New trends in Social Innovation

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Which future do Scientific Women want?

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OBJECTIVE OF THE PRESENTATION

To highlight the relevance of social innovation

To describe the activities that have been carried out in Europe in this field

To discuss future trends and consequential actions for social innovation
What is Social Innovation?

“Social innovations are innovations that are social in both their ends and their means. Specifically, [...] social innovations [are] new ideas (products, services and models) that simultaneously meet social needs (more effectively than alternatives) and create new social relationships or collaborations. They are innovations that are not only good for society but also enhance society’s capacity to act.”

According to the European Commission Bureau of European Policy Advisors (BEPA, 2011).

Reports available:
✓ 'Empowering people, driving change: Social innovation in the European Union'
✓ 'Social Innovation: A decade of change'
Social innovation is not a recent development: the concept of social innovation first emerged in the early nineteenth century.

However, it is only recently that social innovation has benefited from such an exceptionally favourable environment for development.

The huge number of successful initiatives are proof that social innovation is not an experiment that is limited in scope, but a wellspring from which a veritable ecosystem can grow.
Social innovation has been transformed and enhanced as a result of the profound changes occurring in our society:

- The rise of the collaborative economy,
- The digital innovation
- The open innovation

These facts provide excellent opportunities for the development of social innovation.
Social innovation bridges the gap between science/technology and society.

Just as industry brought technology closer to people and society in the 19th and 20th centuries, social innovation is now woven into the very fabric of our lives.

This helps explain why social innovation has prospered in regions where the role of industry is less influential, such as urban areas and deindustrialised zones.
The sheer scale of the economic crisis that recently exhausted the usual avenues for combating the various forms of social exclusion,

The globalisation which despite its many advantages has exacerbated rising income inequality,

The use of new information technologies which has redirected wealth distribution to the highly skilled section of the workforce

has placed Social Issues and Social Innovation at the heart of the European Agenda
President Jean-Claude Juncker has placed social issues at the heart of his policy guidelines.

For example, the European Pillar of Social Rights aims to achieve a deeper and fairer Economic and Monetary Union and to shape policy so as to enable labour market and social protection systems that are fair.

Social innovation is a central component in the strategy for a Social Europe.
Several initiatives in the area of social innovation have been undertaken at European level since 2010, with a view to promoting a ‘culture of social innovation’.

The Commission has played a major role in boosting knowledge of social innovation by funding research and innovation projects as part of FP7 and Horizon 2020 programme and the Social Innovation Award in memory of Diogo Vasconcelos, who was a pioneer in this field.
Examples of M. S, activities in the area of Social innovation

**France:** President Macron has social innovation as a political priority and has recently nominated Christophe Itier High-Commissioner for the Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation [https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/nomination-du-haut-commissaire-leconomie-sociale-et-solidaire-et-linnovation-sociale](https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/nomination-du-haut-commissaire-leconomie-sociale-et-solidaire-et-linnovation-sociale).

**Italy:** The Italian Presidency of G7 has put on the table of the G7 Science Ministerial Meeting the topic of Inclusive Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship.

**Portugal:** The Portugal Social Innovation initiative was ground-breaking in that it channeled a significant share of European structural funds (some €150 M) into social innovation.
The areas of application of Social innovation

- Healthcare
- Education
- Social integration
- Urban regeneration and rural development
- Climate change
- Population ageing
- An agent for systemic change.
The new tendencies of Social innovation

1. Scaling-up Versus systemic approach
2. Digital social innovation and ‘big data’
3. Social innovation in finance:
4. FABLABs combining DIY culture with aspects of participatory co-creation, open innovation, innovation in the field of ICT and advanced production
5. Reinventing agriculture, land-use planning and communities
6. The sharing economy
Commissioner Moedas requested DG RTD to organise a series of activities on the issue of Social Innovation:

1) 2017 Social innovation conference,
2) Policy review Social Innovation research,
3) Launch of Social Innovation Inducement prize.
'Opening up to an era of social innovation'
Conference on 27–28 November 2017
@Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal

Organisers:
• European Commission (DG RTD and DG EMPL in collaboration with JRC, DG CNECT, DG GROW and DG MARE)
• Portuguese Government
• Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.
The conference will follow the Social Summit hosted by President Juncker and Sweden PM Löfven in Gothenburg on 17 November 2017 (https://www.socialsummit17.se/).

The conference aims to boost social innovation in Europe and beyond, build political momentum to support social innovation, empower social innovators by facilitating information exchange, networking, and deal-making, and identify and document how social innovation can increase the social impact of the MFF and FP9.
Conclusions

Social innovation is becoming a systemic process and an integral part of European culture and the European way of life.

Remaining at the forefront of science and innovation and leading the way in major social trends is a major goal for Europe.
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