



## LOOKING UP

A training path from experiences of local development towards European Social Solidarity Economy strategies



In collaboration with

KA210-ADU - Small-scale partnerships in adult education Form ID KA210-ADU-D102CF25  
March 2024 –September 2025



# Who are we? The partners



[www.solidariusitalia.it](http://www.solidariusitalia.it)

- It's a **small social enterprise** of Social Solidarity Economy born in 2009
- **Our mission:** supporting actors, communities, associations, cooperatives, small enterprises, local institutions in a transition path towards Social Solidarity Economy through participatory processes of co-planning
- **Main field of actions:** training, action research, social design, networking and community building, publishing



[www.cries.ro](http://www.cries.ro)

- **Resource Center** for Ethical and Solidarity Initiatives was initiated in Timișoara, in 2009 by a group of citizens and local associations
- **Our mission:** coordinating a participatory approach for territorial planning of social cohesion strategy, based on the involvement of citizens in defining well-being together with public authorities and other territorial actors; rethinking social progress and transforming the economy
- **Main field of actions:** education, pilot actions, advocacy, networking



[www.ufisc.org](http://www.ufisc.org)

- **Federal Union for Intervention of Cultural Structures** is a national **non-profit solidarity organisation** that regroups professional organisations in all arts and cultural sectors: it represents 19 networks with more than 2500 structures rooted in citizens initiatives
- **Our mission:** contributing to consultations on public policies of the State and of regional authorities, and to the professional structuring of the sectors; supporting structures, teams and project leaders through various systems; leading cooperation initiatives and in particular the management of shared spaces
- **Main field of actions:** advocacy, cooperative territorial networking, cultural diversity and cultural rights, social solidarity economy in the artistic field

# Who are we? The co-partners



ACTES IF  
FRANCE



ASAT  
ROMANIA



GIARDINO DELL'ARDIGLIONE  
ITALY



RECIPROC CAFE'  
ROMANIA



RIPESS  
EUROPE



LE SHAKIRAIL  
FRANCE



LES POUSSIÈRES  
FRANCE



LOFOIO  
ITALY

# The Looking UP project: target and main objectives

## TARGET:

- Organisations, informal groups, cooperatives.... especially the small ones, that work in the field of urban and rural local development in the framework of ecological transition and social solidarity economy → they play a key role in the development of their communities but often don't know of the policies and strategies that guide local urban/rural development at European and national level and often they don't have the opportunity to know what happens in similar realities in other place of Europe
- People, students, teachers.... Everyone wants to approach these topics from a transnational perspective

## OBJECTIVES:

- Enhance their knowledge, awareness and civic engagement on the topics of urban and rural local development in the framework of ecological transition, social solidarity economy and the policies that at different levels guide these actions
- Strengthening those organizations and bringing them closer to the European dimension by making them subjects of an exchange, enhancing their know-how and their networks

# The Looking UP project: approach and results

## APPROACH:

- Bottom-up approach, funded on [active listening](#) to the participants' [training needs](#) (Co-designed training)
- [Peer-to-peer logic](#), building, as most as we can, a [learning community](#).
- Practices as [case studies](#): fostering a peer-to-peer exchange and an in-depth analysis of different realities chosen as case studies
- [Common collection](#) of policies and strategies at national and european level

## RESULTS:

- [1 Toolkit](#): materials, case studies, tools collected regarding sustainable participatory local development, SSE and ecological transition, policy lines of national and EU actions (4 LANGUAGES)

01

Networking and development of solidarity and community economies placed based in urban and rural areas.

Local participatory development and ecological transition in artistic & cultural alternative places

02

03

Urban-rural relations through food and its supply chains



Session  
1

2024 NOVEMBER 12th  
Social permaculture approach  
for a systemic community's development

- Introduction to Looking UP Tuesdays
- Participatory local development and social solidarity economy – with Solidarius Italy
- Social permaculture approach: principles and methodologies to design and facilitate communities processes - with Lorenzo Ci from Italian Academy of Permaculture
- Conclusion

Session  
2

2024 NOVEMBER 26th  
Developing communities

- What community is from SSE perspective (and what is not)? – with Solidarius Italy
- Analyzing a case study: Giardino dell'Ardiglione in Florence (IT) – How to build community around a common?
- Liminal communities – Prof. A. Volterrani from Torvergata University in Rome
- Policies rubric

Session  
3

2024 DECEMBER 3rd  
Economies responding to community needs

- Job and capabilities in Social Solidarity Economy– with Solidarius Italy
- Analyzing a case study: Lofio in Florence (IT) – how to respond to community's needs by creating work and community ties?
- The experience of communities' cooperatives  
The italian experience - with Paolo Scaramuccia (Lega Coop Italy)  
The french experience - with Patricia Coler (UFISC)
- Policies rubric



01

Networking and development of solidarity and community economies placed based in urban and rural areas.



In collaboration with

# Why LOOKING UP?

12th November 2024

Soana Tortora - coordinator of Solidarius Italy





# The economy of inequalities





Since 2020 the 5 richest billionaires have doubled their wealth while 5,000,000 people have plunged into poverty

-From OXFAM Report 2024-

During the last 10 years, global poverty has increased by 60%. (OXFAM 2024)

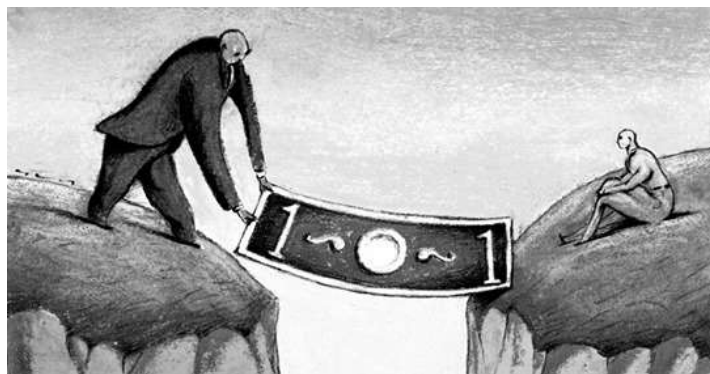
700 million people live in extreme poverty, at less than USD 2.15 per day (World Bank)



# World economic and financial power

- Have invaded the public sector, making essential services commodities
- Have deepened inequalities by crushing rights and wages
- Have crept into the culture and collective imaginary...

... and more and more affects the institutions' policies at every level on issues crucial for everyone



Is this an inescapable destiny?



From the economy of inequalities...



towards a  
**TRANSFORMATIVE  
ECONOMY**

# ... a transformative economy

that many organisations around the world are implementing...

Social economy

Economy for the common  
good

Civil economy

Circular economy

Franciscus' economy

Economy of communion

Bio economy

«Doughnut» economy

...a transformative economy that we define  
**SOCIAL SOLIDARITY ECONOMY**  
and are implementing

- ✓ building NETWORKS (local, national and transnational) and territorial and regional economies
- ✓ contributing to national, European and international standards and treaties (v. United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy - UNTFSSSE, International Labour Organisation - ILO, OCDE-OCSE)

...a transformative economy that we define  
**SOCIAL SOLIDARITY ECONOMY**  
and has roots

- ✓ in caring for people and the planet
- ✓ in the work and life places
- ✓ in community ties aimed at improving the lives of each and everyone and the common good
- ✓ in inclusive, sustainable and participatory local development
- ✓ in the regeneration of territorial, economic and social cohesion policies



# SOCIAL SOLIDARITY ECONOMY



Social Solidarity Economy is a way to satisfy human needs and rights through social, cultural, economic activities that **reinforce values of social justice, ecological sustainability, cooperation, mutuality, community and democracy.**

It is expressed by **a constellation of grassroots groups**, civic organizations, consumers and producer-based platforms, cooperative and social enterprises, and collaborative public institutions.

The Social Solidarity Economy **proposes a system that is not only economic, but also socio-political and cultural, basing life-sustaining processes at the centre of socio-economic activity, placing people, communities and the environment above capital and its accumulation**, and rejecting relations of inequality and exclusion based on gender, sexual orientation and identity, age or origin through values related, among others, to cooperation, reciprocity, self-management and solidarity.

(<https://www.riposs.org/?lang=en> )

- 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).**
- Several national and regional laws in different countries

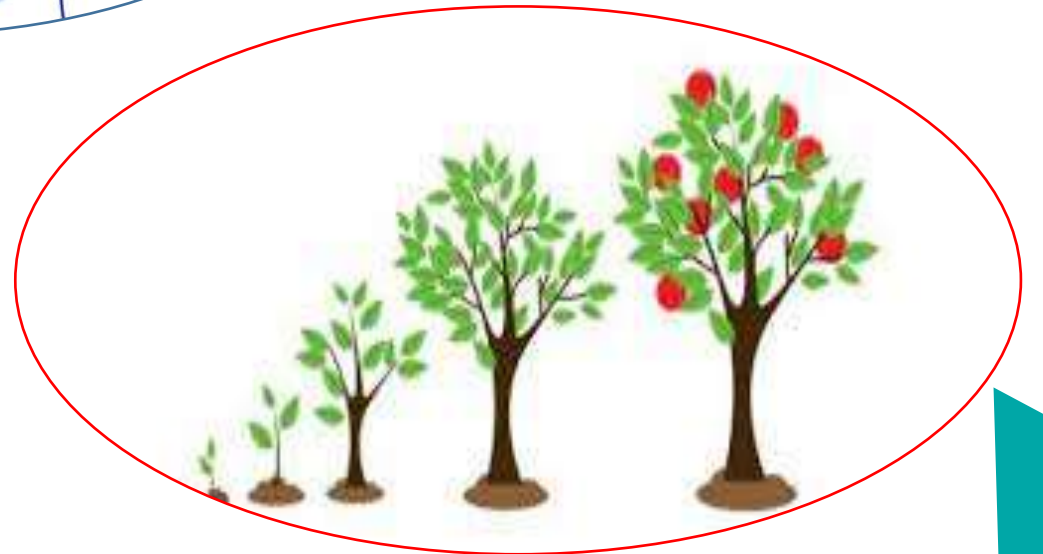
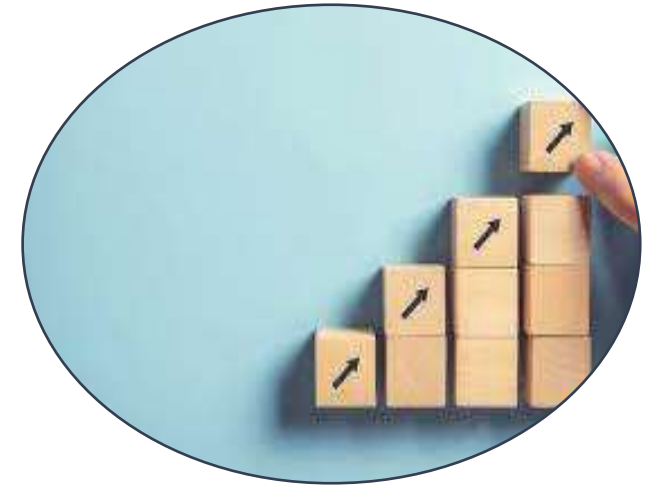


# SOCIAL SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

aimed to transform the cultural mainstream paradigm

## DEVELOPMENT

(from Google images)

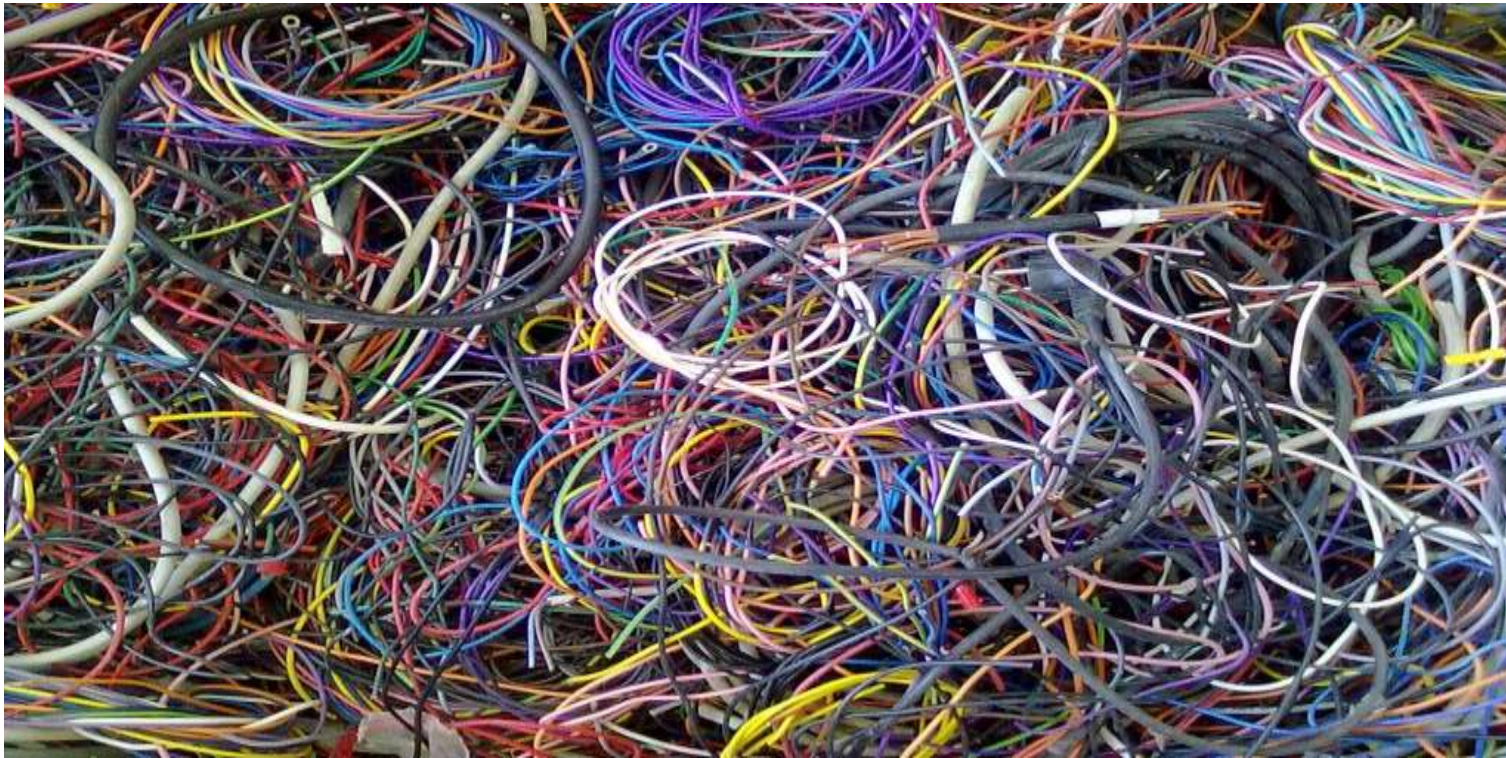


# DEVELOPMENT

In French: Développement (from Old French desvelopemens)

In Rumanian: Dezvoltare

In Italian: Sviluppate (from s-viluppo) → remove from a tangle, de-rolling



- Development as a liberation process
- Human development: «process of expanding the real freedoms that people can enjoy» Amartya Sen

# PARTICIPATORY LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Community development**

Founded on a place-based approach → not as a simple decentralisation of globalised development, but deeply **anchored in context and communities**

- Participatory approach to be a real liberation process.
- Has to be aim to enhance individuals and territories
- Has to be sustainable

Recognised in the framework of European policies from the **EEC Treaty of Rome (1957)**, to regional territorial cohesion policies (Regional Development Fund, 1973), to Article 174 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (1992-2007).



SOCIAL SOLIDARITY ECONOMY



PARTICIPATORY LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

