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

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

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

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

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

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

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

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

In case of questions about this consultation, please send an email to GROW-SOCIAL-ENTERPRISE@ec.europa.eu

1 Organisation and personal information

* 1.1 First name

20 character(s) maximum

> Michal

* 1.2 Surname (family name)

> Len

* 1.3 Which organisation do you represent

20 character(s) maximum

> RREUSE

* 1.4 Main location of operations (city)

20 character(s) maximum

> Brussels

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

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

○ LT - Lithuania

○ LU - Luxembourg

○ MT - Malta

○ NL - Netherlands

○ PL - Poland

○ PT - Portugal

○ RO - Romania

○ SK - Slovak Republic

○ SI - Slovenia

○ ES - Spain

○ SE - Sweden

* 1.6 What kind of organisation do you represent

☐ Social economy entity

☐ Social economy representative organisation

☑ Social economy sector federation

☐ Social economy cluster

☐ Social economy support organisation

☐ Academic / Research institution

☐ Public administration

☐ International Organisation

☐ EU Institution

☐ Mainstream business

☐ Trade Union

☐ None: EU citizen

☐ Other

* 1.7 Your organisation is mainly active at...

◉ EU level

○ Member state level

○ Regional level

○ Local level

1.8 I consider my organisation as part of the

☐ Proximity economy

☑ Social economy

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

☑ Green transition

☐ Digital transition

☐ None

2 Consultation questions

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

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

2.1 Fully enabling the ecosystem as agent for the green transition

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

2000 character(s) maximum

1.By 2026 - coherent link between the EU's future revised Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) and SEAP in the form of specific actions supporting social enterprise in the circular economy.

2.By end of 2025, specific social / circular targets at EU level, for example within the EU's waste framework directive e.g. re-use targets with job creation targets

3.By 2025 national funding instruments introduced supporting operations of national / regional level social enterprise equivalent to NGO operating grants under EASI / ESF+

4.Next EU budget 2028 – 2035, 10% of all relevant EU funding lines, as listed within the SEAP, should be dedicated to supporting the development of social economy actors in the green and digital transitions.

5.By 2030, new circular and social ventures between social enterprises, private, public sector as well as academic institutions

6.By 2025, greater flexibility in MS with regards to labour market integration policies linked to activities directly contributing to the green transition, such as re-use and repair. For example, some WISEs face challenges with the duration of support for work placements while others face inflexible rules which hamper innovation and boost job creation

7.By 2025, introduction of funding programmes in all MS on circular skills + flexible VET schemes to meet social enterprises' ambitions and facilitate partnerships between traditional and higher-level educational bodies to integrate green skills in educational programmes, map and address skills shortages, and establish uniform criteria for awarding certifications for future employability in the circular economy

8.Annual increases in the use of mandatory social criteria in procurement of environmental services by public and private bodies

9.Increased partnerships between social enterprise re-use actors and housing associations / authorities

10.By 2030 - EU procurement agenda becomes fully holistic in nature,combining both social and environmental objectives

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

2000 character(s) maximum

- Social enterprises active in the circular economy are directly contributing to the green transition and therefore already supporting the greening of the proximity and social economy industrial ecosystem
- However, there are a number of barriers still in place at national / EU level that should be addressed, many of which are outlined in the Social Economy Action Plan including:
• Lack of cohesive legislative frameworks at regional / national level focusing on combining both social and environmental objectives
• Lack of appropriate (financial) support mechanisms for the operation of regional / national representative networks helping develop and implement a cohesive policy framework active in the circular economy. This is particularly pertinent in central and eastern Europe
• Difficulties in accessing public / private financing for social enterprises
• Green washing / social washing the green transition, keeping business as usual and avoiding hard legislation on re-use and repair

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

2000 character(s) maximum

- RREUSE will continue working with the EU Commission on creating a cohesive policy and financing framework for social enterprises active in the circular economy and supporting its members in its implementation
- RREUSE is open to further discussion regarding challenges it can work on jointly with other actors.

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

2000 character(s) maximum

Similar response to 2.1.3.

- RREUSE pledges to continue supporting the development of a cohesive policy ecosystem at EU level with a strong focus on national level integration / implementation of these policies.
- RREUSE is open to further discussion regarding challenges it can work on jointly with other actors.

2.2 Digitalising the ecosystem

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

2000 character(s) maximum

n/a

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

2000 character(s) maximum

See below a report on how social enterprises from the RREUSE network are contributing to the digital transition, together with some policy recommendations

https://rreuse.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/how-social-enterprises-contribute-to-the-digital-transition-1.pdf

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

2000 character(s) maximum

n/a

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

2000 character(s) maximum

n/a

3 General comments

3.1 What other comments would you like to give?

2000 character(s) maximum

Addendum to 2.1.2

Extra output scenarios:

11.   Built Environment: ensure a favourable economic environment for insulation material with mandatory recycled content

12.   Built Environment: EU level legislation with mandatory pre-demolition audits to maximise the re-use of construction / demolition materials

Comments on Commission SWD:

RREUSE looks favourably towards the Commission's proposals on p.17 of its Staff Working Document. However, with regards to the suggestion on increasing local re-use from 5% to 15% of textiles, this requires more discussion regarding what the Commission had in mind and the responsibilities of the various stakeholders in working on such an outcome. While we very much commend the Commission for such a suggestion it is important to discuss this, and similar proposals in more depth. RREUSE has been campaigning for separate targets to boost the re-use / preparation for re-use of products (including textiles) within EU environmental legislative frameworks. We would rather insist on mandatory quantitative targets in legislation to support partnership development rather than voluntary ones (Point 2 in 2.1.2)

4 Communication

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

4.1 First name

Michal

4.2 Surname (family name)

Len

4.3 Function

Director

4.4 Organisation

RREUSE

4.5 Email

50 character(s) maximum

michal.len@rreuse.org

Contact

Contact Form