



PLEDGE

To the implementation of the
Transition Pathways

Cooperatives Europe's Pledge – Co-Implementation of the Transition Pathway for the Social and Proximity Economy

28.02.2023

After witnessing and participating to the co-creation process of the Transition Pathway for the Social and Proximity Economy in the last few months, Cooperatives Europe welcomes with great excitement the result of this successful collaboration. Now, the Transition Pathway needs collective efforts from all stakeholders to be brought to life and successfully implemented.

That is why Cooperatives Europe pledges to co-implement the Transition Pathway and address the following Action Areas:

- Action Area 7: Addressing capacity and skills gap,
- Action Area 14: Boosting digital skills by - and in the social economy,
- Action Area 6: Green business communities and citizens' initiative

- Action Area 7 and 14: Addressing capacity and skills gap and boosting digital skills.

When it comes to skills, we believe in the need to empower the next generation of entrepreneurs, to educate them on a systemic level about environmentally *and* socially sustainable business models, to equip them with relevant and concrete skills for them to successfully engage into social economy and green or digitalize their operations.

Actions that Cooperatives Europe will undertake:

- Creation of a multi-stakeholder alliance from 5 European countries to work on the topic.
- Modernize and adapt curricula on social economy in Europe to the challenges of the green and digital transition, such as (to cite only a few) waste and pollution reduction, sustainable management of our commons (both economically and environmentally), impact measurement, circular economy, the systemic use of digital tools and data analysis for replication, etc.
- Contribute to a better access and sharing of data, knowledge, and skills within the social economy ecosystem.
- Promote partnerships and foster synergies between entities across the ecosystems and outside of it.

Concrete targets:

- Carry out an assessment and cross-country needs analysis on social economy skills provision in Europe.
- Develop educational materials that answer the identified shortcomings. These modules, to be adopted by HEIs and used by SE practitioners, shall include topics like running a social economy enterprise, learning skills (hard vs soft), impact/value creation and measurement, environmental sustainability and community development, impact investment readiness, etc.
- Facilitating the access to tools and knowledge to educators, students, and practitioners by making these materials freely available online on an open-source platform by 2024.
- Creating an international master's programme on Social Economy and Community Development Strategies by 2030.

- Action Area 6: Green business communities and citizens' initiative

Actions that Cooperatives Europe will undertake:

Through the creation of a multi-stakeholder alliance composed of HEIs, training and research institutes, social economy practitioners and community stakeholders coming from 5 European countries, Cooperatives Europe aims at fostering long-term and innovative collaboration between and within communities to build local sustainable value chains. To do so, we will gather multidisciplinary expertise and involve communities as a whole through the participation of citizens, civil society, local businesses and public authorities.

Concrete Targets:

- Dissemination of best practices and creation of networking opportunities within the alliance until 2024 and beyond.
- Fostered collaboration and synergies within the social economy ecosystem at transnational level by creating bridges between HEIs, civil society, social economy practitioners and traditional businesses until 2024 and beyond.
- Regional/local trickle-down effect with the creation of new partnerships after 2024 with community businesses, citizens, and local public authorities for more sustainable and local value chains in areas where members of the alliances are implanted.