**RESEARCH PROJECT**

**"** **Mapping and capacity building in social innovation ecosystem/SEED-Social Innovation Ecosystem Development”**

Proponent: Prof. Giulio Ecchia

Research team: Giulio Ecchia, Patrizia Battilani

**Purpose of the project and research program**

The specific challenge of SEED (**Social Innovation Ecosystem Development)** is to stimulate and support the establishment of 4 Social Innovation

Competence Centers in Italy, Greece, Romania and Slovenia, that will collaborate and develop

under option A of the call, where researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and civil servants will

work together to create public and open infrastructures capable to assist national ESF managerial

authorities to better imply the ESF+ funds for the mainstream of SI as Public Sector Innovation

approach to societal challenges.

SEED project recognises that there is a strong rationale for developing national SI competence

centers across EUROPE to assist ESF managerial authorities and stakeholder from the ecosystem

to:

● develop and mainstream a common definition and a corresponding vision of SI as a form

of innovation with an orientation to societal challenges, based on long terms sustainability

and for new new products, services, processes to be codesign and co-produced by

networks of stakeholder, including beneficiaries with active role and Public Sector and

policy makers as SI promoter and co-producer;

● Actively working with key stakeholders within and beyond the national ecosystems to

create a more harmonised and coordinated framework and agenda for social innovation

in each country.

● Further empowering policymakers to use the tools and principles of social innovation to

make better, more innovative policy.

● Helping find ways to enable social innovation to flourish in those places and policy fields

where the concept is still new but could add great benefit.

**Activity Program**

The fellowship will start in October 2021 and will run for a year until September 2022. The ideal candidate has recently obtained a Doctoral degree in Economics or Social Sciences, with research interests in social and economics phenomena, with solid experience in qualitive research methods. The candidate will closely work with the research group in a common environment with frequent meetings, and will be involved mainly in the following tasks:

**T1.3 Ecosystems framework**; Lead partner: UNIBO;

The objective of this task is to develop a comprehensive framework to describe the main elements of

the existing ecosystems of social innovation in the countries of the consortium. Based on the data

collected and the activities carried out in tasks 1.1 and 1.2, this framework will be structured in order

to assess, in particular: a) the existing practices and tools of SI; b) the principal stakeholders; c) the

main drivers and possible barriers for the promotion and mainstreaming of social innovation in each country. The described framework will be the basis for the preparation of a comparative report on SI in the participating countries.

The task will produce D 1.1: comparative report on SI in the participating countries as the

triangulation of the results produced in T1.1 and T1.2.

**T3.2 SI capacity building programme:** Lead: POLIMI-UNIBO

The objective of this task is to support capacity building for social innovation mainstreaming in each

country of the consortium. In particular, the main goals are:

- Increasing capacity of social innovation stakeholders in promoting and delivering SI

interventions, including a better and leveraged use of ESF funds;

- Increasing capacity of policy makers, and specifically ESF MAs and other public institutions,

in co-designing policies promoting social innovation and in mainstreaming SI;

- Creating a network of policy makers and practitioners and facilitating their aggregation

around thematic communities;

- Engaging all partners and key stakeholders in contributing to and using the SEED digital

toolbox (see task 2.3) as a tool for mutual learning and sharing practices.

- Building on the implementation methodologies developed in task 2.2, all these goals will be

pursued with collaborative methods and activities to be tailored and adapted to each national

context.

The learning programme will be based on 3 main pillars:

- a detailed understanding of the consortium learning needs. Information will be collected

during the development of WP 1 and learning needs will emerge as one of the main barriers

to the development of SI in each country;

- competences available within consortium members. For learning needs not covered by

internal competencies the consortium will ask for the support of the under consortia under

the same strand.

- case studies collection as learning tools to be exploited in the programme. (produced in T3.3).

The SI capacity building programme will be delivered by a mix of online channels and also in presence

events that include:

● thematic co-design workshops (on line and in presence);

● master classes (on line);

● webinars for case studies presentation and discussion

Themes and competences already individualised in the consortium include:

● co-design and co-production;

● SI sustainability and business models;

● SI monitoring and assessing;

● SI policy;

The research fellow will interact will all team members Giulio Ecchia, Patrizia Battilani and as well as with other colleagues from the departments of management, political sciences, sociology and the arts, who also collaborate in the project.