



● LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND SSE IN EUROPE POLICIES RUBRIC

LOOKING UP – A training path from experiences of local development towards European Social Solidarity Economy strategie



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This policies rubric was created in 2025 and written by the partners and collaborators of the project.



In collaboration with



This tool was produced within the project "Looking up - A training path: from experiences of local development towards European Social Solidarity Economy strategies".

It is open to collaboration with individuals and organisations who wish to contribute by reporting institutional documents, legislation and programmes at local, regional, national and European level that promote the empowerment of small SSE organisations and tools for advocacy actions.

Currently, information is available from the project's partner countries: Italy, France and Romania.

We invite anyone from other European countries who wishes to collaborate to send their reports to info@solidariusitalia.it

With everyone's contribution, we will gradually add the suggested updates.



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Public policies: an overview

This section brings together information gathered during the project, thanks to the contributions of participants in the webinars and workshops organised, on the policies, laws and funding programmes that guide local development actions at various levels: European, national, regional and local [1].

Awareness of these legislative and economic instruments and comparison with what is happening in other territories is essential to strengthen local actions and allow for a “looking up” approach, which was the founding principle and main goal of this small project.

The inputs were organised around the three topics proposed during the webinars, but it is first necessary to place them within a broader supranational political framework that refers to the three key concepts presented at the beginning of this Toolkit and that shows how they are closely connected and how the SSE is a coherent and worthwhile perspective for those working for the sustainable local development of territories and communities.

Regarding Social Solidarity Economy...

At its 66th plenary meeting on April 18, 2023, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution: [Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development \(A/RES/77/281\)](#). The resolution provides an official definition for the Social and Solidarity Economy and acknowledges that it can contribute to the achievement and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Recognizing the role of the Social and Solidarity Economy in promoting democracy and social justice, the resolution also:

- Encourages Member States to promote and implement national, local and regional strategies, policies and programmes for supporting and enhancing the social and solidarity economy as a possible model for sustainable economic and social development;
- Encourages relevant entities of the United Nations development system, including United Nations country teams, to give due consideration to the social and solidarity economy as part of their planning and programming instruments;
- Encourages multilateral, international and regional financial institutions and development banks to support the social and solidarity economy, including through existing and new financial instruments and mechanisms adapted to all stages of development;
- Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report, within existing resources, in collaboration with the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy, on the implementation of the present resolution[2].
- The ILO (International Labour Organization) also affirms that “The social and solidarity economy (SSE) contributes to decent work, inclusive and sustainable economies, social justice and sustainable development”[3]

Regarding social, economic & territorial cohesion...

Some steps:

- 1957 - the Treaty of Rome establishes instruments of solidarity through two Funds:
 1. [The European Social Fund](#) (ESF)
 2. [The European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund](#) (EAGGF Guidance Section)
- 1975 - the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) was created.
- 1994 - the Cohesion Fund was established.
- 1986 - Single Act by which economic and social cohesion became part of the competences of the European Community.
- 2008 - the [Lisbon Treaty](#) introduces a third dimension of cohesion in the EU: territorial cohesion.

[Cohesion policy](#) is organized, both at European and national level, by multiannual programming period. Since 2000, we face at seven-year cycle of programming, financed by the Structural Funds (ESF, ERDF, Cohesion Fund, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)) and other sources, such as the European Investment Bank.

What's new for 2021-2027

The EU cohesion policy has set a menu of 5 growth-supportive policy objectives for 2021-2027:

- a more competitive and smarter Europe;
- a greener, low-carbon transition to a zero-emission economy;
- a more connected Europe through improved mobility;
- a more social and inclusive Europe;
- a more citizen-friendly Europe fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories.

In 2021-2027, Cohesion Policy is delivered through the following specific funds:

- The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), to invest in the social and economic development of all EU regions and cities.
- The Cohesion Fund (CF), to invest in environment and transport in the less prosperous EU countries.
- The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), to support jobs and create a fair and socially inclusive society in EU countries.
- The Just Transition Fund (JTF) to support the regions most affected by the transition towards climate neutrality.

Cohesion programs

LEADER Programme (in French: Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rural) is the EU's participatory and bottom-up approach to involve local actors in the development and implementation of strategies, decision-making processes and allocation of resources for the development of their rural areas. It has been introduced in 1989/1991 as a bottom-up initiative to support the development of disadvantaged rural regions through projects addressing local needs.

One of its particular characteristics is the use of participatory and bottom-up methods to involve local communities in project development and decision-making processes: for this reason, it's known as community-led local development. LEADER is implemented across Europe by thousands of Local Action Groups (LAGs), made up of partners from the public, private and civil society, who organize and manage initiatives and activities.

For more details:

https://ec.europa.eu/enrd/leader-clld_en.html

Urban dimension of cohesion policy

Launched in 1994, the URBAN initiative encourages urban areas in crisis to develop innovative and integrated urban development initiatives in order to improve the quality of life of those who live there, through an integrated approach.

Given the success of these new forms of urban innovation, the European Commission has decided to continue in this direction, with a greater consideration of the urban dimension in all Community policies.

In particular, it launches URBAN II, a new Community initiative for sustainable urban development, incorporating it into the general rules of the Structural Funds. URBAN II is jointly financed by the Member States and the Commission, and for the period 2000-2006 EUR 730 million have been allocated exclusively from the ERDF, for a total investment of EUR 1.6 billion, benefiting almost 2.2 million inhabitants.

The main features of the European Urban programme are:

- An integrated approach to issues;
- A focus on EU priorities (integration of immigrant communities, sustainable development, equal opportunities and the information society).
- The programmes are managed locally, close to the people and their problems.
- Strong involvement of local communities and local authorities;
- An endogenous learning process, with wide-ranging tools for analysis and exchange of experiences.

For more details:

- <https://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2002:0308:FIN:EN:PDF>
- <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/urban-ii.html>

URBACT Programme

URBACT is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development. It integrates economic, social and environmental dimensions and enables cities to work together to develop new, pragmatic and sustainable solutions to major urban challenges.

For more details:

<https://urbact.eu/>

The **2014-2020** period has placed the urban dimension at the heart of cohesion policy. More than EUR 115 billion of ERDF resources were invested in urban areas, while around EUR 17 billion of ERDF resources were directly allocated to integrated strategies for sustainable urban development. More than 900 cities have been empowered to implement these integrated strategies for sustainable urban development.

Cohesion policy in the period **2021-2027** will continue to invest in all regions and the EU Commission has proposed a simpler and more flexible framework to better reflect the reality on the ground.

The focus is on five policy objectives concerning a smarter, greener, connected and social Europe, and a new cross-cutting objective to bring Europe closer to its citizens by supporting integrated territorial development strategies developed locally across the EU.

Cohesion policy will continue to support integrated territorial and local development strategies and empower urban and territorial authorities in the management of funds, while requiring strong local partnerships with relevant stakeholders.

The urban dimension of cohesion policy has been strengthened, with 8% of the European Regional Development Fund at national level dedicated to sustainable urban development strategies. Territorial instruments will be used to implement these strategies, i.e. integrated territorial investments (ITI), community-based local development (CLLD) and other territorial instruments.

The **European Urban Initiative (EUI)** is the EU instrument that supports urban areas of all sizes with innovative actions, capacity building and knowledge on sustainable urban development.

The initiative focuses on:

- developing innovative transferable and scalable solutions to urban challenges
- promoting the design and implementation of sustainable urban policies, strategies and practices in an integrated and participatory manner;
- promoting knowledge sharing and capitalisation for the benefit of urban policy makers and practitioners.

The **Urban Innovative Actions** (UIAs) and the Urban Development Network from the previous period will be integrated into the EUI. Support for the Urban Agenda for the EU will also take place within this initiative.

Regarding Local development...

It is a model which originated and evolved:

- in the EEC Treaty of Rome and regional territorial cohesion policies (see creation of the Regional Development Fund, 1973);
- in the Community Initiatives Interreg, LEADER, URBAN (1990s);
- in the Community action programme 'Integra' and the programmes to combat poverty (1997-2000).

- It is specifically adopted by [Regulation \(EU\) No 1303/2013](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund - through Article 32 entitled « **Participatory local development** ».

For the 2021-27 programming period, cohesion policy support to sustainable urban development was reinforced. Member states have exceeded the 8% target set for the allocation of ERDF resources. This amounts to EUR 24.4 billion of EU resources to tackle environmental, social and economic challenges facing cities and urban areas.

The European Commission introduced a stronger urban and territorial dimension by introducing a new policy objective, **“Europe closer to citizens”, supporting a place-based approach and the engagement of local authorities, civil society and citizens in delivering on local challenges.**

A new European Urban Initiative [4] to support cities with capacity building, innovative solutions, knowledge, policy development and communication was launched.

The [Structural Funds Regulations 2021-2027](#) (namely the Common Provisions Regulation - CPR - and Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 on the ERDF and Cohesion Fund) provide for a further strengthening of the territorial integration of interventions (referred to as **“integrated territorial development”** in Art. 9 of the ERDF Regulation and Art. 28 of the CPR).

The most relevant aspects to be highlighted are the following:

- **the Policy Objectives (PO) of the Structural Funds** include for the first time a transversal objective aimed at strengthening the political value of the fundamentally "place-based" approach that characterises the broader "cohesion" Funds;
- **OP 5** supports "the promotion of the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories (in urban areas, in areas other than urban - rural and also particularly disadvantaged areas - and in coastal areas);
- the two forms of intervention in support of local development of the previous period are confirmed: **Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) and Participatory Local Development (SLTP)**.

Participatory Local Development (SLTP)

This is the area in which local organisations – many of which are small and dedicated to sectoral projects – are most involved, each starting from their own specific field and interpreting the letter of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013.

This Regulation provides the basis for their actions to be legitimised and recognised, and for their integration (project networks) also with those of local bodies and groups operating in other areas and territories, starting from the needs identified in the different contexts.

In fact, paragraph 2 of the Regulation specifies that participatory local development is:

- focused on **specific sub-regional areas**;
- managed by **local action groups** composed of representatives of local socio-economic interests, both public and private, in which, at the decision-making level, neither public authorities, as defined in accordance with national rules, nor any single interest group represent more than 49% of those entitled to vote;
- implemented through **integrated and multi-sectoral local development strategies**;
- designed taking into account local needs and potential, and includes innovative elements in the local context, **networking activities** and, where appropriate, **cooperation**.

The inspiration for this structure comes directly from the definition of **human development** formulated by Amartya Sen and adopted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which defines development as "the process of expanding the real freedoms that people enjoy" (Amartya Sen, 1999).

References

[1] With a focus on the three partners' countries: Italy, France and Romania

[2] For more details: <https://unsse.org/2023/04/19/>

[3] <https://www.ilo.org/topics-and-sectors/social-and-solidarity-economy>

[4] <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/stories/s/Sustainable-Urban-development-2021-2027/iw5n-dss9/> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R1060> (see Art. 30,31,32)



Looking Up policies rubric

AT THE EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

COMMUNITY, SOCIAL SOLIDARITY ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY ECONOMIES

- [UN Resolution](#) – Task force on Social Solidarity Economy - 2024
- [European Action Plan for Social Economy](#) (COM/2021/778)
- [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) (2017)
- [Council of Europe Recommendation on Social Solidarity Economy](#) (2023)
- [REPORT OXFAM](#) (2024)
- [European Regional Development Fund](#)
- [Statute for a European Cooperative](#) (2003)
- [European Solidarity Corps](#)
- [European Youth Foundation](#)
- Synergies Forum
- [Local Action Group \(LAG\)](#) - European network for Rural Development
- [Erasmus Plus programme](#)
- [ESF+ Social Innovation + Initiative](#)
- [Global Europe: Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument](#)
- [Eismea – European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency](#)

ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION IN ARTISTIC & CULTURAL ALTERNATIVE PLACES

- Repair
- [European Green Deal](#)
- [New European Bauhaus](#)
- [Transition pathway on proximity and social economy](#) (2022)
- [European Festivals Fund for Emerging Artists – EFEEA](#)
- [Creative Europe](#)
- [Good environmental practices guide](#)
- [Circular Cities and Regions Initiative](#)
- [European Urban Initiative](#)
- [Interreg Europe](#)
- [European Creative Hubs Network](#)
- [Asia-Europe Foundation \(ASEF\)](#)
- [LIFE Programme](#)
- [Horizon Programme](#)
- [Culture & Sustainable Development - UNESCO](#)
- [EU directive on renewable energy sources](#) (2018)
- [Trans Europe Halles](#) – Network of independent cultural centres
- [Alter-places network](#)
- [Digital safaris on sustainability](#)
- [IN SITU](#)- European Platform for artistic creation in public space
- [Eurocities cultural initiative](#)
- [S4fashion](#)

URBAN-RURAL RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH FOOD AND SHORT SUPPLY CHAINS

- [Global food system](#)
- [City Region Food Systems \(CRFS\)](#) – FAO
- [Milan Urban Food Policy Pact \(UFPP\)](#) – 2015
- [Common Agricultural Policy \(CAP\)](#) - 1962
- [Farm to fork strategy](#) - 2020
- [European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability \(EIP-AGRI\)](#)
- [European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development \(EAFRD\)](#)
- [CSA-Community supported agriculture](#)
- [Coopcycle](#)
- [Crops4life](#)
- [EIB / EIF \(EU investment financing instruments\)](#)
- [Goodfoodforall](#)
- [Horizon Europe \(research & innovation framework\)](#)
- [LIFE Programme \(environment & climate\)](#)
- [Erasmus+ \(training, VET, exchange projects\)](#)
- [European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\)](#)
- [COSME & other SME / social economy initiatives](#)

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL (FRANCE, ITALY & ROMANIA)

COMMUNITY, SOCIAL SOLIDARITY ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY ECONOMIES

France

- [SSE Law](#) – (2014)
- Third places or commons ???
- [Community employment programmes](#)
- [Social Services Centre of the Family Allowance Fund](#)

Italy [1]

- [National Action Plan for Social Economy](#)
- Subsidiarity principle in the [Constitution Republic](#) (1948)(Title V, Art. 118-119 - 2001)
- [Law No. 381 of 1991 on Social Cooperatives](#) (EN)
- [Reform of the Third Sector](#) ([Legislative Decree 117/2017](#) and subsequent implementing decrees)
- [Network of Solidarity municipalities](#)
- [Network of Virtuous municipalities](#)
- [Community cooperatives](#) (draft law)

Romania

- [Education and Employment Programme \(PEO\)](#).
- Law on Social Economy (2015) ???

[1] Currently, in Italy, there are not specific national laws on SSE and community economies in Italy, but several regional and provincial laws promote and support this transformative socio-economic model that is considered within the broader context of promoting the social economy.

ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION IN ARTISTIC & CULTURAL ALTERNATIVE PLACES

France

Ministry of Culture:

- [General Delegation for the Transmission of Heritage to the Regions and for Cultural Democracy](#)
- [Territorial innovation fund](#)
- [Quartiers culturels créatifs \(QCC\)](#).
- [Direction régionale des affaires culturelles \(DRAC\) / Ateliers de Fabrique Artistique](#)

National Agency for territorial cohesion (ANCT):

- [Fabrique de territoire ANCT](#)
- [Politique de la ville](#)

Italy

- [Europa Creativa](#)
- [Incentives for shared energy for energy communities and collective self-consumption configurations](#)
- [Network of Sustainable municipalities](#)
- [Renewable energy communities Map](#)

Romania

- [Administrația Fondului Cultural Național \(AFCN\)](#).
- [Ro Cultura](#)

URBAN-RURAL RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH FOOD AND SHORT SUPPLY CHAINS

France

Italy

- [Financial law that recognizes GAS – solidarity purchasing groups \(Art. 1, 266 e 267\) – 2007](#)
- [Italian networks CSA](#)
- [Organic agriculture law and Biodistretti law - 2022](#)

Romania

- [AFIR - Agency for Rural Investment Financing](#).
- [DR-12 – Investments in Consolidating Young Farmers' Holdings](#)

AT THE REGIONAL & LOCAL LEVEL (FR, IT, RO)

COMMUNITY, SOCIAL SOLIDARITY ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY ECONOMIES

France

Italy

Social Solidarity Economy and/or fair trade:

- [Veneto](#) – 2010
- [Trento](#) (Autonomous Province) – 2010
- [Friuli Venezia Giulia](#) – 2017
- [Liguria](#) – 2007
- [Emilia Romagna](#) - 2014
- [Marche](#) – 2017
- [Calabria](#) - 2009

Community cooperatives - 12 Italian regions have already regulated the community form of cooperative enterprises:

- Lombardia - 2015
- [Emilia-Romagna](#) -2014
- [Liguria](#) -2015
- [Toscana](#) -2019
- [Umbria](#) -2019
- [Lazio](#) -2021
- [Abruzzo](#) -2015
- Campania - [2020, n. 1.- 2020, n. 12.](#)
- [Puglia](#) -2014
- [Calabria](#) -2015
- [Sardegna](#) - 2018
- [Sicilia](#) - 2018

Commons:

- [Piemonte](#) – 2024
- [Toscana](#) – 2020
- [Lazio](#) – 2019
- Napoli – Declaration of Civic Use (i.e. [Delibera di Giunta n. 893 del 29/12/2015](#), [Delibera di G.C. 297/2019](#), [Delibera di G.C. 424 del 13/08/2021](#))
- [Network of Napoli](#)

Romania

- [Just Transition Programme \(JTP\)](#), 2021–2027
- [Integrated Territorial Investments \(ITI\)](#) – Danube Delta

AT THE REGIONAL & LOCAL LEVEL

ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION IN ARTISTIC & CULTURAL ALTERNATIVE PLACES

France

- [Région IDF - PAC Fabrique Ile de France](#)
- [Résonance 93](#)
- [CAP 2030](#)
- [Région Centre Val de Loire : Lieux intermédiaires](#)
- [Plaine Commune Interface](#)
- [Les quartiers culturels et créatifs](#)
- [Drac Occitanie](#)
- [Département de la Seine-Saint-Denis](#) (investments and projects)
- [Etablissement Public Territorial Plaine Commune](#) (SSE, Territorial Food Plan, culture...)
- [Ville d'Aubervilliers](#)
- [Ville de Paris](#) (Direction de la Démocratie, des Citoyen.ne.s et des Territoires Service Politique de la ville - DPSP-SPV / Dispositif Ville Vie Vacances – VVV / Direction des Espaces Verts et de l'Environnement – DEVE / Direction des affaires culturelles - DAC)
- [Mairie du 18ème arrondissement de Paris](#)
- Social landlords : [ICF LA Sablière](#) ; [RIVP](#) ; [Paris Habitat](#) ; [Antin Résidence](#)
- Private funding : [Fondation du patrimoine](#) (for investment); [Fondation SNCF](#) (projects); [Fondation BNP Paribas](#) (projects); [Aubervilliers Mécénat](#); [Fondation Artelia](#) (for investment + skills sponsorship); [Fondation des Solidarités Urbaines](#) ; [Fondation Macif](#)

Italy

Romania

URBAN-RURAL RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH FOOD AND SHORT SUPPLY CHAINS

France

Italy

- Regulations for the support of GAS (solidarity purchasing groups) - [Abruzzo](#)
- Regulations for the support of GAS (solidarity purchasing groups) - [Campania](#) – 2015
- Regulations for the support of GAS (solidarity purchasing groups)- [Puglia](#) – 2012
- [Sportello EcoEquo](#)
- [Agroecology law](#) – 2021
- [Map of local food policies](#)
- [Support of food short supply chains](#) – Lazio 2016
- [Support of Biodistretti](#) – Lazio 2019
- [Promotion in foodservices of reused/recycled products and from SSE](#) – Lazio 2019
- [Regulations to promote responsible consumption](#) – Emilia Romagna 2002

Romania

- [Fundația Româno-Americană](#)