



# Scenarios towards the co-creation of a transition pathway for a resilient, innovative, sustainable and digital proximity and social economy ecosystem

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

[The update of the EU Industrial Strategy](#) highlights the need to accelerate the green and digital transitions of EU Industry. Among the various instruments, the Commission proposed to co-create, in partnership with industry, public authorities, social partners and other stakeholders, transition pathways for ecosystems, where needed. The proximity & social economy ecosystem was identified among those ecosystems to develop such a transition pathway.

The Commission services have prepared a Staff Working Document to outline possible scenarios for a transition pathway towards a more resilient, green and digital proximity and social economy industrial ecosystem. Through collaborative efforts, the aim is to co-create concrete actions and commitments with all stakeholders of this ecosystem to step up its green and digital transition and strengthen its resilience to future shocks.

These efforts will build upon the EU Industrial strategy update, which highlighted the need to accelerate the green and digital transitions of EU Industry and identified needs and challenges of 14 industrial ecosystems.

They will also build on the Action Plan on the Social Economy, which proposes a series of actions for the period 2021-2030 to support the development of the social economy.

Based on the results of the consultation, the EC will organise further meetings with stakeholders to deepen the discussions towards finalising the proximity & social economy pathway during 2022.

You are invited to engage in this process by contributing to this survey that will run until 28 February 2022.

In case of questions about this consultation, please send an email to [GROW-SOCIAL-ENTERPRISE@ec.europa.eu](mailto:GROW-SOCIAL-ENTERPRISE@ec.europa.eu)

# 1 Organisation and personal information

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## \* 1.1 First name

*20 character(s) maximum*

Martignetti/Klaer

## \* 1.2 Surname (family name)

Luigi/Erdmuthe

## \* 1.3 Which organisation do you represent

*20 character(s) maximum*

REVES aisbl

## \* 1.4 Main location of operations (city)

*20 character(s) maximum*

Europe

## \* 1.5 Country of origin of the organisation or the headquarters of a network

- AT - Austria
- BE - Belgium
- BG - Bulgaria
- HR - Croatia
- CY - Cyprus
- CZ - Czechia
- DK - Denmark
- EE - Estonia
- EU - EU level
- FI - Finland
- FR - France
- DE - Germany
- EL - Greece
- HU - Hungary
- IE - Ireland
- IT - Italy
- LV - Latvia

- LT - Lithuania
- LU - Luxembourg
- MT - Malta
- NL - Netherlands
- PL - Poland
- PT - Portugal
- RO - Romania
- SK - Slovak Republic
- SI - Slovenia
- ES - Spain
- SE - Sweden

\* 1.6 What kind of organisation do you represent

- Social economy entity
- Social economy representative organisation
- Social economy sector federation
- Social economy cluster
- Social economy support organisation
- Academic / Research institution
- Public administration
- International Organisation
- EU Institution
- Mainstream business
- Trade Union
- None: EU citizen
- Other

\* 1.7 Your organisation is mainly active at...

- EU level
- Member state level
- Regional level
- Local level

1.8 I consider my organisation as part of the

- Proximity economy

Social economy

\* 1.9 The competences of your organisation are mostly related to...

Green transition

Digital transition

None

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## 2 Consultation questions

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You are invited to reflect the different issues and scenarios presented in the Staff Working Document for the key dimensions of Resilience, Sustainability and Digitalisation. You may choose which questions you answer, and leave others empty. Please, in particular, propose concrete actions and targets. Quantifiable evidence is very much welcome.

**Please read and reflect the issues and scenarios proposed in the Section III of the Staff Working Document.**

### 2.1 Fully enabling the ecosystem as agent for the green transition

\* 2.1.1 What output scenarios for 2030 would benefit the development of a green proximity and social economy industrial ecosystem, in line with the priorities of the EU Industrial Strategy and the social economy action plan?

*2000 character(s) maximum*

- An improved framework for local and regional supporting policies for community-based energy production, energy transport and energy delivery.
- Regional&local energy programmes should be put in a position to better back initiatives integrating these three aspects related to energy, and to foster, at the same time, experiences of mutualization and circular exchanges between energy production & initiatives related to social inclusion and support to the vulnerable. A full implementation of art 16 of dir. 2019/944 would support such implementation.
- A full involvement of the (existing) social economy ecosystem would allow social economy players to access energy at sustainable costs while at the same time supporting further development of local community-based production. The capacity&competences of social economy enterprises would also be of great support for the management of energy communities, provided that this task is adequately supported with financial means.
- The introduction of green award criteria in public procurement able to take into account the whole process from production to delivery of energy would contribute to the reduction of waste in that field.
- A significant investment in & a more adapted legal framework for platform cooperatives throughout the EU should facilitate social economy-based solutions also to problems such as sustainable transport (car-sharing, bike delivery services, etc.). A specific focus here should also be put on rural areas!
- Green public procurement should be leveraged in general in order to promote green transition. To this purpose the introduction of award criteria for social enterprises having a green transition plan should be envisaged.
- Likewise, local and regional authorities should have clearer legal frameworks allowing to support the green transition of social economy. This includes also a clarification of possible exemptions from state aid rules on the ground of a pursuit of general interest.

**\* 2.1.2 What are the main challenges to ensure the green transition of this industrial ecosystem, as part of this pathway? Can you provide relevant data or evidence?**

*2000 character(s) maximum*

A central element here, fundamental also for all other key areas regarding green transition such as transport, circular economy, etc. is energy:

Global energy consumption in 2000 accounted for app. 122.000 TWH, while in 2019 it was 173.000, with an increase of little less than 45% in only 20 years (source ourworldindata.org). Although in Europe we assist to a limited reduction, the continent remains still rather in the upper part of the ranking among consumers. Production, transport and delivery of energy are, in turn, energy-intensive and polluting activities. One of the main challenges is therefore to identify alternative means.

The social economy ecosystem can give a strong contribution, if adequately supported in terms of:

- Supporting the shifting of capabilities of local (community) based energy production in terms of:
  - a) Access to adequate technology at favourable prices.
  - b) Access to adequate management system.

Energy production is also able to generate relevant added value, that can be used in order to:

- c) Support green transition of local social economy enterprises
- d) Improve a systemic view over the relationship between energy production and delivery, on one hand, and welfare policies, on the other (for instance, by providing energy at low cost to low-income households and other vulnerable groups)

The social economy ecosystem has to be considered as an active player more than as a recipient of support, sharing the pursuit of general interest objectives.

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### 2.1.3 On which challenges are you ready to work jointly with other stakeholders for the green transition of this industrial ecosystem, as part of this pathway?

*2000 character(s) maximum*

Together with partner networks such as those being part of Social Economy Europe, Energy Cities, ICLEI, the CoR, national networks such as RTES, le Labo de l'ESS, PLS and others, REVES is ready to work on the challenges above and on the elaboration and implementation of:

- Policy programmes to support green transition of social economy enterprises through grants, easily accessible loans or guarantee schemes – in the field of energy, but also in other (though often related) fields such as circular economy or sustainable transport
- Promoting the discussion and experimentation of (innovative) social-economy based solutions, in partnership with local and regional governments, that demonstrate the possibility and added value of combining green and social transition: An example here is also housing (community-based renovation and use of buildings, etc.).
- Promoting and development of techniques allowing for the use of public procurement to leverage green transition of social economy
- Promoting and developing experiences of shared administration to benefit from the capacity of social economy organisation in recovering and reusing unused or underused common goods
- (Identifying and) Catalising resources orientated to regional and local investment programmes for the support of social economy-based transition.

### \* 2.1.4 What pledges and/or actions towards the green transition of the ecosystem, do you intend to present, as part of this pathway?

*2000 character(s) maximum*

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## 2.2 Digitalising the ecosystem

### \* 2.2.1 What output scenarios for 2030 would benefit the development of a digital proximity and social economy industrial ecosystem, in line with the priorities of the EU Industrial Strategy and the social economy action plan?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Increased support for digital transformation in terms of access to finance, and capacity building
- Adapted fiscal frameworks
- Support to the development of local clusters for innovation by eco-systems bringing together social economy, universities, research centers, public authorities and others
- Support to investment needed to start and scale cooperative platforms
- Support to the creation of a cooperative Digital Ledger Technology model
- Improve access to training opportunities for up-skilling and re-skilling of workers with digital skills in social economy, especially the small and medium ones
- increase affordable, adapted and open/shared advanced technology and off-the shelf IT solutions for cooperatives active in industry and services, especially the small and medium ones

\* 2.2.2 What are the main challenges to ensure the digital transition of this industrial ecosystem, as part of this pathway? Can you provide relevant data or evidence?

2000 character(s) maximum

- The digital sphere is still very much considered as a market good, while it should be conceived as a place for interaction among people and between persons and institutions. Social economy can play a very relevant role in this. Yet, often, policies and programs encourage rather unidirectional processes in which the social economy is encouraged to simply to 'take over' digital technologies&processes as they are applied by other economic players.
- Digitalisation – though important – is sometimes seen an end in itself. Yet, it should rather be considered an instrument to facilitate processes (incl. those that are happening or even have to happen finally offline) and help achieving the objectives of initiatives related to the social and solidarity economy, wherever appropriate and sustainable. These overarching objectives have to remain the main pillar also of processes of digitalisation.
- Initial investment in a cooperative digital environment is at present too high to be performed by social economy initiatives alone.
- Wide regional disparities exist. Social economy organisations in rural areas still suffer from weak infrastructures, which in turn affect sustainable development of these territories. Very often, social economy organisations&small local authorities bear huge efforts in order to save rural areas from depopulation, that could be reduced by a wider access to digital technology.
- It is necessary to adapt fiscal approaches in a way that they can actually promote genuinely socially&ecologically sustainable economic activities and/or punish those that create negative externalities, whatever their legal status. Today these different types of companies are considered as equals&meant to compete against each other. Tackling this issue means also revising competition law so as to create a level playing field for truly fair competition. Promoting such policies will have positive effects on the behaviour of digital platforms, be they cooperative or not.

\* 2.2.3 On which challenges are you ready to work jointly with other stakeholders for the digital transition of this industrial ecosystem, as part of this pathway?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Together with organisations such as Smart, FairBnB, Coop des Communs, Dimmons Research Group, P2P Movement, Platform Coops Germany and other organisations being part, for example, of the International Platform Coop Movement, but also with the member organisations of Social Economy Europe, the ICA and many others REVES is ready to collaborate on the aforementioned challenges by
- helping (identifying and) catalising local territorial investments
  - help developing a taxonomy to be used by public authorities and (public) financial actors for example in

the development of financial instruments or cohesion policy-related operational programmes such as ERDF and which would ensure that investments are of the greatest possible use in promoting social, economic and territorial cohesion in general and for a specific region/territory more specifically

- supporting transfer of knowledge and competences from urban to rural territories and vice versa
- helping in the promotion of quality work in the field of the platform economy by encouraging and supporting experimentation, involving also local and regional authorities, of social economy-based models such as cooperative platforms

## \* 2.2.4 What pledges and/or actions towards the digital transition of the ecosystem, do you intend to present, as part of this pathway?

*2000 character(s) maximum*

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## 3 General comments

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### 3.1 What other comments would you like to give?

*2000 character(s) maximum*

Social and solidarity economy and its principles need to be considered a main pillar of the digital and green transition which, in all its elements, has to become also a transition to social justice.

## 4 Communication

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Whom should we contact regarding your contribution and possible further involvement in the P-SE Transition Pathway process? We use this contact information when launching a Call for Interest for potential participants in the Stakeholder consultation workshops in Februari - June 2022.

### 4.1 First name

Luigi

### 4.2 Surname (family name)

Martignetti



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### 4.3 Function

Secretary General

### 4.4 Organisation

European Network of Cities and Regions for the Social Economy (REVES aisbl)

### 4.5 Email

*50 character(s) maximum*

lma@revesnetwork.eu

## Contact

[Contact Form](#)