



# Development and testing of the European Innovation Audit tool for Social Innovation

February 2021 / Newsletter

## New DepoSIt Innovation Audit tool

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From March to November 2020, the DepoSIt consortium developed an Innovation Audit Tool for SMEs. This process has been done in several stages, with the intention to perfect the evaluation of the potential for innovation in companies, as well as their social innovation component. The lockdowns caused by the Corona pandemic hampered with the implementation of the initially planned discussions and testing. In spite of this, the consortium managed with only small delays to evaluate the tool several times and get specialized input from two experts in the regions of Baden Württemberg and Friesland.

The Innovation Audit Tool started with only 8 questions referring specifically to social innovation. However, the application of this first draft did not offer a conclusive image about the social innovation component of the audited companies. Therefore, the questions regarding social innovation were complemented up to 22 in the second draft. The testing of this new draft pointed out the need for explanations of the factors of social innovation, in order to facilitate their understanding. This last aspect was taken into consideration by the DepoSIt partners when sketching the final version of the tool. They also gave it a more appealing lay-out, and 5 instead of 3 possibilities to answer, so that the outcomes of the questionnaire can be more fine-tuned.

In November 2020, based on all the contributions and expertise, the new DepoSIt Innovation Audit Tool was ready to be implemented and used in the further steps of the project.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 824226

## European Social Innovation Competition

The European Social Innovation Competition (EUSIC) is a challenge prize run by the European Commission across all EU countries and Horizon 2020 associated countries. Organised in memory of Diogo Vasconcelos, the competition calls all Europeans to come up with solutions to the problems affecting our society.

2020 theme: Reimagine Fashion - changing behaviours for sustainable fashion .

More info: [here](#)

## Innovation Week In San Sebastián Boosts Participation Thanks To A Digital Format

On Monday 26 October, WeekINN hosted talks by Alicia Pomares, managing partner at the Humannova Group, who helped us reflect on personal skills for the future, and Ana Aldea, who dwelt on new ways of meeting up online. On Tuesday, MIT doctor in artificial intelligence Nuria Oliver gave a talk interrelating technology and data in connection with smart cities and the superchange. A round table was held on the same day on the future of large events, with Iñigo Argomániz (Getin), Joxean Fernandez (San Sebastián Film Festival), Iñigo Ibarregaray (VOCENTO) and Begoña Larzabal (Real Sociedad football club), to discuss the need for adaptation to the new context in order to avoid paralysis.

More info: [here](#)

## QUANDO L'INNOVAZIONE È SOCIALE

Opportunità per il business dal cambiamento sistemico



## A Business Apertif event to disclose the social innovation potential

The DepoSIt Italian partner Friuli Innovazione organized an online event with Ashoka on February 18 to present the business opportunities related with social innovation.

Friuli Innovazione is working on the topic for some years now and through 3 different EU funded projects (apart DepoSIt, BEST funded by AMIF and SIAA funded by Italy-Austria Interreg) its experienced incubator staff is supporting entrepreneurs to develop their projects with specific tools adapted for the social impact business ideas.

The digital event gathered more than 40 participants representing the quadruple helix approach: innovation agencies, businessmen/women, researchers, policy.

After a presentation of the systemic approach theory from the global network Ashoka, they have been engaged in an hand-on interactive groupwork where the several feature of social innovation have been analysed, starting from 4 real business cases in different industries and with different business models underpinning.

The scope of the social innovation audit tool realized in the frame of the DepoSIt project has been presented, collecting lots of reactions from the attendees.

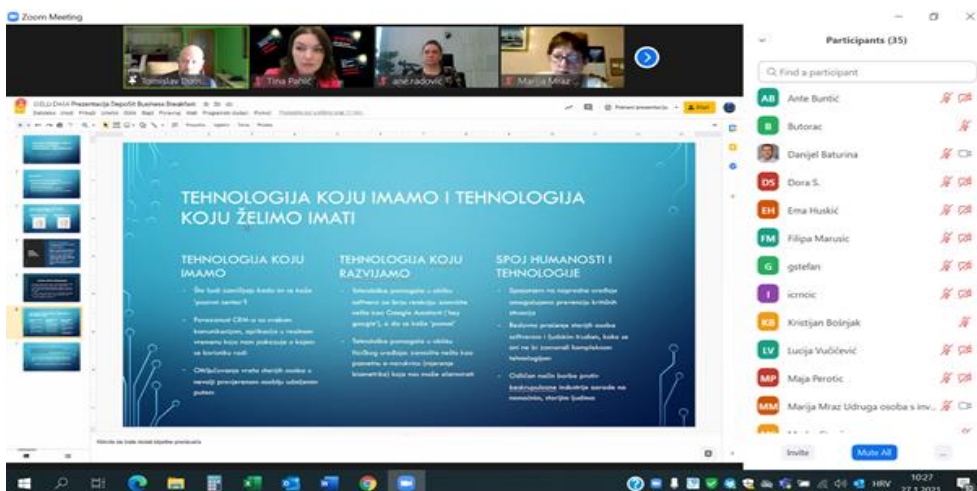


## DepoSIt Business Breakfast Croatia

On January 27th, 2021, Croatian Chamber of Economy, organized the Business Breakfast. The event was organized online, through the Zoom platform due to the current situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The workshop was attended by 35 people representing 21 organizations with different knowledge about innovation audit tools and social innovation. The event was divided in 2 sessions: the first session was a plenary session during which the objectives, activities and results of the project were presented, as well as the analysis of the innovation audit tools used by the project partners and social innovation examples from academia, business and civil society.

The second part consisted of a brainstorming session divided in 2 working groups. Business breakfast participants expressed great enthusiasm for this event and gave extremely positive feedback on the topics we covered at the event. They heard a lot of information that was useful to them, they even managed to make some networking although the event was organized online. In that context event was marked very successful and fruitful.



## Bunt Planet And Viralgen Take This Year's Donostiainn Innovative Business Awards

The 5th DonostiaINN Awards by the Department of Economic Promotion as part of Innovation Week were taken this year by Bunt Planet in the consolidated companies category, and also Viralgen in the young companies category, in acknowledgement of innovation, a global approach, and links to the city. The prizes were awarded today, Friday 30 October, as part of Donostia WeekINN, during an event organised by Fomento de San Sebastián at Hotel María Cristina.

More info: [here](#)

## European Policy For Social Innovation

Climate crisis, environmental degradation, social inequality, emerging nationalism and racism, demographic change. As a society we have many problems to cope with. We are aware of this not only since the COVID-19 crisis. However, the crisis has clearly changed one thing in particular: it has shown how connected our world really is. And this insight applies not only to the pandemic: more and more problems are of a cross-border or even global nature, and fewer challenges are locally restricted.

Read more: [here](#)

## EU industry: Commission hosts first meeting of the new Industrial Forum to support greening, digitalisation and resilience of EU industry

Commissioner Thierry Breton, responsible for the Internal Market, said: “Europe has everything it takes to come out stronger from the crisis. By working together, we can adapt and build upon our skilled workforce, high-quality research, vibrant industrial ecosystems and quality infrastructure. The Industrial Forum will support switching our industrial transformation into higher gear and ensure we make the right investments into our future. Together, we will address the different risks and needs of our industrial ecosystems as they embark on the twin digital and green transitions, and become more resilient.”

More info: [here](#)

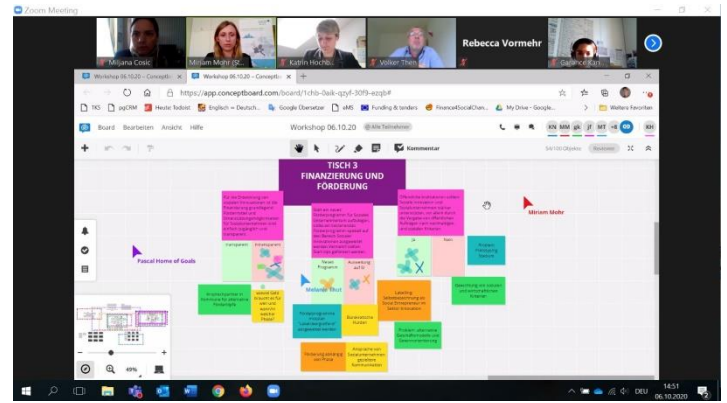
## HySolChem brings artificial photosynthesis to wastewater treatment

HySolChem is developing an innovative, low-cost reactor for capturing greenhouse gases and producing high value fuels and chemicals, while contextually removing harmful pollutants from wastewater. And all of this with photosynthesis.

Read more: [here](#)

## DepoSIt Cross-fertilization workshop Germany

On the 6th of October 2020, the joint project teams of DepoSIt, ASIS and Finance4Social Change of Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum and Steinbeis 2i GmbH, in cooperation with Max-Weber-Institute for



Innovation online. 19 participants coming from social enterprises, public authorities, the civil society, and business support organizations were present at the workshop, representing a wide range of interests and knowledge.

In the first part of the workshop, the project teams each presented their project in a plenary session, which helped to set the used terminology for social innovation. This gave participants a basis for the subsequent discussions.

The second part of the workshop was designed as a World Café. The organizers and experts prepared 3 “tables” focusing on different success factors for social enterprises and social innovation. Divided into 3 groups, the participants got to spend around 15 minutes at each “table”, discuss about the respective topic, exchange experiences, and identify challenges and weaknesses of the existing support schemes.

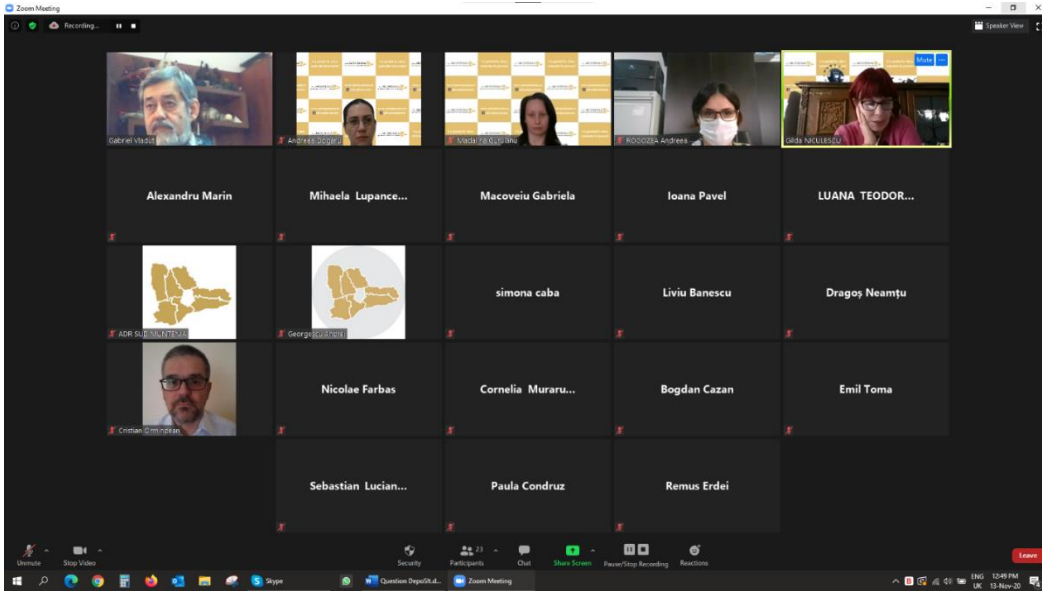
The Cross-fertilization workshop within the DepoSIt project successfully reached its goals. The participants had the possibility to network and obtained more information on the current status of innovation audit schemes and especially about their effectiveness.

The synergies developed within this event opened new perspectives for the discussions in Social Innovation.

In the project ASIS (Alpine Social Innovation Strategy), the partners aim to define a new approach to social innovation that meets the economic and social challenges of each Alpine region and promotes real change. To support this change, the project has developed an innovative platform, trainings, strategies, and policy recommendations for public stakeholders.

The multi-disciplinary partnership of the project Finance4SocialChange aims to stimulate the access of social entrepreneurs to innovative financing tools and instruments and enable the creation of a business environment that helps them create more successful companies in the Danube region.

# Cross – Fertilization Workshop organised in Romania



On November 13th, 2020, South Muntenia Regional Development Agency, partner within the DepoSIt project, organized a Cross-Fertilization Workshop. The event was organized online, through the Zoom platform due to the current situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. instead

The workshop was attended by 25 people representing 16 organizations with extensive expertise in applying innovation audit tools.

The event was divided in 2 sessions: the first session was a plenary session during which the objectives, activities and results of the project were presented, as well as the Analysis of the Innovation Audit Tools used by the project partners; the second part consisted of a brainstorming session divided in 2 working groups.

During the meeting, were presented the innovation audit tools developed within certain projects and used by the project partners for the audit of innovation, highlighting their strengths and weaknesses.

Afterwards, the participants were divided in two working groups within which were discussed the current situation of innovation audit tools, regional / national policy, the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, partnerships and networks, etc.

## New EU project 'ONEM' develops a unique hybrid imaging technique

The ONEM project aims to establish a worldwide unique imaging technology in Europe: optical near-field electron microscopy. The new hybrid imaging technique will be complementary to the state-of-art techniques currently in use to provide nanoscale imaging, such as super-resolution microscopy, atomic force microscopy or cryo-electron microscopy.

More info: [here](#)

## SME vouchers: €20 million grant fund to help SMEs maximise their intellectual property assets

Small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) can apply for financing under a €20 million grant scheme to help EU companies to make better use of intellectual property rights.

With the support of the Commission and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), the Ideas Powered for Business SME Fund aims to help firms develop their intellectual property (IP) strategies and protect their IP rights, at national and EU level.

Read more: [here](#)

## Upcoming Events

In order to help SMEs to fully realise their potentials and overcome market failures specific to them, public support to innovation in SMEs is available with a wide range of instruments and support services.

## Upcoming Activities / Events

- DepoSIt Innovation Audit Tool related activities
- Impact assessment of the activities implemented
- Raising awareness on Social Innovation aspects
- Twinning activities for Innovation Agencies

## Upcoming external events

- [EU Industry Days 2021](#) – 23 – 26 Feb 2021
- [European Summit on Social Economy 2020](#) – 26 – 27 May 2021
- [Webinar series on Standard Essential Patents](#) – 02.12.2020 – 04.05.2021



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