Report format

Title of the session:	Re-Building an Inclusive and Social Economy after Covid-19
Type of session	Self-Organised Session
Language:	English
Date:	4th October
Time:	16-17:30 KST
Participants	

Name of moderator

Toby Gazely

Speakers

Clémence Vidal - Regional Council of Occitanie   **Alessandra Medici - ART-ER**   **Teo Petricevic - ACT Group**   **Adrien Delaby - PULSE Serbia**

Main question

What should be the actions or strategies of individuals, governments, groups, societies, countries, to achieve a better and more inclusive world?   What key actions should be promoted from the local level?

Summary of presentations:

- **Clémence Vidal**
    - In Occitanie, Social enterprises represent 12% of regional employment but the unemployment rate continues being a challenge for them - 9% in Occitanie against 8% in France
    - have included social economy model in their regional economic model - tackles 3 main challenges: creation of equitable jobs, reutilising rural areas - 40% of their population lives in rural areas
    - Social Economy Regional Plan - social enterprise financing
    - organised a complete chain of support for social enterprises
    - measures taken by the region in response to Covid were many - financial aids, training actions, but SE enterprises were included because they had too little equity capital which led them to holding webinars and campaigns to let people know of the help they could receive
    - RESET project
        - regional governments seeking partnerships with social enterprises to take on the challenge of sustainable labour, especially after covid 19 crisis
            - ACTGRUPA
            - ER Region
            - Generalitat Valenciana
            - Zagreb
            - EUCLID
        - TWO main objectives: set up a network of European regional and local authorities to exchange knowledge on how to use the social economy model
            - how to create jobs, how to preserve jobs and how to transform jobs taking care of vulnerable groups
        - another objective was to make recommendations resulting from these exchanges, that would stimulate the reflection for the European social economy plan of the European Commission
- **Alessandra Medici**
    - Emilia Romagna Region: competitiveness and social protection
        - leading region in Europe in terms of entrepreneurship and economic dynamism
        - it combines the policies for competitiveness with strong social protection
        - first italian region in R&D and it is in the group of strong innovators at EU level
    - Impact of Covid 19 on the Regional territory
        - health system and territorial services
            - regional intervention: 3 billion euros for TS entities (675 applications financed)
        - employment: negative impact on women and families
            - regional interventions on:

- - labour market and female entrepreneurship
    - work-life balance
    - equal opportunities and fight against gender violence
- Experience of ER region and ART-ER in supporting the social economy
  - 27,819 SE organisations
  - Peculiarities:
    - rich and lively social economy ecosystem
    - multi-level governance applied and policies elaborated and adopted through participative processes
    - clear legal framework
  - Points to be strengthened:
    - managerial skills in social economy organisations
    - social impact measurement tool in public calls
    - digitalisation of services and processes
- Interventions from a multi-level governance perspective
  - new programming period 2021-2027: Regional Operative Plans (ERDF, ESF)
    - TS, citizens engagement and digital social innovation
    - transformative agendas
    - reward system in the public calls
  - national plan for resilience and recovery
    - national coordination and local task forces
    - mission 5 cohesion and inclusion (employment policies, social infrastructures and TS, territorial cohesion)
  - implementation of the third sector reform
    - focus on co-design procedures: training paths with ANCI, local authorities and third sector entities
  - european platforms and projects
    - S3 Platform on Social Economy
    - RaiSE (interreg Europe), RESET (COSME), Casper and EU Belong (AMIF)
- **Teo Petricevic**
  - RESET project as well - as a non-governmental member
    - collaboration, co-creation - organic and natural, not forced by other agendas
    - development of different elements of the ecosystem
    - results: set the baseline of the project to understand who really are the actors in the project and follow the conversation on the priorities
    - this project gives the opportunity to be heard, bringing people together, share experiences and knowledge
    - learnt that in projects having local organisations and local governments is important, in terms of the development of the ecosystem

- **Adrien Delaby**
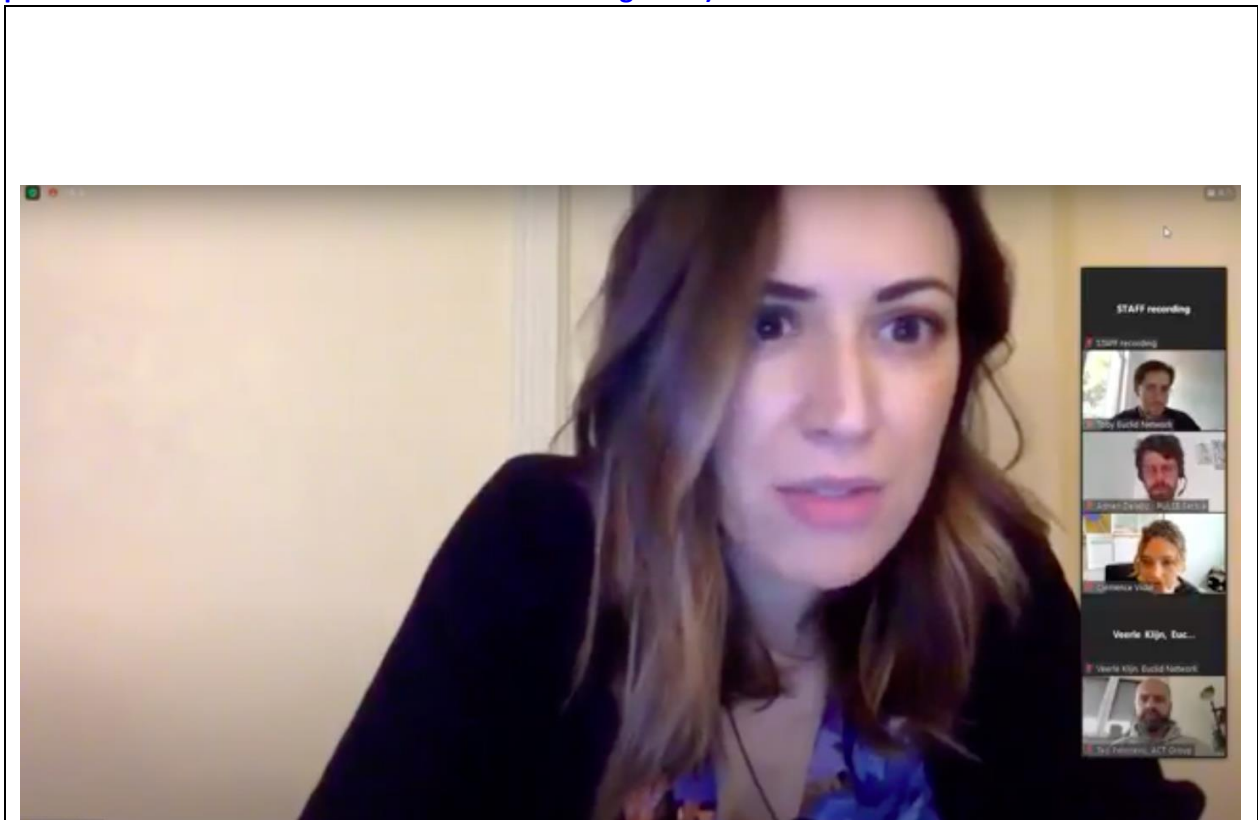 - organised a social forum in Belgrade

- the Western Balkans are still developing this ecosystem and there is very little action from local governments towards this
- there were no specific measures for these social enterprises in the country, locally involved so more resilient towards the covid crisis
- more support at a national level - support normal businesses, not as much towards social enterprises

Relevant Questions and Answers from Audience:

- **Question:** Would you say that working together with local governments in a project strengthens the relationships between SESOs and the governments? Perhaps even improves mutual understanding and takes away barriers? (Veerle Klijn)
    - **Answer:**
        - **Clèmence:** yes, we need to work with civil society organisations to make our actions more meaningful and ambitions more concrete
            - for the social economy plan in our region, we do everything with our stakeholders - very important and basis of our daily work
- **Question:** Any other initiatives and programs related to these projects? What do you hope comes out from these programs?
    - **Answer:**
        - **Clèmence:** European Commission is giving more voice to SE
            - big hope for the role of territories - SE by nature is rooted in the territories and will play a major role in the development of the SE - specific and dedicated policies, and these projects should enhance this
- **Question**: What can be done to integrate these agendas, that work towards similar goals in terms of sustainability and inclusion?
    - **Answer:**
        - **Alessandra**: the project has the peculiarity of being focused on employment and this gives concreteness to the project. We try to address crucial problems of our area - such as employment, vulnerable groups
- **Question:** Do you think that projects like RESET can be recreated or exported?
    - **Answer**:
        - **Adrien**: it definitely should be recreated and adapted to local contexts - depending on the level of the ecosystem. We want to try to do this and have these 6 countries where we are present to interact.

Screenshots of the zoom session (preferably gallery view with all the participants, so please take a minute before closing the session to ask all the participants to turn on their videos and take a group photo. This can be also used for the video recording later.)