Quadruple Helix” — in their design, development, and implementation.

See also: “Social innovations are innovations that are social in both their ends and their means. Specifically, […] social innovations are innovations that are not only good for society but also enhance society’s capacity to act.” (European Commission Bureau of European Policy Advisors (BEPA), 2011, p. 9; EaSI Regulation (EU) No1296/2013)
Why is it important? What is its role?

- **makes sense** because most innovations are sociotechnical
- **connects society and innovation**
  - empowers citizens by supporting their initiatives and engaging them from the design stage throughout the innovation life cycle, thereby enriching it
  - activates citizens and gives engaged citizens who want to act an opportunity to do so
  - makes innovation more relevant, increases buy-in and diffusion of technological solutions
- **offers solutions** to societal problems when the State or the Market do not or do so inadequately or delivers more cost effective solutions
- **acts as a “system changer”** by changing social practices (cf., EGD)
Some Horizon 2020 examples

- **GrowSmarter**: To improve the quality of life for European citizens while lowering energy costs, creating new jobs & reducing environmental impact

- **EuroGEOSS Showcases: Applications Powered by Europe**: To develop Earth Observation services with and for users

- **Innovative circular solutions and services for new business opportunities in the EU housing sector**

- **Towards Innovation - driven and smart solutions in short food supply chains**

- **Sino-European innovative green and smart cities**

- **Living Lab research concept in Rural Areas**

- **Sustainability Innovations in Global Production Networks – Addressing Socio-Ecological Challenges in the Global Economy**

- **Food System Hubs Innovating towards Fast Transition by 2030**
Social Innovation and EU Missions

- Mainstreaming social innovation in Horizon Europe

- Social Catalyst Fund piloted under Horizon 2020 - https://www.euscf.eu/

- EU Missions
  - address major societal challenges that technological innovation alone will not “fix”
  - require deep and lasting changes in social practices, i.e., need social innovation

- EU Missions will integrate social innovation in Calls for Proposals and a grant-based European Social Innovation Catalyst Fund
Why?

- **To help** the Missions achieve their objectives from the bottom up by leveraging social innovation
- **To empower** citizens and local communities and offer them the possibility to become champions of the transition
- **To secure** significant impact with a high probability of success by replicating social innovations proven successful
- **To increase** the impact of EU funding by attracting additional public and private contributions
- **To combine** quantitative and qualitative support to the Missions and to social innovation, respectively through funding and mentoring
Social innovation to advance EU Missions

Education including skilling, re-skilling, and up-skilling

Co-Design + Co-Development + Co-Implementation

Changes in social practices
European Social Innovation Catalyst Fund
CSA with cascade funding

- Main expected outcomes:
  - To advance the objectives of the five EU Missions
  - To empower citizens, local communities, and social innovators and entrepreneurs

- Process:
  - Creation of a fund (EU grant: M€30 + contributions secured by the Consortium (1:3))
  - Selection of existing, demonstrably successful social innovations
  - Replication at national/transnational scale

- Participants: public sector, private sector, academia, and civil society

- Main unique features:
  - Societal ownership of EU objectives/citizens as champions of the transition
  - EU funds pooled with public and private investors including foundations
  - Proven social innovations + tested mechanism (cf., Horizon 2020 pilot)
  - Delivery of results with 2-3 years of the start of a replication project
What?

1. set up a European Social Innovation Catalyst Fund combining Horizon Europe and other public and private funding including philanthropic sources of funding

2. put forward a open call for proposals for the replication of successful social innovations that combine a high potential (i) to help the Missions achieve their objectives and (ii) to replicate social innovations proven successful

3. select the most promising social innovations on the basis of (i) their relevance to the Missions, (ii) their success, and (iii) their replication plan

4. support the implementation of the selected replication plans

5. oversee—rather than manage—the roll out of the replication plans

6. measure impact
Public and private funding including philanthropy

EU

Create a Fund (M€120) → Issue call for proposals → Select proposals → Support via funding and mentoring → Oversee replication → Measure impact against objectives

Mission Secretariats

Discretionary input

Discretionary input
a balanced set of representatives of the quadruple helix (public, private, academia, and civil society) such as

• foundations, venture philanthropists, impact investors
• national, regional, and local government administrations and agencies
• industry, entrepreneurs, local businesses
• social service providers
• social innovators, Living Labs, Fab Labs, tiers-lieux, makers
• universities
Thank you!

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