

# Common Methodology

Deliverable- D002.001

SIMPLE: Social Innovation Models to Promote Learning  
and Employability

Project ESF-SI-2024-UA-01-0028



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## 1. Introduction

The SIMPLE project (Social Innovation Models to Promote Learning and Employability) aims to **improve the employability and social inclusion of Ukrainian women** and other vulnerable groups affected by the war in Ukraine **by identifying, adapting, and scaling innovative social solutions across** Europe. The project, carried out in a transnational and multi-stakeholder partnership, **builds on existing good practices and EU funded initiatives** to co-develop a model that can be **transferred across different local contexts**. Through a combination of analytical work, participatory stakeholder engagement, real-life piloting, and strategic dissemination, SIMPLE contributes to strengthening resilience, reducing inequalities, and supporting labour market integration through socially innovative and gender-sensitive approaches.

The methodology of the SIMPLE project **is structured into interconnected steps**, each building on the previous phase to develop an evidence-based and adaptable model that supports the employability of Ukrainian refugees through social innovation. The methodology follows the requirements of the call requirements as well as the application's approach, further elaborated and discussed by partners at the Kick off meeting.

The **first step in the methodology was to identify the sources of social innovation projects and practices** that are worth to be taken into account as **potential models** for the SIMPLE Project. Also, the consortium broke **into pairs of organisation to allow for synchronised yet collaborative work**.

The next step focuses on developing a **structured approach for identifying and selecting social innovation initiatives** that are particularly relevant to migrants, refugees, and other disadvantaged groups. This involves defining a clear set of selection criteria and a transparent, evidence-based filtering process to ensure consistency and comparability across the consortium. In this context, **specific keywords, filters, and descriptive features are applied**—such as target group

characteristics, type and duration of intervention, level of impact, and context (e.g., rural vs. urban). The actual selection of the social innovation practices for adaptation will be achieved in a three-round filtering and contextual analysis exercise.

Finally, **the adaptability and transferability** of the chosen social innovation initiatives are defined in a **Theory of Change exercise**.

The responsibilities for developing the methodology and conducting the assessment will be clearly divided among partners based on their thematic expertise and operational focus. A common timeline is agreed upon, including intermediate milestones for validation and review, to ensure the timely delivery of the compendium of selected practices and the foundation for the subsequent Theory of Change.

As in every research project, certain changes were initiated after the initial procedures and steps shed lights in certain areas for the need of mitigation procedures. These changes are also explained in this document.

The original concept was built on the following logical framework:

**1. ) To carry out an in-depth, multidisciplinary analysis of the contextual challenges surrounding refugee integration and social inclusion, particularly focused on Ukrainian refugees. This includes:**

- Needs Assessment: Identifying gaps and challenges.
- Contextual Analysis: Socioeconomic and institutional environments conducive to innovation uptake.
- Employability and Skills: Framework for improving migrant employability and education.

**2. To create a curated catalogue of the most promising best practices and social innovation models from EU-funded initiatives focusing on migrant employability.**

**Includes:**

- Rationale for Selection: Explanation of the methodology and selection criteria.
- Innovation Profiles: Detailed presentation of each selected best practice, with focus on scalability and evidence base.

- Innovative Solutions: Summary of how these models contribute to education and employability for migrants.
- 3. To create a consolidated and evidence-based Theory of Change integrating findings from the previous deliverables. It provides the conceptual model for piloting the project's new social innovation approach.**
- Includes:**
- Selection of two scalable practices to serve as pilots in WP4.
  - Review of consortium partners' insights in terms of capacities, functions and services
  - Consolidated documentation linking inputs, activities, outcomes, and expected impacts.
  - Preliminary stakeholder involvement matrix identifying relevant actor types and their roles.
  - Conceptual blueprint for the Social Innovation Initiative (SII) to be transferred and tested in new contexts.

## 2. Timeline

The WP2 runs in the first 6 months of the project, with deliverables due at the end of October 2025. The following timeline was foreseen:

### **Progressive filtering- narrowing selection model**

The overall selection process follows a progressive narrowing model: we begin with a large number of initiatives and, step by step, narrow them down. At each stage, we look at the projects in more detail, applying more specific criteria to decide which ones move forward.

Phase	Number of Initiatives	Output
Phase 0	~100–2000	database of mapped projects
Phase 1	~100 → 50	pre-selected shortlist
Phase 2	50 → 12	Case study template / shortlist
Phase 3	12 → 2	selected Theory of change cases

### Timeline

Milestone	Deadline
Methodology Finalization (Deliverable 2.1)	June 2025
Mapping and Part A/B Completion	July 2025
Case Study Selection (50 → 12)	September 2025
Theory of Change Selection (12 → 2)	October 2025

### Responsibilities

Role	Task
WP2 Leader (HETFA)	methodology design, coordination, data collection management, quality control, facilitation of joint decisions
All partners	data collection, first-level screening, template completion, participation in joint review
All partners	joint decision-making for all selection rounds beyond formal screening



### 3. Methodology for the Contextual challenges and needs assessment

This contextual analysis and needs assessment is conducted through a multi-layered desk research approach, combining a structured review of academic literature, policy documents, statistical datasets, and practical evidence from recent European initiatives. The analysis focuses specifically on the situation of **Ukrainian refugees in Europe**, with particular attention to **women, older adults**, and **women with dependent children**, reflecting the target groups of the SIMPLE project.

First, a **systematic literature review** is undertaken to identify key themes in migration studies, labour market integration, skill transferability, psychosocial adaptation, and gender-specific integration barriers. Sources include peer-reviewed academic publications, research institutions, international organisations (e.g., IOM, UNHCR, OECD, Eurofound), and national reports from the countries represented in the consortium.

Second, a **policy and institutional review** is performed to map the existing legal frameworks, integration instruments, labour market access regulations, and social innovation programmes relevant to Ukrainian refugees. Particular emphasis is placed on identifying supportive measures (e.g., recognition of qualifications, language training, childcare support) as well as structural gaps and fragmentation in service provision.

Third, **comparative thematic analysis** is applied to synthesize findings across countries and contexts. Attention is given to socio-economic profiles, employment patterns, skills and qualification structures, language proficiency trends, psychosocial factors, and the role of community networks and local service ecosystems. The analysis also integrates evidence from **recent EU-funded projects** to identify practical approaches, validated models, and lessons learned in refugee employability and social innovation.

The resulting structure of the report follows a problem-focused logic:

- demographic and socio-economic profile,
- labour market participation and skills,
- psychosocial adaptation and vulnerability factors, and
- institutional and ecosystem dynamics that influence employability.

This methodology ensures that the needs assessment remains both **evidence-based** and **applicable** to the operational context of the SIMPLE project, providing a robust foundation for the selection and adaptation of social innovation practices in the subsequent work packages.

## 4. Methodology for collection the compendium

The review of previous initiatives starts with data collection and a general search across initiatives relevant to the SIMPLE topic.

### 4.1. The sources and databases used and team allocation

The research will focus at selected databases in order to make a concentrated effort to find the relevant social innovation examples. In order to facilitate efficient use of consortium efforts, different teams will focus at different databases/resources for first-level screening of social innovation initiatives.

- **VP/2016/015** – *Fast Track Integration into the Labour Market for Third Country Nationals*
- **VP/2020/003** – *Interventions for Vulnerable Populations*
- **EaSI-funded Social Innovation Initiatives (2014–2020)** – From the *Employment and Social Innovation* programme
- **Urban Innovative Actions (2015–2019)** – Focused on experimental approaches to **urban challenges**
- 2020–2022: For projects funded under different EU programmes such as **Interreg, Erasmus+, EQUAL, Horizon Europe, EEA & Norway Grants and others deemed relevant.**
- Project financed by national/regional programmes/funds: All partners in relation to its own country, only highlighting initiatives that they deem relevant to be included.

The participating organisations will pair up as follows:



- EASI 2014 - 2020 HETFA (+ IHF)
- VP/2016/015 and VP/2020/003 HETFA (+ IHF)
- Urban Innovative Actions 2015 - 2019 AIE (+ IDP)
- HORIZON (Cluster 2) COLLEGIUM CIVITAS (+ CTS)
- ERASMUS+ IHF and ITSFA (+ Hope Ukraine)
- INTERREG AIE (+IDP)
- EQUAL CTS (+ COLLEGIUM CIVITAS)
- EEA & Norway Grants HETFA (+IHF)
- Project financed by national/regional programmes/funds All partners in relation to its own country

Regarding the **availability of databases and knowledge sources for previous social innovation projects, the landscape is very diverse**. The challenge is that enough public information should be **available about a project / social innovation initiative so that the target group, the activities, the key performance indicators, its effectiveness and impact** may be estimated for the purposes of the SIMPLE project. There is no potential in social innovation examples of which only anecdotal evidence is available.

In Annex 1, the detailed instructions are available regarding the screenshots of the different European grant portals from where partners can gather information.

## 4.2. The filtering keywords – 1<sup>st</sup> level of selection

The identification and analysis of relevant social innovation initiatives within the SIMPLE project depend on contextual parameters that reflect both the specific objectives of the action and the broader policy frameworks within which it operates. While the primary focus lies on supporting the **employability and entrepreneurial potential of Ukrainian women**, the project adopts an **inclusive and multidimensional lens** in defining the scope of eligible and relevant practices. Particular attention is directed toward initiatives that address the needs of other **vulnerable or underrepresented groups**, including older adults, caregivers, and individuals who are inactive in the labour market due to structural or situational barriers.

In this phase, partners map the existing projects from their assigned databases, based on the filtering **keywords we identified**. Partners work in assigned pairs based on thematic or geographical expertise.

Previous projects and social innovation initiatives are to be first screened through via a set of **filtering keywords** that fit the project's needs and have been agreed upon by the consortium. These filters are the following keywords for the first level of selection:

1. **social innovation**
2. **migrants/refugees**
3. **integration**
4. **skill development/education**
5. **employability/entrepreneurship**
6. **inclusion**
7. **multistakeholder/cross sectoral collaboration**
8. **long term integration**
9. **women/female/gender**

This list allows to – having been applied on the databases presented above – to have an initial starting base of social innovation projects that support migrants and refugees in their inclusion and employability.

Potential further keywords were also recommended but agreed that for a first level analysis, they may further narrow the list of projects. These are: **urban/rural, Ukraine, minorities, disadvantaged**.

In the search mode, first all 9 keywords – with their alternates included – should be applied on each database and then, if this results in a search too narrow (with limited number of results), keywords can be cut from the filtering exercise.

**Potentially a 1000+ project will be the result of this keyword-based approach, combining all these databases as resources.** Social innovation

related projects relevant for inclusion and employability of migrants may exceed 1000+ according to our expectations. **It is up to the search teams to select those that have sufficient information available and can be a basis of a more meticulous selection process. The aim is to end up with 50+ projects** within the whole consortium.

An **evaluation template (“fiche”)** is provided for filling out on the screened social innovation practices / projects. **Part A focuses more on a general introduction and Part B on content-oriented issues.**

Projects passing both Part A and B are eligible for the next phase. If the number of eligible projects exceeds 50, partners will jointly review the full list and, through a coordinated selection process agree on the 50 projects that will form the pre-selection shortlist. **The selection will aim to ensure thematic balance, geographic diversity, and sufficient evidence for further assessment.**

### 4.3. The analysis - 2nd level of selection

As the project progresses, a more detailed second-level screening will follow, focusing on the 12 selected initiatives. For these, a case study template is developed. This aims at identifying the transferability, and replicability of the selected initiatives, as well as puts the potential examples into perspective with the consortium’s capacities for implementation,

The **practices sought are those that go beyond individual-level interventions and aim to respond to systemic challenges** such as gender-based inequality, exclusion from employment and training pathways, lack of recognition of prior learning, and limited access to quality services. Preference is given to those **approaches that integrate multiple layers of support**—combining, for example, skill development, personalised mentoring, psychosocial assistance, and active labour market measures—and that are embedded in a broader strategy of social inclusion and empowerment. Furthermore, the project prioritises initiatives that reflect the principles of the quadruple helix model by engaging public institutions, civil society actors, the private sector, and knowledge providers in the design and

implementation of solutions. This ensures that selected practices are not only contextually responsive but also institutionally grounded and participatory in nature.

**Transferability and scalability** are also key parameters guiding the selection process. The project seeks initiatives that demonstrate clear potential for adaptation across different local and national contexts, with particular emphasis on Central and Eastern European countries where comparable socio-economic conditions prevail. In this regard, attention is given to the presence of **enabling factors such as flexible implementation frameworks, proper stakeholder engagement mechanisms, and documented experiences of replication or scaling**. A further selection criterion is the existence of **credible evidence of effectiveness or at least evaluability**, ensuring that chosen practices can contribute meaningfully to the development of the project's Theory of Change and to the design of future interventions.

**The case study templates therefore focus at :**

- *general information*: title, organisations, country, period, budget, contacts
- *target group and context*: target group details, problem addressed, geographic scope
- *intervention model*: objectives, activities, stakeholders involved, delivery mechanism
- *social innovation aspects*: innovation type, co-creation elements, transferability
- *evidence and impact*: monitoring approach, KPIs, outcome data, sustainability perspective
- *lessons learned*: success factors, challenges, replication recommendations
- *attachments*: supporting documents, evaluations, materials

The WP2 Working Group, with one representative from each partner, will meet to jointly discuss all the case studies. The goal is to reach a consensus on which projects should be included in the 12-case shortlist. If consensus cannot be reached, a voting process will be used to make the final decision.

Once agreement is reached, the final list of 12 selected cases will be officially approved by the group.

#### 4.4. The workshop - 3rd level of selection

The final selection is planned to be made at the next project meeting where the decision on the selected 2 out of 12 initiatives (and a potential reserve list) will be discussed and the Theory of Change developed for those selected.

The workshop at the second project meeting is conducted jointly by the WP2 working group and WP2 leader. Two cases will be selected for theory of change development.

- strategic considerations apply:

- diversity of intervention types
- geographic balance
- stakeholder involvement
- availability of in-depth evidence
- relevance for policy and transferability

The final 2 Theory of Change cases will be selected by the WP2 Working Group using the same joint process. If relevant, the group may consult the Steering Committee inputs before final approval.

Changes in the methodology require that a more modular approach is taken in final selection of initiatives to be carried out.

#### 4.5. Modifications and changes in the realised methodology.

The selection of social innovation initiatives followed the originally planned multi-stage framework; however, during implementation, several **practical constraints and insights** emerged that required methodological

adjustments. These changes did **not alter the overall purpose** of the selection exercise, but rather ensured that the final set of initiatives included in the Compendium would be **usable, transferable, and evidence-based**, in line with the goals of WP2 and WP4.

### **(1) Availability and Quality of Documentation Became the Primary Filtering Criterion**

In the initial planning, documentation was considered one of several evaluation criteria. However, during the review it became evident that **documentation quality was in practice the decisive factor** determining whether an initiative could be meaningfully analyzed or adapted.

Many promising social innovation initiatives (including those funded under reputable EU programmes) lacked:

- detailed descriptions of how activities were designed and implemented,
- publicly accessible training materials,
- monitoring and evaluation data,
- or evidence of outcomes and lessons learned.

In numerous cases, available project webpages from Interreg, UIA/Urbact, Erasmus+, AMIF or national programs contained only promotional summaries without operational substance. Other project websites had expired domains, offline repositories, or broken external links.

We attempted to mitigate this by:

- searching national project databases and LinkedIn organizational pages,
- reaching out to project owners where possible,
- reviewing partner institutional websites,
- and searching archived pages via the Internet Wayback Machine.

Despite these efforts, **projects without sufficient documentation had to be excluded**, because without clear methodological descriptions, **no transferable learning could be derived**. Therefore, **documentation availability became the single strongest determinant in progressing from the list of 50 to the final shortlist of 12**.

This change reflects a **practical necessity** rather than a shift in conceptual approach.

## **(2) Distinguishing Between First-Wave Humanitarian Support and Longer-Term Integration Initiatives**

During review, it became necessary to separate initiatives into two functional categories:

1. **First-wave reception and emergency response**  
(housing, basic needs assistance, legal help, crisis counseling)
2. **Second-phase integration and empowerment**  
(skillsbuilding, employability, entrepreneurship, social participation)

Because SIMPLE focuses explicitly on **employability, participation in local economies, and social innovation**, initiatives belonging to category (1) were **not excluded**, but **were deprioritized** unless they also included structured components that:

- build agency,
- promote skills development,
- or establish pathways toward economic independence.

This distinction was particularly relevant for **Ukrainian refugees**, because the timeline of displacement (post-2022) means a large proportion of recent support initiatives remain in phase (1). For the purposes of SIMPLE, **phase (2) practices are more relevant** to WP3 and WP4 piloting activities.

### **(3) Target Group Relevance Considered as a Weighted but Not Deterministic Criterion**

While the relevance of the target group (Ukrainian refugees, women, older adults, parents with children) was included as a criterion, it **was not treated as a mandatory condition** for selection.

The practical rationale is twofold:

- **Timeframe**

There are *fewer* documented long-term employability-oriented initiatives targeting Ukrainians specifically, due to the recency of displacement.

- **Transferability of Methods**

Certain refugee integration models originally developed for Syrian, Afghan, or mixed migrant communities contain **highly transferable social innovation methods**, even if the target group differs demographically.

Therefore, the target group criteria were **weighted**, but **not used to automatically exclude otherwise well-documented and transferable initiatives**.

### **(4) Scale, Length, and Resource Realism Assessed for Transferability**

Another adjustment concerned the **operational and resource scale** of initiatives reviewed.

SIMPLE operates with:

- limited piloting budgets,

- short implementation cycles, and
- partners acting primarily as **brokers, facilitators, and connectors**, rather than service providers.

Therefore, during shortlisting, we assessed whether core elements of each initiative were:

- **modular**, and therefore adaptable,
- **implementable without large infrastructure**, and
- **sustainable without long-term specialist staffing**.

Large-scale initiatives were not excluded; instead, **we extracted only the transferable modules**, such as:

- mentoring formats,
- community brokerage strategies,
- micro-entrepreneurship incubation methods,
- language-plus-vocational training sequencing models,
- or local ecosystem coordination approaches.

This preserves relevance while maintaining realism.

## **(5) Outcome of Adjustments**

The final shortlist of **12 initiatives** is thus composed of:

- initiatives with **sufficient documentation** to reconstruct their method,
- practices focused on **skills-building, empowerment, employability, and entrepreneurship**,
- projects with **operational components that can be piloted by SIMPLE partners**,

- and methods that align with the role of SIMPLE partners as **ecosystem navigators and brokers**, not primary full-service providers.

## 5. Methodology for Theory of Change process

The **Theory of Change (ToC)** is a methodological framework used to describe how and why a desired change is expected to happen in a particular context. It articulates the **causal pathway** between activities and outcomes, links interventions to the needs identified, and makes explicit the **assumptions** that underlie expected results. In the context of SIMPLE, the ToC process provides a structured way to translate insights from the needs assessment and the review of social innovation initiatives into **coherent, actionable pilot activities** that can be tested and validated within the consortium.

### Purpose of Applying Theory of Change in SIMPLE

The purpose of applying ToC in SIMPLE is threefold:

1. **To clarify the intervention logic** behind each selected model initiative and understand how it generates impact in its original environment.
2. **To assess the conditions required** for similar results in the SIMPLE pilot contexts, including stakeholder engagement, resource availability, and policy conditions.
3. **To adapt interventions to local realities** in partner countries while maintaining the integrity of the impactful mechanisms identified in the source initiatives.

By making these causal assumptions explicit, the ToC approach reduces the risk of inappropriate transfer and supports **methodologically sound adaptation** rather than superficial replication.

### Process of Applying the ToC Framework

The ToC development process will follow these steps:

1. **Identification of Desired Outcomes:** Based on the needs assessment (WP2-D2.2), the primary outcomes relate to improved employability, access to social and professional networks, enhanced skills, and increased autonomy among Ukrainian women and older adults.

2. **Mapping of the Change Pathway:** For each selected initiative, the project team will document:
  - Activities originally implemented
  - Immediate outputs
  - Short-, medium-, and long-term outcomes
  - External factors enabling or hindering the change

This mapping will be carried out collaboratively with partners to ensure shared understanding.

3. **Articulation of Assumptions:** The ToC model requires identifying **assumptions**—conditions under which the interventions are expected to work. These may include language support availability, stakeholder cooperation, childcare access, labor market demand, etc. Assumptions will be made explicit to ensure they can be validated or addressed in WP4.
4. **Contextual Adaptation:** Each partner will assess which elements of the original intervention are:
  - **Core mechanisms** (must be preserved for success)
  - **Adaptable features** (can be modified to fit local context)
  - **Non-transferable elements** (cannot be implemented due to regulatory or cultural constraints)
5. **Validation:** The initial assumptions will be validated as part of an expert discussion within the relevant project-level meeting to be held at the end of October, 2025 in Pescara, Italy in the framework of the project. **As part of the piloting activity**, the ToC models will be validated through stakeholder consultations as well to ensure that assumptions and expected outcomes align with lived realities. This aligns with the participatory approach described in the proposal.

## Applying ToC to the Model Set of Selected Initiatives

The selected initiatives (12 in total) represent diverse approaches to employability, entrepreneurship, community engagement, and skills development. The ToC process will be applied **individually** to each initiative to extract:

- **Mechanisms of change** (what makes it work)

- **Critical enabling conditions** (what is required for success)
- **Indicators to track outcomes** (how success is observed)

Once these analyses are completed, initiatives will be grouped into **thematic clusters** (e.g., digital skills empowerment, entrepreneurship mentoring, community-based inclusion, etc.). These clusters will guide the design of SIMPLE's pilot interventions in WP4, ensuring that the pilots are grounded in **evidence-based change pathways** rather than intuition or preference.

## Outputs of the ToC Process

The ToC process will result in:

- A written explanation of each change pathway and its critical assumptions
- A set of criteria for adaptation to the SIMPLE context
- A validated basis for pilot planning in WP4
- Contribution to WP4 pilot implementation guidelines and WP5 sustainability planning

The Theory of Change model's success will strongly depend on the proper application of monitoring tools and evaluation techniques for the realisation of the project as well, since the main aim is to prove transferability and adaptability of the initiatives, and in order to best serve as a basis for future adaptation, the piloting exercise, with their assumptions and activities are to be properly monitored and documented.

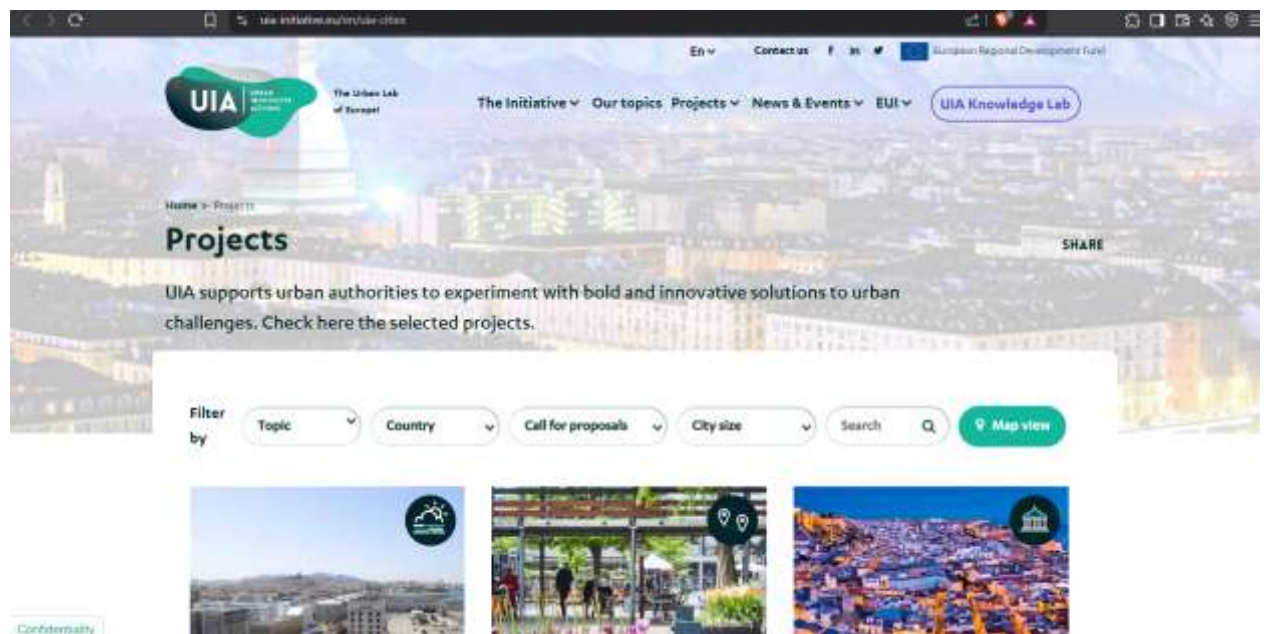
## Annex 1. Navigation support for the various grant portals

### EASI 2014-2020, VP/2016/015 and VP 2020/003

For projects in **EASI 2014-2020, VP/2016/015 and VP 2020/003** an overview and assessment is available in Commission documents such as the Final Assessment Study Assessing and disseminating the results of the social innovation calls financed by the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) 2014-2020 ([https://www.cde.ual.es/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/KE0122172ENN.en\\_.pdf](https://www.cde.ual.es/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/KE0122172ENN.en_.pdf) ) Some projects still maintain their websites, but some projects are not available as their sustainability period is already over. Individual search is needed.

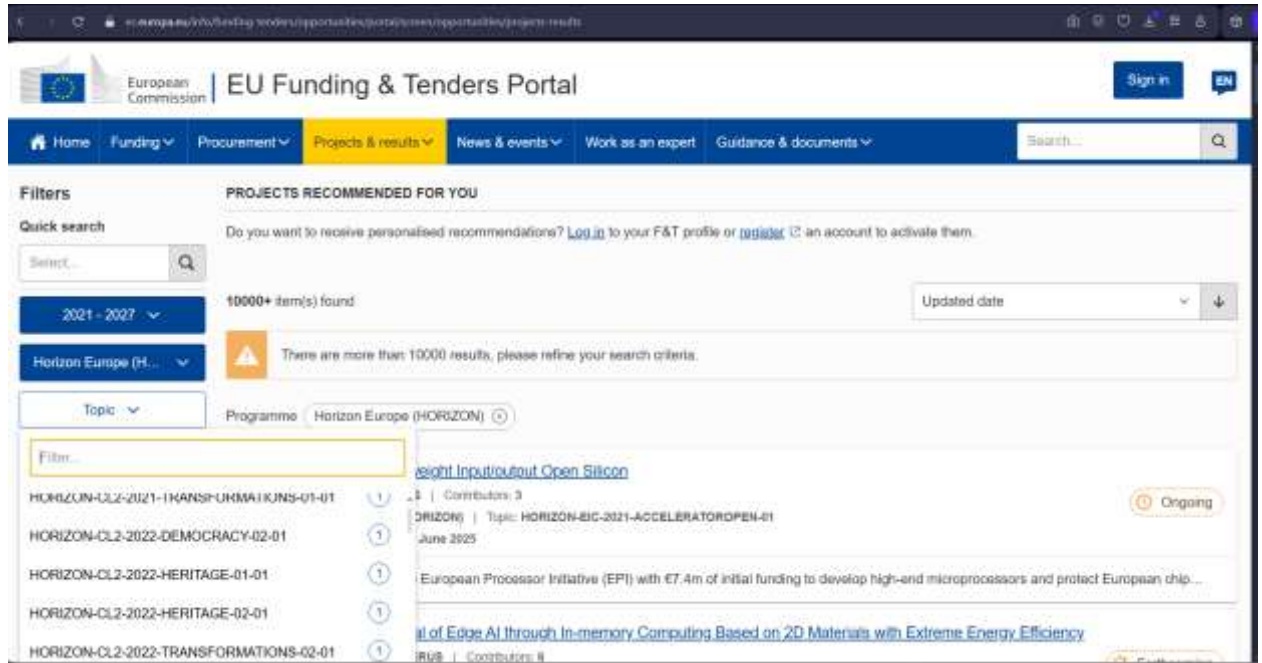
### Urban Innovative Actions

As for the **Urban Innovative Actions**, we identified three calls that can be relevant in terms of social aspects. <https://uia-initiative.eu/en/uia-cities>



## Horizon projects

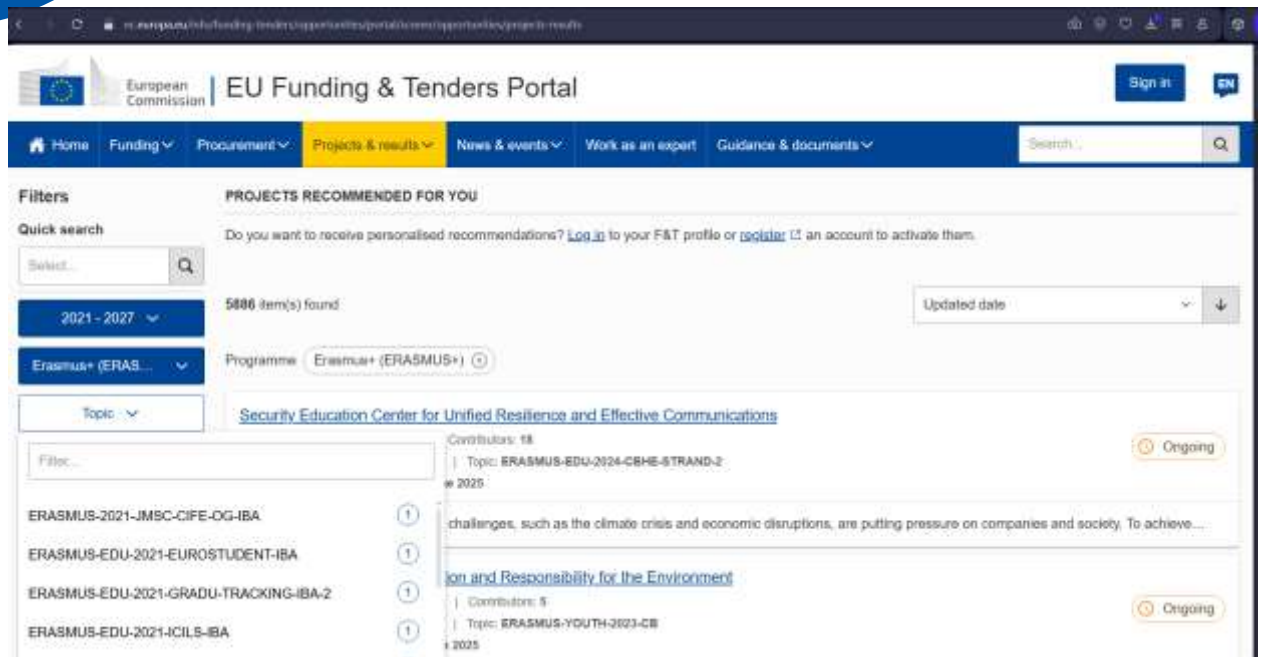
The Horizon projects – both Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe - are well-available via the Funding and Tenders website.



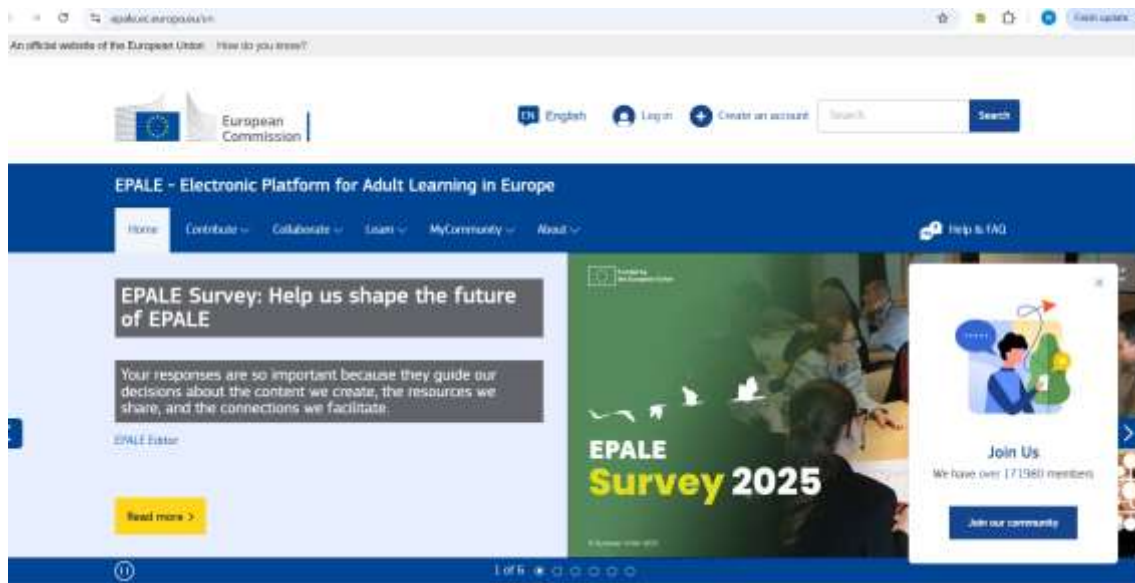
The screenshot shows the 'EU Funding & Tenders Portal' interface. The main navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Funding', 'Procurement', 'Projects & results', 'News & events', 'Work as an expert', and 'Guidance & documents'. A search bar is located on the right. The 'Filters' section on the left includes a 'Quick search' field, a date range filter set to '2021 - 2027', and a 'Topic' dropdown. The main content area displays 'PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR YOU' with a message: 'Do you want to receive personalised recommendations? Log in to your F&T profile or register an account to activate them.' Below this, it states '10000+ item(s) found' and 'Updated date' with a dropdown arrow. A warning message says 'There are more than 10000 results, please refine your search criteria.' The 'Programme' is set to 'Horizon Europe (HORIZON)'. A list of projects is shown, including 'Horizon Europe (HORIZON) | Topic: HORIZON-BIG-2021-ACCELERATOR-OPEN-01' and 'European Processor Initiative (EPI) with €7.4m of initial funding to develop high-end microprocessors and protect European chip...'. A project titled 'Eight Input/output Open Silicon' is highlighted with an 'Ongoing' status.

## Erasmus, Erasmus +

All Erasmus(+) projects are available to some extent via the Funding and Tenders portal.



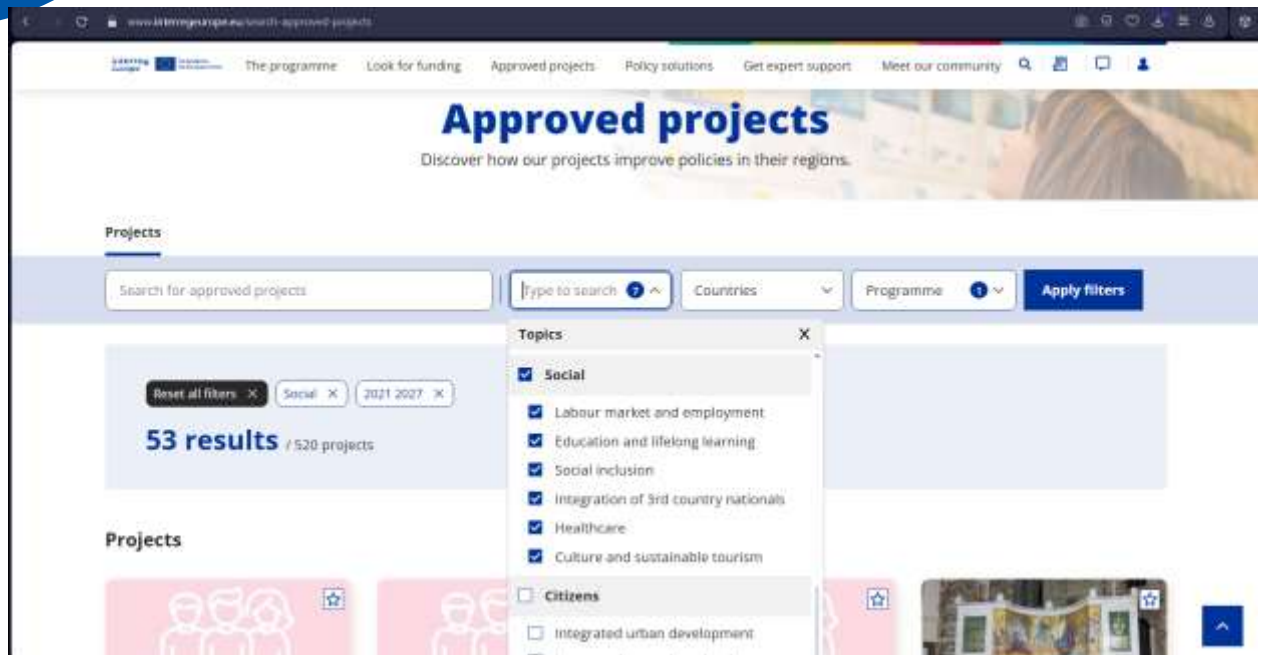
The EPALE portal is also a useful source.



## Interreg

As for INTERREG projects, a central portal is found at <https://interreg.eu>. Nevertheless, Interreg is not one donor rather a family and there are several subsequent portals for the different macroregional and cross-border Interreg programmes that may be relevant to this topic.

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/search-approved-projects>



Further relevant projects can be identified in some of the relevant macroregional Interreg programmes and the Ukraine-bordering CBC programmes. For example the **Danube Region Programme (Interreg Danube)** that covers Hungary, Slovakia, Romania (all border Ukraine) (Website: <https://www.interreg-danube.eu>).

These are direct EU-Ukraine CBC programmes under **Interreg NEXT 2021–2027** and previous ENI CBC arrangements.

1. **Interreg NEXT Hungary–Slovakia–Romania–Ukraine (HU–SK–RO–UA):** <https://huskroua-cbc.eu>
2. **Interreg NEXT Poland–Ukraine (PL–UA):** <https://pl-ua.eu>
3. **Interreg NEXT Romania–Ukraine (RO–UA):** <https://ro-ua.net>

These programmes focus on cross-border cooperation in areas like social inclusion, emergency services, mobility, and institutional capacity.

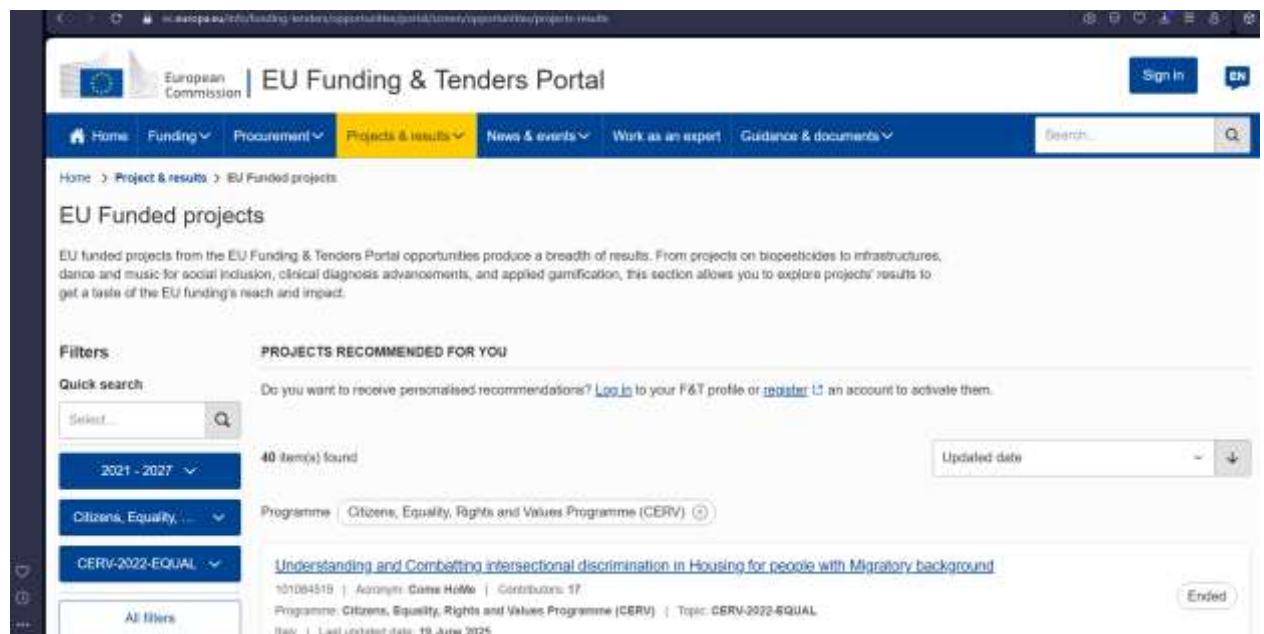
## CERV EQUAL

Regarding CERV EQUAL projects, the Funding and Tenders portal offers a list of previous projects. After narrowing the options for the 2021-2027 period, also narrowing for CERV (Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values) the given year's EQUAL projects are also available. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding->

[tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/projects-results?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=es\\_SortDate&isExactMatch=true&programmePeriod=2021%20-%202027&frameworkProgramme=43251589&topicAbbreviation=CERV-2022-EQUAL](https://ec.europa.eu/funding/tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/projects-results?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=es_SortDate&isExactMatch=true&programmePeriod=2021%20-%202027&frameworkProgramme=43251589&topicAbbreviation=CERV-2022-EQUAL) .

The CERV EQUAL strand (Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values – Equality, Rights and Gender Equality) supports actions that address discrimination, promote inclusion, and advance equal access to rights, making it highly relevant to projects targeting the integration and employability of migrants and refugees. By fostering rights-based, gender-sensitive, and community-driven approaches, the programme creates space for social innovation that enables vulnerable groups—among them migrant women or displaced persons. But CERV EQUAL does not directly target only migrant communities so keyword-based filtering is necessary to see if there are relevant initiatives.

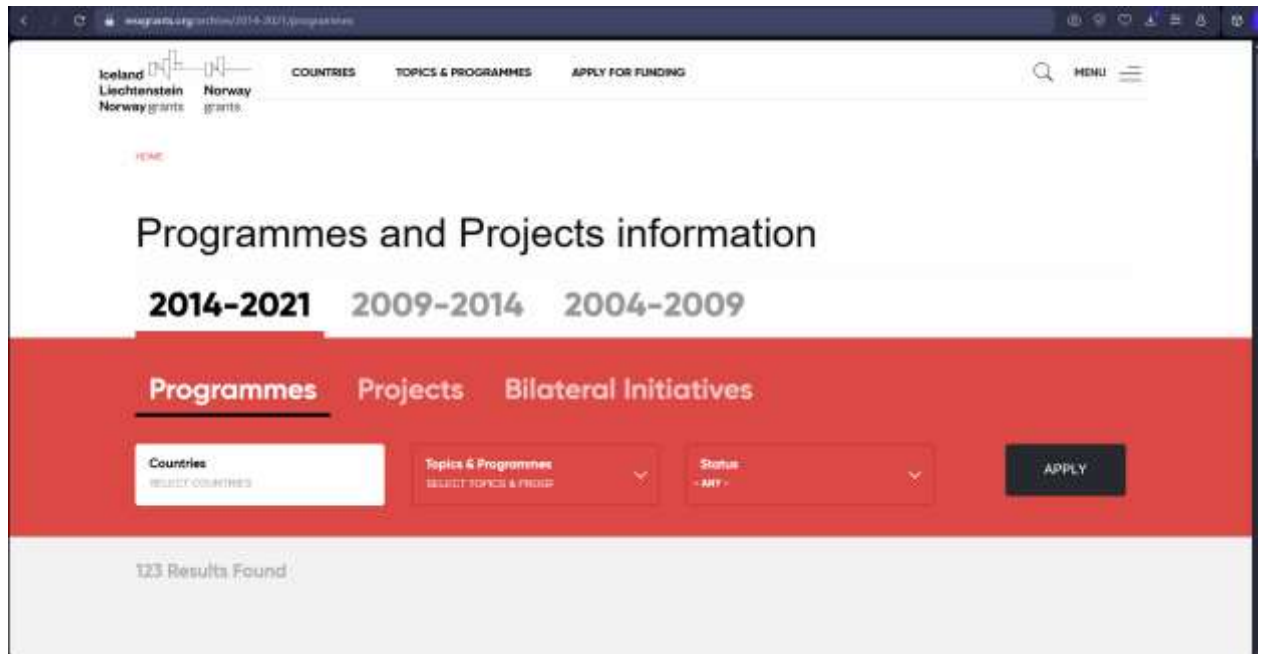
Important to note that this is not the same as the Equal Initiative that run between 2000-2006.



## The EEA and Norway Grants

Though the EEA and Norway Grants are not directly European Funds, their modus operandi is very well fit into the European project landscape and their focus is strongly connected to the social innovation related topics relevant for the current

SIMPLE exercise. The website: <https://eeagrants.org/archive/2014-2021/programmes>, and filtering for the 2014-2021 period is important.



## Annex 2. Fiche template (for the first 50)

### Part A – Basic Information

*This section gathers essential factual data to ensure that each initiative is documented, traceable, and eligible for further consideration.*

<b>Field</b>	<b>Description / Notes</b>
<b>Initiative Name</b>	Full official name of the initiative
<b>Country / Region of Implementation</b>	Indicate where the initiative was implemented
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Coordinating body (public, private, NGO, etc.)
<b>Project Period</b>	Start and end dates (YYYY-YYYY)
<b>Funding Source(s)</b>	E.g. Horizon 2020, ESF+, Erasmus+, national/regional funds
<b>Total Budget</b>	Total amount allocated (if available)
<b>Number of Beneficiaries / Participants</b>	Provide numeric data or approximate estimates
<b>Availability of Project Documentation</b>	Tick box: <input type="checkbox"/> Final report <input type="checkbox"/> Mid-term report <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation report <input type="checkbox"/> Other: .....
<b>Access to Materials</b>	Public / Restricted / On request
<b>Language of Materials</b>	E.g. English, national language

*Initiatives without documentation will be excluded from further review.*

## Part B – Content-Oriented Assessment

*This section explores the strategic, social, and operational relevance of the initiative in relation to the SIMPLE project's aims.*

Field	Description / Notes
<b>Target Group Definition</b>	Who was supported? Specify gender, nationality, age, status (e.g. migrant women, youth) ..... ..... .....
<b>Size of Target Group</b>	Total number reached or planned (disaggregated by gender if possible) .....
<b>Stakeholders Involved</b>	Describe actors involved, ideally classified via the quadruple helix model: - Public sector / authorities: ..... - Civil society / NGOs: ..... - Business / employers: ..... - Academia / research organisations: .....
<b>Main Objectives of the Initiative</b>	Summarise the intervention logic (1–2 lines) ..... ..... .....
<b>Key Activities</b>	E.g. training, mentoring, placement, community building ..... ..... ..... ..... .....
<b>Level of Innovation</b>	What makes the initiative innovative in its method, content, or delivery? ..... ..... .....

<p><b>Evidence of Evaluation or Impact</b></p>	<p>Is there a project or third-party evaluation? Tick box:  <input type="checkbox"/> Internal  <input type="checkbox"/> External</p>
<p><b>Follow-up Activities / Sustainability</b></p>	<p>Was the initiative scaled, continued, or replicated? Describe.          .....          .....          .....          .....          .....</p>
<p><b>Transferability Potential</b></p>	<p>Is there evidence that this could be adapted to other contexts?          Tick box:  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No          Reasoning: .....          .....          .....          .....</p>

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS CONTRIBUTORS**

We would like to acknowledge the contributions to this “Common Methodology” made by all of the SIMPLE - Social Innovation Models to Promote Learning and Employability consortium partners:

Hétfa Kutatóintézet KFT (HEFTA), Hungary – Renata Anna Jaksa, Author

## **CONTRIBUTORS:**

CTS Customized Training Solutions sp. z o.o. (CTS), Poland

University Civitas (University Civitas), Poland

Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (AIE), Croatia

Institut de Haute Formation aux Politiques Communautaires asbl (IHF), Belgium

IDP SAS DI GIANCARLO COSTANTINO (ITALIAN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS) (IDP), Italy

Asociación IT Solutions for All (ITSFA), Spain

Hope Ukraine Foundation E.T.S. (HOPE UKRAINE), Italy

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