

**PLEDGE ON JUST TRANSITION:  
BALANCING SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES  
Call for pledges – Transition pathway on proximity and social economy**

## ANNEX II: SELECTED JUST TRANSITION INITIATIVES IN THE EU

Sixteen successful and illustrative initiatives of just transition by social economy have been selected in eight Member States: Belgium, France, Italy, Luxemburg, Poland, Romania, Spain and Sweden. Each initiative is described according to the same grid of analysis.

### INITIATIVE 1: TERRITOIRE ZÉRO CHÔMEUR DE LONGUE DURÉE (ZERO LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT TERRITORY) OF PIPRIAC-SAINT-GANTON (FRANCE)

#### a) Project identity card

**Name :** TZCLD or « Territoire Zéro chômeur de longue durée de Pipriac-Saint-Ganton » (the zero long-term unemployment territory of Pipriac-Saint-Ganton),

**Location:** The project is located on the territories of Pipriac and Saint-Ganton, in Ille-et-Vilaine Department.

**Manager's name:** TZCLD project is managed and animated by the « Comité Local pour l'Emploi (CLE) » (Local Job Committee), a board of local actors which carries out the project on the territory, with the Mayors of Pipriac and of Saint-Ganton at its head.

**Legal status:** On the territories of Pipriac and Saint-Ganton, TEZEA « EBE » (Enterprise for Jobs) aims at hiring long-term unemployed people. It is an « Association Loi 1901 », a non-profit organization. Whereas the « CLE » (Local Job Committee) has no legal status, as it is an informal office.

**History:** the TZCLD of Pipriac-Saint-Ganton is one of the first experimentation territories after their creation in 2016. Built around TEZEA « EBE » (Enterprise for Jobs), the project associates various actors of the territory, such as the cities of Pipriac and Saint-Ganton, as Iloz, a local structure in charge of backing local people towards employment and training.

**Number of employees in FTE:** 66 employees on contract on 12/31/2020

**Annual budget:** 274 995 euros in 2019

For more information, visit the website : <https://tezea.fr/>

#### b) Economic, social and environmental objectives

TZCLD experience aims at eradicating long-term unemployment (over 12 months) by hiring on permanent contract voluntary long-term unemployed individuals, in an Enterprise for Jobs, a structure specifically created on that purpose. On the territories of Pipriac and Saint-Ganton, TEZEA has that role.

#### c) Characteristics

**Citizen involvement :** apart from the long-term unemployed who may join the Enterprise for Jobs, local citizens are not directly involved in TZCLD project of Pipriac and Saint-Ganton. They can benefit from TEZEA activities through various activities developed by the enterprise to answer to the needs on Pipriac and Saint-Ganton territories.

**Governance and organization mode:** The Local Job Committee carries out the experience on the territory. Its mission is mainly to mobilize local actors around the project, among which the people unemployed for more than 12 months willing to engage in the initiative. The « Zero long-term unemployment Territory of Pipriac-Saint-Ganton » project associates employees to its governance, some of them joining different boards (the boards of directors of the project, of TEZEA and the Local Job Committee).

#### d) Ecosystems and operating mode

**Description of the local or territorial ecosystem:** The local Zero long-term unemployment territories are territorial projects, based on the cooperation between the various actors of the territories (social sectors organizations, local enterprises, local communities), the Local Job Office gathering all those participants.

**Partnerships, including with local authorities:** TZCLD project cannot exist without a multi-actor partnership. For the Pipriac-Saint-Ganton project, the partnership with both parishes is essential.

**Operating mode:** Iloz is the local structure which orientates voluntary long-term unemployed towards TEZEA. TEZEA develops around 30 local activities which have to be non-provided for and non-competitive: recycling, dismantling (metals, tires, cardboards, papers, building frames), upcycling (creation of pallets, of textiles), trading (recycling shops, groceries, mobile shops), services (car cleaning, equipment providing, mediation services), subcontracting (dry-cleaning, mending, groceries).

#### e) Economic specificities

**Financing mode:** TEZEA enterprise generates its own budget thanks to its activities but is also financed by the national « Zero long-term unemployment territory » experimental fund.

**Key challenges:** the main difficulty is finding activities which are non-provided for on the territory and non-competitive.

**Possibilities and modes of replication/swarming in other localities/countries:** first launched on 10 territories, the experience reaches 48 territories in 2023.

**Other economic and, if possible, quantitative information:**

- ⇒ Turnover: 370 000 euros for TEZEA in 2020
- ⇒ The enterprise has had 886 clients since 2018 (631 private individuals, 122 companies and 39 associations)
- ⇒ The annual cost of one TEZEA employee is 29 500 euros in 2020
- ⇒ The financial contribution of the government and of the Departmental Council to each employee's salary amounts to 19 550 euros in 2020 (the contribution of Ille-et-Vilaine Departmental Council amounting to 2 000 euros for each employee).

#### f) Role of local, national and European policies

**Integration in a territorial development strategy :** the project is a territorial one and aims at fighting against long-term unemployment.

**Financial, fiscal and regulatory support :** The TZCLD project of Pipriac and Saint-Ganton benefits from the financial support of the government and of the Department Council.

**g) Social and environmental impact, in regard to the objectives**

The TZCLD project of Pipriac and Saint-Ganton contributes to the fight against long-term unemployment. TEZEA activities contribute to the territory dynamism. Thus, the enterprise has a part in the maintenance of proximity trade in the rural city of Saint-Ganton, through the management of Saint-Ganton grocery shop.

Apart from that, the female employees who had no jobs until then find the feeling of usefulness again, by taking part in TEZEA activities, which meet non locally provided needs and which very often have a definite ecological benefit. Even though activities with no ecological impact are not primarily privileged, they nevertheless represent the majority of the activities developed by the Enterprises for Jobs.

**h) Conditions for success**

The territorial dynamics, especially the involvement of public actors and local enterprises, are essential conditions for the initiative success.

## INITIATIVE 2 : STPLN (MALMÖ, SWEDEN)

### a) Project identity card

**Name:** STPLN

**Location:** Malmö, Sweden

**Manager's name:** Bertil Björk

**Legal status:** Non-Profit NGO

**History:** The NGO grew out of an initiative by the city of Malmö to create a user-centred creativity centre. The official launch year was 2011, but there had been a few years of prototyping and experimentation before that. This creative centre focuses on circular practices and participatory culture.

The door is open to all experiences, all levels and all ages. They have workshops, studios and an open office space ready to be used. Here are a few examples of projects:

An analogue media production lab, a bike repair workshop, a makerspace, a co-working space, a woodworking workshop, a textile workshop, a creative recycling workshop for children, a repair café, a food workshop, a choir for people of colour, yoga, a gong bath, urban gardening, a European volunteering programme, an incubation programme for professional artists, research programmes, improvisation and much more...

**Number of employees in FTE:** 4 employees. The work teams are diverse: long-term unemployed, addicts, people with disabilities, school drop-outs, victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, custodial sentences, homeless, etc.

**Annual budget:** €600,000/year

**For more information, visit the website :** <https://stpln.org/>

### b) Economic, social and environmental objectives

The whole project is based on a 2 000m<sup>2</sup> of studios, shared workshops, and event venues in a flexible environment. In fact, the area was one of the last remnants of Malmö's former shipbuilding industry, transformed to provide space, time structure and methods to target groups such as individuals and organisations with creative, innovative ideas in circular practice (among other). It hosts "Fiber Land" an initiative to develop the natural materials hemp, flax and wool for a local sustainable design and production.

### c) Characteristics

**Citizen involvement & Governance :** They have an external board with members from the civil sector, the business sector, cultural life and the municipality of Malmö. Since they run the place according to participatory principles, the relationship with the local community is essential. All STPLN initiatives are managed by individuals or groups of individuals from the surrounding community.

### d) Economic specificities

**Key challenges:** The most significant difficulty relates to short-term funding (demand each year), which makes long-term planning and the development of long-term sustainable relationships with other institutions difficult.

### e) Role of local, national or European policies

This initiative arose from a desire on the part of the municipality and the political majority to create an independent organisation to manage the hub. The city provided the necessary resources at the outset. Around 50% of the funding comes from the local municipality - Department of Culture. The



rest comes from various sources of income, depending on the initiatives and projects undertaken. These are generally Nordic or European funds, private donors, workshop fees and membership subscriptions, etc. They are facilitators and provide a service to the public sector by helping cultural initiatives to grow and develop. This has a direct impact on the cultural life, quality of life and economic development of an important sector - the CCIs. Institutions of our type provide a public service and should be seen as a strategic resource for the city.

## INITIATIVE 3 : LA REBOOTERIE (FRANCE)

### a) Project identity card

**Name:** La Rebooterie (the rebooting place)

**Location:** Toulouse, south-west of France

**Manager's name:** Rémi Azemar

**Legal status:** Association Loi 1901 (non-profitable organization)

**History:** opened in February 2021 in Toulouse popular district named Les Minimes (The Minimals), the Rebooterie is a digital hardware recycling place which emphasizes on the training and self-training to repair, to better understand and use digital tools.

**Number of employees in FTE :** 2 ETP employees and 10 volunteers

**Annual budget:** 48 200 euros (2021 Activity Report)

**For more information, visit the website :** <https://larebooterie.fr/>

### b) Economic, social and environmental objectives

La Rebooterie encourages mutual aid and solidarity among persons related to computing. It emphasizes on the sharing and valuation of individuals knowledge and expertise and allows to encourage access to digital tools, thus limiting digital fracture.

Moreover, the association contributes to ecological transition by reducing waste volume, by encouraging a better digital equipment management (reuse and recycling of all digital object pieces) and by raising digital environment stakes awareness.

### c) Characteristics

**Citizen involvement:** the inhabitants may take part in the available workshops and get involved in their animation.

**Governance and organization mode:** a collegiate board of directors meets monthly, with the employees.

### d) Ecosystems and operating mode

**Description of the local or territorial ecosystem:** La Rebooterie is located at the heart of two popular districts of Toulouse, both benefiting from the city priority policy.

**Partnerships, including with local authorities :** La Rebooterie develops three types of partnership:

- ⇒ with local associations: La Rebooterie intervenes voluntarily in their workshops
- ⇒ with associations specialized in computing
- ⇒ with recycling associations which give hardware to La Rebooterie

**Operating mode:** La Rebooterie offers various workshops (digital advice, free workshops to diagnose digital problems or to develop advanced use of digital tools, collective training to develop autonomy on precise subjects or various digital matters) (activity report 2021, 26 | 68).

#### e) Economic specificities

**Financing mode:** La Rebooterie is partly self-financed (hardware sale, external services). But it is also financed by subsidies from Haute-Garonne Department, the City of Toulouse and Toulouse Metropole, the ADEME); by a membership system (560 members in 2021).

The association will soon organize digital moderation training for professionals.

**Key challenges:** The stake to overcome technophobia, mainly due to the geek community which keeps people aside thanks to its technical vocabulary; so the members are more punctual users and don't systematically keep long-lasting relations with the association.

**Possibilities and modes of replication/swarming in other localities/countries:** the functioning principles of a digital recycling organization can be quite easily replicated.

#### f) Role of local, national and European policies

**Financial, fiscal and regulatory support:** La Rebooterie benefits from the financial support of the Mairie de Toulouse and of Toulouse Metropole, Haute-Garonne Department, as well as the ADEME.

#### g) Social and environment impact, in regard to the objectives

Thanks to its workshops, La Rebooterie contributes to train local people for digital repair and follows them in their progress.

The workshops allow participants to learn and practice what they've learnt. « Learning how to do » contributes to self-esteem. On a small scale, La Rebooterie sorting, recycling, repairing and re-use activities have an environmental impact. The association collects digital equipment through their calls for donations, at one local deposit place and at collecting points in two waste centers.

The hardware is diagnosed before being recycled, according to three different processes: either pieces reuse when the machine can't be repaired, or use for the « 0-euro PC » action, or -more classical- reconditioning for resale. The association achieves the reuse of 80% of the collected hardware (the remaining 20% being recycled).

#### h) Condition of success

Local implantation, a convivial place.

Free workshops (with a 10-euro annual membership) and a « 0-euro PC » workshop allowing access to all.

An atmosphere encouraging kind mutual aid between workshop participants and voluntary involvement.

## INITIATIVE 4 : BRASSERIE TRICENTENAIRE (LUXEMBOURG)

### a) Project Identity Card

**Name:** Les Ateliers du Tricentenaire – Société Coopérative

**Location:** Bissen, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (HQ)

**Manager's name:** Laura Veneziani, Director Tricentenaire asbl

**Legal status:** Non-profit association (asbl)

**History:** The Tricentenaire microbrewery is an example of the success of active collaboration between associations and public authorities. Thanks to this partnership, a municipality has been able to upgrade a derelict café and provide employment for people with disabilities.

In 2016, the Luxembourg commune of Lintgen (Prettingen) and the management of Tricentenaire met to discuss the takeover of the village's historic café, which was no longer in operation. The result was a beer, "La Circulaire", and the idea of setting up a micro-brewery on the site.

According to the project, this beer will be produced by recycling unsold bread to prepare the yeast. The spent grains will be used to grow mushrooms, while the pitch will also be used to make aperitif cookies for the bar.

**Number of employees in FTE:** 15 supervisory and administrative staff and 48 employees. The project presented below will complete the range of Work Inclusion Workshops offered by Tricentenaire to employees with disabilities. In the long term, between 30 and 35 additional positions for disabled people and 6 professional supervisors should be created.

**Annual budget:** €944,811 sales of all current Tricentenaire Workshops

For more information, visit the website : <https://www.tricentenaire.lu/fr>

### b) Economic, social and environmental objectives

All Tricentenaire Société Coopérative employment projects are based on the principles of sustainable development, respect for the environment, organic and Fairtrade products and the circular economy.

However, the main objective is to create attractive, well-paid jobs, within workshops for professional inclusion or oriented towards the ordinary working environment, for people with motor/physical disabilities or intellectual disabilities with associated disorders.

If 500 liters of beer are brewed every month (according to the Simon brewery's forecasts of 200l/beer every 2 weeks) = around 50 kg of bread x 12 months, i.e. around 6000 liters of beer per year and 600 kg of bread/year, or almost a tonne of bread/year if we count the tests for sourdough/yeast.

The volume of mushroom cultivation (for catering purposes) based on the brewery's tank bottoms is not yet known at this stage, nor is the volume of aperitif cookies made from pitch.

### c) Characteristics

#### **Citizen involvement**

The core activity of the brewery and café is dedicated to animate the village life, with a universal access for all citizens. The project is based on an intergenerational and friendly space approach.

**Governance and organization:** Unknown



#### d) Ecosystems and operating mode

**Description of the local or territorial ecosystem:** Exchanges between Tricentenaire and the municipality have made it possible to envisage, in the medium term, the renovation and extension of the former Prommenschenkel café building with the following 4 objectives:

- ⇒ The installation of a bar-restaurant-terrace to revitalize the heart of the village,
- ⇒ The adjacent installation of a micro-brewery producing a beer called "la circulaire" (under the technical sponsorship of the Brasserie Simon, already well known in the area) using a technique that recycles uneaten/unsold bread for the yeast used to make the beer, and whose vat bottoms (spent grains) will be used to grow mushrooms,
- ⇒ The installation of a bicycle rental, maintenance and repair workshop,
- ⇒ The management of medium-sized halls for various leisure activities for the community (including a children's playground).

**Partnership, including with public authorities :** Although the project has not yet seen the light of day, the technical partnership with Brasserie Simon: for the recipe for the craft beer made from recycled bread, for the development of the micro-brewery project and its technical recommendations in terms of both equipment and future skills is essential, in addition to giving us the benefit of its reputation throughout the country.

The partnership with supermarkets is also vital, since it is through this company that unsold bread will be collected to make the leavens used to brew beer at the microbrewery.

Other partners such as Ateliers d'Inclusion Professionnelle de l'APEMH (another social and disability sector association in Luxembourg) will supply, via their carpentry workshop, the wooden crates containing the beers (six-pack), thus also contributing to the employment of people with intellectual disabilities and to the circular economy.

**Operating mode:** see "history".

#### e) Economic specificities

**Financing methods:** Operating costs will be partly covered by the bar's commercial activities, as well as the sale of products in outlets already opened by Les Ateliers du Tricentenaire.

**Profitability:** The project is still in the development and launch phase, so it's still too early to comment on profitability.

**Key challenges:** Difficulties relating to the restructuring of the building and the use of adjacent land have delayed the project, which requires various ministerial authorizations (notably the location of a parking lot in a potentially protected natural area).

**Development prospects:** The project is still in the development and launch phase, so it is still too early to comment on development prospects.

**Possibility and method of replication/similarization in other localities/countries :** The project is still in the development and launch phase, so it is still too early to comment on prospects for replication.

#### f) Role of local, national or European policies

**Integration into a territorial development strategy :** The project is part of a strategy to revitalize the village and was initiated in collaboration with local public institutions (the Luxembourg municipality of Lintgen (Prettingen)).

**Financial, fiscal and regulatory support :** This initiative was made possible thanks to a number of partnerships, both with public and private institutions. For example, the project benefited from the support of the municipality of Lintgen, which not only made the surrounding land available, but also purchased the former café. Possible support from the Ministry of Labor for the employment of people

with disabilities and from the Ministry for the Family to cover the costs of rebuilding the site is still under consideration.

In addition to this public support, Brasserie Simon is offering its technical expertise, and various retail outlets are making their unsold bread available. Likewise, the professional inclusion workshops of APEMH (another social and disability sector association in Luxembourg) provide the wooden crates used to hold the beers and contribute to the employment support of intellectually disabled people working on the project. The partnership with Brasserie Simon, in particular, has played a crucial role both in sponsoring the project and sharing its reputation, and in developing the recipe and the microbrewery.

The project has the support of the municipality of Lintgen/Prettingen, which, in addition to making the surrounding land available, has purchased the former Prommenschenkel café.

The project is still being analyzed by the partner ministries: the Ministry of Labor for the employment of people with disabilities, and the Ministry of the Family for the operating approvals issued to the Ateliers d'Inclusion Professionnelle, and for the costs of restructuring/reconstructing the site. The Ministry for the Family is expected to bear the costs of restructuring/reconstructing the future complex.

Without the various forms of support, Tricentenaire alone would not be able to assume the financial burden of such a project, which moreover lies at the heart of village life and alongside the cycle path, and which fully meets the policy of job creation for people with disabilities as defined in the government's 2019-2024 action plan for people with disabilities.

**g) Social and environmental impact in relation to objectives**

The project is still in the development and launch phase, so it is too early to comment on its impact.

**h) Conditions for success**

It would be interesting to be able to show how these initiatives have met needs not met by the market or public authorities.

## INITIATIVE 5 : ETA BETA (ITALY)

### a) Project Identity Card

**Name:** Eta Beta

**Location:** Bologna, Italy

**Legal status:** Type A and B non-profit-making social cooperative founded under the law of 1992

**History:** Eta Beta is a mixed A and B type not-for-profit social cooperative that was founded in 2016 as an Association of artists engaged in research and experimentation with materials, with a particular focus on the social. Created in 2006, ETA BETA inherited the services and history of the Artists' Association.

**Number of employees in FTE :** 15 members in the cooperative, including 7 so-called "disadvantaged" members and one legal entity; Average of 50 people completing the integration pathway/year

**Annual budget:** the centre will not open until 2023.

**For more information, visit the website :** <https://www.etabeta.coop/>

### b) Economic, social and environmental objectives

The aim of this initiative is to help socially vulnerable people back into society through creative craft activities or back-to-work training. The programme takes place in 3 stages, which may eventually lead to part-time employment in the cooperative. More broadly, this initiative raises awareness of sustainable development.

### c) Characteristics

**Citizen involvement :** As said before, Eta Beta allows for the social integration of disadvantaged people through creative art craft activities or back to work trainings. In addition, to achieve its objective of raising awareness on sustainable development, the cooperative offers workshop to schools in the Bologna region.

**Governance and organization :** Eta Beta is run by a Board of Directors with a 3-year mandate. It is made up of 4 people: Chairman, Joan Crous Ramio, working partner, responsible for technical coordination; Vice-Chairwoman, M.Giovanna Bubbico, working partner, responsible for educational coordination; Councillor, Mara Casarini, working partner, with power of attorney for security; Town Councillor, Fatma Pizzirani, representing the subsidising member.

### d) Ecosystems and operating mode

**Partnership, including with public authorities :** UniBio University helps with the cooperative's agricultural activities. Also, the cooperative has a close partnership with the mental health department, the pathological drug addiction service of the ASUL of Bologna and the local courts. These are only examples as over the years, Eta Beta has built up an extensive network of contacts with a wide range of local players in the public service, the private social sector and the for-profit sector. The collaborations are based on respect of the roles of each party and the recognition of the positive aspects of each player involved.

**Operating mode:** Eta Beta, which began as an association of artists, became a social cooperative with the aim of employing disadvantaged workers. Their services are designed and managed with the tool of 'doing'. They keep attention to a constant centrality of the person with his or her differences and frailties that can become resources. The coop is ethical and democratic orientated, consistent with its non-profit vocation. Their innovative entrepreneurial development is guided by compatible and sustainable economic values, with social and collective effectiveness, for public and private entities.

Their methodology is like a pendulum that swings between:

- ⇒ *doing and thinking*, from conception and planning to implementation and management of activities
- ⇒ *ethics and aesthetics*, supporting the beauty of imperfection
- ⇒ *individuality and sociality*, with a focus on the individual and his or her specificities, but with an attentive look at the context

Their values that guide every activity are:

- ⇒ Health
- ⇒ Social
- ⇒ Environmental Sustainability

**e) Economic specificities**

- Financing methods

**Profitability:**

- ⇒ Turnover €1,985,132.00;
- ⇒ Assets €851,569.00;
- ⇒ Equity €116,694.00;
- ⇒ Operating profit -€17,944.00

**Key challenges:** The cooperative closed its financial activity of the financial year 2022 with a slight loss. It was a complex year for various reasons: increase utilities, difficulties in procuring materials, and internal reasons: increase in sectors, creation of warehouse, increase in personnel.

**Development prospects :** 2023 was supposed to be the year of consolidation of existing activities and had to be characterised by careful management of resources with the need to make important decisions for the future of the cooperative.

Strategic improvement objectives in 2022:

- ⇒ Make each sector of the Cooperative economically and strategically independent,
- ⇒ Foster the growth of a new young management team,
- ⇒ Development of activities in the Podere San Ludovico,
- ⇒ Care for the Salus Space project,
- ⇒ Growth of economic activities to decrease dependence on public subsidies,
- ⇒ Training of sector managers,
- ⇒ Staff training,
- ⇒ Care of individual experiences in the Cooperative.

**e) Role of local, national or European policies**

The third place receives subsidies from the municipality of Bologna to operate. Beta Eta also has partnerships with various departments in the city of Bologna, particularly in the fields of health and agriculture. For example, since 2016, the organisation has been working with the mental health department and the pathological drug addiction service of ASUL Bologna, which provides funding for a health budget. They are also in partnership with the Court of Bologna and the municipality of Bologna to take in prisoners as part of community service hours.

**f) Social and environmental impact in relation to objectives**

Concerning their social and environmental responsibility, Eta Beta uses the SDGs and among the one they work on most are:

- 1.No Poverty: the reason why the cooperative was established and continues to work is to provide employment opportunities especially to disadvantaged people who would be unlikely to find a place in the world of work and young people.
3. Good Health and well-being: all areas of the cooperative are shaped with the aim of providing social and educational for people in the public service care. This for example has an impact on their markets and kitchen that promote the use of organic and predominantly vegetarian products.
4. Quality Education: their educational courses are aimed at an increasingly heterogeneous catchment area; curricular traineeships are carried out in the cooperative, mainly by students from the University of Bologna, in various fields; The Bo grant has an important innovative pedagogical value.
5. Decent work and economic growth. They act in the direction of guaranteeing as many people as possible jobs that allow them to live with a decent standard of living; their activities are an important contribution to the development of the Bologna area and beyond.
11. Sustainable Cities and communities : the cycle and vegetable corridor area was built on an area that had been abandoned for a long time; In Salus Space the aim is to move in the direction of a zero-waste community, based on the principles of the circular economy, in a highly innovative context that defines a good case practice at European level; the Battirame Space is a public asset to which the cooperative has given a new social utility.
12. Responsible consumption and production: Many of their products are made from recycled goods; the Novale markets promote the purchase of 0 km products.
17. Partnerships for the goals: to achieve its goals, the cooperative has a constantly growing number of partners so that it can realise as appropriately as possible their organisational objectives.

## INITIATIVE 6: MALOPOLSKA (POLAND)

### a) Project identity card

**Name:** Programme for circular economy of Malopolska

**Location:** Malopolska, Poland

**Legal status:** public authority programme

**History:** The programme for circular economy is a brand-new programme developed by the Malopolska Marshal's office aimed at setting up a new regional economic development/growth model. This is a comprehensive and integrate attempt to elaborate an integrated plan with the direct involvement of various stakeholders from several sectors, including the social economy.

The programme is one of the main tools for the Regional Development Strategy "Malopolska 2030".

The circular economy programme starts from the promotion of the principles of circular economy, and the evidence of the advantages of following such an approach. The programme insists on the needs of well-skilled personnel for the implementation of passage to a circular economy model, that rests on an efficient use of products, raw materials and waste. These main lines of action are backed by the pursuit of appropriate regulatory solutions for circular economy. The programme follows a scheme starting from a diagnosis exercise to identify main priority actions, preview expected results, set-up the model of intervention, carry out the actions, monitoring and assessment of the main achievements.

The very first step for the programme was to take stock of the results of the opinion poll among inhabitants of the region, asked about their knowledge of the concept of circular economy. The main results of the polls gave the following picture:

- ⇒ For 21% of inhabitants CE associates to sustainable water management
- ⇒ For 17% associates with waste management
- ⇒ For 14% with recycling
- ⇒ For 10% with energy saving/use of renewables

The reasons for implementing circularity:

- ⇒ For 77% to increase environmental consciousness
- ⇒ For 62% to save money
- ⇒ For 14% to imitate good practices

While asked for main actions they would carry out in order to improve environmental quality, malopolans answered:

- ⇒ Better household waste management: 99%
- ⇒ Pursue of more sustainable shopping attitudes: 95%
- ⇒ Repair instead of buying new things: 87%
- ⇒ Give up with coal-based house heating systems: 62%

### b) Economic, social and environmental objectives

Included under "characteristics"

### c) Characteristics

**Citizen's involvement :** Citizens were largely involved in the diagnosis phase, especially through surveys of citizens' needs and vision concerning matters related to a circular economy programme.

**Governance and organisation :** The programme is implemented by the Marshall services.

#### d) Ecosystems and operating mode

The two main actors that supported the Marshal's office in the endeavour are the "strategic advisory team", from research area, and the "circular economy advisory team" composed by representatives of NGOs, enterprises, and other public authorities.

**Operating mode:** The regional development strategy "Maloposka 2030" represents the framework in which the Circular Economy Plan was developed. The strategy is divided into 5 targets:

- ⇒ Malopolans: pursuing a social sensitive, family-friendly development.
- ⇒ Economy: boosting an innovative and competitive economy.
- ⇒ Climate and environment: backing high environmental quality and striving for climate neutrality.
- ⇒ Strategic management: a strategic development management system to adapt to challenges of the 2020-2030 decade.
- ⇒ Territorial and balanced development: promoting sustainable and balanced development based on endogenous potential

The 5 targets are pursued through actions in 6 policy priority areas:

- ⇒ Innovation
- ⇒ Competitiveness and entrepreneurship
- ⇒ Tourism
- ⇒ Transport
- ⇒ Digital malopolska
- ⇒ Circular economy

Ten areas of intervention were identified as key for the programme:

- ⇒ Education and research
- ⇒ Ecodesign
- ⇒ Efficient use of products, raw materials and other resources, waste cycle
- ⇒ Water management
- ⇒ Green/sustainable buildings
- ⇒ Energy efficient transport
- ⇒ Nutrition/sustainable agriculture
- ⇒ Digitalisation/AI
- ⇒ Tourism
- ⇒ Spatial management of urban and rural areas

#### e) Role of local, national or European policies

The Malopolska programme for CE is a main pillar of a larger strategy that relays, as a whole, on the availability of EU resources from Cohesion Policy Funds, CAP, and Reconstruction and Resilience funds.

This creates very favourable conditions for its implementation and allow to connect the development of CE to overall regional development.

The use of EU funds calls, among other, to the implementation of the partnership principles included in the European Code of Conduct on Partnership, thus including a strong participation of social and solidarity economy in the different stages of programme conception, design, implementation and monitoring.

## INITIATIVE 7: ESPIGOLADORS (SPAIN)

### a) Project Identity Card

**Name:** Espigoladors

**Location:** Spain - Catalonia

**Manager's name:** Mireia Barba, Marina Pons and Jordi Bruni

**Legal status:** Non-profit organisation

**History:** *"What if... Unsightly fruit and vegetables could offer opportunities to unemployed people, and vice versa?". Espigoladors is Spain's first social enterprise for the recycling of unsold food by people at risk of social exclusion. Thanks to its many partnerships and solid logistics, it has succeeded in proving the viability of its model in the Catalonia region. Ultimately, the company hopes to spread its business model to other regions of Spain.*

Founded in 2014, Espigoladors (which translates as "the gleaners") aims to revive "gleaning", a traditional peasant practice. In centuries gone by, once the main harvests were over, poor peasants could come and pick up what was left in the fields (ears of wheat, nuts, olives...). Inspired by this ancient popular practice, the Catalan project pursues the triple objective of combating food waste, facilitating access to quality food and creating jobs for people at risk of social exclusion.

When a partner informs Espigoladors that they have surplus to donate, they mobilize their team of workers and volunteers to collect it. If necessary, these people are trained on site to carry out the task. Most of this food is then redistributed to food aid associations.

The remainder of the harvest (around 5%) is recovered and processed in the company's workshops under the brand name "es imp-perfect". The foodstuffs produced are varied: jams, sauces, vegetable pâtés, creams, juices, preserves, etc. They are then resold in partner stores, in recycled baskets (old pencil jars, bird's nests, etc.). This last stage contributes to the project's ecological philosophy, as well as to the development of an original and recognizable brand image.

**Number of employees in FTE :** 5 (FTE)

**Annual budget:** 130,000 euros

**For more information, visit the website :** <https://espigoladors.cat/en/>

### b) Economic, social and environmental objectives

- ⇒ Fruit and vegetables recovered: 22,000 kg.
- ⇒ CO2 emissions avoided: 83,600 kg.
- ⇒ Economic value recovered: €12,250.
- ⇒ Number of kilos donated: 18,200 kg.
- ⇒ Number of kilos processed: 3,800 kg.
- ⇒ Number of "es im-perfection" products produced: 3,000 jars.
- ⇒ The collectives involved: 5 people (FTE)

### c) Characteristics

**Citizen involvement :** Espigoladors mobilizes its team of workers and volunteers to collect surplus fruit/vegetables. This is the most active phase of citizen involvement.

**Governance and organization :** The model's strategy is endorsed by a strategic committee of professional experts who advise and support them in their viability. In addition, they have a network of professionals, businesses and organizations of a dreaming nature who support them in their mission.



#### d) Ecosystems

**Operating mode:** They collect fruit and vegetables that are discarded for a variety of reasons: overproduction, declining sales, or because the fruit is too ripe or does not meet aesthetic criteria of shape, size and color. 95% of this collection goes directly to social entities that manage access to food for at-risk groups. The other part of this collection is destined for processing to produce high-quality canned goods, which are marketed under a social brand called "es imp-perfect". The main aim of the 5% is to perpetuate the food recovery model. This is the first brand in Spain to sell quality products made from surplus or ugly fruit and vegetables, with the participation of groups at risk of social exclusion. They produce fruit and vegetable jams, vegetable pâtés, and 100% natural, handcrafted sauces, ideal for everyday consumption or for impactful gifts or Christmas baskets. Authentic, quality products, made with local raw materials, respectful of the environment and with a high social value.

#### e) Economic specificities

##### Financing methods

**Profitability:** This initiative is not for profit, and the income from the sale of "unperfect" preserves, 5% of the food they process, and the implementation of projects against food waste are entirely dedicated to the sustainability of the recovery model.

##### Key challenges

**Development prospects:** They are not an autonomous organization at the moment, but their aim is to become one. Espigoladors is firmly committed to scaling up the model and replicating it in other parts of Spain. It's not about growing for the sake of growing, it's about growing to generate more job opportunities and reduce the rate of food waste. It's about creating a citizens' movement of prescribers against food waste who promote and facilitate the creation of laws or regulations against food waste and encourage a change in consumption patterns.

**Possibility and method of replication/similarization in other localities/countries :** They wish to replicate the model throughout Spain, increasing the social and environmental impact, creating a unique movement leading the fight against food waste.

**Other economic information, if possible quantitative :**

#### f) Role of local, national or European policies

**Integration into a territorial development strategy :** They maintain a rich network of partnerships with local producers, distributors and agri-businesses. They recover either their surplus production, or "unsightly" fruit and vegetables which, because of their appearance, may not be sold.

##### Financial, fiscal and regulatory support

## INITIATIVE 8 : ATELIERE FARE FONTIERE (ROMANIA)

### a) Project Identity Card

**Name:** Ateliers fare frontiere (AFF)

**Location:** Romania

**Manager's name:** Damien Thiery

**Legal status:** Romanian non-profit association

**History:** The Bio&Co farm (an initiative created by the "Ateliere Fara Frontiere" association) is a social enterprise in Romania that produces organic vegetables and reduces waste and pollution. The farm was set up in 2015, in a village of just over 1,400 inhabitants located 40 km from Bucharest. They fight exclusion, marginalisation and discrimination of the most disadvantaged category of people, acting for their social and professional integration. They help vulnerable members of the community by employing them on the farm and providing them with assistance and social support.

Bio&Co is a model of a social economy agricultural enterprise aimed at reintegrating vulnerable people into the labour market by combining environmental and social justice. Its effectiveness in combating pollution and food waste stems from its optimisation of all waste management processes, at all stages of the food chain. and food waste at all stages of the food chain.

**Number of employees in FTE:** 41. The work teams are diverse: long-term unemployed, addicts, people with disabilities, school dropouts, victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, custodial sentences, homeless, etc.

**Annual budget:** 750,000 euros

**For more information, visit the website :** <https://atelierefarafontiere.ro/>

### b) Economic, social and environmental objectives

Ateliere fare fontiere (AFF) is a Romanian non-profit association that employs disadvantaged people in social economy workshops or in social enterprises for integration through economic activity, with a view to preparing them for full social and professional reintegration into the conventional labour market.

Ateliere fare fontiere employs these people on its farm, while providing them with assistance and social support. In this way, they are able to combine the objectives of social and professional reintegration of people in difficulty with environmental protection.

### c) Characteristics

**Citizen involvement :** The vegetables produced by bio&co are sold to responsible consumers on a subscription basis, which encourages the involvement of local communities.

### d) Ecosystems

**Operating mode:** Their Bio&Co initiative is a Romanian social farm located in Ciocănari that has adopted a systematic approach to food loss and waste, having developed processes adapted to managing this issue throughout the food chain.

They collect their own waste as well as that from local businesses. Food waste that is still in good condition is entrusted to social canteens, while that which is unfit for consumption is composted and used to nourish the soil, reducing the need for fertilisers and pesticides.

**Type of cooperation with partners :** There are no direct links with partners; everything takes place within the same structure.

e) Economic specificities

- Financing methods
- Profitability
- Key challenges

This initiative was heavily impacted by the logistical costs involved in collecting and recycling unsold food. As a result, they have had to charge donors for taking back unsold food.

- Development prospects
- Possibility and method of replication/similarization in other localities/countries
- Other economic information, if possible quantitative

f) Role of local, national or European policies

- Integration into a territorial development strategy
- Financial, fiscal and regulatory support

g) Social and environmental impact in relation to objectives

This project has enabled 600 tonnes of unsold food to be recycled in 2019.

## INITIATIVE 9 : SOCIAL CENTRE OF BAGATELLE (TOULOUSE, FRANCE)

### a) Project Identity Card

**Name:** Centre Social de Bagatelle (Toulouse), carried on by the French association ASSQOT

**Location:** Toulouse. The Social Centre action extends over the district named Bagatelle (a district prioritized by the City policy, at the west of Toulouse)

**Manager's name:** Perrine Gaudé

**Legal status:** « Association Loi 1901 » (non-profit organization)

**History, presence or absence of a territorial diagnosis prior to the project launch :** Bagatelle Social Centre was created in 1966, in order to meet its inhabitants needs. At the end of May 2018, ASSQOT, an association which historically carried on actions in the leisure and youth sectors, was granted the management of Bagatelle Social Centre, succeeding to the local CAF (National Fund for Family Affairs).

**Number of employees in FTE (full monthly amount of hours) :** 9

**Annual budget:** around 300 000 euros.

**For more information, visit the website :** For more information, visit the website: <https://www.assqot.com/>

### b) Economic, social and environmental objectives

Bagatelle Social Centre has a social objective, particularly through actions towards the access to civil rights, the long-term assistance to families and youths, the promotion of culture and solidarity on its territory. The Social Centre project aims at the inhabitant's autonomy, emancipation and fulfillment, as well as the collective animation of social life.

Since 2019, the Social Centre also has been aiming at an ecological objective: a solidary and sustainable social project contributing to ecological transition on the territory. Next to other actors, the association carries out its action plan: « A Social Centre in Transition ». The ecological stake is approached transversely, in relation with all the Social Center actions and its functioning. That action plan is based on a diagnosis issued from a mini audit of the Center building itself, on a socio-economic diagnosis of BAFAPATABOR territory (acronym gathering the districts of Bagatelle, La Faourette, Papus Tabar, Bordelongue) and on a survey, carried out by FAIRÉCO Association among Bagatelle inhabitants, on their perception and practice related to environment.

### c) Characteristics

**Citizen involvement:** active voluntary involvement in the project and in the diagnosis prior to the action plan.

**Governance and organization mode:** the governance is shared within a commission of members of the association, composed with employees taking turns and a dozen voluntary members. There are thematic commissions, opened to all members.

### d) Ecosystems and operating mode

**Description of the local or territorial ecosystem:** The Social Centre develops its actions in partnership with many territory actors. Especially in its approach of ecological transition: thus, the Social Centre is cooperating with the « Régie de Quartier Desbals Services » (a district administration), to carry out the action plan for ecological transition. The Social Centre supports Alimeco, an

association created in November 2020 to promote access to healthy quality food and food autonomy of the territory. The local branch of VRAC, a national association for a collective purchase network, also belongs to the local ecosystem. That association organizes collective purchase in Bagatelle district, allowing more people to access to quality products.

Along with the « Régie de Quartier Desbals Services », the Social Centre is more widely involved in the collective dynamics of « BAFAPATABOR in Transition », which aims at gathering the inhabitants of Bagatelle-La Farouette-Papus-Tabar-Bordelongue districts around ecological transition stakes.

**Operating mode:** The Social Centre is opened every weekday, and sometimes at night or the weekend according to the available activities. The activities are numerous: information and access to civil rights, long-term assistance to families and youths, activities for seniors, development of culture and solidarity, management and animation of shared gardens, development of workshops on health.

#### e) Economic specificities

**Financing mode:** It is essentially public. The Centre is financed by the CAF (National Fund for Family Affairs) of Haute-Garonne Department, by the City of Toulouse and Toulouse Metropole, by the government, the ANCT (National Agency for Territories Cohesion), the Department Council, the « Assurance Retraite » (national retirement insurance system), La Fondation de France.

Private individual or family memberships (10 euros per year) give access to the ASSQOT activities.

Possibilities and modes of replication/swarming in other localities/countries: There are more than 1 400 social centers and « Espaces de vie sociale » (Social life centers) acting throughout France.

#### f) Role of local, national and European policies

**Integration in a territorial development strategy:** the Social Centre takes part in the territory actions for solidarity and develops cooperations with local actors to encourage a fair transition approach on the territory.

**Financial, fiscal and regulatory support:** Important public financial support for the setup of Bagatelle Social Centre activities.

#### g) Social and environment impact, in regard to the objectives

The Social Centre activities aim at improving the inhabitant's living environment. For example, the shared vegetable gardens users share convivial meals, consuming their own crops.

Living environment also demands citizen involvement, encouraged by the Social Centre which provides assistance to the projects initiated by the inhabitants.

Finally, through its « Social Centre in Transition » plan, the Social Centre contributes to the impulse for more ecological practices, allowing the inhabitants to become actors of those stakes.

#### h) Conditions for success

A federalist place, locally established.

A logic of strong citizen involvement, contributing to the appropriation of actions and projects by the inhabitants

Cooperation with local actors

A diagnosis prior to the « Social Centre in Transition » action plan, financed by the Fondation de France and realized with the Social Centre internal or external partners.

## INITIATIVE 10: ENVIE (BELGIUM)

Illustrating the powerful positive social impact that can result from partnerships between social economy and conventional economy companies, the EnVie project owes its success to the successful sharing of burdens between the various partners. Each brings its own specific skills to the table, and the overall synergy works to the benefit of all.

### a) Project Identity Card

**Name:** EnVie Atelier SCRL

**Location:** Belgium - Brussels

**Manager's name:** Naomi Smith, EnVie General Manager

**Legal status:** Cooperative

**History:** The enVie concept originated in France, where the social enterprise "Bon et Bien" launched a similar model. Naomi Smith, enVie's Canadian Managing Director, was until recently working in England, where she had launched a project to create soups with women in vulnerable positions. After moving to Belgium, she set up a soup business in Brussels with two social objectives: to offer job opportunities to long-term unemployed people in order to reintegrate them, to reduce waste due to surplus vegetables, and to produce in a short circuit by promoting Belgian agriculture.

**Number of employees in FTE :** 15

**Annual budget: sales in 2020 :** 222.000 €

**For more information, visit the website :** <https://www.envieatelier.be/fr>

### b) Economic, social and environmental objectives

Through its action, enVie aims to reduce food waste by using surplus or unsuitable vegetables in fresh soups. These vegetables are processed by employees benefiting from a Randstad training program, with a view to reintegrating the long-term unemployed into the job market through stable, rewarding employment. Each worker is hired for a year, and receives the training and practical experience needed to qualify as a "Food Sector Manufacturing Agent".

### c) Ecosystems and operating mode

**Description of the local or territorial :** This initiative is supported by five partners, each with a specific role to play:

- ⇒ Colruyt Group superstores provide product distribution points;
- ⇒ Human resources specialist Randstad plays a crucial role in creating and training work teams;
- ⇒ The REO Veiling agricultural cooperative supplies surplus fresh vegetables from Belgian growers;
- ⇒ FEBA (Belgian Federation of Food Banks) supports enVie as an ethical partner, putting all its expertise as a social player at the service of this project.

**Operating mode:** The enVie cooperative offers soups produced in Brussels by the long-term unemployed, based on the purchase of surplus fresh vegetables produced in Belgium from members of an agricultural cooperative, and redistributed to points of sale in a network of supermarkets.

### d) Economic specificities

**Financing methods:** This project is financed directly through the sale of finished products from the processing phase (soups), as part of a partnership with the Colruyt supermarket. This reduces logistics costs and ensures distribution to the 160 points of sale provided by the partner.

**Profitability:** The enVie soup range is currently available under the "Boni Selection" brand in the country's 132 OKay stores and some 40 Colruyt supermarkets.

**Possibility and method of replication/similarization in other localities/countries :** This project is in direct line with a previous initiative in France ("Bon et bien") and applied the same principles to its development in the context of the Brussels-Capital region. This project demonstrated the possibility and modality of replication in other localities. Indeed, the use of processing and valorization of unsold food represents a sector with strong growth potential.

e) Role of local, national or European policies

**Integration into a territorial development strategy:** This project is not directly integrated into a territorial development strategy but has a strong social and environmental impact.

**Financial, fiscal and regulatory support:** This initiative benefits solely from the support of partnerships with the above-mentioned players. It does not benefit from any form of support from public authorities.

f) Social and environmental impact in relation to objectives

When developing her project, Naomi Smith, enVie's Managing Director, wanted to develop a business with three objectives: to offer employment opportunities to long-term unemployed people in order to reintegrate them into the professional world, to reduce waste due to surplus vegetables and to promote local agriculture.

g) Conditions for success

Here are the key success criteria put forward by the cooperative:

- ⇒ Develop partnerships with private players to reduce logistics costs;
- ⇒ Collaborate with training specialists to improve the chances of reintegration through work for beneficiaries;
- ⇒ Develop a network of partners in which everyone benefits from their participation in the project;
- ⇒ Distribute tasks equitably among the various partners according to their specialties;
- ⇒ Create a brand and an effective communications strategy to promote it.

## INITIATIVE 11: THE ATELIER GROOT EILAND (BELGIUM)

### a) Project Identity Card

**Name:** Atelier Groot Eiland

**Location:** Belgium - Brussels

**Manager's name:** Nena Cornelis

**Legal status:** Non-profit association (asbl)

**History:** Atelier Groot Eiland is a Brussels-based social economy organization that fights poverty and supports jobseekers and, more generally, people in precarious situations, in their career paths. To this end, it organizes work experience tailored to the needs of its clientele, as well as free training courses, all with a resolutely sustainable approach. Quality and sustainability go hand in hand with social entrepreneurship. They also emphasize integration, solidarity and emancipation.

**Number of employees in FTE:** 29 FTE and 223 volunteers (people with psycho-social or psychiatric disabilities, etc.).

**Annual budget:** €528,000 (2020)

**For more information, visit the website :** [Groot Eiland](#)

### b) Economic, social and environmental objectives

The aim of this non-profit organization is to illustrate the possibilities offered by the creation of multiple partnerships with local players. Atelier Groot Eiland demonstrates the viability of ambitious integration projects capable of being deployed on the scale of an international metropolis. Groot Eiland fights poverty by helping as many Brussels residents as possible to find work.

### c) Characteristics

**Citizen involvement:** Groot Eiland is locally based and dedicated to offering Brussels residents and residents of the periphery who are far from the job market the opportunity to develop their skills, creativity and talents.

### d) Ecosystems and operating mode

**Operating mode:** Unsold foodstuffs collected from various partners (the Delhaize supermarket, the Abattoir morning market in Anderlecht, their own organic store The Food Hub, etc.) are transformed in their workshops: - In sorbets and ice creams for fruit; - In truffles and desserts for chocolate; - In soups and other dishes for vegetables; - Old bread recovered from partner Delhaize is passed on to partner Brussels Beer Project, which turns it into a beer, "Babylon". Thanks to these activities, 120 kilos of food are recovered and transformed every week in Brussels.

In addition to the recycling of unsold food and their organic store, Atelier Groot Eiland runs a series of social and professional integration activities for people in difficulty, through six training workshops: Bel Mundo (restaurant), RestoBel (restaurant), Bel'O (sandwich shop and tea room), Klimop (carpentry), Bel Akker (set of five urban agriculture vegetable gardens) and ArtiZan (workshop and handicraft store). These different activities work in synergy, and have enabled them to create a range of local sustainable products based on a short supply chain, seasonal produce and a "zero waste" philosophy.



#### e) Economic specificities

**Financing methods:** direct sales within their own structures of products from both agricultural production and the processing of unsold produce. This limits logistics costs to the bare essentials.

**Profitability:** The viability of their business is ensured by the diversification of their economic activities and by the numerous partnerships and public funding: European Union (FSE), Brussels-Capital Region, Flemish Community, Brussels municipality, Molenbeek municipality, the CPAS (Centres Publics d'Action Sociale) of many municipalities, the Vlaamse Gemeenschapscommissie, etc.

**Key challenges:** This initiative was confronted with the difficulty of recovering unsold food. This entailed both regulatory difficulties (linked to the procedure to be put in place for the AFSCA (Belgian health control agency)) and budgetary difficulties (legal problems linked to the donation of unsold food, which was not possible).

#### f) Role of local, national or European policies

**Financial, fiscal and regulatory support :** Groot Eiland is supported by:

##### SUBVENTIONS

- *ESF*: the European Social Fund supports the 'Jobparcours' project: awareness-raising for people with MMPP problems.
- *Social Fund for socio-cultural work* (social maribel grant, part-time apprenticeship/part-time work grant)
- *The Brussels-Capital Region*, as ESD (Entreprise social-démocrate), as an ACS partner, through the partnership with ACTIRIS (socio-professional integration project), as a participant in ECOSOC, and through a "Citroën-Vergote Sustainable Neighborhood Contract". They received financial support from the Brussels region, through the Good Food strategy. This facilitated the necessary investments.

##### PARTNERS

- the *CPAS*, under Article 60, of the municipalities of Molenbeek, Anderlecht, Brussels, Etterbeek, Halle, Jette, Koekelberg, Schaerbeek, Auderghem, Woluwe-Saint-Lambert, Asse, Dilbeek and Wezembeek-Oppem
- *Delhaize* for the recovery of food scraps.

#### g) Social and environmental impact in relation to objectives

Through their recycling initiatives, between 1 and 2 tons of unsold food are recycled.

#### h) Conditions for success

Key success criteria include

- ⇒ Intensive collaboration with public services
- ⇒ Integration into the local fabric, enabling mutually beneficial partnerships to be forged
- ⇒ Creation of own product range and brand image
- ⇒ Working in short circuits and recovering unsold food from their own activities
- ⇒ Creation of tailor-made jobs for their beneficiaries

## INITIATIVE 12 : LES COMPAGNONS BÂTISSEURS D'ILE-DE-FRANCE (FRANCE)

### a) Project Identity Card

**Name :** Les Compagnons Bâtitseurs Ile-de-France

**Location:** Ile-de-France (region of Paris and its whereabouts, one of the 13 French administrative regions). The association action extends over 5 departments inside Ile-de-France.

**Project manager:** Coline Berlaud

**Legal status:** Association Loi 1901 (non-profit organization)

**History:** The origins of Les Compagnons Bâtitseurs (The Building Companions) goes back to 1953, at the end of the Second World War and the beginning of the Cold War, when millions of people left the Eastern countries to take refuge to Germany and Austria.

In France, since 1957, that movement has organized into « chantiers castors » (« beaver building sites », the first self-managed building sites) and become a bigger organization. Its main mission is to assist the most fragile persons to renovate or build their own residence. The Ile-de-France Branch was created in 2012.

**Number of employees in FTE:** 33,8 in 2021. 49 employees with supporting roles, either Housing Employees managing the self-rehabilitation territorial project, or Technical Employees coordinating and managing the building sites.

**Annual budget:** a global budget of 2,8 million euros

For further information, visit the website : <https://www.compagnonsbatisseurs.eu/iledefrance>

### b) Economic, social and environmental objectives

Les Compagnons Bâtitseurs Ile-de-France have a social objective. Their actions contribute to improve the inhabitant's living environment, by carrying out self-rehabilitation building sites and allowing to save money on the final costs. Other actions contribute to remobilization and professional insertion.

Even if the objectives are social, the ecological stakes are at the heart of the Compagnons approach. Residences rehabilitation aims at reducing the water and energy costs. Recycling is encouraged every time it is possible within the building sites and the activities.

### c) Characteristics

**Citizen involvement:** Les Compagnons Bâtitseurs d'Ile-de-France regularly take part in local workshops at fixed hours. Those workshops are convivial and opened to all inhabitants in the district. People can attend them to borrow tools for their house works or merely to socialize. Citizens are full actors in those meeting places.

**Governance and organization mode:** a 10-member board

### d) Ecosystems and operating mode

**Description of the local or territorial ecosystem:** Each workshop relies on a partnership project, organized around a pilot committee composed with all the project financiers, which meet once a year, and a follow-up technical committee, composed with operating partners (particularly social workers), which meets every two months. The technical committee notably supports Les Compagnons Bâtitseurs in the spotting of the possible action beneficiaries and in the objectives definition.

**Partnerships, including with local authorities:** The Association has developed a partnership with Veolia Eau Solidaire, the solidary branch of Veolia (French water supplies), in order to spot water leaks and to assist the public in the realization of water saving.

**Operating mode:** Les Compagnons Bâtisseurs Ile-de-France association encourages and equips the improvement of people residences, through theARA (Self-Rehabilitation Assistance) and the fight against energy poverty.

Les Compagnons Bâtisseurs Ile-de-France conduct 4 main types of action: assistance on self-rehabilitation building sites, allowing people to take part in the renovation of their residence; pedagogic maintenance (short interventions at local private residences, aiming at bringing people solutions to small repairs), weekly collective animations, allowing to train people and to make them aware of matters and stakes around housing and tool borrowing. Those actions rely on 12 local workshops, which guarantee the local anchoring of the initiative, and on mobile workshops (« repair buses ») allowing interventions outside the workshops geographical area.

#### e) Economic specificities

**Financing mode:** Subsidies represent 82% of the association products. They come from public actors and, for a smaller part, from private actors (donators, foundations, associations and companies).

#### **Key challenges:**

- ⇒ A legality and insurance stake: self-rehabilitation is not well financed by the insurance companies. They have difficulties covering the damages on works realized by the resident himself;
- ⇒ Complex economic and technical devices to organize re-employment;
- ⇒ The answer to calls for tender tends to un-correlate the tender and the real needs, by multiplying the building sites.

**Possibilities and modes of replication/swarming in other localities/countries:** Les Compagnons Bâtisseurs operate in 8 other French regions.

**Other economic and, if possible, quantitative information:** the average annual budget of a local workshop amounts to 12 000 euros, with 75% for staff charges. Around 85% of that budget comes from a combination of public and private funds (between 5 and 7 financiers), 5% from subsidies for employment and the last 10% come from the contributions of the families benefiting from the actions.

#### f) Role of local, national and European policies

**Financial, fiscal and regulatory support:** Financial support of many public actors: the ANCT (national agency for the territories cohesion), the Regional Health Agency, the CAF (national fund for family affairs), the Regional Council, the department councils and other territorial collectivities.

#### g) Social and environment impact, in regard to the objectives

The Compagnons actions allow to develop the living-and-doing together, thanks to local workshops, exchange and socialization places on the territory.

As for environment matters, the Compagnons action is well-known. The Association is the winner of a call for project launched by the SYCTOM (metropolitan agency for domestic waste), in order to organize a re-employment process within the Association. To do so, Les Compagnons Bâtisseurs Ile-de-France are leading an experience on 4 building sites where re-employment is set up and on 4 building sites where it is not the case: they want to determine the problems, stakes and possible stimulations.

#### h) Conditions for success

Local workshops. Conviviality and exchange places

An implantation at the heart of the districts, at the foot of or inside the buildings (and in flats), which promotes social contact

Fun sensitization activities in the local workshops or in public space

Economic accessibility of work and support for doing it yourself

## INITIATIVE 13 : BATEC (SPAIN)

### a) Project identity card

**Name:** BATEC

**Location:** Barcelona, Spain

**Legal status:** Non-Profit network

**History:** Batec is a socio-economic intercooperation project of cooperative and associative entities active in Barcelona. Batec gathers 5 initiatives of the Catalan social and solidarity-based economy.

Batec is a Cooperative hub for the energy transition, that aims at being a reference towards a sustainable, fair and democratic model of transition promoted by the social and solidarity economy.

**Number of employees :** 42 (aggregated)

### b) Economic, social and environmental objectives

Batec provides a integrated services helping local innovative initiatives in the field of sustainable, fair and democratic energy production to deal with complex projects, thus expanding the range of professional capacities of the members of the hub.

These services cover the entire value chain, including the perspectives of the recipients from the start, using a variety of skills of social, technical and economic nature.

Transversal to the activities of BATEC is the shift of the paradigm energy model.

The values of BATEC involve:

- **TERRITORY:** Working from a **close and local** model that is rooted in the territory empowering all the agents who participate.
- **TRANSPARENCY:** BATEC is an **independent** entity.
- **EQUITY:** As a concept that surpasses **equality**, they work from **cooperativism** and cooperation as a business model and solidarity, respect for **diversity** and rebalancing as identity traits.
- **INNOVATION:** As a transformative element born from a **curiosity**-based on **rigor** and accumulated **expertise**.

Batec projects must:

1. Promote a change of model: projects that work for a change in energy model
2. Represent a change of scale, greater than individual possibility of the BATEC members.
3. No competition with individual entities.
4. Add the aggregated experience of the BATEC initiative
5. Generate advocacy and lobby for the sector
6. Prioritize the work with public, cooperative and community sector

Batec projects follow 5 main lines:

1. Energy communities and community resources
2. Sustainable and healthy entities
3. Innovation labs
4. Observatory
5. Sectoral articulated projects

Energy communities are a tool with great potential to transform the current energy model. This is a new tool that puts communities at the center, empowered, with the ability not only to use energy but to generate and manage it locally. In this way, the neighbours go from being users to prosumers (producers and users) by relocating energy generation and moving towards more sustainable models.

c) Characteristics

- Citizens involvement : see above

d) Ecosystem and operating mode

**Description of the local or territorial ecosystem:** Members of Batec are:

- ⇒ Azimut 360: A non-profit cooperative created in 2009 and based in the Sant Andreu neighborhood of Barcelona that offers engineering, consulting, installation and maintenance services for renewable energy systems, with a high degree of specialization in photovoltaic solar energy. It has a great deal of experience in the execution of projects both at national and international level, both individually and leading multidisciplinary consortia in which he has played the role of promoter and/or technical partner. Azimut360 is made up of 30 people (11 working members, 19 working non-members)
- ⇒ Aiguasol: Under the legal form of a cooperative, Aiguasol offers engineering, consulting and research services, promoting innovative solutions that reduces the impact of energy consumption. The independence of Aiguasol and the highest scientific rigor has granted it a recognized position of objectivity and neutrality within the construction and renewable energy sectors. The services are defined in studies, projects and research and development tasks, with a high level of specialization and expertise in urban planning, construction, industrial processes and energy generation, with an approach that includes energy planning, measures savings and efficiency, the integration of processes and the implementation of renewable energies.  
Aiguasol is made up of 18 people (5 working members, 13 working non-members)
- ⇒ Lacol: Lacol is a cooperative of architects that works with architecture for social transformation, as a tool to intervene in the immediate environment in a critical way. Always in parallel with society, acting in a fair and supportive manner starting with a horizontal work system making the contribution of the architect to be made in the bosom of the urban movement, as another piece of this movement, helping to translate citizen concerns and put them on paper, providing criteria for the definition of objectives and strategies, as well as tools to define and communicate ideas through drawing, graphic representation, etc. They encourage debate and discussion on the uses of public spaces and the management of urban spaces, city models, participation and heritage recovery, among others.  
LacolSCCL is made up of 13 people (all working partners).
- ⇒ Seba: SEBA is a non-profit association dedicated to the design, installation, maintenance and management of photovoltaic systems. Advice and training for users of rural electrification programs with autonomous photovoltaic solar energy. It accompanies new users of photovoltaic installations and other systems with renewable energy in their energy sovereignty, and wants to be a point of reference for users in matters of legalization, the state of technology, bonuses and subsidies.  
SEBA is made up of 4 people (all of them workers)
- ⇒ Societat organica: Societat Orgànica is a cooperative of professionals in the architecture sector that since 2004 has been working on the environmental improvement of buildings through consultancy, teaching, communication, R+D+I and "*greening*". Its goal is to advance towards sustainability in architecture. To achieve this, they work with an approach based on the circular economy, closing material cycles, reducing demand and managing the use of energy and resources in an efficient manner.  
Societat Orgànica is made up of 15 people (8 working members, 2 working non-members and 5 collaborators).

**Operating mode:** Batec accompanies energy communities' creation processes in those more complex cases that serve to generate a model. It prioritizes energy saving and therefore bets on rehabilitation measures and reduction of needs, before generation. In the same way, it understands energy from a broad perspective, including for example mobility, and betting on sustainable and shared mobility. A door also open to other resources or needs that can be managed democratically

and sustainably from the communities, moving from communities energy to communities of resources. We understand by Communities of Resources those that manage resources such as energy, water, waste, among others, in a local, sustainable and democratic way.

In this sense, they are working with Engineering Without Borders to promote a water community in the district of Sants-Montjuïc. They also work with neighbourhoods like Bon Pastor, and towns like La Llacuna, among others, to promote transformative communities energy in their territories.

The Community Energy of La Bordeta is born in the district of Sants-Montjuïc in 2022 to respond to global energy challenges from a local perspective, empowering the neighborhood, while providing it with transformative tools. An association founded by two housing cooperatives (La Diversa and La Borda), a small business (l'Economat Social) and a public facility (La Lleiàtat Santsenca). With the technical support of Batec, the project has obtained the financial support of Barcelona City Council through subsidies and an agreement with the Energy Agency, as well as the Ministry of Ecological Transition, through the CE Implement a program.

The project includes renewable generation distributed through photovoltaics, but the intervention begins from a needs study, includes comprehensive rehabilitation as a solution for one of the buildings, and contemplates other actions such as the promotion of sustainable mobility.

La Bordeta pursues 7 main objectives :

1. Abandon fossil fuels
2. Reduce energy consumption
3. Invest in the distributed, local and responsible production of clean energy
4. Combat energy poverty
5. Reduce dependence on energy oligopoly.
6. Promote training and information on energy transition
7. Pursue democratic management, autonomy and voluntary and open membership.

The legal form of La Bordeta is at present the one of association, open to new members. The association will soon transform into a cooperative.

Energy communities adapt to the contexts and realities in which they develop. In the case of the rural area, where agricultural cooperatives have an important weight, not only in terms of economic activity, but also in terms of social activity and in the more reproductive sphere, these represent a nucleus with a lot potential around which to promote an CE: a Rural Community Energy (CER).

BATEC together with the FCAC (Federació de Cooperatives Agràries de Catalunya) promote the CER.COOP project, which has as protagonists three agricultural cooperatives (COVIDES, CEVIPE, Falset-Marçà) in the wine sector, through which it is intended to model the process of creation of a CER.

A project funded by the General Directorate of Social and Solidarity Economy that will result in three guides adapted to the three different contexts; a second-grade cooperative, a first-grade cooperative (extended in several municipalities), and a cooperative closely linked to the territorial scope and its municipality such as Falset-Marçà.

These are projects that aim to introduce parameters of sustainability (environmental, but also social and of course economic) and health in all the services developed by an entity. It includes the entire process of identification and analysis of the initial state (diagnosis), definition of shared objectives and indicators (KPI's) and concretization of the actions to achieve them through a roadmap or action plan.

For example, in the case of an entity that is mainly dedicated to the promotion and management of buildings, it would be about "greening" from the business model and the definition of the team itself, through the choice of the site, the specifications contracting or green purchase, the detailed definition of the objectives, the strategies and the methodology to achieve them in the different services that

are developed (project, work, maintenance, etc.), up to the role, support and empowerment of the users.

In order to respond to climate challenges, different methodologies have appeared in recent years such as test beds, regulatory sandboxes, low-regulation zones or living labs, where new urban and relational models are tested in physically limited areas and with certain objectives specific, but in any case aimed at promoting technological, social and economic innovation.

Therefore, they start from an innovation approach, and use experimentation and co-creation in order to test, demonstrate and advance new social and technical arrangements and associated governance models, in a pilot environment under real-world conditions.

In fact, it is about introducing the concept of a free zone of innovation, that once a new order, relationship or technical criterion has been tested, it can be replicated in other places or in a wider territory.

With this way of acting, the necessary prudence is maintained when legislation and regulations evolve, while giving an opportunity to manage changes in an accelerated manner, based on experiences in real environments.

We are talking about "urban laboratories", as experimental spaces inserted in neighbourhoods and cities, where the community, governments, socio-economic actors and knowledge centers interact to design, test and refine technical and social interventions in real time.

The member entities of BATEC have promoted the LAB BATLLÓ project, an urban innovation laboratory in the context of Can Batlló. A project that, following the principles of innovation laboratories, proposes an environment for experimentation and testing of "strong sustainability" around 8 axes: Water, Energy, Biodiversity, Materials, Mobility, Habitability, Community, SSE. The final proposals are structured around 12 pilot projects.

The Observatory was born with a double aim: from the Social and Solidarity-Based Economy, and to have a real and forceful impact on a change in the model of society from the energy transition. To be a reference in the sector and in society with a critical vision of reality and the current "conventional" scenario, with the following objectives:

- ⇒ Generate and disseminate information based on the technical projects developed by the SSE sectoral entities (and beyond) to be able to carry out a critical analysis of the evolution of the energy model.
- ⇒ Bring together and promote a network of entities with similar objectives.
- ⇒ Impact on the barriers that make this transition difficult.
- ⇒ The analysis of reality, the generation of critical opinion with social repercussions would be carried out through two main areas:
- ⇒ Supporting organizations that work in the field of political advocacy, from the technical sector, through concrete projects and data.
- ⇒ Generating the Observatory's own services that allow the previous objectives to be achieved, such as an annual congress of analysis and criticism on the development of the energy transition.

BATEC was born with the desire to strengthen the sectoral articulation of energy cooperatives and more generally of the Social and Solidarity-Based Economy in the sector of ecosocial transitions. With this aim, several projects and intercooperation spaces have been promoted to help make visible and multiply the impacts of the sector.

Among these initiatives, the sectoral articulation work promoted by the Confederació de Cooperatives de Catalunya and the follow-up given by the Federació de Cooperatives de Treball forming a sectoral group.



Within the framework of the Xarxad'Ateneus Cooperatiu of Catalonia, BATEC leads the Ecosocial Transition Circle of Coòpolis, the Ateneu Cooperatiu of Barcelona, where it shares sectorial space with cooperative housing promoters such as La Dinamo and Sostre Cívic. From the Circle, new cooperative projects are promoted, the visibility and strengthening of models from the SSE is promoted and work is done for political advocacy.

e) Economic specificities

BATEC is an initiative supported by the Generalitat de Catalunya

f) Role of local, national or European policies

BATEC is supported by the Regional Policy for the promotion of social economy and of green transition

## INITIATIVE 14: THE ECO-HABITAT NETWORK (FRANCE)

### a) Project Identity Card

**Name:** Réseau Eco Habitat (Eco Habitat Network)

**Location:** the association headquarters are in Clairoix (near Compiègne, in the Oise Department, Haut-de-France Region)

**Project manager and founder:** Franck Billeau

**Legal status:** Association Loi 1901 (non-profit organization)

**History:** A member of the French Caritas network, Réseau Eco Habitat association was created in 2014 after a fact was established: 25% of the Secours Catholique funds are used to pay energy bills which, in many cases, are significantly raised by unworthy housing conditions. Then the network objective is to assist low-income people and help them out of energy poverty thanks to the renovation of the residence they own. As, if administrative devices exist, those are very difficult to reach by persons confronted to economic as well as social problems. Since 2015, that Association has helped almost 250 families (100 finished building sites and 95 still in progress), the average cost of a site reaching an amount of 51 000 euros.

**Number of employees in FTE:** the association now has 13 employees.

**For more information, visit the website :** <https://www.reseau-ecohabitat.fr/>

### b) Economic, social and environmental objectives

Réseau Eco Habitat mission is to fight against energy poverty. The association stands by the most precarious people of Hauts-de-France Region and 80% of its actions take place in a rural environment.

In order to fight against those households energy poverty, Réseau Eco Habitat helps them through the realization of their renovation sites by coordinating the different partners who intervene in the renovation work process : the charities (able to direct the people who may benefit from Réseau Eco Habitat support), the construction companies and the public institutions (which take a financial part in the works, in particular local collectivities, government agencies such as the Anah- National Habitat Association).

Réseau Eco habitat action also aims at overcoming the problems related to the complexity of finance devices, at encouraging local companies to intervene at the side of a public in precariousness, at having a better view of the actors who can intervene in the renovation (operators, companies, suppliers, banks...).

The project also has an ecologic approach. Efficient and sustainable materials are used in the renovation works. Réseau Eco Habitat collaborates with RGE labelled companies (RGE : Registered as Guaranteeing Environment).

### c) Characteristics

**Citizen involvement:** 36 volunteers are mobilized on the sites and keep in touch with the beneficiaries (2021)

### d) Ecosystems and operating mode

**Partnerships, including with local authorities:**

Essential partners: Secours Catholique Caritas France, Fondation Caritas France

Friends and collaborating associations : Association Ciel Bleu, Chênelet, Familles Solidaires

Heart partners : Stop à l'exclusion énergétique (Stop energy exclusion), Ashoka, Share it, Institut Godin, Next Energy Consumer

Institutional partners : Ministère de la Transition Ecologique, Ministère de la Solidarité et la Santé, Stratégie de Prévention et de lutte contre la pauvreté (Strategy of Prevention and fight against poverty, first issue : october 2018), Anha (National Habitat Agency), ADEME, CCAH, Hauts-de-France Region, Département de l'Oise, Agglomération de la Région de Compiègne (Sector of Compiègne and Suburbs), Erasmus +

Financial partners : AG2R La Mondiale, Fondation Schneider electric, Phitrust Partenaires, Fondation d'entreprise, Fondation Abbé Pierre, Fondation Saint-Gobain, Hellio, Fondation Sparrinc Capital, Fondation RTE, Malakoff Humanis, Solinergy, Solfia, Leroy Merlin Watt for Change, Faire tout ma rénovation'

**Operating mode:** Thanks to the support of the Secours Catholique Caritas France and of the Fondation Abbé Pierre, Réseau Eco Habitat identifies and assists modest families in the realization of energy renovation works.

Réseau Eco Habitat gathers 90% of the works financing and oversees the selection and coordination of the involved construction companies.

The head of the family benefiting from the works has to present its income tax figure and must be able to finance the remaining 10% of the works cost. Réseau Eco Habitat assists the person in the administrative financing files.

The association plays a trusted part among the volunteers, the public actors, the construction companies and the family involved.

The energy renovation process lasts 12 to 18 months.

- ⇒ Spotting: 1 month
- ⇒ Preparation: 3 months
- ⇒ Realizing the administrative file, finding the financiers: 6 months
- ⇒ Construction : 2 months
- ⇒ Works follow-up: 2 years. The follow-up is often done by the volunteers of Réseau Eco Habitat.

#### e) Economic specificities

**Financing mode:** 90% of the works financing come from public institutions and private foundations.

**Key challenges:** Spotting the households in a precarious situation, those who have not been identified by the government devices.

**Possibilities and modes of replication/swarming in other localities/countries:** Réseau Eco Habitat acts only in the Hauts-de-France Department, but there's a possible duplication to other French regions.

**Other economic and, if possible, quantitative information:** As an example, in a 42 800-euro project, 11 financiers were solicited. 10% of the costs is charged to the beneficiary family; 67% to the Anah (National Habitat Agency) and the mobilized territorial collectivities (Regional Council, Departmental Council, a Community of cities); 23% to other financiers (such as the CAF (national Fund for Family Affairs) or other charities (Fondation Abbé Pierre, Secours Catholique Caritas France).

#### f) Role of local, national and European policies

**Integration in a strategy of territorial development:** In the Hauts-de-France territory, 60% of the programs are GIPs (General Interest Programs) and 30% are OPAH (programmed operations for habitat improvement). As those programs are supposed to finance the energy renovation of constructions, they allow to finance the projects quite easily. And they allow to reduce the amount charged to the beneficiary family.

#### **Zoom on the Erasmus+ « Greenability » project**

In 2019, Réseau Eco Habitat took part in the project named « Greenability: green abilities to tackle social ability » financed by Erasmus+. The project was launched in October 2019 for a 19-month duration and gathers Réseau Eco Habitat and three other European actors:

- Fratelle Sole: based in Milan, Fratelle Sole has a consulting mission towards Italian charities, in order to reduce energy costs and undertake renovation works, and to use the saved money to help precarious people.
- ENEA: based in Roma, it is the Italian equivalent of the French ADEME. The agency creates devices to help households who want to reduce their energy expenses.
- ECODES: Based in Saragossa, Ecodès is an activist association fighting against global warming and energy precariousness. The association does a socio-technic diagnosis of precarious people residences, which helps them to reduce their energy expenses. It also helps them with small works and eco-gestures knowledge.

At the end of the project, two toolkits were published:

- « Tackling energy poverty and enhancing energy efficiency in Non-Profit Organizations », Toolkit for social organizations
- « Tackling energy poverty and enhancing energy efficiency in households », Toolkit for social organizations

**Financial, fiscal and regulatory support:** Through its fine knowledge and the partnerships with the network actors, Réseau Eco Habitat benefits from large support:

- through public and private devices
- from experts who give a quantity and quality diagnosis of the works to be done

#### **g) Social and environment impact, in regard to the objectives:**

Social impact: reducing energy bills, improving inhabitants living and existence conditions

Environment impact: fight against thermal strainer constructions and energy poverty

#### **h) Conditions for success**

Réseau Eco Habitat works with « invisible » people, persons who live in serious energy poverty and have great difficulties to access to subsidies (because of their situation complexity but also the complexity of the devices and subsidies available for renovation works).

## INITIATIVE 15 : JARDIN NOURRICIER ET MAISON PARTAGÉE (COMMUNITY GARDEN AND SHARED HOUSE) OF ATD QUART MONDE NOGENT-LE-ROTROU (FRANCE)

### a) Project identity card

**Name :** « Jardin nourricier » and « Maison partagée », carried out by ATD QUART MONDE Nogent-le-Rotrou Branch

**Location:** Nogent-le-Rotrou, in Eure-et-Loir, France

**Project manager:** Claudine JARLIER, Head of ATD Quart Monde local group

**Legal status:** association (non-profit organization), local group of the national Association

**History:** in 2016, local ATD Quart Monde members and the local Social Centre created a community garden called « La Noé », at a member's residence in Nogent-le-Rotrou. That first garden was located 7km from the current one. In March 2020, during the first French lockdown, ATD Quart Monde settled in the garden of a former market gardener, on the edge of Gauchetières district. Then settled on one lot, the association is now renting seven 200-square-meter lots. In 2021, a glasshouse was built by a group of volunteers. Today, next to the garden, an association called « La Maison Partagée » (The Shared House) is settled in a two-floor house owned by the city. The shared house has become a place of conviviality where many members of ATD Quart Monde are involved.

**Number of employees in FTP:** 0. The project is carried out by around 15 active volunteers only.

**Annual budget:** unknown

**For more information, visit the website :** <https://www.atd-quartmonde.fr/un-jardin-partage-pour-cultiver-la-terre-et-les-rencontres/>

### b) Economic, social and environmental objectives

The social approach is preponderant in the project. It aims at empowering people through socializing and acquiring new skills. The place is designed so that people make it their own. Ecological practices are central in the approach: production of and access to quality food and to reusing and recycling activities.

### c) Characteristics

**Citizen involvement:** the project largely relies on citizens. The gardens and the shared house are animated and maintained by the local ATD Quart Monde members but are also opened to all inhabitants, who may take part in the various available activities (gardening, cooking, sewing or poetry workshops, children-parents cafés...). Several passed or current activities take place elsewhere, closer to the inhabitants: shows in private flats, organized by the residents with programmed guests; the « street public libraries » around books and art shows, organized in lively spots (staircases, pavements...); the Arts and Learnings Festival or the Street Public Library Fair (two events which alternate every year).

**Governance and organization mode:** The group decision-making committee is composed with Activists (people who are or were affected by precariousness) and Allies (people who never knew precariousness) deeply involved in the local group life. Decisions are consensually made, in an informal way.

#### d) Ecosystems and operating mode

**Description of the local or territorial ecosystem:** ATD Quart Monde cooperates and carries out projects with various local partners, among which:

- o L'Espace de vie social (the Social living place): the first partner of the Garden, it supports the action financially. A living place opened to all, it organizes « holiday departures » for local families, as well as holiday camps for children, promoted by ATD Quart Monde among the inhabitants.
- o **La Ressourcerie Récup & Co (The Recycling and Reuse house):** An association with the status of « insertion enterprise », it has benefited from ATD Quart Monde communication to promote its site (a former slaughterhouse) and the developed programs (environment education, workshops and animations around re-employment) and took part in many events organized by ATD Quart Monde.
- o **Le Chardon (The Thistle):** An associative shop created in 2019, where farmer producers store and sell their products, and which raises people awareness of organic agriculture and short-term chains. Le Chardon wishes to develop its action towards people in precarious situations, notably through events (film projections, etc.). Le Chardon aims at developing farm visits, in partnership with ATD Quart Monde.
- o **La ReINETTE verte (The Green Pippin) :** That association was created 20 years ago. It carries out apple-juice production workshops, the apples being provided by the participants themselves. And it organizes the meeting of people who have too many apples and people who look for apples. For 5 years, the association has been collecting the excess of juice produced by the workshops and giving it away via associations such as ATD Quart Monde.
- o **L'Église verte (the Green church) :** A group of parishioners locally applying the national « Église Verte » approach. The idea is to apply good ecological practices among the parishioners and on a larger scale. Those work in the shared garden.
- o **La Boîte à Outils (The Tool box):** An associative woodwork, metalwork, sewing and bike repair workshop, which organizes various animations around repairs.

**Operating mode:** Voluntary inhabitants of the initiative action territory, « activists » as well as « allies », may come to the shared garden and house and take part in the various activities whenever they wish. They are the ones who make the place live.

**Type of cooperation with partners :** Cultural and social cooperation

#### e) Economic specificities

**Financing mode:** For the garden, the main subsidies come from the « Plan France Relance » (France Relaunch Plan) and from private donations. Most of the needs are financed after calls for projects (by Centre-Val de Loire Region and by the City Policy fund).

**Profitability:** The project has no profit objective.

**Key challenges :** No specific difficulty has been expressed.

**Development prospects:** The garden perpetuation and the development of the activities carried out by the territory partners.

**Possibilities and modes of replication/swarming in other localities/countries:** Support to urban agriculture and to the organization of solidary citizen groups around those practices.

f) Role of local, national and European policies

**Integration in a territorial development strategy:** No integration in a territorial strategy, but strongly shared knowledge and cooperation with other actors of ESS (Social and Solidary Economics) on the territory (see (d) Ecosystems).

**Financial, fiscal and regulatory support:** The city owns La Maison Partagée and pays for its expenses.

g) Social and environment impact, in regard to the objectives

Vegetable production, according to ecological methods. That contributes to the gardener's access to quality food and to their awareness of ethical food stakes.

Creation of strong social relationships around the garden and the shared house activities (ie: meals after the crops). An inclusive approach allowing local inhabitants to mix.

h) Conditions for success

The dynamics carried out by an active group which has succeeded in creating strong relationships between various territory actors.

A shared garden which federates the inhabitants and develops numerous formal and informal activities.

## INITIATIVE 16: CAPACITY (ITALY)

### a) Project identity card

**Name :** CAPACITY

**Location:** Messina, Italy

**Project manager:** n/a

**Legal status:** Capacity is a project financed by Decree of the President of the Italian Council of Minister, and led by the Municipality of Messina. The action is carried out by a consortium made of Ecos-Med, Fondazione di Comunità di Messina, Università degli Studi di Messina, Consorzio Sol.E, MECC s.c., REVES aisbl.

**History:** The project was developed by Fondazione MeSSinA in the City of Messina, Sicily, Italy. This area is characterized by:

- o the highest unemployment rate in Italy (21.5%)
- o 22.5% of families live below relative poverty line
- o 19.2% of economy is black and illegal

Messina (250,000 inhabitants) in particular:

- o per-capita income in the city center is 4 times higher than in northern outskirts and 6 times higher than in southern outskirts.
- o more than 2.000 families dwell in slums built in the aftermath of 1908 earthquake
- o Poverty trap context: people tend to get trapped by their need to survive and may consequently not have the courage to ask for changes and/or act for them. Disillusionment distorts the imagination, the construction of desires and slows down positive behaviors aimed at exiting the condition of poverty and deprivation.
- o High complexity and multidimensionality of poverty and inequality, which needs complex solutions.

The CSEI led by the Foundation designed the CAPACITY program together with the Municipality of Messina and received a co-funding of approximately € 18 million by the Government in 2016.

The CAPACITY program is based on an integrated approach to tackle inequalities by generating new capabilities, new alternatives for target beneficiaries in different dimensions (housing, work, sociality, knowledge).

**For more information, visit the website :** <https://fdcmessina.org/riqualificazione-urbana/capacity/>

### b) Economic, social and environmental objectives

The project has brought solutions to the district of Fondo Saccà, subject to interdependent problems: housing, education, unemployment, crime, etc. The unemployment rate was high and the educational attainment low. Corruption and "favours", violence and threats were the daily life of the inhabitants, about 10% of whom belonged to crime networks organized like a mafia. About sixty families still lived in barracks built in 1908 after the tragic earthquake that largely destroyed Messina.

### c) Characteristics

**Citizen involvement:** through bilateral meetings, but also through the organisation of a number of cultural events and public meetings in the neighbourhood they help inhabitants to get in touch with other citizens and institutions, to set up initiatives together, to create relationships that are not based on a "favour –privilege" logic, but on trust.



The project draws on Amartya Sen's theory of human development and capacity-building approach, which emphasizes the expansion of the instrumental freedoms of the most vulnerable and the construction of social capital. It also uses a theory-based evaluation method (TBIE) to test assumptions and mechanisms underlying interventions.

**Governance and organization mode:** the governance of the Capacity project in Messina is implemented by the local authorities and the partners involved in its implementation. It ensures coordination, decision-making, and the implementation of various actions to achieve the set objectives.

#### d) Ecosystems and operating mode

##### Description of the local or territorial ecosystem:

**Operating mode:** Since the beneficiaries come from a very deprived background, they were accompanied by the Foundation's technical and social experts to fully understand the two options offered to them and the related implications (e.g. repaying a loan), allowing them to make an informed choice based on their personal preferences, thus achieving real empowerment. The regained right to make a choice on a fundamental dimension of one's life facilitates a change of mental attitude, re-activating the capacity to dream of a better future and a positive behavior in achieving it.

Beneficiaries were offered to choose among two different options:

1. Purchase of houses on the private market by the municipality, which then assigns them to beneficiaries through a participatory process, retaining ownership.
2. Disbursement of a grant to the beneficiary for the purchase of the house on the private market, up to 75% of the value. In this solution, the beneficiary becomes the owner of the house.

In both cases, the beneficiaries had the possibility to participate in the refurbishing of houses.

Using this approach, 200 families were able to quit the slums for a proper house.

#### e) Social and environment impact, in regard to the objectives

Thanks to this operation, the site has been transformed into a hub of sustainable living technologies: most of the area has been converted into a public park and 6 housing units have been built in bio-architecture, hosting disadvantaged people.

This re-urbanisation was characterized by:

- ⇒ Energy efficiency solutions: building envelope with high thermal inertia (straw and wood); solar and thermal energy production; a natural ventilation system and the surrounding vegetation contribute to optimizing consumption. This brings to the highest energy performance score.
- ⇒ An energy system (micro-grid) has been designed and implemented to monitor individual residential users and manage the energy produced from renewable sources through a battery storage, creating an energy community (attracting also EU-funding).
- ⇒ An algorithm for energy/subsidies redistribution has been developed together with the National Research Council: it takes into account the levels of fragility of the people involved in the community, so as to tackle energy poverty and inequality.
- ⇒ The site is now a powerful showcase of how the remaining slums could be regenerated, multiplying the effect of the program.