

1. Project title: **JustGreen Skills**

2. Partnership presentation

JustGreen is a consortium that gathers 4 municipalities from different countries, 1 European Network, 23 social economy organizations that work in their local and regional territories and 4 social economy organisations whose mission' are to promote the development of social and solidarity economy sector or circular economy (see list of partners in annexe). There are 6 countries represented in this consortium: Belgium, France, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Portugal.

JustGreen stands for the aim of working to support the green transition of social and solidarity economy organisations so that "nobody is left behind". It recognises social and solidarity economy potential to foster a transition that is not only sustainable, but also just and socially fair.

The JustGreen name derives from a first project financed by COSME Programme (COS-SEM-2020-4-01; Grant Agreement number 101015873) held from February 2021 to January 2022. Throughout exploring three main topics of the green transition during 12 months (circular economy, decarbonisation and short food supply chains), these partners have learned with experts and practitioners, shared experiences and practices and debate concerns and worries.

Forty-four practices from consortium partners were collected in a data base and shared. These practices are, as expected, a very heterogeneous set. Some focus on the delivery of services to different target groups, such as women, elders and children, and others focus on the promotion of local economy, social economy organisations and vocational training. Regarding the green transition aim, these practices include the areas of food production, distribution and consumption; disassembly or reuse of obsolete electronic equipment; recycling and waste reduction; clean energy and soft mobility; digital technology applied to energy efficiency; energy efficiency in building and housing sector; renewable energy communities. More than half of these practices include work opportunities for vulnerable groups.

The JustGreen consortium as achieved several important results and outputs:

- Learnings on green transition matters such as strategies and practices to enhance circular economy, decarbonisation and short food supply chains; strategies and practices to enhance social and solidarity economy and to develop the collaboration among municipalities, social economy organisations and other territorial stakeholders.

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- Networking and interregional European cooperation. The increased awareness of the relevance of networking; new contacts for future collaboration; new project ideas.
- A document on political guidelines focusing on what municipalities can do to support the development of social economy organisations (and especially WISEs) active in the “Green transition”. Initiatives that derives from consortium partners' practices and knowledge such as promotion of citizens' dialogue, organizational and financial support, or the increase and improvement of public procurements for green transition actions with social clauses/reserved contracts.
- A set of common needs to enhance the just and green transition and conjoint project ideas. Namely five key topic were identified: participatory methodologies for strategic planning in the different territories, especially on short food supply chains; awareness and communication tools for the green and fair transition; impact measurement for municipalities and social economy sector; developing green competencies and skills; promoting public procurement social clauses/reserved contracts.

Another important result from this project is the high level of satisfaction of consortium members with the exchange and mutual learning that was started. A consortium that wants to keep deepening their network of European interregional cooperation, by developing new projects targeting their common needs.

3. Partners features and experience

The **municipalities** of this consortium are of different sizes and territorial backgrounds. The territories are quite distinct from each other, having different population sizes, cultural and social traditions, as well as different economic activities.

Vila Nova de Famalicão (131,484 inhabitants) is a municipality in the north of Portugal with 1639 workers. It occupies a favourable geostrategic position within the region, with good access to transport systems, close to industrial and academic clusters, as well as to Porto, the second largest city in Portugal. It combines a rural landscape, with diffuse industrial activities and a medium size city, regarding Portuguese standards. With a strong entrepreneurial tradition, its companies fall into different economic sectors, such as textiles, footwear, automobile components and agro-food sector. Famalicão vision for 2025 is to become a global techno-industrial community, with a green and multifunctional territory. The Municipality develops several policies, projects and initiatives that follow the aim of promoting a green and just transition, either related to urban planning, to civil society participation or to sustainability. Having participated as partners or promoters in several European projects, some of their core experiences are related to circular economy (such as the rehabilitation of the local market into a circular economy centre and a short circuit



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hub) as well as participatory strategic planning (with the “Yellow Couch” methodology adopted in 2014 for the Famalicão 2025 strategic plan).

Gmina Świętochłowice (50,012 inhabitants) is a municipality in the Silesia region of Poland with 210 workers. The local government and the community are still struggling with the consequences of the former industrial activity. Gmina Świętochłowice is part of the Upper Silesian Industry Centre (steel, car production, chemical, LTS) and is still recovering from the recession. The main policies of the municipality regarding green transition are the Low-emission economy plan for the years 2021-2030, the Local Revitalization Plan of Świętochłowice Municipality and the Development Strategy of Świętochłowice Municipality, both in action until 2023.

The Comune di Mozzo (7,365 inhabitants) is a satellite town next to Bergamo with 30 workers. The presence of the Parco dei Colli, one of the largest parks in the Lombardy region, has limited intensive building over time and allowed the Municipality of Mozzo to maintain its vocation in the agricultural production and care of natural areas. The municipality is involved in different projects to promote actions to protect and enhance the agro-environmental, naturalistic and historical-cultural heritage, valorising the role of third sector's organisations, such as the Parco Regionale dei Colli di Bergamo (the largest of the Lombardy region), the BioDistrict of Social Agriculture, the Environmental Ethics Centre, the Social Solidarity Economy District of Bergamo (DESS) and the Porta del Parco community space. Mozzo brings a strong experience in the sustainability in agro-food systems as well as in the collaboration between local and regional authorities and the social and solidarity sector.

The Municipality of Terézváros (38,541 inhabitants) is one of the 23 municipalities that runs the city of Budapest having as economic activities its night-life, cultural activities, educational institutions and business and embassies headquarters. The main policies of the municipality regarding green transition are the farmers' market renovation within a short food supply chain concept, introducing traffic calming, planting trees, have opened a community garden and opened up recycling opportunities for the public (collecting glass, cooking oil and most lately, composting). There is also the SECAP action plan, with a courtyard greening program, promoting cycling, and organizing various courses in sustainability (composting, permaculture in an urban setting).

ENSIE is an umbrella organisation representing the interests of national and regional networks of 'Work Integration Social Enterprises' (WISEs) striving for more inclusive and integrated forms of employment at European level. WISEs are defined by three identifying pillars: they are enterprises whose main objective is the social and professional integration of disadvantaged people, they are at the core of the economic system and present a strong pedagogical dimension. ENSIE gathers 30 national and regional networks, representing 24 countries across Europe (21 EU countries as well as Azerbaijan, Moldova and Serbia). Overall, it represents more than 2,860 work integration social enterprises, and about



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225,000 salaried people, pursuing the goal of social and professional inclusion of disadvantaged people.

The **23 social economy organisations** include from small organisations with a couple of full time workers to large cooperatives with hundreds of members. These organisations are focused on social services, integration of vulnerable groups, education and work integration. Other organisations are production and distribution cooperatives, networks between producers and consumers through solidarity purchasing groups or local markets, energy communities.

The stakeholders from Portugal are, most of them, Particular Institutions of Social Solidarity with 50 to 100 workers. These are mature organisations, with 20 or more years of existence, and their focus is mainly on the social services sector and education. The Social Economy sector recognition in Portugal is recent. There is already a substantive legal and political recognition of the sector at the national level, although there is no legal framework for WISEs. Social Economy organisations play a very important role in Portugal providing public social services. The municipality of Famalicão develops, since more than 20 years, a strong networking activity between social economy organisations and between these and other local organisations in the fields of training, education, health or employment. These partners have relevant practices regarding the green transition in the field of sustainable food production, prevention of food waste, automation systems for energy efficiency, electronic and furniture collection and reuse.

From Poland we have small organisations that work closely with the municipality. They are mostly young institutions with at most 25 workers. Even though these are small and relatively young organisations they already reach a coverage of hundreds of people from their region. The municipality is very active in the promotion of local organisations and is an active agent of incubation and support of the social economy institutions that take part of this consortium. The tradition of social entrepreneurship in Poland has its roots in voluntary association of citizens and grassroots initiatives, as well as in cooperative movements and organizations existing before World War II. Entering EU was a key event for social entrepreneurship in Poland and to form new organisational forms. These legal and organisational forms can be grouped in the three models of social enterprise: cooperatives and social cooperatives; entrepreneurial non-profit organisations such as foundations, associations and other voluntary organisations; and work and social integration social enterprises such as social enterprises for the disabled or social enterprises for wider group of persons threatened by social and economic exclusion.

The Italian stakeholders are a mixture of social cooperatives and small social economy organisations and present a big gap in their work force, from small enterprises with a few full-time workers to big cooperatives with 250 people. They are also mature institutions with many years of service and a big coverage, reaching thousands of people from the Bergamo province In Italy there is a strong Social Economy with legal recognition of the social economy and a rich history of partnerships and networking in all sectors of economic



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activity. In the Lombardy region WISE's have a crucial role in the work integration, especially the Social Cooperatives of Type B that include vulnerable people as members. In the Lombardy Region there are 578 Social Cooperative B type with 16.000 workers and 5.900 job placements for vulnerable people. Alongside this network, there is another one - smaller and more recent: RIES (Rete Italiana di Economia Solidale - Italian Solidarity Economy Network) was founded on 18 January 2020 and has around 30 members. It connects experiences, local networks and solidarity-based social economy districts that emphasise the relational and value (as well as economic) links between members and work to spread mutuality and participation with a bottom up approach.

The stakeholders from Hungary are a very heterogeneous group. They focus on ecological transports, ecological agriculture, and work integration. They are all small organisations with a relatively young lifespan. In Hungary social enterprises are mostly involved in labour market reintegration, improvement of the situation of socially disadvantaged groups, local development and environmental protection. They are often involved in alternatives to mainstream economy such as farmers' markets, shopping communities, community gardens, eco-villages, community-based agriculture, social farms, local currencies and microcredit programs. 3.5% of social enterprises pursue explicitly environmental protection goals.

From Belgium (Wallonia region), Groupe Terre is an example of a successful social economy organisation with almost 70 years of existence and a myriad of activities in several economic sectors, with a strong dedication to recycling sector. Fédération Meti-Tresse, from France, is a social economy organisation from Lá Reunión that focus on local development of their economy and its social economy organisations. They focus already on various ecological activities and work integration.

Beyond social economy organisations that work in the several described territories, **four more organisations** form part of this consortium and are experienced in facilitation methodologies, project design and European projects and cooperation. They are from Portugal, Poland, Italy and Hungary.

A3S is a non-profit association from Portugal founded in 2006. It provides consulting, evaluation, action-research, education & training services for the consolidation of sustainable, participatory and inclusive development alternatives. It' mission is promoting social entrepreneurship and the development of social and solidarity economy. A3S focus on five specific topics: work integration of vulnerable people; capacity building and organizational development; inclusion through art; education and training for social and solidarity economy and cooperation and development with Portuguese speaking African countries.

Solidarius Italia is a small social enterprise that works since 2009 as no-profit entity with social bodies, micro-enterprises, institutions in order to accompany and facilitate the economic, social, environmental transformation forward a sustainable and solidarity local development. It works at national and international level, participating in different networks,



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doing: training, researching, networking, publishing, social planning, supply chains analysis. The main fields of intervention are social solidarity economy, community cooperation, participatory local development, social inclusion.

Circular Economy Portugal (CEP) is a non-profit organization which aims to contribute to the acceleration of the transition to a circular economy in Portugal. Our vision is a society without waste, so that natural resources are preserved and ecosystems regenerated. To achieve this vision, CEP develops and implements projects that apply in practice the principles of circular economics, focusing on Reduce & Reuse.

Foundation of a Regional Employment Promotion Agency (FRAPZ) is a non-profit organisation that since 2002 actively participates in the social and economic life of the region and pursues its statutory goals through, among others, training, consulting, job counselling and charitable activities. FRAPZ cooperates with public administration bodies, institutions supporting entrepreneurship and the job market, as well as with other NGOs. It's flagship project is Social Economy Support Centre that provides advisory services for existing social economy entities and train people interested in setting up a social enterprise or economizing their NGO.

Galileo Progetti Non-profit Ltd. is a non-profit enterprise based in Budapest, aiming to promote well-being, social inclusion, development, and to increase international cooperation. The main objectives are the development of the social economy and social sector in general and the inclusion policies. Galileo also aims to develop the feeling of civil participation and European citizenship and works with particular attention for the inclusion of disadvantaged people or at risk of social exclusion, such as Roma minorities and disabled people. Galileo provides good practice exchanges that can increase the local development and the competences of the local organisations, such as the sharing and adapting of well-functioning training and working processes in the social sector.

4. Description of the Project. What is the rationale of this project, in terms of territorial and organizational needs to be addressed and aims to pursue?

To address the challenges of the green and digital transition, the European Union has launched in November 2020 the Pact for Skills, inviting public and private organisations to join forces and take concrete action to upskill and reskill people in Europe. The World Economic Forum has used the expression "reskilling revolution" to convey the scope of the transformation that the challenges of the green and digital transition demand, in terms of competences and abilities.

Our consortium, through the work developed in 2021 within the JustGreen project, has come to agree with this expression. We want to embrace and accelerate the green transition, but we acknowledged several weaknesses in our territories and organizations, which prevent this transition from happening. Non-existent or underdeveloped skills are a central issue:



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- There is an understanding of the strategic importance of green social purchases (public procurement, in the case of municipalities), but knowledge and tools for implementation of green and social criteria are lacking.
- Workers and management in SE organizations and municipalities lack awareness about the demands of the just green transition. Life-cycle thinking and management needs to be introduced in decisions and everyday operations.
- There are business opportunities for social economy organizations in the green transition, which may contribute to their social impact and financial sustainability. For example, in the circular economy field (food waste prevention; biowaste collection and composting; repair and reuse of appliances, furniture, textiles, toys and other consumer goods; sharing of space, equipment, goods, information, human resources; construction waste prevention and reuse) and in the field of sustainable food (growing, processing, distributing). To make use of those opportunities, organizations need to acquire skills in those fields.
- To integrate new activities and procedures, organizations must change. But change processes are always hard to implement. Change management is a needed skill.
- To ensure that new activities and procedures produce the desired results, monitoring is necessary. Monitoring processes are rudimentary in the organizations of this consortium, including municipalities. This is another area that needs skilling.
- A set of soft skills should complement the previous ones: collaboration, creativity, adaptability, resilience and empathy.

The territories and organizations within our consortium are quite different, but this diagnosis applies to all partners. So our goal is to work together in order to reskill our organizations and territories, enabling them to better implement the green and just transition.

We want to do this in a context-specific way, taking into account the characteristics of the different territories and organizations. On the one hand, we must recover and revive the knowledge that is already there: for example, older generations have relevant skills to be shared, and we should ensure that they are not lost. On the other hand, the social economy organizations in this consortium will become training and learning hubs, either disseminating the skills that they already possess, or providing a practical context for the application of new skills.

5. Target groups and participants

- Municipalities (technical and administrative personnel, purchase managers)



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- Social Economy Organizations (board, technical personnel, purchase managers, volunteers)

6. Project objectives and activities

Objectives

- Develop and implement a training/activation program in green skills for municipalities and SE organizations
- Share methodologies in green skills training/activation among interregional partners
- Build capacity in the Social Economy sector
- Develop the specific role of WISEs in upskilling workers for the green transition

Activities

Diagnosis workshop (online)

- Exchange session with universities – (social) economy departments in different countries
- Identify good practices /case studies of programs promoting skills for the green and just transition, and learn from them
- Identify priorities in skilling the target groups; identify institutions and people in the territories that can act as hubs/experts/trainers/facilitators for those skills.

Design and implement training program (per partner - national level)

- 2-3 skills per partner
- Each partner works on different skills (preferably)
- Training duration per skill: 1 to 3 months

4 International Workshops

- 3-4 day workshops hosted by each of the partners. Purpose is to share methodology and results of national training programs with all partners and stakeholders, so that each training program can be replicated elsewhere.

7. Results, outputs and impacts

Results

Improved capacity of S.E. and municipality workforce

Improved level of collaboration and participation intra and inter-territories



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Outputs

- Catalogue of Skills for the Just Green transition, for dissemination among S.E. and municipalities
- 8-12 booklets about training/activation methodologies that have been developed and implemented
- Short documentary (30 min.) focusing on project results

Impacts

- Improved resource management in partner territories, namely regarding food waste prevention, biowaste collection and composting, repair and reuse of appliances, textiles, furniture and other goods, water use.
- Improved sharing practices (space, equipment, goods, information, human resources...)
- Higher share of locally and sustainably produced food
- Lower ecological footprint of S.E. organizations and territories
- Improved level of inclusion and employment opportunities in participating territories



JustGreen CONSORTIUM - LIST OF PARTNERS

Country	Organisation
Portugal	Município de Vila Nova de Famalicão Centro Social e Cultural de São Pedro de Bairro ENGENHO - Vale do Este Local Development Association Centro Social Paroquial de Ribeirão Centro Social de Calendário Cooperativa de Ensino de Vila Nova de Famalicão, CRL – EPCIOR REFOOD 4 GOOD Associação A3S
Italy	Comune di Mozzo Alchimia cooperativa sociale Biodistretto dell'agricoltura sociale di Bergamo Rete Cittadinanza Sostenibile infoSostenibile Il Sole e la Terra Società Cooperativa di prodotti biologici Mercato&Cittadinanza APS Solidarius Italy
Poland	Gmina Swietochlowice Center for Social Integration Social Cooperative Banderzoza Local Welfare Centre in Świętochłowice - Local Activity Section and Community Centre "PROMYK" Silesian Certification Committee for Social Economy Entities Eco Value SP. Z.O.O. Stowarzyszenie Wolnej Herbaty - LiberTea Association FRAPZ - Foundation of the regional employment promotion agency
Hungary	Budapest Fovaros vi. Kerulet Terezvaros Onkormanizata Banyaerdő Social Enterprise MASTIFF Ltd. Kockacsoki Nonprofit Nonprofit Kft Galileo Progetti
Belgium	Groupe Terre
France	Fédération Meti-Tresse
EU	ENSIE - European Network of Social Integration Enterprises