



## Second RESEES partner regional meeting 18. – 19. 3. 2025, Bologna, Italy

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On **March 18th and 19th, 2025**, Bologna, Italy, hosted the **second in-person RESEES partner regional meeting and study visit**. In addition to project partners, the event welcomed several regional stakeholders from various countries.

The gathering focused on **planning and implementing regional development policies** within the framework of **regional social economy ecosystems**. Through engaging presentations, participants explored regional development strategies, highlighting **innovative policies and practical examples** drawn from Bologna and the Emilia-Romagna region. The discussions covered key topics such as **regional policy instruments, collaboration and networking, promotional and awareness-raising activities, co-financing of social economy projects, regional diagnostics, and skills mapping**.

The event featured a mix of **insightful presentations on social economy development**, interactive discussions aimed at strengthening social economy infrastructure, and networking opportunities. The **study visit** provided a closer look at **Emilia-Romagna's initiatives**, showcasing its leading institutions, regional strategy, action program, and other projects dedicated to fostering social economy growth.

### Some good practices hosted us:

- **LaTIZ**, an educational project of IT2 Social cooperative whose mission to encourage the employment of vulnerable people <https://osterjalatiz.it/>
- **SALUS Space**, a new Sustainable Accessible Livable Usable Social space for intercultural Wellbeing, Welfare and Welcoming in the Metropolitan City of Bologna: <https://saluspace.eu/old/index.htm>
- **ART-ER** meeting room at Serre dei Giardini Margherita [ART-ER Attrattività Ricerca Territorio](https://www.art-er.it/)

Info about RESEES INTERREG project: <https://www.interregeurope.eu/resees>

### EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICES FROM PARTNER REGIONS

#### NEW-AQUITAINE: K'ESS ESSA; DISCOVERING SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY THROUGH A ROLE-PLAYING GAME

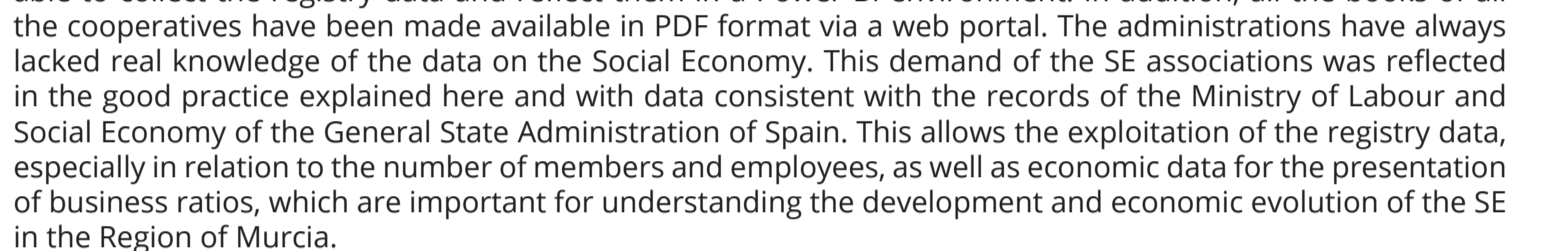
K'ESS ESSA is a role-playing game aiming to discover and understand Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE). It is designed to **raise awareness about SSE, exploring its economic organizations and purposes**.

The game takes place in an imaginary city called Kessoa and addresses various economic systems through the lens of business and production. Participants act out roles in which they embody fictional characters, each with their own function within the company, their aspirations regarding their work, etc. Each character operates within a company that manufactures paper bags: a large multinational corporation, a small family business, an association, and a production cooperative.

The primary objective of K'ESS ESSA is to disseminate both general and practical knowledge about the SSE, **targeting young people and educators to provide them with a deeper understanding of SSE's specificities, its core values**, and how it differs from traditional capitalist economic models. By engaging participants through role-playing, it allows them to experience first-hand the decision-making processes, governance structures, and ethical considerations unique to SSE organizations. **The game fosters reflection on cooperation, collective interest, and alternative economic models that prioritize social impact over profit maximization.**

The game was created PLOUCS, a french NGO dedicated to SSE education, based in New-Aquitaine, and facilitates the dissemination of K'ESS ESSA as an open education resource.

More information: <https://kessessa.ploucs.fr/>



#### GOVERNMENT OF MURCIA: AI APPLIED TO THE SOCIAL ECONOMY

Having an AI applied to the Social Economy is an innovative practice, since starting from the important premise that social economy entities, such as cooperatives, are enterprises, this application has been trained to be able to collect the registry data and reflect them in a Power BI environment. In addition, all the books of all the cooperatives have been made available in PDF format via a web portal. The administrations have always lacked real knowledge of the data on the Social Economy. This demand of the SE associations was reflected in the good practice explained here and with data consistent with the records of the Ministry of Labour and Social Economy of the General State Administration of Spain. This allows the exploitation of the registry data, especially in relation to the number of members and employees, as well as economic data for the presentation of business ratios, which are important for understanding the development and economic evolution of the SE in the Region of Murcia.

Public access to the Register of Social Economy Companies:

<https://ares.carm.es/ECOSMurcia>

Soon there will be access to Power BI with consolidated data from the regional Social Economy in development.



#### REGION PODRAVJE, SLOVENIA: ZERO-WASTE STORE GREEN APPLE

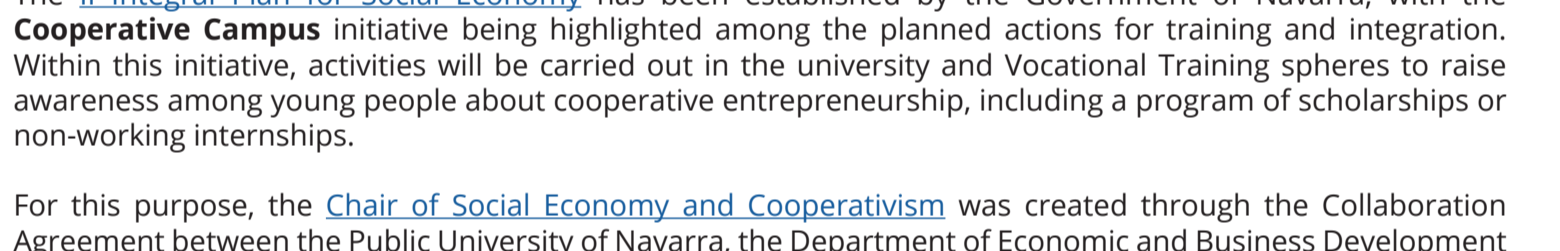
The **Green Apple (Zelena japka)** zero-waste store is a pioneering initiative in Styria and Podravje, being the first of its kind in the region and the second in Slovenia. It operates without single-use plastic packaging, offering products in bulk, in biodegradable packaging or in returnable packaging.

This good practice promotes **self-sufficiency with local, seasonal, and organic food**, following **zero-waste and fair-trade principles**. By directly connecting with farmers, it supports sustainable agriculture and helps preserve fertile land. Additionally, it raises consumer awareness about their role in influencing suppliers and retailers to provide healthier, plastic-free products.

Beyond reducing household waste and environmental pollution, Green Apple encourages the purchase of **high-quality food in sustainable packaging**, minimizing the ecological footprint and addressing challenges related to toxic detergents and unsustainable food production. Through these efforts, the store actively contributes to a cleaner, more responsible future.

In addition, the zero-waste store Green Apple (Zelena japka) employs also workers from vulnerable groups of people.

More info: <https://zelena-japka.si/>



#### GOVERNMENT OF NAVARRA: STRENGTHENING TIES IN SOCIAL ECONOMY: EDUCATION, COOPERATION AND INNOVATION

The **II Integral Plan for Social Economy** has been established by the Government of Navarra, with the **Cooperative Campus** initiative being highlighted among the planned actions for training and integration. Within this initiative, activities will be carried out in the university and Vocational Training spheres to raise awareness among young people about cooperative entrepreneurship, including a program of scholarships or non-working internships.

For this purpose, the **Chair of Social Economy and Cooperativism** was created through the Collaboration Agreement between the Public University of Navarra, the Department of Economic and Business Development of the Government of Navarra (currently under the Department of Social Rights, Social Economy, and Employment), and the Association of Social Economy Enterprises of Navarra, ANEL.

The central event of the **6th University Week of the Social Economy. "RAÍCES COOPERATIVAS: EDUCATION AND BUSINESS TRANSFORMING TOMORROW"**, will be organized on April 1st by the Chair of Social Economy and Cooperativism of UPNA in collaboration with ANEL. This will be an invaluable opportunity for students, companies, and institutions of the social economy to strengthen their ties, exchange knowledge, and reflect on the values that underpin cooperativism.

The event will also include the award ceremony for the 1st Cooperativism Video Contest, which is aimed at secondary schools, high schools, and vocational training centers in Navarra. This initiative, launched by the Chair, is recognized as an excellent opportunity for students to delve into socially and economically relevant topics while developing creative and technical skills in video production.

#### NAVARRA: EDUKACOOP - EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH COOPERATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

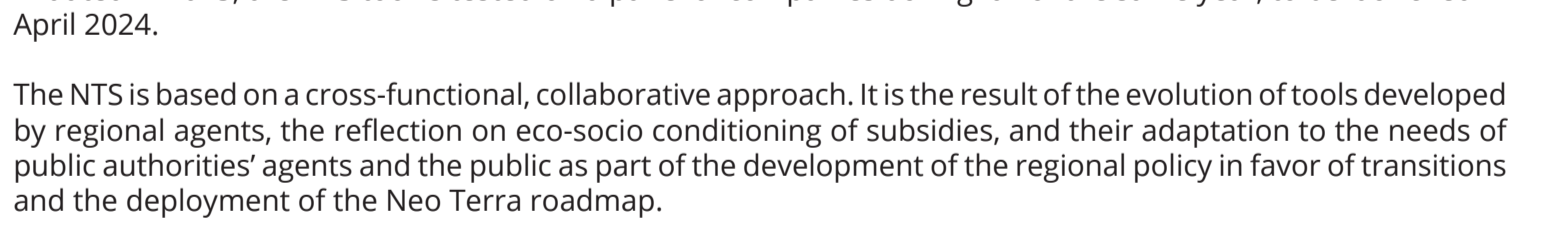
Edukacoop is an innovative educational initiative led by ANEL (Association of Social Economy Enterprises of Navarra), designed to **raise awareness among young people aged 18 to 29** about cooperative entrepreneurship. Through dynamic learning experiences such as interactive workshops, company visits, leadership training, internships, and unique immersive activities like a **"Cooperative Escape Room"**, Edukacoop equips students with essential practical and professional skills within the framework of Social Economy values.

This good practice actively contributes to strengthening local cooperative ecosystems, enhancing employability, and reducing youth unemployment by directly connecting young learners with real cooperative enterprises. Moreover, Edukacoop marks a significant milestone in Spain by integrating cooperativism into formal education curricula, pioneering this innovative approach.

By creating meaningful collaborations between educational institutions, cooperative enterprises, and public entities, Edukacoop ensures long-term sustainability and continuous growth. Over 1,000 students have already benefited from this initiative, with an ambitious target of engaging 5,000 students by 2025.

Through experiential learning and direct interaction with the cooperative model, Edukacoop significantly increases the attractiveness of cooperative entrepreneurship, encouraging young people to explore cooperative business as a viable, sustainable, and socially responsible career path.

More info: <https://anel.es/ambitos-de-accion/edukacoop/>



#### NEW-AQUITAINE: NEO TERRA SCORE MEASURING COMPANIES INVOLVEMENT INTO TRANSITIONS

In the frame of the regional technical and political transition-oriented Neo Terra roadmap, driving the regional policy since 2019, the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region developed a tool used to open dialogue with companies and ease them into the needed transition to a greener, more sustainable and more democratic way to conduct business.

**Neo Terra Score** is a self-diagnosis tool developed to help companies assert their level into social, environmental, and societal transitions. It is the natural extension of the work and reflection that led to the eco-social-conditionality of regional subsidies, extended to all subjects of the **Territorial Economy Division** (for now, the whole Economic and Environmental Development Pole shall use it progressively). The purpose of the NTS is to provide a multidimensional measurement of the commitment of regional companies toward transitions.

A common reference framework is needed to progress together, to measure improvements and commitments taken by each party and evaluate their impact. Economic evaluations based on quantifiable criteria such as value production or number of jobs are no longer sufficient to account for the realities and consequences of human activities on our environments. At a time of climate disruption and the loss of nature that is essential to our lives, the time had come to design impact measurement tools adapted to the issues at stake. Initiated in 2023, the NTS tool is tested on a panel of companies during fall of the same year, to be launched in April 2024.

The NTS is based on a cross-functional, collaborative approach. It is the result of the evolution of tools developed by regional agents, the reflection on eco-social conditioning of subsidies, and their adaptation to the needs of public authorities' agents and the public as part of the development of the regional policy in favor of transitions and the deployment of the Neo Terra roadmap.

Those were the needed steps to obtain this transition evaluation tool applicable to all fields of conventional economy.

[Néo Terra - Demain devient possible - La transition énergétique et écologique en Nouvelle-Aquitaine](https://www.nouvelle-aquitaine.fr/)



#### THE LAPLAND SOCIAL HANDPRINT MODEL AND PROJECT FAMILY

The Lapland Social Handprint model and project family are included in the national best practice lists of the **Social Enterprise Competence Centre** and the **Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare**.

The goal is to meet Lapland's labor needs so that everyone finds their place in the workforce based on their skills and strengths. Lapland faces Finland's most severe labor market mismatch, characterized by a high number of unemployed jobseekers alongside many unfilled job vacancies. The model encourages networking and collaboration by bringing together a wide range of stakeholders, including regional authorities, the Wellbeing Services County, employment areas, municipalities, educational institutions and social economy actors.

The operations of the Social Handprint network are based on systematic co-creation and open network by regional agents. Cooperation enables the creation of broader and more effective creation entities, which are implemented using different financing instruments in the project family. Societal challenges cannot be solved with a single project or measure

The **Social Handprint model** forms a project family that unites regional actors to seek collaborative solutions. This project family includes initiatives in various stages, from ideas to completed projects. Currently, 15 projects are ongoing, most of which are group projects involving multiple implementers. About 50 organizations participate as project implementers and partners.

More info: <https://www.sosiaalinenkadenjalki.fi/>



#### Project partners:

