

**Interreg  
Europe**



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# Supporting the social economy in 2023

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*Thematic experts  
Policy Learning Platform*

15 June 2023

Online discussion



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# Two actions



## Projects

Limited number of regions exchanging and transferring experience on a shared regional development issue



## Policy Learning Platform

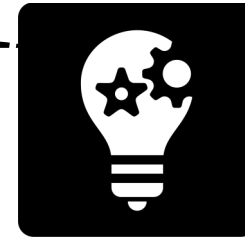
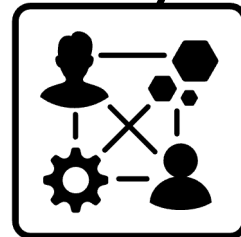
Further exploiting projects' achievements and opening up the programme benefits to all

# Policy Learning **Platform**

**#policylearning**

**Continuous policy-learning** opportunities through access to:

**People**  
Meet our **community**



**Knowledge**  
Find **policy solutions**



**Expertise**  
Get **policy advice**

# What is an **online discussion**?

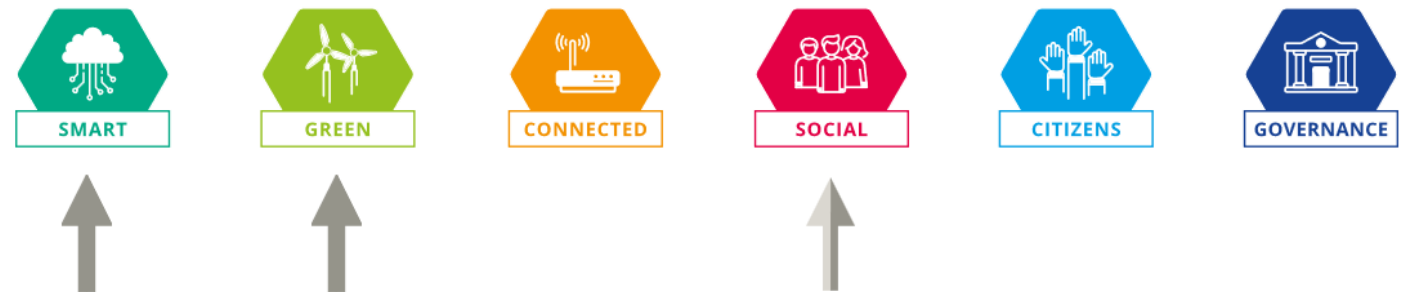
- **Open discussion** in a small peer group (invite only)
- Bottom up, **demand driven**
- There are no right or wrong answers, no right or wrong questions
- Discussion recording **will not be made public**
- Concludes with a **brief summary article**

# Why this **topic**?

In **March 2020** we had our first topical event, followed by a Policy Brief and other events

In December 2021, the European Commission published the **Social Economy Action Plan**.

Popular topic during the previous period and is open during the new period



**Concentration** principle (80%)

# Topical Interreg Europe projects



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**MICROFUTURE**

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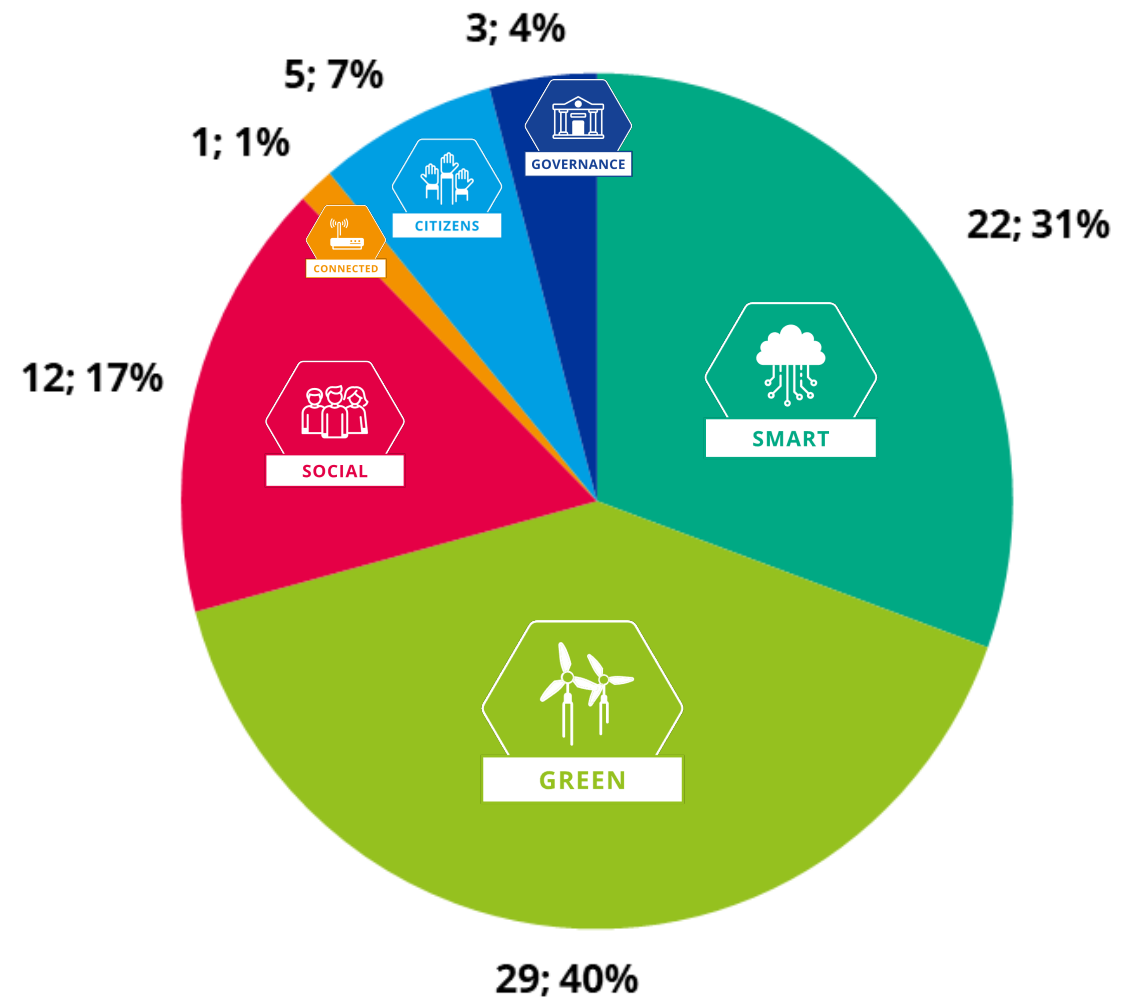
**SECON**

# Interregional cooperation Projects

## 1<sup>st</sup> call for proposals:

- Open from 5 April to 31 May 2022
- 134 proposals submitted
- **72 projects approved**

**52%**  
Success rate



# Related materials: **events**



**WEBINAR** 



**Webinar on social enterprises**

Watch the webinar recording on social enterprises and access the presentations and key learnings.

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13 March 2020 | By Platform



**WORKSHOP** 



**Workshop recording: The future of impact investing**

Access the recording and presentations of our hybrid workshop on the future of impact investing that took place on 28 October within the AGORADA+ conference.

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18 November 2021 | By Platform

## Reuse and repair session #EURegionsWeek - key takeaways

 NEWS



 Share

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 20 October 2020 | By Platform





# Related materials: **Policy briefs**

## The social economy and support to social enterprises

 POLICY BRIEF 

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 18 January 2021 | By Platform




Credits: Pexels

## Reuse and repair in a circular and social economy

 POLICY BRIEF 

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 16 December 2022 | By Platform



## Open, social, and responsible innovation

 POLICY BRIEF 

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 03 March 2022 | By Platform



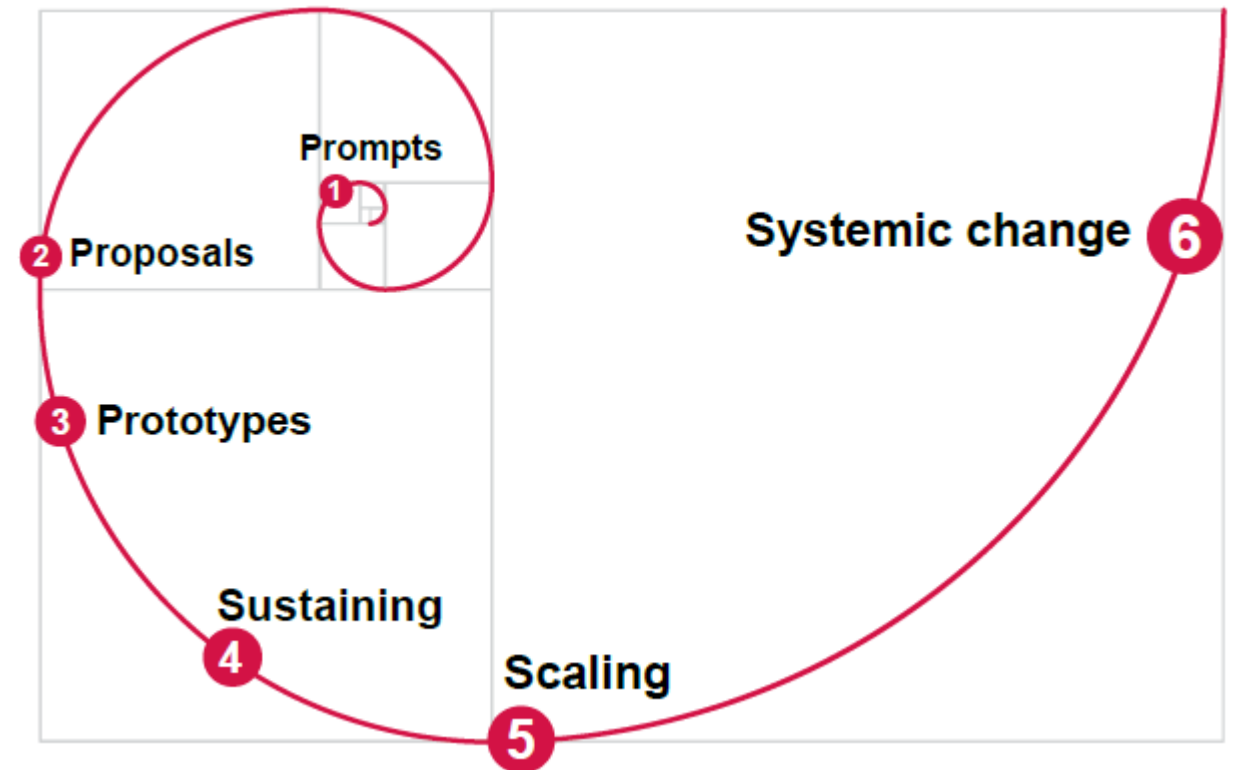
Credits: EnvatoElements

# Context: **framing**

- The term '**social economy**' refers to all business activities that are not only driven by a strong social mission but also intended to be economically viable. (*EurWORK*)
- Characteristics of **social enterprises**
  - Social objective > generating profit
  - Reinvestment of profits
  - Address social and environmental topics
  - Inclusive governance
  - Local community based
  - Come in various shapes and sizes
- **Social innovation** refers to the design and implementation of new solutions that imply conceptual, process, product, or organisational change, which ultimately aim to improve the welfare and wellbeing of individuals and communities. (OECD)
- „To fully tap the potential of social innovation, **an enabling policy framework is needed** to support public, non-profit and private actors to co-construct and implement socially innovative solutions and thereby contribute to address socio-economic issues, build stronger territorial resilience and better respond to future shocks.“ (OECD)

# Context: SI transformation process

- 1. Prompts, inspirations, and diagnoses (understanding the need for change)
- 2. Proposals and ideas (generating ideas for solution)
- 3. Prototyping and pilots (developing and making the case)
- 4. Sustaining (developing the 'business model', how the solution becomes sustainable)
- 5. Scaling and diffusion (dissemination)
- 6. Systemic change (becoming a part of the institutional system)



Six stages of social innovation transforming process. (Author: Murray et al., 2010)  
 from: **An ecosystem for social innovation in Estonia** (Tallinn University, 2023)

# Context: a challenge

- **According to an EC mapping study:**
  - Specialist business development services for SEs are **lacking and fragmented**
  - Limited number of social enterprise incubators, mentoring schemes, specialist infrastructure and investment readiness services across the EU
- **SEs in different stages of their development have different support needs** for which support might not be available

„A map of social enterprises and their eco-systems in Europe“ (2015) by Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

- **Are the challenges still here ca 8 years later?**

# Context: Euclid Network report

Top 5 EU funding programmes from which EU-funded respondents benefit from:

1  Erasmus+

2  European Union  
European Social Fund

3  EaSI

4  HORIZON EUROPE

5  Interreg

Top 3 needs of the sector

- 1 Better access to funding/tailor-made financing
- 2 Dedicated support programmes
- 3 An enabling policy/legislative environment

Top 5 Impact Areas of Interest



Political support for social entrepreneurship in the country

1. **36%** of respondents believe this to be **Very Low and Low**.
2. **33%** believe this to be **Moderate**.
3. **30%** believe this to be **High**.
4. **0%** believe this to be **Very High**.

Top Barriers

Most commonly selected as a barrier by responding EN members:



# Agenda

- **Experiences from the Interreg Europe community**

- **Paula Santarén Rodríguez**, Senior International Social Economy Consultant at ACCIÓ, Cataluña, Spain (lead partner in the **RaiSE project**)
- **Anu Harju-Myllyaho**, M.Soc.Sci, R&D senior specialist, Lapland University of Applied Sciences & **Sari Nisula**, MA, R&D specialist, Lapland University of Applied Sciences (partners in the **SOCENT SPAs project**)
- **Helena István Tamás Szenttamási**, International project manager, social enterprise and social innovation expert, IFKA Public Benefit Non-Profit Ltd (lead partner in the **SOCIAL SEEDS project**)

- **Flash presentations from new projects**

**Alexandra Carcu**, project manager of **MICROFUTURE project**, OIR PECU, Bucharest, Romania

- **Discussion**

- Innovative approaches to support social economy
- Main challenges and opportunities for SEs in 2023

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# Peer reviews

## The benefits of tailored support



15 June 2023

Rethinking local policies

Ghent, Belgium

Follow us on social media:



# Peer reviews – shortcut to policy solutions

Aim: **get advice and concrete ideas** to make better-informed decisions to solve your policy challenge.

Format: a **two-day meeting** together with a group of **carefully selected peers** and our **Platform experts**.

Benefits:

- Expertise **dedicated to your needs**
- An **exchange of experience** with relevant policymakers
- A list of **potential solutions**





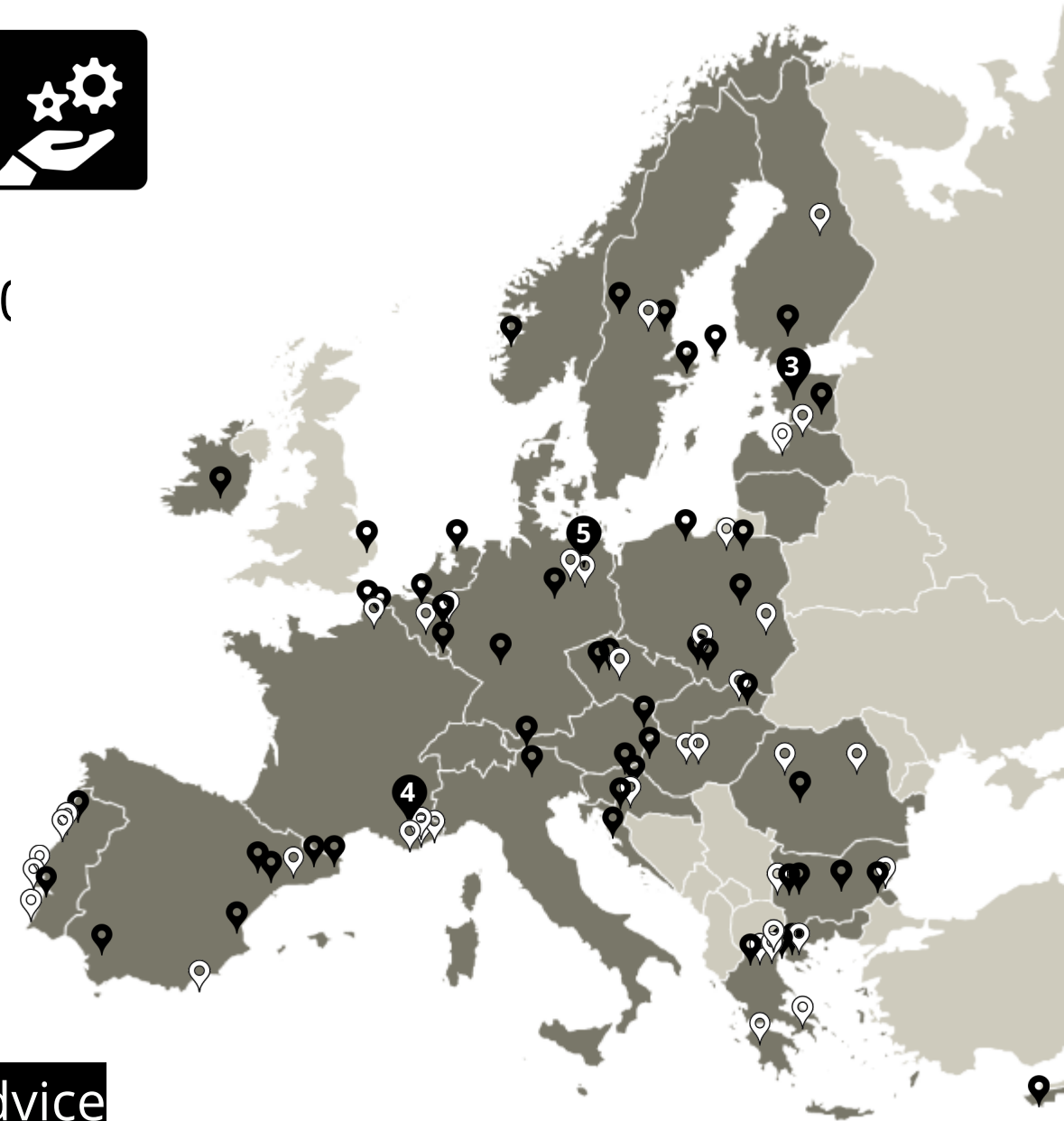
# Peer learning in practice



📍 **53 peer reviews** implemented since 2014  
9 peer reviews in the pipeline

📍 **39 matchmaking** sessions  
7 matchmakings in the pipeline

- The call is permanently open!
- Assessment of application within 1 month max
- Events take place in line with the agenda of host, local stakeholders and peers



<https://www.interregeurope.eu/get-policy-advice>

# What you can expect from the peer review



- Inspiring ideas from **all participants** (win-win)
- A great opportunity for **increasing your own skills** and knowledge
- A possible important brick in the process of **shaping your policy**
- A truly interregional cooperation experience among peers, **potential for future collaborations**
- A committed Interreg Europe team dedicated to making these days **useful** for all

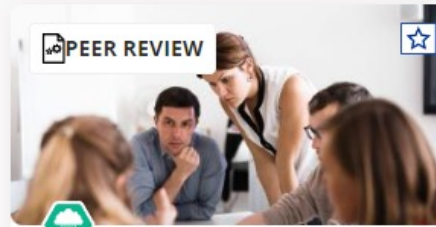
# Peer review



## Supporting the development of Renewable Energy Communities

Read about recommendations made by peers from across the EU on the topic of developing and implementing Renewable Energy Communities

03 May 2023 | By Platform



## Designing regional open innovation calls

Discover recommendations made by excellent European peers on the topic of open innovation calls

06 April 2023 | By Platform



## Creating a blue economy roadmap

Discover the recommendations made by European peers on the topic of building an blue economy roadmap

01 March 2023 | By Platform



## Boosting sustainable cross-border mobility

Discover the recommendations drafted during the peer review on the governance of cross-border mobility.

16 February 2023 | By Platform



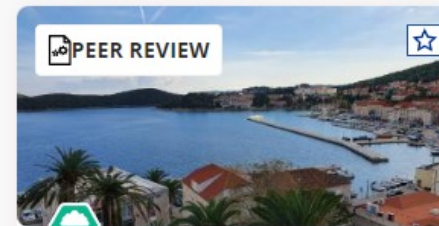
## Fostering innovation capacities and integrating disadvantaged groups

Explore the challenges and recommendations of the peer review for the government of Åland.



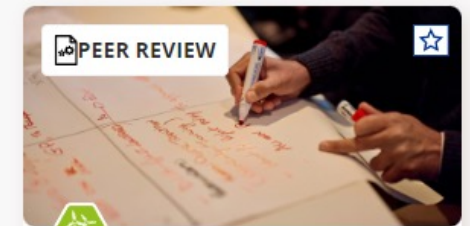
## Deriving local value from green hydrogen

Discover recommendations on creating local value for renewable energy in this peer review follow-up



## Development of Smart Island and Smart Tourism Strategies

Discover how the Policy Learning Platform has helped the island of Korčula with its smart tourism strategies.



## Design and implementation of green bonds for the Prague SECAP 2030

Read about how excellent peers provided recommendations on green bonds for the City of Prague

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