Atlantic Social Lab

Cooperation for the promotion of Social Innovation

ATLANTIC SOCIAL INNOVATION MAPPING
A MULTILEVEL PERSPECTIVE

Interreg
Atlantic Area
European Regional Development Fund

EUROPEAN UNION

TECHNICAL DATA

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INTRODUCTION

What is Social Innovation?

In Europe, societal trends such as the ageing population, migration waves, social exclusion or sustainability - once approached as problems constraining citizens, governments and economic actors - are today increasingly perceived as opportunities for innovation and as potential growth markets. The Atlantic Social Lab project focuses on *social innovation*. This is a relatively new concept in policy that refers to the development and implementation of new ideas (products, services and models) to meet social needs and create new social relationships or collaborations (Murray et al., 2010; EC, 2013; EC, 2014; Young Foundation, 2010).

Social needs refer to basic needs, latent needs, emerging needs, and strategic needs. Basic needs, such as access to housing, food and health (Murray et, al, 2010; Mulgan, 2012). Latent needs, needs associated with the skills and aptitudes necessary for integration in society, related to relationships, sense of belonging, emotional support, personal and collective identities and well-being (Murray et al., 2010; Mulgan, 2012). Emerging needs, which are those that emerge from the specific social, economic and environmental characteristics of a territory (EC, 2013; Murray et al., 2010), and strategic needs, which are those defined by the EU, such as demography, environmental trends, new community trends, poverty related trends, health and well-being and ethical and good services (EC, 2013; EC, 2014).

A social innovation process involves commonly several steps (Van de Ven et al., 1999; Duflo, 2004; Murray et al., 2010; Young Foundation, 2010; EC, 2013). Key elements of this process include: identification of new/unmet/inadequately met social needs, development of new solutions in response to these social needs, evaluation of the effectiveness of new solutions in meeting social needs, and scaling up of effective social innovations.

The Atlantic Social Lab Multilevel Perspective on Social Innovation

The EAPA_246 / 2016 project Atlantic Social Lab- *Atlantic Cooperation for the Promotion of Social Innovation* joins 9 partners and 10 associated partners in Spain, Portugal, France, United Kingdom and Ireland. It is led by the municipality of Avilés, in the Spanish region of Asturias, and aims at developing and promoting innovative solutions to key social issues involving citizens, third sector, social enterprises and the public sector. Atlantic-Social-Lab (ASL) is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the INTERREG Atlantic Area Cooperation Program.

In order to analyse the complete cycle of the process of social innovation, in an integrated and systemic way, it is necessary to look attentively at the factors that can influence the conditions or potential for the effective generation of social innovation, in various levels of development of the action.

The ASL analytical model was elaborated based on a systematic review of literature and foresees three levels for analysis including the interrelated macro, meso and micro environments, that work in constant interaction between them (Van de Ven et al., 1999; Christensen et al., 2008; Duflo, 2004; Mulgan, 2007; Mulgan, 2012; Murray et al., 2010; Phills et al., 2008; Harris & Albury, 2009; Emerson et al., 2007; Young Foundation, 2010; EC, 2014; EC, 2013; TESE, 2008).

The macro-level focuses on the key frameworks, taking into account the explanatory dimensions to evaluate societies, regions and/or larger or potential communities to be socially innovative. The meso-level predicts the understanding of the social effect of interventions through the analysis of the organizational outputs and societal outcomes. The micro level regards specific social innovation initiatives that derive from projects and interventions. These initiatives should have an innovative approach towards the resolution of societal problems with a clear mission, an ability to be replicated in other contexts and with the potential to produce large scale impact.

In order to map out the needs of a territory, it is necessary to understand the characteristics of the territory that can influence the social needs and minimize the impact of certain categories of needs. In ASL we understood that these framework conditions (macro level) can be analysed through the collection of secondary data based on an array of variables, dimensions and indicators identified in the literature. To analyse the individual and collective perception of the territorial governance bodies in order to assess which needs are considered the most urgent to fill and what strategies are being implemented to minimize them and could involve an overview of policy or support mechanisms for social innovation. This analysis (meso level) is done in ASL using focus groups with regional stakeholders, articulating the dimension of governance with academic research. Additionally, it is relevant to understand the subjective interpretations of the practitioners of socially innovative phenomena, that are, the direct actors in the process of responding to needs (micro level). This is analysed in ASL through the voice of those directly involved in social innovation initiatives.

This multilevel analysis has been carried out through three methodological instruments: A matrix of indicators that collected secondary data (macro); a template model on a categorization of needs according to the perspective of government agencies and state agencies (meso). A template model for initiatives that are born out of collective action, top-down and bottom-up (micro).

Organisation of the Report

The report *Atlantic Social Innovation Mapping: A Comparative Perspective from the Macro-Meso-Micro levels* is organised in four chapters.

The first chapter places the project in its overall context.

The second chapter provides a macro-level analysis. Within this chapter, there are seven sections, each providing an overview of recent socio-economic indicators in the ASL territories. The seven sections are: Demographic dynamics; Education and

Labour Market; Macroeconomic indicators (including Wealth and Public and private expenditure); Political and civic participation (including Political behaviour and Participation in civic organisations); Quality of life (including Poverty and Inequality, Health, Housing); The Business and Innovation environment (including the Entrepreneurial context); Social Enterprises, including policy frameworks of the Atlantic Area countries. By identifying these key socio-political indicators, the Macro Level Analysis aims to contribute to the assessment of social demands and needs in these countries and the sub-national territories object of the analysis. An additional ambition is to support the identification of innovative solutions to these demands and thus help foster social progress in Europe.

The third chapter provides an analysis at the Meso Level. This chapter summarises the Focus Group findings conducted in the partner regions as part of this project. The Meso level results provide a better understanding of various social needs. Therefore, it is a tool that helps to map, on the one hand, the unmet social needs, and on the other hand, the social innovation practices that can provide a solution for these social needs. Thus, this analysis investigates the nature of the four project topics (Welfare services, Active Public Engagement, Green Inclusive Economy and Social Responsibility in the Private Sector). It analyses the collective perception of the territorial stakeholders of the decision-making process (governance bodies, public development and innovation agencies), to assess which needs are considered the most urgent to fill and what strategies are being implemented to minimise that same needs. Findings are based on Focus Groups that were conducted in Portugal, Spain, Ireland, United Kingdom (Northern Ireland) and France, during a 6-month period, between December 2017 and May 2018. During the period announced, each partner held one or two focus group sessions, prefiguring a total of 8 focus group sessions.

Finally, the fourth chapter, a Micro Level Analysis, is based in interviews to key people in selected social innovation initiatives. It investigates the nature of the four project topics (Welfare services, Active Public Engagement, Green Inclusive Economy and Social Responsibility in the Private Sector). The chapter results provide a better understanding of several types social innovation in order to solve existing needs in the Atlantic Area. Therefore, the interviews and their analysis are also a tool to map, on the one hand, the existing needs, and on the other hand, the comprehension of the initiatives, on the purposes and reasons to create the initiatives, financial issues, collaboration networks, the main enablers and barriers, among other aspects. Therefore, this chapter demonstrates the subjective interpretations of the observers of socially innovative phenomena, that is, the direct actors (the citizens and the third sector organisation and projects that work directly with social projects, such as social enterprises) in the process of responding to those that are neither supplied by the market nor by the State, where their attempt to solve social problems emerges from collective action and from the combined efforts of the local actors that promote and develop organisations/initiatives in this sense. This micro dimension takes into account

the voice of those directly involved in the intervention. These interviews characterise and find elements of transferability of best-practices for social innovation, addressing the following topics: General Description of the Initiative; Needs, Purposes and Targets; Social Capital; Innovation Enablers and Barriers; Financial Resources; Innovation Enablers and Barriers; Strengths and Weaknesses; Measures; Implications. The interviews were conducted in the partner regions, between December 2017 and May 2018. Each partner held two or three interviews with the local actors that promoted and developed organisations/initiatives in the social innovation scope, prefiguring a total of 17 interviews. Each interview had an approximate duration of two hours.

This report provides a framework to analyse social innovation in a multilevel perspective and contributes to the other work packages of the project, particularly to the implementation of social innovation pilot actions to answer to detected social needs in the ASL partner regions.

CHAPTER 1 – CONTEXT AND PROJECT

1.1. Context

Social innovation can be contextualised by two questions: *Why there is a growing interest in innovation? Why contemporary society needs to spread social innovation?* Nogueira et al., (2017) suggest that individuals are experiencing new challenges, new struggles, new ways of living and facing life and even society. Everyday there are social challenges to be overcome; today's needs are not the needs of yesterday, this is because culture and the hermeneutics of what it is to live in a globalised society, which translate into new challenges and social needs. So, the emergence of social innovation is a response to these new challenges and needs - a solution to emerging societal problems.

According to the Advisers Bureau of European Policy (2011), the global crisis has made clear that most of the challenges today have an increasingly social dimension. Among the most prominent are the fight against unemployment, ageing and climate change. As a result of these challenges the concept of social innovation has definitely entered the European Union Agenda. For example, within Europe 2020, the EU's leading strategy, aims at a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy, appointing social innovation as one of the avenues to explore.

As a consequence, the concept of innovation is becoming wide-ranging, expanding the process and product innovation vision, as well as the organisational and economic prospects of innovation, beginning to multiply into new forms of innovation, such as social innovation. According to Franz et al., (2012) social innovation can be a unique combination of social practices in specific areas prompted by certain actors intentionally with the goal of better satisfying the needs and problems than is possible by established practices and methods. When the previous definition is set beside with the view of Cajaiba-Santana (2014), there is a noticeable correlation between the two definitions "social innovations are new social practices created from collective, intentional, and goal-oriented actions aimed at promoting social change through the reconfiguration of how social goals are accomplished" (Cajaiba-Santana, 2014, p. 44).

Thus, social innovations can be new ideas (products, services and models) that simultaneously meet social needs (more effectively than alternatives) that can and should create new social relationships or collaborations (Advisers Bureau of European Policy, 2011; Nogueira et al., 2017). In other words, they are innovations that use shared and co-produced knowledge that are innovative in both their ends and their means, therefore, are not only good for society but also enhance society's capacity to act. It can be concluded that, social innovation, has in its core some objectives, like: the responding to social needs in an innovative way, the social and human welfare, the social change and challenges, the generation of new ideas, the co-produced knowledge, the creating of new opportunities, the growth of the economy, climate change and others (European Commission, 2013).

In order to facilitate the understanding regarding the process of creation, acceptance and scattering of social innovation, the following scheme made by Tonimoto (2006), can be used (Figure 1), which reflects the diffusion process of social innovation.
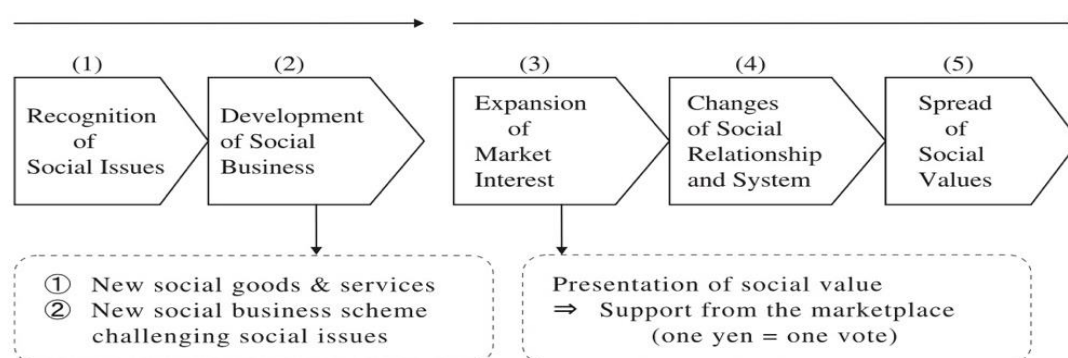
Figure 1 - The Diffusion Process of Social Innovation

Source: Tanimoto ed. 2006, p. 28

Taking into these arguments, for the purpose of ASL and this specific report, *social innovation can be defined as the development and implementation of new ideas to meet explicit or latent social challenges and needs using shared and co-produced knowledge that are innovative in both their ends and their means.* Social innovation can be a product, technology, an idea, a process, and so on. It can lead to productivity growth, improved economic performance and the affordable access to quality goods and services creating livelihood opportunities for the excluded population, and on a long-term sustainable basis with a significant outreach.

1.2. Atlantic Social Lab Project Overview

Briefly, the Atlantic Social Lab project aims to develop and promote social innovation approaches and methods to give a response to crucial growing social issues of the Atlantic Area, both within citizens, third sector and social enterprises as well as the public sector. Through an intensive transnational cooperation, the partners will implement and test small probing interventions to finally scale them up in the following areas:

i)   Social innovation and welfare services;
ii)   Social innovation and active public engagement;
iii)   Green inclusive economy and;
iv)   Social economy and social responsibility in the private sector.

The project will assess the creation of new solutions in the welfare services to bring innovative partnerships based on private and non-governmental

resources to complement state funding. It will also intend to implement new methods of further citizen engagements (i.e. participative budgeting or open decision-making systems) to recognise the importance of the active involvement of citizens to the successful development of the Atlantic regions. Also, green, inclusive economy interventions will be developed to take advantage of the green opportunities to rebuild smart cities. Moreover, social economy and social responsibility in the private sector will be supported to strengthen its role as an engine for social innovation. Insights and results will nourish the creation of the Atlantic Social Innovation Action Plan that will provide transferable solutions to other Atlantic Areas.

1.3. Presentation of ASL Regions and Partners

1.3.1. Avilés

Avilés is a city located in the North of Spain. With a population of 80,880 inhabitants and 26.81km2, its economy is based on services (69.4%), industry (23.9%), construction (5.3%) and agriculture (1.4%). The unemployment rate in the city is at 17%. Avilés Municipality is the ASL Lead Partner and the local authority of Avilés city. The Welfare Services provides a comprehensive array of social services to the local community ranging from citizen participation to housing or employment, leading to achieving the social cohesion in the city.

1.3.2. Santiago de Compostela

Santiago de Compostela is the capital of the autonomous community of Galicia, in north-western Spain. With a population of 96,456 inhabitants (population density 438.4/km2) and 220 km2. Regarding the partner, Santiago de Compostela Municipality is the local authority of Santiago city. The budget and tax office has implemented over the last years an innovative approach to participative budgeting to fiscal policy and social redistribution.

1.3.3. North West

Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) area comprises the second largest city in Northern Ireland / fourth largest city on the Island of Ireland. Derry is the 'Capital of the North West' and is at the core of the only functional economic city region of its scale which straddles the border into the Republic of Ireland. Derry has an urban population in excess of 100,000, is the principal sub-regional economic driver of a wider cross-border City Region of over 350,000 people. In Derry City and Strabane District,

there is a higher proportion of young people long-term unemployed. In January 2017, 32% of those claiming long-term unemployment benefit were young people aged under 25 (NI average of 21%).

Regarding the Enterprise North West, it develops Enterprise Support Programmes for local SMEs. Social Enterprise/ Social Innovation support for community and voluntary groups, social enterprises and cooperatives across NI. They are responsible for Feasibility Studies, Business Plans, Strategic Planning and Evaluations for the public, private and community sector.

1.3.4. Cork City

Located on the south coast of Ireland, Cork City is the second largest in the Republic of Ireland and has a population of 119,230 people. Cork City and its surrounding county are a hub of economic, industrial and business development and the commercial and industrial leader of the southwest region. Over the past 25 years, many of the world's largest companies have located within the region and it is now home to global market leaders in pharmaceuticals, healthcare, ICT, biotechnology, professional services and international financial services. The region, however, is one of inequality. Employment, education and income levels vary widely within the city, as do levels of opportunity and social inclusion.

The ASL partner is Cork City Council, with a large experience in the coordination of stakeholders and service delivery, communications, EU funded project experience, social inclusion projects, social regeneration and social enterprise.

1.2.5. Bretagne

The territory comprises 21 *pays*: areas corresponding to the population and employment centres in Bretagne. Rennes (*Ille-et Vilaine*) is the regional capital. Bretagne was one of the regions in France recording the most dynamic growth, with a population of 3.26 million. The region is one of the few regions in France to have continued to create jobs over the last ten years, with the unemployment rate remaining below the national average (8.6% in Bretagne compared to 9.8% nationwide). In 2012, the total working population was 1.46 million: farming and fishing are continually decreasing, and now account for only 4.5% of the working population. Industry accounts for 14% of jobs, construction a further 7%, and the service and retail sector the vast majority, at 74%.

Bretagne Regional Social Economy Chamber (*Chambre régionale d'économie sociale et solidaire de Bretagne, CRESS Bretagne*) is a "shared tool" for the actors of the social and solidarity economy to animate its development in the region. The partner is bringing together more than 100 organisations (networks, federations or local companies). Right now CRESS coordinates a regional network of social economy

stakeholders engaged in reuse and recycling. This network was an outcome of a strategic reflection process initiated in 2013 to examine fields of social innovation requiring support.

3.2.6. Agglomeration Community of Pau-Pyrénées

Pau is a commune on the northern edge of the Pyrenees, and capital of the *Pyrénées-Atlantiques Département* in the region of Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France. The communal population of Pau amounts to 81,166 inhabitants, according to the 2010 census (legal populations of 1 January 2013).

Regarding the partner, Agglomeration Community of *Pau-Pyrénées* includes 14 municipalities with a total of 150.000 inhabitants. The partner has been delivering a wide range of services and programmes in the field of social economy with a very innovative perspective, such as The Club *d'initiatives solidaires* or the *Fabrique à projets*.

3.2.7. Ave

Ave is a Portuguese NUT 3 region that includes a total of eight municipalities, 236 parishes, with an area of 1453 km² and a population of 425 411 inhabitants (censuses of 2011), corresponding to a population density of 293 hab./Km². The territory of Ave is very heterogeneous which that can be classified around three different realities: *Guimarães*, *Vila Nova de Famalicão* and *Vizela* are urban municipalities with a high population density. The opposite situation can be observed in *Cabeceiras de Basto, Mondim de Basto* and *Vieira do Minho*, which are markedly rural municipalities. Between these two areas, *Fafe* and *Póvoa de Lanhoso* are a transition zone, occupying 24% of the territory of the Ave and representing 17% of its population. The region has a dynamic business community in expansion, mainly composed by SME's. The region is one of the most dynamic areas in Portugal and, the Industry is the primary economic activity.

The Ave Intermunicipal Community (CIM Ave) is an association of municipalities of public law with multiple purposes created on April 14, 2009, whose purpose is to promote the management of projects that involve multiple municipalities.

CHAPTER 2 – MACRO LEVEL ANALYSIS

2.1. Methodology

The macro level study is based on the collection and analysis of a wide set of secondary data at local, regional and national levels, whose main source is Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

Methodologically speaking, its main instrument is a matrix of indicators collected by the Centre for Social Studies and DEX, and reviewed by ASL partners. This matrix guided the identification and collection of the secondary data on well-established statistical sources.

During the collection, the original list of indicators was further updated. Some of the indicators were modified or replaced, and some other were added, according to data availability, geographical coverage, recentness, and completeness.

The matrix of the collected data in its final version, including information about the sources and the standard of the data, is available under request. After the data collection, a set of tables and graphical illustrations was prepared to support the process of data analysis. Finally, the textual and graphical materials elaborated were organised into the thematic chapters constituting this chapter.

2.2. Demographic Dynamics

Demographical data represents key inputs for the decision-making process in a number of policy areas in social and economic fields. Demographical dynamics, for example, population ageing which has effects on sustainability, welfare and fertility, impacts in family policies and in the structure of population, determining the dimension of active population. This is in turn correlated to the economic performance. The analysis of the socio-economic context of the regions, object of this study, starts therefore from data about population density and structure.

2.2.1. Population

Of the more than 500 million inhabitants of the EU28, almost 200 million live in one of the three member-states focused in this study. France, United Kingdom and Spain are actually among the more populated countries in European Union.

Table 1 includes population density (number of people per square kilometre) for all the territorial levels considered in this study. The distribution of population in the European Union is extremely variable as a result of demographic processes in interaction with the local geographies and climate, cultural specificities, and urban

planning policies and practices. Also, European cities reveal a diversity of structures and morphologies, with cities with a large and compact city cores and very high population densities (Madrid and Paris are example of this structure), and cities with high residential density at the centre, which gradually declines towards the periphery in a radial pattern (London, for example).

	Population Density
Ireland	**67.9**
Southern and Eastern	94.2
South-West (IE)	55.5
Cork	*1 197.2*
Spain	**92.5**
Galicia	92.9
A Coruña	142.8
Santiago de Compostela	*436.21*
Asturias Principality	99.0
Asturias	99.0
Avilés	*2 989.32*
France	**105.3**
Bretagne	121.4
Ille-et-Vilaine	154.8
Rennes	*4 236*
Aquitaine	82.0
Pyrénées-Atlantiques	87.9
*Agglomération Pau-Pyrénées**	*794**
Portugal	**112.3**
Norte Region	169.7
Ave	288.8
Vila Nova de Famalicão	*1 366.4*
Centro Region (PT)	80.2
Coimbra Region	102.2
Coimbra	*1 272.1*
United Kingdom	**268.6**
South Western Scotland	179.3
Glasgow City	3 451.8
Glasgow	*3 455.45*
Northern Ireland (UK)	136.6
North of Northern Ireland (UK)	90.9
Derry	*2 484.2*

Table 1 - Population Density

The five countries analysed are not exception to this variability, ranging from the intensely populated United Kingdom to the scarcely populated Ireland. Among the regions and sub-regions (or provinces) considered, the differences also relate to the

different economic vocations of the areas. Aquitaine, for example, is the largest French region but is quite under populated because of the important agricultural sector (the region is the location of famous vineyards).

On the other side, in contrast to most of the Scottish coast, which has a very low population, the South West Scotland Region has a relatively high density due to the presence of Glasgow, the traditional centre of industrial Scotland with a past as an important shipbuilding centre. A consolidated industrial tradition explains also the case of the region *Norte* in Portugal, which is the most populated region in Portugal, ahead of Lisbon. As for Northern Ireland, this is the smallest of the four countries of the United Kingdom in terms of both area and population, with most of the people concentrated in the two cities of Belfast and Derry. In the case of Avilés, in the Spanish region of *Asturias*, beyond the traditional industrial specialisation of the city, also the specific topology and location of the town favoured its high density: it occupies the flattest land in the area, in a land that belonged to the sea, surrounded by small promontories.

Figure 2 presents the distribution of population by broad age groups (0-15; 15-64; 65 or over) for the five Atlantic Area countries and the related NUTS 2 and NUTS 3. Compared to the European's age level, Ireland presents the higher percentage of population in the younger group (0-15): almost 22% versus the European average of 15.6%. Also the Northern Ireland (around 19.5%) and the French NUTS 3 of Ille-et-Vilaine (19.12%) present significantly higher percentages of young population. On the other side, territorial units in Portugal and Spain have the higher percentages of older population: compared to the European average of 19.15% of population aged 65 or over, *Galicia* and *Asturias* Principality in Spain and *Centro* region in Portugal have percentages above the 24%. National values for both Spain and Portugal, however, are in line with the European Union values.
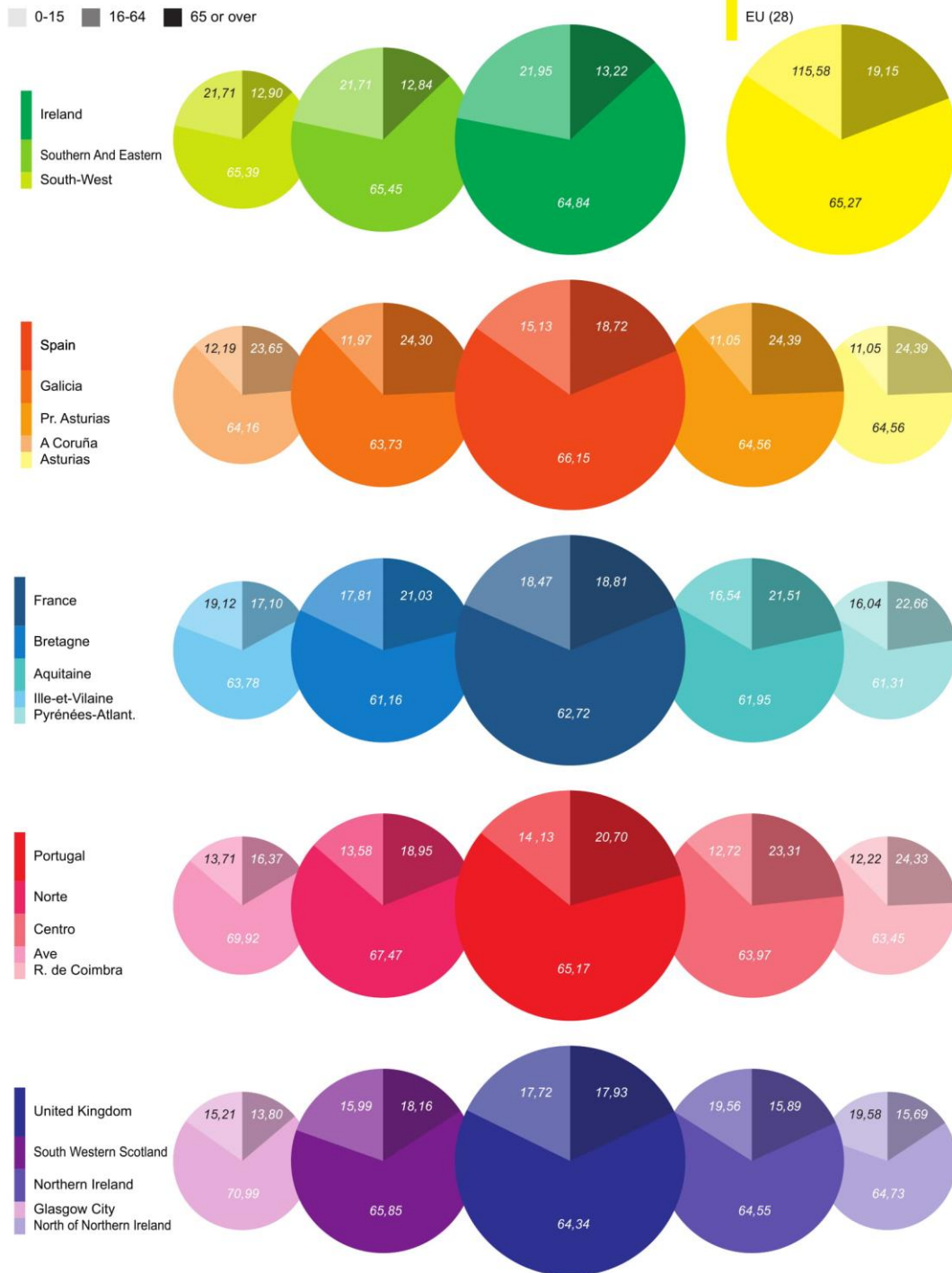
Figure 2 - Population by Broad age Groups, %, 2016

The indicators represented in figure 3 complete this overview of the demography of the territories under analysis: the median age of population; the young-age dependency ratio and the old dependency ratio.

Median age is a single index that summarises the age distribution of a population since is the age that divides a population into two numerically equal groups: half of the people are younger than this age and half are older. Ireland is the "youngest" country, with a median age of almost 37 years, followed by United Kingdom (40 years), France (41), Spain (43) and Portugal (44). Among the regions (NUTS 2), is interesting noticing the almost all of them have a higher median age than the corresponding country (the only exceptions are the two Ireland regions, North of Portugal and Northern Ireland of the United Kingdom), while at the sub-regional level (NUTS 3) the situation is more variable. The higher median age is that of *Asturias* Principality (NUTS 2) in Spain (and *Asturias*, NUTS 3): around 48 years, meaning that half of the population is close to 50-year-old and above.

Dependency ratios are indexes used to measure the pressure on productive population - that is population considered in the labour force (ages 15 to 64) - of the *young* population (ages 0 to 14) or of the *old* population (ages 65 and over). A high value of these indicators means that population in the labour force, and the overall economy, faces a greater burden in supporting the young or the elderly population. In the case of the young-age dependency ratio, Ireland, France and United Kingdom present the highest value; among the regions and sub-regions stand out the values of Bretagne (in line with the French value) and of Northern Ireland (a value considerably higher than the United Kingdom). As for the old dependency ratio, at country level the highest values are those of Portugal, France and Spain. As could be expected from the oldest median age of some territories with respect to the related countries, some regions and sub-regions presents a value of this index much higher than their countries: this is the case, for example, of *Galicia* and *Asturias* Principality, in Spain, and of *Centro* region, in Portugal.
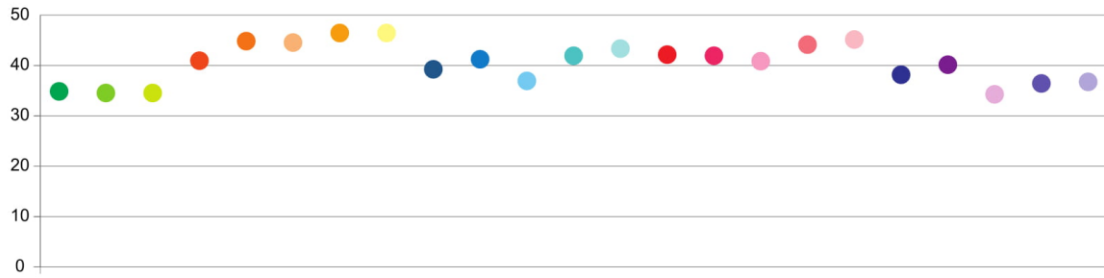
Figure 3 - Median Age of Population (upper part); Young Age Dependency Ratio and Dependency Ratio (bottom part; %); 2016

2.3. Education and Labour Market

This section covers a range of indicators, such as school dropout rates, levels of schooling and education of the population, active and entrepreneurial population, employability, among other parameters that will be discussed within these two topics.

2.3.1. Education

Figure 4 represents the situation within the selected territories in terms of the schooling levels of the age group 25-64 years. The information available from Eurostat is disaggregated at the NUTS 2 level, enabling two kinds of comparisons: among Atlantic Area countries and among national and local data for each of them. For the different territorial levels, educational attainment levels are presented for three main categories:

- Less than primary, primary and lower secondary education (ISCED 2011 levels 0-2), which can be briefly referred to as *low* level of education (the slice of the circle in light grey);
- Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED 2011 levels 3 and 4), i.e. *medium* level of education (the slice of the circle in regular grey);
- Tertiary education (ISCED 2011 levels 5-8), i.e. *high* level of education (the slice of the circle in intense grey).

The dark line outside each circle of figure 4 represents the percentage of people with medium or high levels of education. With respect to the countries, it appears clear that the five countries can be grouped in two clusters: Spain and Portugal (respectively orange and red colour scales) present definitively higher percentages of people with low levels of education with respect to the other three countries: among the two Southern Europe countries, Portugal shows values higher than 50%, with the *Norte* region reaching almost the 60% of its population with low level of educational attainment. Both *Norte* and *Centro* regions in Portugal have a worst performance than the national value, while, in the case of Spain, at least *Asturias* Principality has a better performance than the national one. The other three countries show value that are in line and even better - at least at the national levels - than the value for the European Union (28 countries) where people in the same class of age and a low level of education amounts to 23.1% (2016). At the European level, 76.9% of the population has a medium or high levels of education and 30.7% a high level: France, United Kingdom and Ireland show higher values of the highly educated, and the situation is particularly favourable in the latter. Portugal, and particularly the *Norte* region, have lower than average position in this respect, with a percentage of medium or high level of education of 46.9% (40.7% for the *Norte*) and of high level of 23.9% (20.2% for the *Norte*).
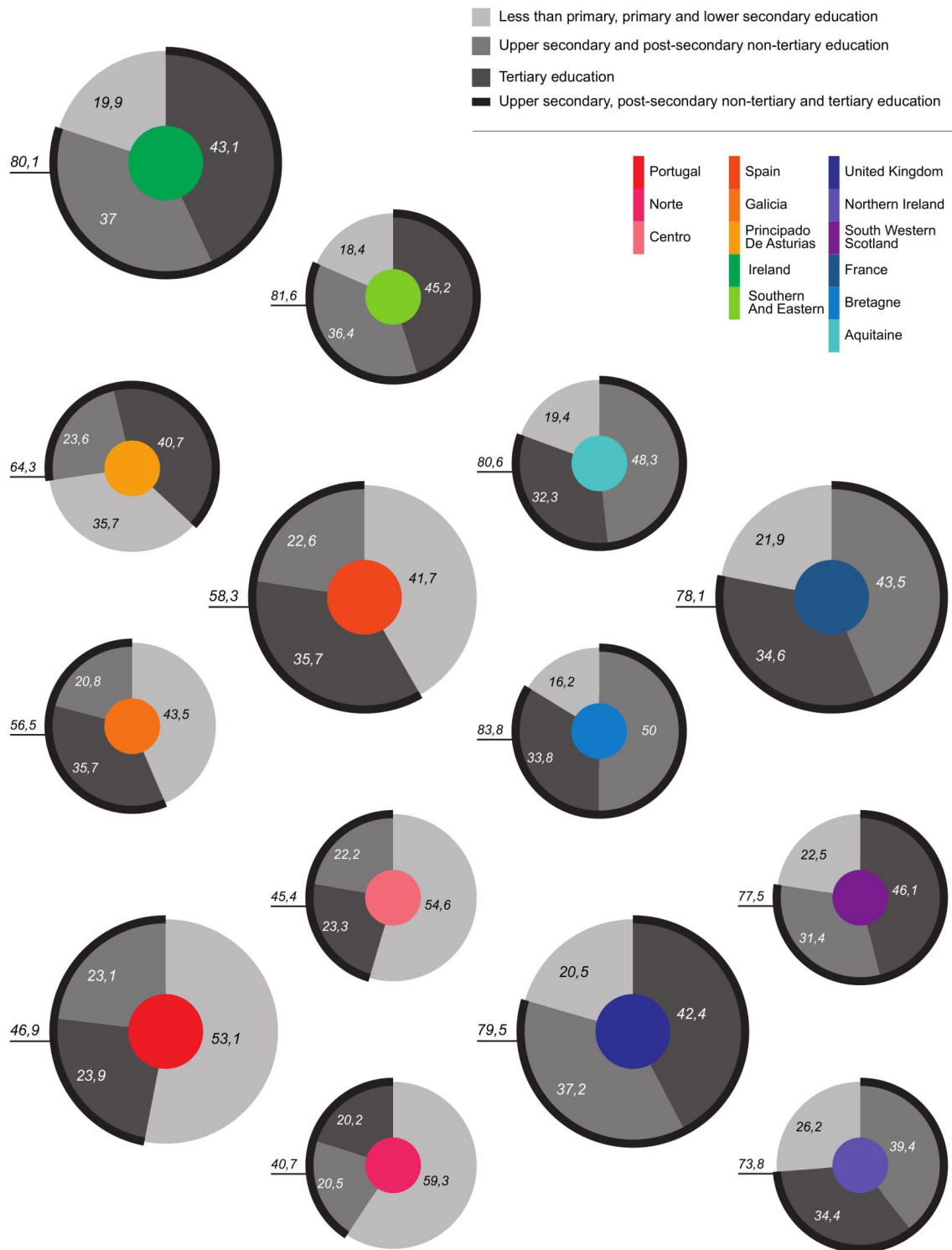
Figure 4 - Schooling Levels, Population 25-64 years, % 2016

For the same territorial levels, table 2 shows the percentage of population aged 18 to 24 that completed at most lower secondary education and is not involved in further education or training (expressed as a percentage of the people aged 18 to 24 in

this situation out of the total population in the age group). The table lists the countries in growing order with respect to this indicator, which is the lowest in Ireland and the higher in Spain, revealing a difficult situation for young people not only in the South of Europe, but also, to some extent, in the United Kingdom. Early leavers may actually find difficulties since, for example, employers may be reluctant to offer them good working positions because of their limited education.

	%
Ireland	**6.3**
Southern and Eastern	6.0
France	**8.8**
Bretagne	3.7 (u)
Aquitaine	5.7
European Union (28 countries)	**10.7**
United Kingdom	**11.2**
South Western Scotland	13.3
Northern Ireland (UK)	11.3
Portugal	**14.0**
Norte Region	14.0
Centro Region (PT)	12.5
Spain	**19.0**
Galicia	15.2
Asturias Principality	16.6

Table 2 - Early Leavers (age 18 - 24) from education and Training, %, 2016

2.3.2. Labour Market

The labour force, workforce or economically active population, shortened to active population, includes both employed (employees and self-employed) and unemployed people, but not the economically inactive, such as children, students and retired. Table 3 shows the total amounts (in thousands and percentage) of the active population in the selected countries. With respect to the European Union figure, rates of the active population are lower in Ireland and France at the national level and in all the regions, with the exception of the *Centro* region in Portugal.

Figure 5 represents the exact amounts of the population in the selected countries actively engaged in productive activities in the national and regional economic systems (that is the number of employed and of the employees). While these figures are not directly comparable because of the different population of the five countries, by looking at figure 6 the different rates of employment and unemployment, including the

so-called long-term unemployment, referred to situations of unemployment exceeding one year are evident. This data is the working age population and is presented for the period 2012-2016. The trend of the employment rates is growing, or at least stable, for all the territorial units. The situation in Spain and Portugal follows a similar pattern, with 2013 as the year in which, in both cases, there is a decline of the rate followed by its growth. However, the level of the rates of employment are different, with a stable difference of more or less ten percentage points between the two countries in every year. Spain is experiencing a more critical situation than Portugal, where *Centro* region presents the higher employment rate in the whole period and this trend is overtook only by United Kingdom. Ireland (and its Southern and Eastern region) presents a steadily growing trend, while France's trend is stable in this period; Bretagne, among all territorial units, presents a less clear pattern of improvement.

	N (thousands)	%
European Union (28 countries)	239 730.9	72.0
Ireland	2 125.3	69.4
Southern and Eastern	1 598.4	70.3
Spain	22 656.5	73.8
Galicia	1 244.2	71.8
Asturias Principality	464.4	69.1
France	29 269.9	69.9
Bretagne	1 448.3	71.5
Aquitaine	1 499.3	71.2
Portugal	4 939.5	73.3
Norte region	1 734.6	71.3
Centro region (PT)	1 064.1	73.7
United Kingdom	32 005.0	76.1
South Western Scotland	1 095.8	71.1
Northern Ireland (UK)	862.3	71.9

Table 3 - Active Population, age group 15-64, total and %, 2016

Symmetrically, unemployment rates are decreasing or stable in all the regions. Even for Spain, where unemployment affected almost a quarter of the population older than 25 in 2013 (23.7%), the last year considered presents a value well below the 20% (17.9%). Portugal, in comparison with their neighbouring country, presents lower rates of unemployment: however long-term unemployment rates (which are here expressed as percentage of the unemployment rates) reveal that in the Portuguese case there is a more intense incidence of a structural component than in the Spanish case. Unemployment rates are steadily decreasing in Ireland over the period; a decreasing rate is also registered for the United Kingdom, even if it is less intense.

Figure 5 - Employed and employees, thousands, 2014

The composition of unemployment in Great Britain and Ireland is quite different, with a more relevant component of long-term unemployment in the Irish case. In this respect, Great Britain shows a much pronounced variability among the regions in this country,

while the Irish value substantially repeat the Southern and Eastern region pattern. France seems to have managed to keep unemployment rates stable in the period, but the long-term unemployment indicators reveal a worsening of the situation in all the territorial levels included in the analysis.
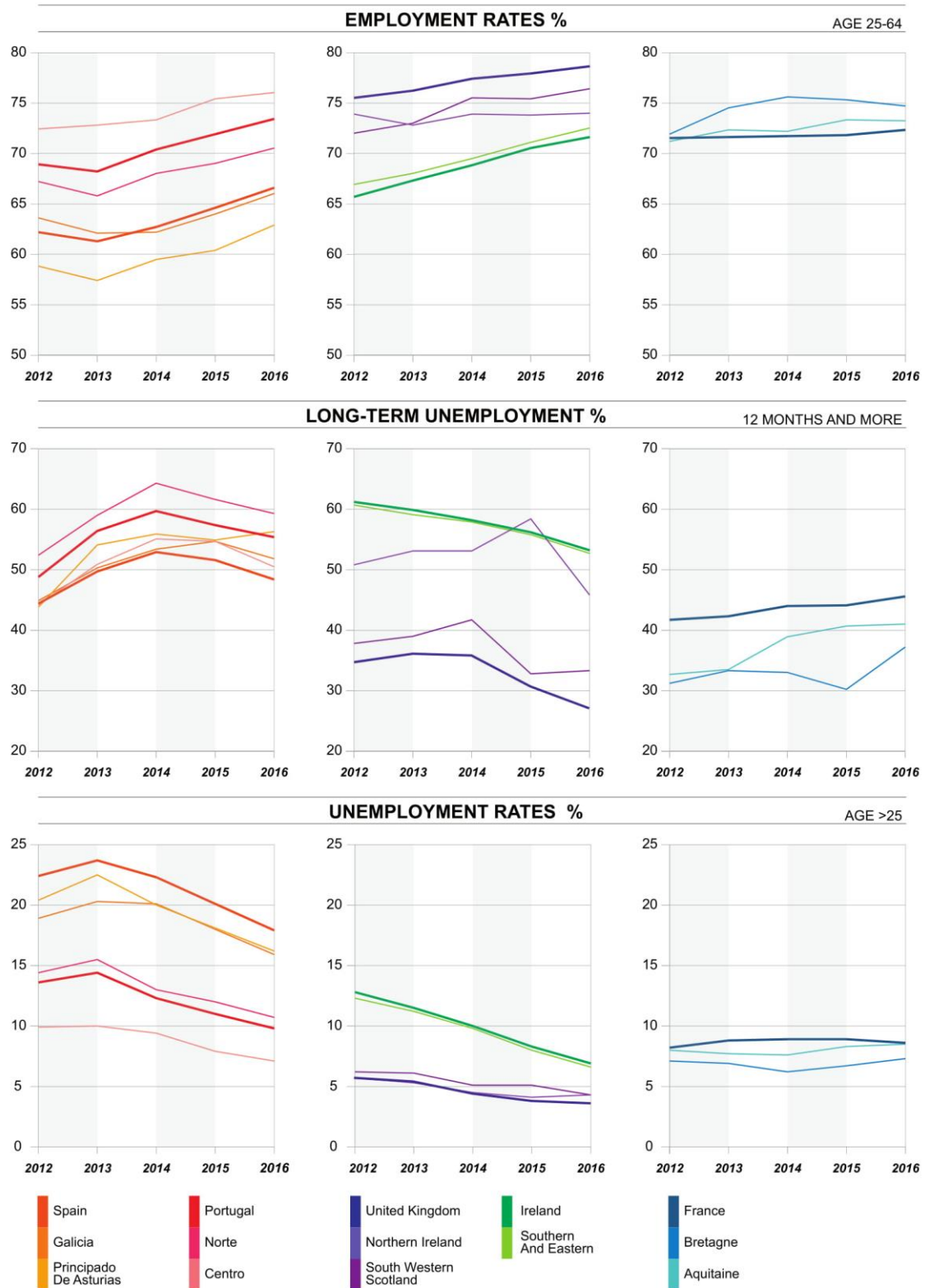
Figure 6 - Rates of employment and unemployment, % several years

As a last indicator for the description of the labour market, table 4 displays the average number of usual weekly hours of work in main job per country and NUTS 2. Ireland, United Kingdom and France have values below the European Union's average, while Spain, and particularly Portugal, contribute to the raising of the continental value.

	%
Ireland	**36.5**
Southern and Eastern	36.6
United Kingdom	**37.8**
South Western Scotland	36.9
Northern Ireland (UK)	37.3
France	**37.7**
Aquitaine	37.8
Bretagne	38.4
European Union (28 countries)	**37.8**
Spain	**38.1**
Galicia	39
Principado de Asturias	38.6
Portugal	**40.1**
Norte	40.1
Centro (PT)	40.2

Table 4 - Average number of usual weekly hours of work, age 25-64, 2016

2.4. Macroeconomic Indicators

The set of macroeconomic indicators presented in this section are based on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and provide a picture of the performance of the national economies in the five Atlantic Area countries which make up this study. The data on social expenditures provides information about the "how much" and "how" dimensions of social policies in these countries, which are particularly relevant for the topic of social innovation.

According to some scholars, such as Schubert and Martens (2005) and Sapir (2006), social and welfare models applied in the European countries have common characteristics such as an emphasis on social protection, ex-post benefits for traditional risks/needs, a large role for 'passive' transfers during non-employment (pensions, unemployment, disability, sickness, maternity, family dependants, among others) and residual safety nets (against poverty).

Despite the initial dialogue on social welfare models, this section will not enter the field of the three political economies in the welfare state of Esping-Andersen (1990), but, instead of that, in the questions of social models and the different aspects that these models can demonstrate according to the countries. These aspects are represented in the different countries in specific ways and it is recognised by several scholars, such as Aiginger and Leoni (2009) and Sapir (2006), that there can be identified five different models or ideal types: Continental; Anglo-Saxon; Scandinavian/Nordic; Southern European (Mediterranean) and Central/Eastern European. There are three different models represented in the five Atlantic Area countries: the Continental model (France), emphasising employment as the basis of social transfers so that the benefits are linked to income; the liberal or Anglo-Saxon model (United Kingdom and Ireland), emphasising the responsibility of individuals for themselves, with smaller social transfers than in other countries, more targeted and "means tested" and the Mediterranean model (Spain and Portugal), where the low level of social transfers is partly counterbalanced by the traditional strong supportive role of family networks.

Whatever the traditional way to conceive and design social policies in the different countries, in recent years, the Eurozone sovereign debt crisis has inflicted enormous social costs on the populations of the most affected countries, while severely testing, and to some extent eroding, the capacity of social models there and elsewhere to cushion the social impact of the crisis (Dølvik & Martin, 2014).

2.4.1. Wealth

Gross domestic product (GDP) is a measure for economic activity. It is defined as the value of all goods and services produced less the value of any goods or services used in their creation. Figure 7 represents the total volume of GDP at current market prices for the NUTS 3 regions in 2014, expressed as millions of euro. It is remarkable the

contribution to the regional GDP of France and United Kingdom and to a lesser extent, but still significant in absolute value, of Spain. Portugal and Ireland systems present a similar dimension.

However, to get a comparative understanding of the distribution of wealth across a population it is more interesting to analyse the wealth indicators presented, at national level, in table 5: the index of GDP per capita in Purchasing Power Standards (PPS) and the mean and median income (median income is the amount that divides the income distribution into two equal groups, half having income above that amount, and half having income below; the mean income is the amount obtained by dividing the total aggregate income of a group by the number of units in that group). The GDP per capita is expressed in relation to the European Union (EU28) average, set as equal to 100. If the index of a country is higher than 100, this country's level of GDP per capita is higher than the EU average and vice versa. Basic figures are expressed in PPS, i.e. a common currency that eliminates the differences in price levels between countries allowing meaningful volume comparisons of GDP between countries.

	Mean income (Euro, 2015)	Median income (Euro, 2015)	GDP per capita (Index, 2016)
European Union (28 countries)	**18 509**	**16 138**	**100**
Ireland	24 837	21 688	177
Spain	15 408	13 352	90
France	24 982	21 415	107
Portugal	9 996	8 435	77
United Kingdom	25 022	21 028	108

Table 5   Wealth Indicators, several years

Gross domestic product (GDP) at current market prices
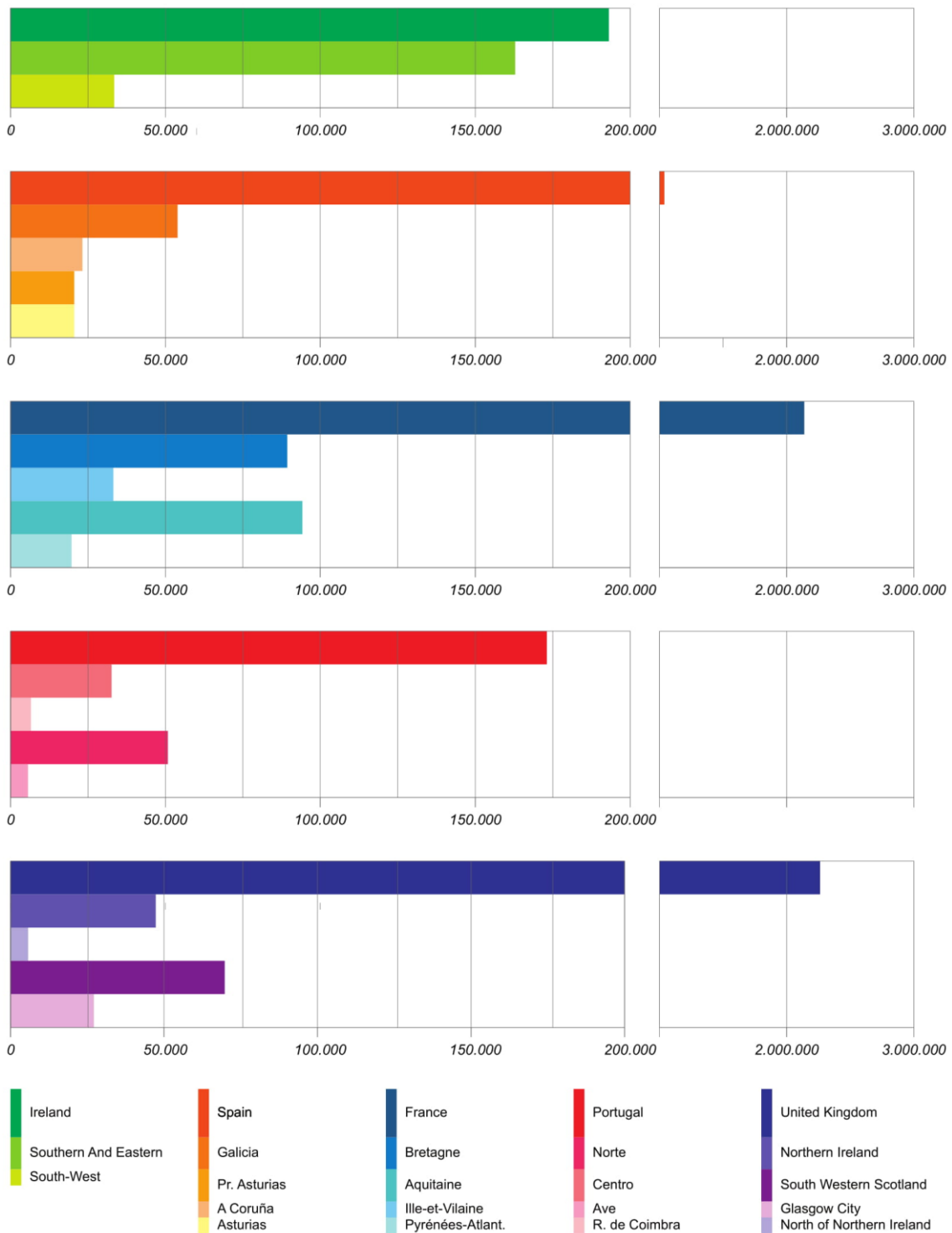
Figure 7 - GDP at current market prices, millions of euros, 2014

Legend:

- Ireland
- Southern And Eastern
- South-West
- Spain
- Galicia
- Pr. Asturias
- A Coruña
- Asturias
- France
- Bretagne
- Aquitaine
- Ille-et-Vilaine
- Pyrénées-Atlant.
- Portugal
- Norte
- Centro
- Ave
- R. de Coimbra
- United Kingdom
- Northern Ireland
- South Western Scotland
- Glasgow City
- North of Northern Ireland

Ireland presents the highest GDP per capita, followed by the United Kingdom and France, whose values are still above the European average, while Spain and Portugal's figures are below it. In terms of mean and median income, Ireland, France and United Kingdom all presents similar figures, surpassing by more than double the Portuguese ones. According to analyses of the OECD[1], Portugal, among European Union countries, has one of the highest levels of relative poverty and is one of the most unequal countries with respect to disposable income. Figure 8, representing the net income (equal to the subtraction from the gross income of the consumption of fixed capital, abbreviated as CFC, which reflects the decline in the value of the fixed assets of enterprises, governments and owners of dwellings in the household sector) and the disposable income (personal income minus the personal taxes) per capita, at NUTS 2 level for the year 2014, offers a visual evidence of the significant difference between Portugal (red scale colour) and the other countries considered.
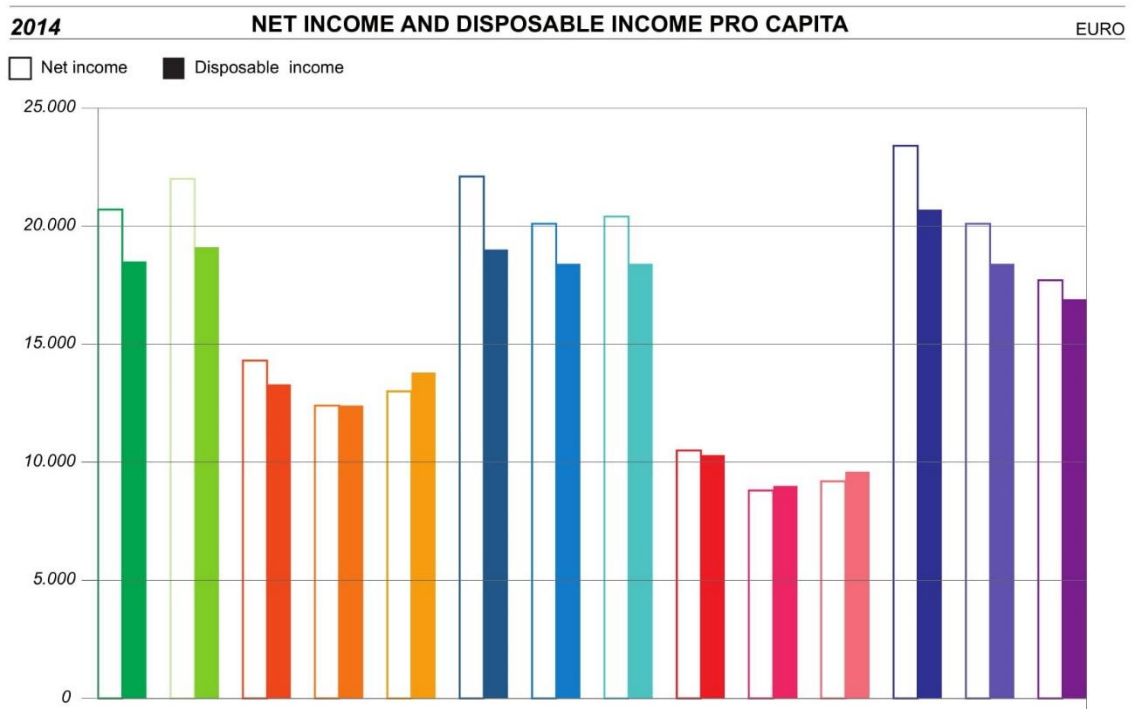
Figure 8 - Net and disposable income pro capita, euros, 2014

It is important to underline that disposable income is the amount of money that households have available for spending and saving after income taxes have been accounted for. This value is often considered as one of the many key economic indicator of the overall state of national economies.

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[1] See: www.oecd.org/eco/surveys/economic-survey-portugal.htm

2.4.2. Public and Private Expenditure

Data in this section, collected by Eurostat and the OECD[2] (OECD Social Expenditure Database, SOCX), offers comparative information about social protection. This notion encompasses interventions from public or private bodies intended to relieve households and individuals of the burden of a defined set of risks or needs. Different perspectives and measures of social protection expenditures are presented: private and public social expenditures as a percentage of GDP; the expenditure for pensions, in total and per capita; the public social expenditure as percentage of GDP (total and main categories of social protection benefits).

Private and public social expenditures as percentage of GDP for the five ASL countries in the year 2013 are displayed in table 6. Private social expenditure concerns social benefits delivered through the private sector involving an element of compulsion and/or inter-personal redistribution, for example through the pooling of contributions and risk sharing in terms of health and longevity (as in many private health insurance plans). A relevant component of the private social expenditures are the private pension payments, which can derive from mandatory and voluntary employer-based (sometimes occupational and industry wide) programmes, or from individual pension plans. Across the OECD countries the volume of social expenditures as percentage of the GDP, has been quite stable on average, since 2009, at the historically high figure of 21%.

All the five countries present percentages above this value, with the exception of Ireland. This country traditionally presents a relatively low level of social expenditure as a proportion of the GDP. The Irish tax and social expenditure system has been characterised as a 'low tax, low spend' system and consequently the level of redistribution achieved through the system is also relatively low. On the other side, France presents traditionally high percentages of both the public and the private social expenditures: this country's expenditures are the highest among the EU Member States, followed by Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Belgium and Austria. This is the result of the peculiar French model where social protection is mainly based on State intermediation, while in other countries the intervention by the State (or by local authorities) is more focused on the steering of the system, through the regulation of the benefits and services, but their distribution may be delegated to non-public entities. In some countries, moreover, only a portion of health or retirement coverage is mandatory, and individuals can choose the level of spending they want. This freedom is relative, as people can be steered by tax or by necessity.

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[2] See: http://www.oecd.org/els/soc/OECD2016-Social-Expenditure-Update.pdf

	Social Expenditure % GDP	
	Public	*Private*
France	31.2	3.4
Ireland	19.8	2.0
Portugal	24.1	1.9
Spain	23.7	0.4
United Kingdom	25	5.9

Table 6 - Public (Net Total) and Private (Mandatory and Voluntary) Expenditure, % of GDP, 2013

Table 7 presents the expenditure for pensions, which includes old age pension (the most common type), anticipated old age pensions, partial pensions and disability pensions. Expenditures per capita are significantly higher - compared to the EU average - in France, quite in line in the UK and below the average value in Spain, Ireland and Portugal. Pension's expenditure is often the largest single item of government expenditures as inevitable consequence of the population aging in Europe. It is everywhere the largest social protection programme and today, in a context of increasing life expectancy and low birth rates, represents an economically large burden in Europe.

	Total Exp. (million Euro)	**Exp. pro capita (Euro per inhabitant)**
European Union (28 countries)	**1 805 488.06 (p)**	**3 326.26 (p)**
Ireland	12 350.40	2 562.78
Spain	132 384.73 (p)	2 718.09 (p)
France	324 819.67	4 745.75
Portugal	26 983.58	2 518.50
United Kingdom	259 635.38	3 430.64

Table 7 - Expenditure for pensions, total and pro capita, 2014

This issue is confirmed by data about the distribution among main categories of the public social expenditure for the year 2014 (Eurostat data), represented in figure 9. Following Eurostat classification, social functions are grouped into the following categories: sickness/healthcare benefits (including paid sick leave, medical care and the provision of pharmaceutical products); disability benefits (including disability pensions and the provision of goods and services other than medical care to the disabled); old age benefits and survivors' benefits (including old age pensions and the provision of goods and services other than medical care to the elderly and income maintenance and support in connection with the death of a family member); family/children benefits (including support except healthcare in connection with the costs of pregnancy, childbirth, childbearing and caring for other family members); unemployment benefits

(including full or partial unemployment benefits as well as vocational training financed by public agencies); housing benefits and social exclusion benefits (including interventions by public authorities to help households meet the cost of housing and other benefits not elsewhere classified, such as income support, rehabilitation of alcohol and drug abusers).

The sum of social protection benefits for all the categories is not equal the total because of administration costs and other expenditures (the difference being represented by the white slice of the pies in the figure 9). The slice in darker grey represents the expenditure in pensions, which is everywhere – except in Ireland – the most significant expenditure, in particular in the countries of the South of Europe (Portugal and Spain), and as a consequence of their older age structure.

"Sickness, health and disability benefits" is the second largest social spending area (except in Ireland, where is the largest), while other areas of social spending are much smaller, and to some extent residual. As highlighted by the OECD[3], economic trends affects social spending, particularly in the area of unemployment benefits: after 2009 public spending on labour market policies actually fell even if many countries have not yet regain their pre-crisis employment rates. Among ASL countries, the job gap remains relevant in Spain and Ireland. The crisis has also affected the demand for affordable housing while the fiscal space for this kind of support has been reduced particularly in countries interested by fiscal-consolidation induced cutbacks of public spending.

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[3] See: http://www.oecd.org/els/soc/OECD2016-Social-Expenditure-Update.pdf
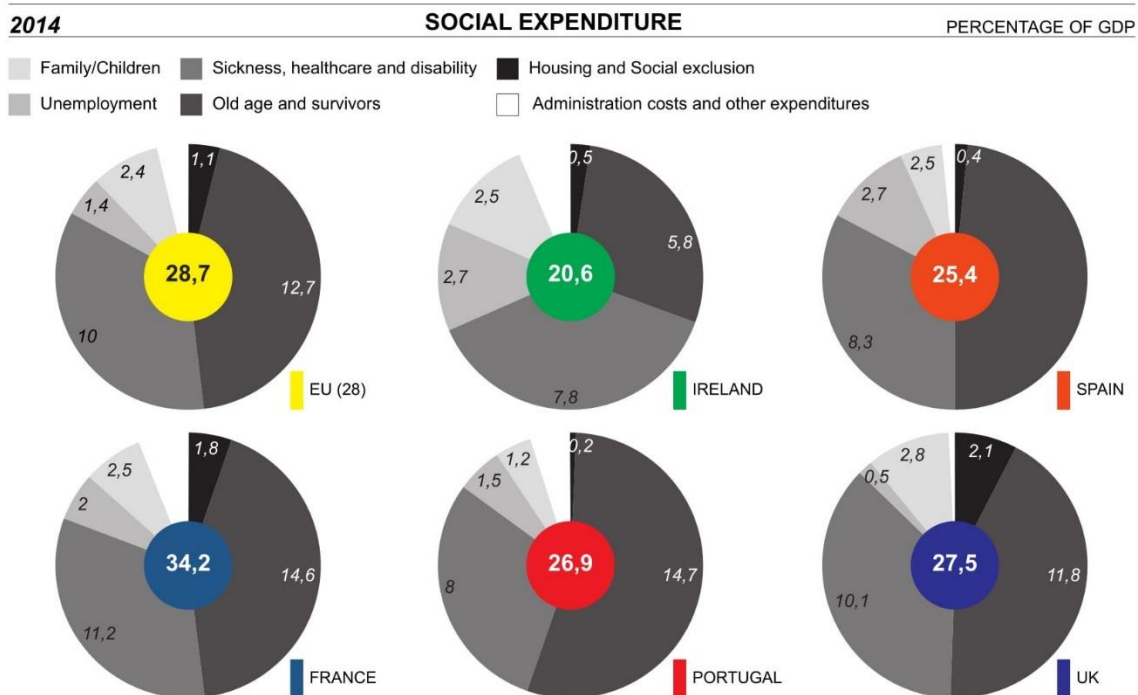
Figure 9 - Social expenditures distribution (national and EU levels), % of GDP, 2014

2.5. Political and Civic Participation

This section covers the wide range of activities and initiatives that citizens engage in, aiming at addressing community needs and seeking to improve the quality of life for individuals, groups and the entire community.

2.5.1. Political Behaviour

According to the European Social Survey Core Questionnaire Development, concerning the opinions about Political Issues[4], voter participation is the most obvious way of measuring civic and political engagement, and is sometimes considered the best criteria for several reasons (high quality data, broad cross-country comparability). However, this measure is far from ideal, in particular because of institutional differences in electoral systems. Moreover, it has been witnessed in the last decades a growing trend of abstention in both national and EU elections. Fewer and fewer Europeans who are eligible to vote actually exercise the right to express their political preferences and to contribute to shape the institutional and political life of their countries. Voter apathy and growing lack of confidence in traditional political mechanisms have become

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[4] https://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/

common both as discourse in the media and as object of study for social scientists across Europe. While a high voter turnout is desirable in a democracy because it increases the chance that the political system reflects the will of a large number of individuals, and that the government enjoys a high degree of legitimacy, there have been recorded a steadily decreasing number of voters turning out to vote, defined as the percentage of the registered population that voted during an election.

Figure 10 represents voter turnout at parliamentary elections for all countries and for all years, based on the data of The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA). For all the countries there is a visible decreasing trend, particularly worrying for Portugal and France.

Data from the European Social Survey produced by the OECD confirms the lack of interest in politics by citizens as one of the burning issues for European democracies. Around 2012-2014 the proportion (%) of the EU population reporting that they are 'not at all interested' in politics is 19% of the total population and 27% of young people (15-29-year-old). While France and United Kingdom present values close to the European average, the other three countries present values much higher than these. The worst case is that of Portugal, where 41% of the total population and 37% of young people declare a lack of interest in politics. The cases of Ireland and Spain are also above the average but with an interesting difference in the value referred to young people: in Spain, youngsters appear significantly less disengaged from politics then their Irish counterparts (21% versus 37%). values close to the European average, the other three their Irish counterparts (21% versus 37%).

VOTER TURNOUT AT PARLAMENTARY ELECTIONS %
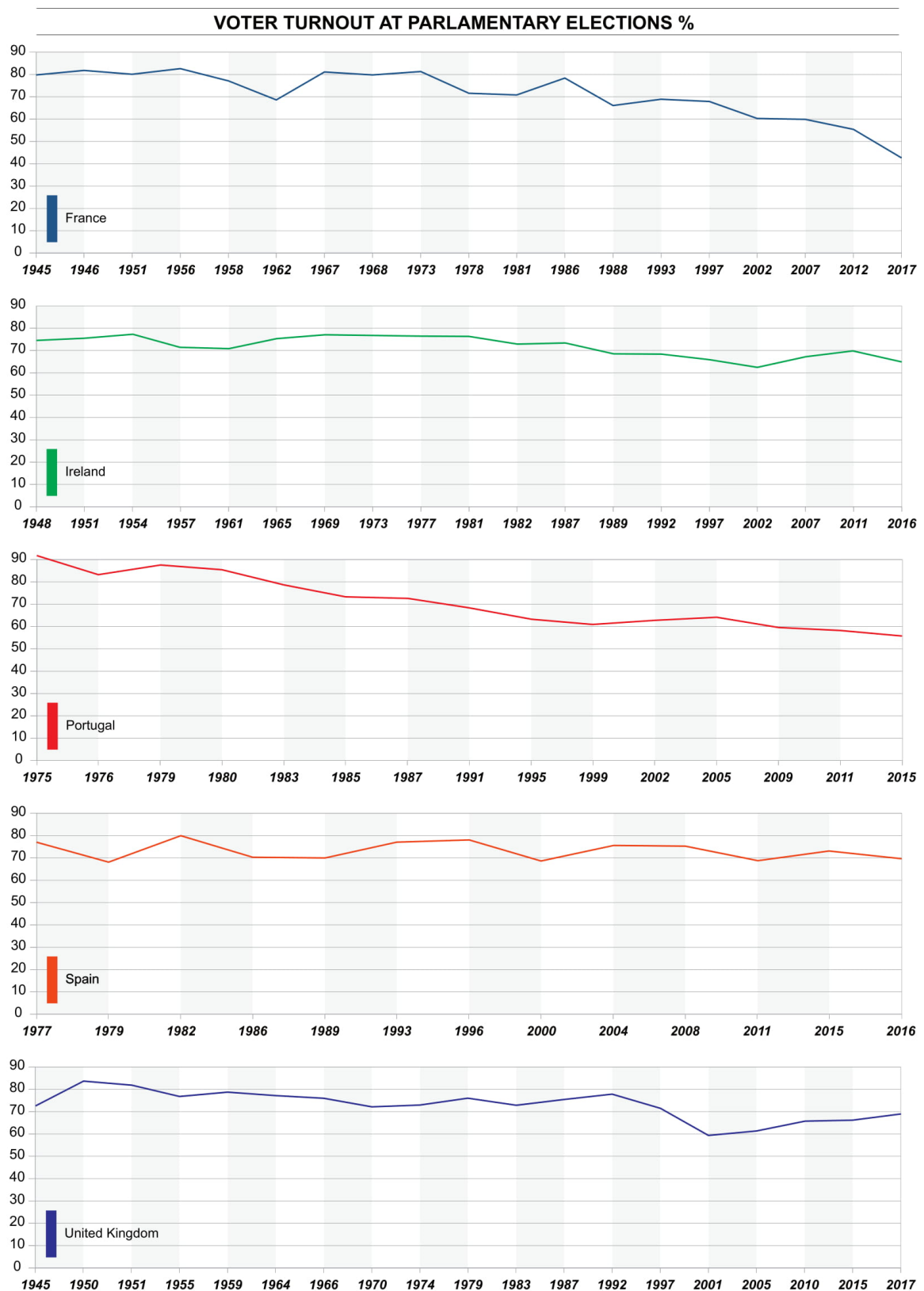
Figure 10 - Voter turnout at parliamentary elections, %, several year

2.5.2. Participation to Civic Organisations

Political participation cannot be reduced to the mere exercise of the vote. On the contrary, taking into account the trend of increasing voting abstention, it is interesting to include in the analysis other forms of participating to collective life, such as volunteering. Data on volunteering come from two sources, providing somewhat different data based on slightly different question.

The first source (table 8) is the Gallup World Poll[5], which asks respondents the question: "Have you done any of the following in the past month? How about volunteered your time to an organisation?". Data from Gallup World Poll therefore reflect the proportion of people engaging in any kind of voluntary work around the time of the survey. The second source (table 9) is the European Social Survey (ESS) 2012, which asks respondents whether, over the last 12 months, they have been involved in work for voluntary or charitable organisations. The data from the ESS reflect the proportion of people engaging in voluntary work over a wider time-frame. In table 8, where data from the Gallup World Poll are presented, Ireland stand out from the other countries, for men, woman and young people, while on the other hand there are the low values in Portugal and, to a lesser extent, of Spain. Focusing the attention on the comparison between France United Kingdom, it can be noted that despite the lower percentage of people volunteering in France, the proportion of young people is higher than in the United Kingdom.

	Total	Men	Women	15-29 years old
France	29	24	33	27
Ireland	40	40	40	35
Portugal*	15	15	14	15
Spain	17	18	16	19
United Kingdom	33	30	35	26

Table 8 - People who volunteered time to an organization in the past month, %, 2015 or last year available

Data from the ESS (table 9) shows a different picture, with people in the United Kingdom and Ireland with a higher proportion of people engaged in volunteering activities in the year before the date of the survey, closely followed by Spanish people. Close the ranking, also in this case, Portugal. According to these data, volunteering is a form of civic engagement more common for adults of the age group 30-49 in France, Portugal and particularly Spain, while is more common for the younger age group 15-29 in the United Kingdom. For Ireland, data shows no meaningful difference between these two groups.

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[5] See: http://analytics.gallup.com/213704/world-poll.aspx

	15-29 years old	30-49 years old
France	26.3	30.6
Ireland	48.9	47.5
Portugal	26	28.5
Spain	42.1	54.5
United Kingdom	50.9	46.8

Table 9 - People involved in work for voluntary or charitable organisations in the past year (2012)

2.6. Quality of Life

It is not easy to compare countries in terms of the quality of life as there are different notions of this concept and there is therefore debate around what should be measured in terms of understanding it. The Better Life Index[6] is a multi-dimensional index designed by the OECD to compare well-being across countries on the basis of 11 topics identified as key to well-being and referring not only to material living conditions (housing, income, jobs) but also to many other issues related to individual and collective life: community, education, environment, governance, health, life satisfaction, safety and work-life balance. In turn, each of these topics is built on one to four specific indicators. Comparing national performances according to this index, Atlantic Area countries show different situations and degrees of satisfaction with life conditions.

Citizens of France and Spain rate their general satisfaction broadly in line with the OECD average (that is, on a scale from 0 to 10, where average value for OECD is 6.5, both France and Spain rate 6.4). However, while France performs well in many measures of well-being (and is specifically above the average in income and wealth, housing, health status, civic engagement, work-life balance and personal security), Spain performs well in the following measures (work-life balance, housing, health status, social connections, and personal security).

Portugal presents a higher level of dissatisfaction: Portuguese people gave a 5.2 grade on average, one of the lowest scores in the OECD, with a value below the average in income and wealth, health status, social connections, civic engagement, education and skills, subjective well-being, and jobs and earnings. The UK and Ireland record higher levels of satisfaction than the OECD average: 6.7 for British people and 7.0 for Irish people. The United Kingdom performs well in most measures of well-being such as personal security, environmental quality, civic engagement, social connections, health status, jobs and earnings, income and wealth, education and skills, and subjective well-being, while Ireland ranks above the average in jobs and earnings, housing, personal security, health status, education and skills, social connections, subjective well-being, work-life balance, and environmental quality, and below the average in income and wealth, and civic engagement.

2.6.1. General Quality of Life

Table 10 shows two general indicators of the quality of life: life expectancy at birth, that is the average number of years that a new-born could expect to live and infant mortality rate, that is the number of deaths under one year of age occurring among the live births in a given geographical area during a given year, per 1,000 live births occurring among the population of the given geographical area during the same year.

As for the first indicator, Eurostat data reveal that the life expectancy is higher in Spain (83) and France (82.4), at the national level, while Ireland (81.5), Portugal (81.3) and United Kingdom (81) shows similar values. The Better Life Index[7], reports a value of 80 years for OECD countries, and pretty much the same value is reported for the European Union (28 member-states), 80.6 years. All Atlantic Area countries therefore perform better than the average values for OECD and the EU, with Galician as the more long-lived among the territories object of this study and the South Western Scottish as the area with the lowest life expectancy.

Infant mortality rates are another relevant indicator of a population's health: at the EU-28 level, in the 10 years from 2005 to 2015 it fell by more than a quarter, from 5.1 deaths per 1000 live births to 3.7 deaths per 1 000 live births. With respect to this indicator, ASL countries perform better than the average value, with the notable exception of the United Kingdom, where the Northern Ireland shows the highest value of 5% of deaths children dyeing before reaching one year of age. Among all territorial units considered, Asturias Principality shows the lowest value of 1.9‰.

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[7] See: http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org

	Life expectancy at birth (years)	Infant mortality (‰)
European Union (28 countries)	**80.6**	**3.7**
Ireland	**81.5 (p)**	**3.4**
Southern and Eastern	81.5	3.1
Spain	**83.0**	**2.7**
Galicia	82.9	2.8
Asturias Principality	82.4	1.9
France	**82.4 (p)**	**3.7**
Bretagne	82.0	3.7
Aquitaine	82.9	3.1
Portugal	**81.3 (e)**	**2.9**
Norte	81.7	2.6
Centro (PT)	81.5	2.7
United Kingdom	**81.0 (e)**	**3.9**
South Western Scotland	78.3	3.2
Northern Ireland (UK)	80.5	5.0

Table 10 - Life expectancy indicators, 2015

2.6.2. Poverty and Inequality

In 2015, around 119 million people in the European Union, corresponding to 23.7% of the population, were at risk of poverty or social exclusion: this means that they were in at least one of the following three conditions: at risk of poverty after social transfers (income or monetary poverty, corresponding to the indicator called 'Poverty rate' in Table 11), severely materially deprived or living in households with very low work intensity. This indicator, abbreviated as AROPE, is the headline indicator to monitor the EU 2020 Strategy poverty target, whose target is lifting at least 20 million people out of this condition. As can be seen in table 11, only France, among all Atlantic Area countries presents a value of AROPE well below the European average. In the case of France, this is one of the lowest values in the whole EU. On the other side, with the exception of the United Kingdom, whose value is in line with the EU average, the other countries – Portugal, Spain and Ireland – present a more critical situation. Particularly precarious is the situation of Spain, which is among the Member States for which the AROPE rate has grown from 2008 to 2015, along with Greece and Cyprus.

As can be seen in table 11, for almost all the territorial units considered the difference between the Poverty rate and the AROPE is around 10 points, while in the case of France - and to a lesser extent Portugal and United Kingdom - this difference is smaller, signalling a stronger incidence in these cases of monetary or income poverty.

	Poverty rate	Poverty or social exclusion rate
European Union (28 countries)	**17.3**	**23.7**
Ireland	**16.3**	**26.0**
Southern and Eastern	15.1	25.5
Spain	**18.2**	**28.6**
Galicia	19.4	25.7
Asturias Principality	16.7	24.2
France	**13.6**	**17.7**
Portugal	19.5	26.6
United Kingdom	**16.6**	**23.5**

Table 11 - People at risk of poverty or social exclusion, %, 2015

Another way to measure inequality is through the Gini coefficient (sometimes expressed as a Gini ratio or a normalised Gini index), which is a measure of statistical dispersion intended to represent the income or wealth distribution of a nation's residents. In table 12, values for Gini coefficient for several years are collected and expressed on the scale 0 to 100, where a value of 0 represents absolute equality and a value of 100 absolute inequalities. It can be observed that inequality is higher in Portugal and Spain, if compared with the European average and the other countries, particularly France, which shows the more equal wealth distribution. In terms of the trends, it is interesting to note that Gini coefficients grow almost everywhere in the years of the economic crisis (2011-2012) and decreased in the following years. At the end of the period considered (or at the last available year, in the case of Ireland), the coefficient is higher than at the beginning only in the case of Portugal and Spain.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
European Union (28 countries)	**30.5**	**30.8**	**30.5**	**30.5**	**30.9**	**31.0**	**na**
Ireland	30.7	29.8	30.5	30.7	31.1	29.8	na
Spain	33.5	34.0	34.2	33.7	34.7	34.6	34.5
France	29.8	30.8	30.5	30.1	29.2	29.2	29.3
Portugal	33.7	34.2	34.5	34.2	34.5	34.0	33.9
United Kingdom	32.9	33.0	31.3	30.2	31.6	32.4	31.5

Table 12 - Gini coefficient of equalised disposable income, several years

2.6.3. Health

Three indicators of health in the Atlantic Area countries, the number of doctors available in each country/territorial unit; expenditures in health care and available beds in hospital in relation to inhabitants, are presented in Table 13. This last indicator, which refers to beds for curative care, long-term care and rehabilitative care, should be contextualised to a general trend of downsizing: between 2010 and 2015, the number of hospital beds in the EU-28 decreased from 2.72 million to 2.62 million, a relative decrease of 3.6 %. Across the vast majority of EU Member States, the total number of hospital beds also generally declined, sometimes at a rapid pace. In parallel, most EU Member States reported an increase in the number of beds in for-profit private hospitals. With the exception of the favourable situation of France where there is one bed for every 161 inhabitants, all the other countries show a more critical situation in terms of availability, which is worse than the European average.

Statistics about health personnel and expenditures need of course to be referred to national populations and budgets. Portugal is the country where there is the highest number of doctors per inhabitant, followed by Spain, France, Ireland and United Kingdom. Portugal also showed between the years 2010-2015 the largest relative increase in the number of doctors or physicians per 100 000 inhabitants: this ratio rose from 384 per 100 000 inhabitants to 461 per 100 000 inhabitants[8].

	Health personnel (N of doctors)	Current health care expenditure (Million Euro)	Available beds in hospital (Inhabitants per bed)
European Union (28 countries)	**1 800 346,00**	**na**	**192,68**
Ireland	**14 016,00**	**19 148,24**	**385,12**
Southern and Eastern	na	na	na
Spain	**176 665,00**	**94 197,2**	**337,12**
Galicia	12 362,00	na	na
Asturias Principality	3 529,00	na	na
France	**220 980,00**	**236 948,41**	**161,14**
Bretagne	10 292,00	na	na
Aquitaine	11 765,00	na	na
Portugal	**46 036,00**	**15 615,76**	**301,29**
Norte region	15 431,00	na	na
Centro region	9 165,00	na	na
United Kingdom	**180 533,00**	**221 546,59**	**366,45**

Table 13 - Indicators of health systems, 2014

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[8] See http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Healthcare_personnel_statistics_-_physicians#Main_tables

As for expenditure on health, which is usually the largest item of general government expenditure after expenditure on 'social protection' (see Section 4.2), in absolute terms, France, United Kingdom and Spain, among the biggest countries of Europe, show values that are not comparable to the smaller countries of Ireland and Portugal, and amount these tree countries together they have almost one third of the total EU (28 countries) expenditure in the sector. However, data on the expenditure per inhabitants in 2014 reveal a different picture: Ireland is the country with the highest value, 4 147.13 euro per inhabitants, which is very close to the expenditures per capita in Sweden (5,000 euros per inhabitant) and Luxembourg (EUR 5 600 thousand per inhabitant), countries with the highest current healthcare expenditure among the EU Member States. Among Atlantic Area countries, Ireland is followed by United Kingdom and France (both around 3 500 euro per inhabitants), Spain (2 026 euro) and, Portugal (1 500 euro).

2.6.4. Housing

Housing deprivation has become an important concern for public policy across the European Union because of its connection with personal well-being: having a relatively comfortable and safe accommodation represents a very concrete way of measuring the quality of life and is essential to meet basic needs, such as sheltering from bad weather conditions. It is also connected to both physical and mental health and, in the case of young children, research has showed that living in a deprived house affects cognitive development and educational attainment. Table 14 collects three indicators of housing deprivation and, in all of them, Portugal presents the worst outcomes. Most of the countries refer to the general population and, overall, people at risk of poverty suffer more than the total population from certain housing problems such as those presented in Table 14.

	Severe housing deprivation (2015)	Difficulty at keeping warm the house (2014)	Households without exclusive flushing toilet (2014)
European Union (28 countries)	**4.9**	**na**	**2.4 (2015)**
Ireland	1.1	16.2	0.0
Spain	1.5	24.3	0.5
France	2.3	14.8	1.6
Portugal	4.7	47.4	3.6
United Kingdom	2.2	18.9	0.3

Table 14 - Indicators of housing deprivation, %, several years

Severe housing deprivation refers to people living in an overcrowded dwelling and at least one of the following: leaking roof, no bath/shower and no indoor toilet, or a dwelling considered too dark. Difficulty in keeping a dwelling adequately warm- represents a problem for one in two citizens in Portugal and one in four in Spain. The share of poor households (below 50% of median equivalent disposable income) without indoor flushing toilet, is a condition almost irrelevant only in Ireland, Spain and United Kingdom, in the other hand this condition not so rare in Portugal, where the percentage is above the EU28's average value.

2.7. Business and Innovation Environment

This section collects data and statistics about the entrepreneurial context, innovative activities and enterprises, and about employment in technological sectors in the five Atlantic Area countries.

2.7.1. Entrepreneurial Context

The Total Early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) Rate, presented in table 15, refers to percentage of 18-64 population who are either a nascent entrepreneur or owner-manager of a new business. This indicator was developed by The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM), a renewed data collection effort used by many international organisations and investors as a synthetic measure of the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Ireland presents the higher value, and, according to the GEM analysis, out of all the European countries, Irish entrepreneurs have among the highest job creation expectations (a third of entrepreneurs expect to create five or more jobs over the next five years) and entrepreneurs are twice as likely to start a business to pursue an opportunity rather than out of necessity.

The TEA rate has high values also for the UK and for Portugal, where austerity measures have driven unemployment levels to record highs, with many responding by turning to entrepreneurship. Portugal has increasingly reported consistent improvement in its entrepreneurship framework thanks to efforts to reduce bureaucracy, by making greater use of online platforms, among other things. The average number of days needed to start a business (indicated in the same Table on the basis of the surveys done by the World Bank in the "Doing Business" project[9]) offers another measure of the easiness for entrepreneurs to start a business. Among the five countries, Spain is significantly detached from the other, with 13 days needed to start a business: despite some progresses having been made, entrepreneurship in Spain is constrained by a heavy tax burden and bureaucratic procedures.

	TEA rate	Days needed to start a business
Spain	5.2	13
United Kingdom	8.8	4.5
Ireland	10.9	5
France	5.3	3.5
Portugal	8.2	4.5

Table 15 - Total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) rate (2016) and Days needed to start a business (2017)

Table 16 represents the birth rate and death rate of both employer enterprises (enterprises having at least one employee) and for enterprises in general (in the macro-sectors of industry, construction and services except insurance activities of holding companies) at the NUTS 2 level: unfortunately, there are no available data for Ireland in the case of employer enterprises and only national data in both cases for the UK.

At the European Union level (data Eurostat based on 27 Member States and estimates for Greece), in 2014, the business economy was made up of around 26 million active enterprises with some 143 million employed. The largest active enterprise population was registered in Italy (3.9 million), followed by France (3.4 million), Spain (2.9 million), Germany (2.8 million) and the United Kingdom (2.2 million). The services sector was dominant in every country, as measured by the highest proportion of active enterprises.

As for the birth of new enterprises, often seen as one of the key determinants of job creation and economic growth, this phenomenon is thought to increase the competitiveness of a country's enterprise population, by obliging them to become more efficient in view of newly emerging competition. Enterprise births are most likely to occur where profits are consistently high, whereas among loss-making activities or economically speaking depressed territories, enterprise deaths will be relatively more

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[9]See: http://www.doingbusiness.org/

frequent. High birth rates are evident for both Portugal and the United Kingdom: however, in the case of Portugal, death rates are high as well, signalling a high turnover in the population of business enterprises. As for the employer enterprises the highest birth rate is that of United Kingdom and high values are also recorded for Spain and Portugal, at the national level.

	Employer enterprises		Enterprises	
	Birth %	*Death %*	*Birth %*	*Death %*
Spain	**10.16**	**11.31***	**8.59**	**9.33**
Galicia	9.44	10.77*	8.03	8.49
A Coruña	9.31	10.45*	8.02	8.31
Asturias Principality	9.30	10.96*	8.56	9.13
Asturias	9.30	10.96*	8.56	9.13
France	**12.02**	**12.26**	**9.52**	**5.10**
Bretagne	0.35	11.02	8.33	4.83
Ille-et-Vilaine	0.42	10.67	9.23	4.73
Aquitaine	0.34	12.21	9.93	5.32
Pyrénées-Atlantiques	0.26	11.22	8.96	4.86
Portugal	**10.69**	**10.44**	**14.31**	**16.21**
Norte	11.25	10.12	14.00	15.13
Ave	11.96	9.72	13.30	14.02
Centro(PT)	9.58	9.82	13.26	15.28
Coimbra Region	9.57	10.03	13.57	15.86
United Kingdom	**15.20**	**9.20**	**14.10**	**9.70**
Ireland	**na**	**na**	**7.50**	**5.67**

2.7.2. Innovation

Eurostat defines "innovative enterprises" those realising, during the period of observation, product, process, marketing method and/or organisational method which are new or significantly improved by the firm: this includes products, processes and methods that firms are the first to develop and also those that have been adopted from other firms or organisations. Table 17 presents data about innovative enterprises in the five countries by size class of the enterprises. Among all the countries only Spain (36.4%) presents a percentage of innovative enterprises below the European average of 49.1%, and significantly detached from the 61% of Ireland enterprises or the 60.2% of the United Kingdom. Spanish values are below the average in all the categories of enterprises based on the size. At both the European and national level, innovation is realised by the great majority of the big enterprises (250 employees and more), with

values in line with the European average for all of these countries except the United Kingdom.

	Total		From 10 to 49 employees		From 50 to 249 employees		250 employees or more	
	Total	*%*	*Total*	*%*	*Total*	*%*	*Total*	*%*
European Union (28 countries)	**380 455**	**49.1**	**274 858**	**45.0**	**83 229**	**61.5**	**22 366**	**78.1**
Ireland	4 108	61.0	3 029	57.3	819	71.7	260	85.5
Spain	23 470	36.4	17 171	32.0	4 987	54.9	1 312	77.1
France	39 672	56.4	28 718	51.9	8 367	70.1	2 588	84.1
Portugal	10 044	54.0	7 574	50.7	2 105	65.4	364	83.7
United Kingdom	52 386	60.2	39 722	58.5	10 447	65.7	2 217	69.0

Table 17 - Innovative enterprises by size class, total and %, 2014

Another way to measure the degree of innovation of the economic systems is by analysing the employment in technological sectors. To compile statistics on high-tech economic activities, Eurostat uses the aggregations of the sectors according to technological intensity based on NACE Rev.2, both for manufacturing industry[10] and for knowledge-intensive services, or KIS[11].

In both manufacturing industry and KIS, Ireland performs well above the other countries, while Portugal presents a value below the European Union average rate of employment in all the aggregations of sectors considered. This is partially the case also for Spain, the only difference between the two Iberian countries being that Spain shows a percentage of employment in the KIS in line with the European average.

Significantly higher percentages of employment in the KIS can be appreciated for both Ireland and United Kingdom, among the main knowledge-intensive economies of the European region.

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[10]Seehttp://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Glossary:High-tech_classification_of_manufacturing_industries for details.
[11]Seehttp://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Glossary:Knowledge-intensive_services_(KIS) for details.

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	Manufacturing		Services
	High + medium	*High*	*High*
European Union (28 countries)	5.8	1.1	2.9
Ireland	**5.2**	**3.0**	**4.4**
Southern and Eastern	4.9	3.4	5.1
Spain	**3.9**	**0.6**	**3.0**
Galicia	3.9	0.5	2.2
Principado de Asturias	2.4	na	2.7
France	**4.4**	**1.0**	**3.0**
Bretagne	3.3	1.0	1.9
Aquitaine	3.8	1.0	2.3
Portugal	**3.1**	**0.4**	**2.3**
Norte	4.3	0.4	1.6
Centro	3.7	na	1.6
United Kingdom	**3.6**	**1.0**	**3.8**
South Western Scotland	2.7	1.0	3.2
Northern Ireland (UK)	4.1	0.8 (u)	2.0

Table 18 - Employment in technological sectors, % of total employment, 2016

Figure 11 shows the intramural R&D expenditures (GERD) by sectors of performance at NUTS 2 level, for the year 2013, expressed in euros per inhabitants. R&D expenditures are mostly realised by the business' sector in all the territorial units, even if with relevant differences in the figures: Spain and Portugal show lower expenditures if compared with both the European average and the other countries. Even more variable are the R&D expenditure made by the Government sector: the range goes from very small value of expenditure in the case of Portuguese regions and the Scottish one in the UK, to the very high values of France and, notably, Spain. As could be expected, higher education sector, especially in Portugal, realise quite high R&D expenditures while the values for the private no-profit sector, where available, look neglectable.
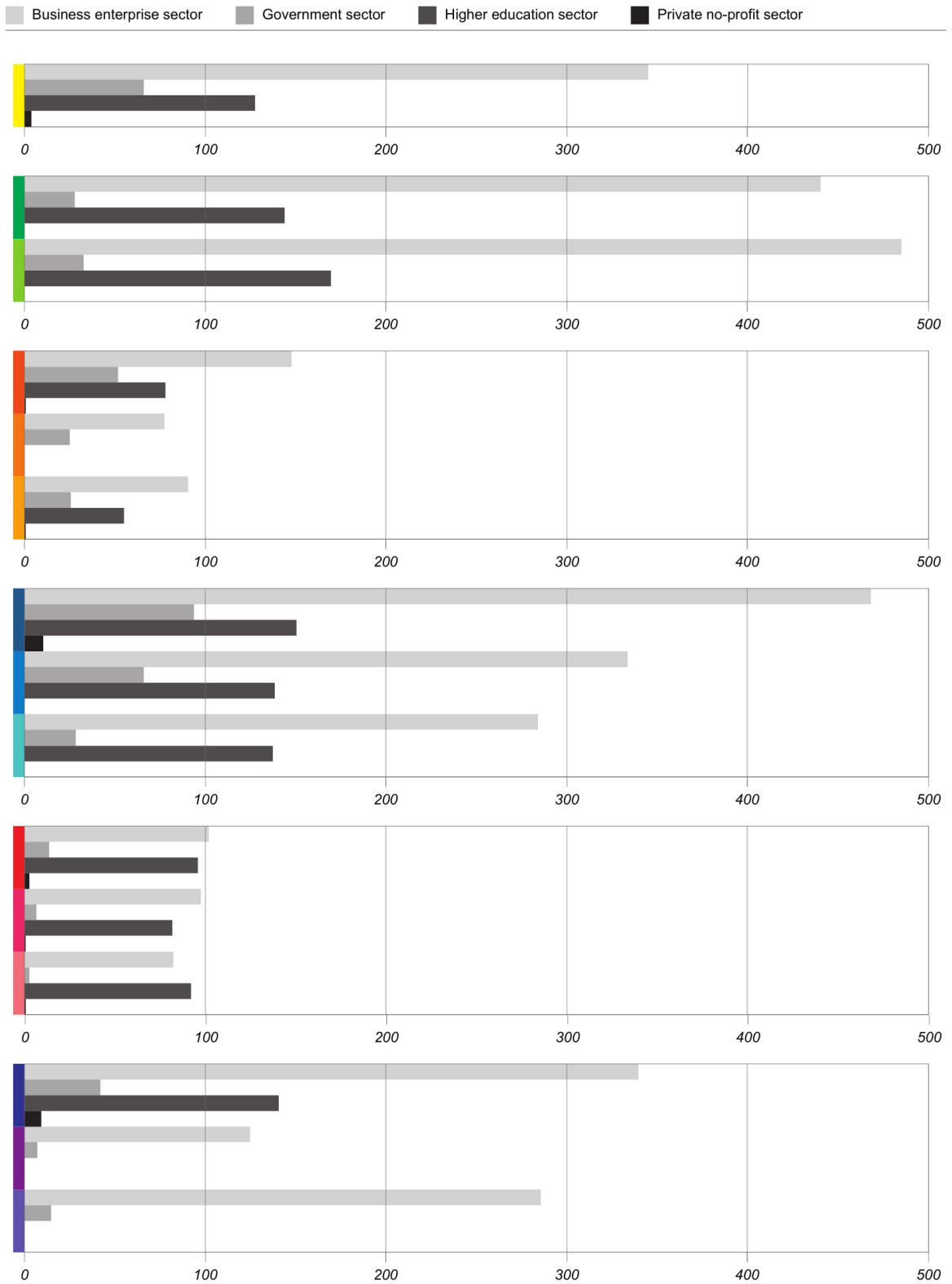
Figure 11 - R&D expenditure by sector of performance, euros per inhabitants, 2013

To conclude, figure 12 presents a comparative assessment, developed in the context of the 8th edition of the European Commission's Regional Innovation Scoreboard[12] (RIS), of the performances of innovation systems across 220 European regions. The RIS is a synthesis of a set of indicators grouped into four clusters (framework conditions, investments, innovation activities and impact) leading to a classification of the European regions into four innovation performance groups: Innovation Leaders (53 regions; United Kingdom belongs to this group), regional Strong Innovators (60 regions, Ireland and most of France belong to this group), regional Moderate Innovators (85 regions; Portugal and Spain belong to this group), and regional Modest Innovators (22 regions).

In the UK[13], both Scotland and Northern Ireland are classified as "Strong Innovator", (Scotland is "Strong +" while Northern Ireland is "Strong –") and with innovation performances which have increased over time, particularly in the case of Northern Ireland. In France, the region of Bretagne is part of the area called *Ouest* in the RIS and is qualified as "Strong - Innovator" with innovation performance that has increased over time; the same trend has been assessed for Aquitaine, placed in an area qualified as a "Strong + Innovator". Ireland's Southern and Eastern is also a "Strong + Innovator", with increasing performances over time. As for Portugal, both *Norte* and *Centro* regions are classified as "Moderate + Innovator" but the regional profile report underlines that innovation performance has decreased significantly over time in the case of Centro region, while it has increased for the *Norte*. Spanish regions present the less favourable situation: both *Galicia* and *Principado de Asturias* are qualified as "Moderate Innovator", with *Galicia* showing a stable performance over time and *Principado de Asturias* a decreasing one.

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[12] See http://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/innovation/facts-figures/regional_en
[13] All regional profiles are available at http://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/innovation/facts-figures/regional_en

Regional performance groups

- Modest −
- Modest
- Modest +
- Moderate −
- Moderate
- Moderate +
- Strong −
- Strong
- Strong +
- Leader −
- Leader
- Leader +

Canarias

Guadeloupe Martinique

Guyane

Mayotte

Réunion

Açores

Madeira

REGIO*gis*
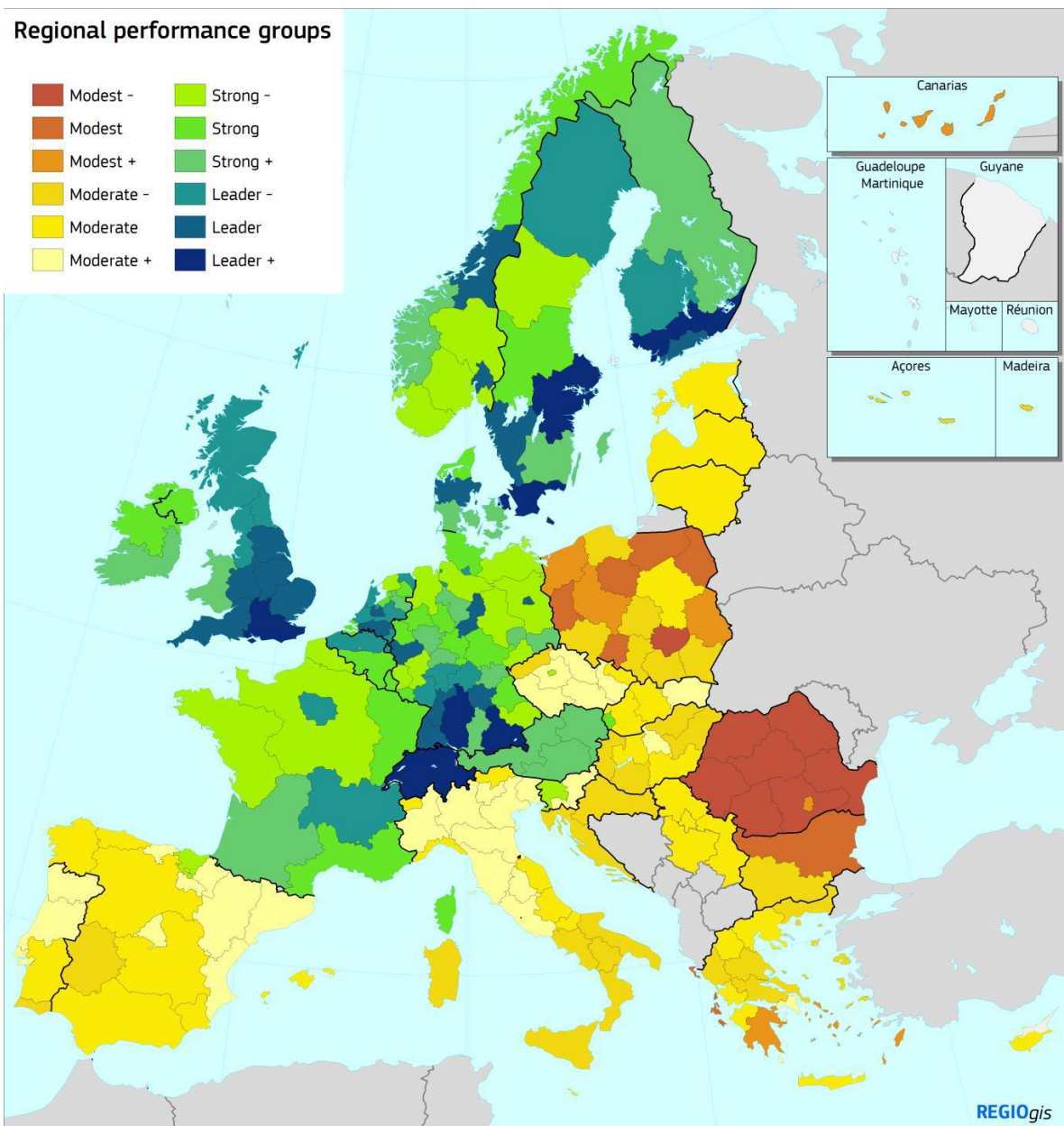
Figure 12 - Regional performance groups according the 8th Regional Innovation Scoreboard, 2017

2.8. Social Enterprises

Social innovations, according to the Guide of Social Innovation, prepared with the support of European Commission in 2013, can be realised both within the public and the private sector. One of the relevant agents of social innovation, even if no sector or actor can be said to have a monopoly on this issue, are the so-called social enterprises. Their definition varies across Europe, since they can take numerous forms, are engaged in multiple spheres of activity and have legal structures that can vary from country to country.

The European Commission uses the term 'social enterprise' to address "an enterprise whose primary objective is to achieve social impact rather than generating profit for owners and shareholders; which operates in the market through the production of goods and services in an entrepreneurial and innovative way; which uses surpluses mainly to achieve these social goals and which is managed by social entrepreneurs in an accountable and transparent way, in particular by involving workers, customers and stakeholders affected by its business activity"[14].

In this way, social enterprises often aim at tackling through their activities challenges related to smart, inclusive and sustainable growth. Researches on social enterprises have observed that these ventures are introducing many more new-to-the-market innovations than mainstream businesses, suggesting that even though small in numbers (marginal or niche), social enterprises nevertheless hold valuable insights and intelligence regarding social innovation for Europe.

Given their relevance for the topic of social innovation, this final section is dedicated to social enterprises. It is based on a series of country reports[15] prepared under the request of the European Commission and released at the end of 2014, representing the first in-depth study using a common definition and approach aimed at outlining the main features of social enterprises in 28 EU Member States, as well as offering a detailed overview of social enterprise eco-systems across countries. The first paragraph in this section focuses on the policy and legal frameworks put in place by the countries object of this study, while the following one presents in comparative perspective the available data on the social enterprises in Atlantic Area countries.

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[14] See http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/social_business/index_en.htm

[15] Despite the growing interest in social enterprise and increasing levels of activity, the European Commission realized that there is a limited understanding about the current state, size, and scope of social enterprises in Europe. To fill this gap, the Commission launched this study in April 2013 as a follow-up to its 2011 Communication on the Social Business Initiative (SBI). All the relevant documents are available at: http://ec.europa.eu/social/

2.8.1. Policy Frameworks for Social Enterprises

A key finding of the European Commission study is that, at the time of this research, only a few European countries had written policies encouraging and supporting the development of social enterprise (figure 13). Some others were in the process of developing specific policy frameworks while others did not consider it necessary to introduce targeted policies or preferential treatment for social enterprises over other types of enterprises.
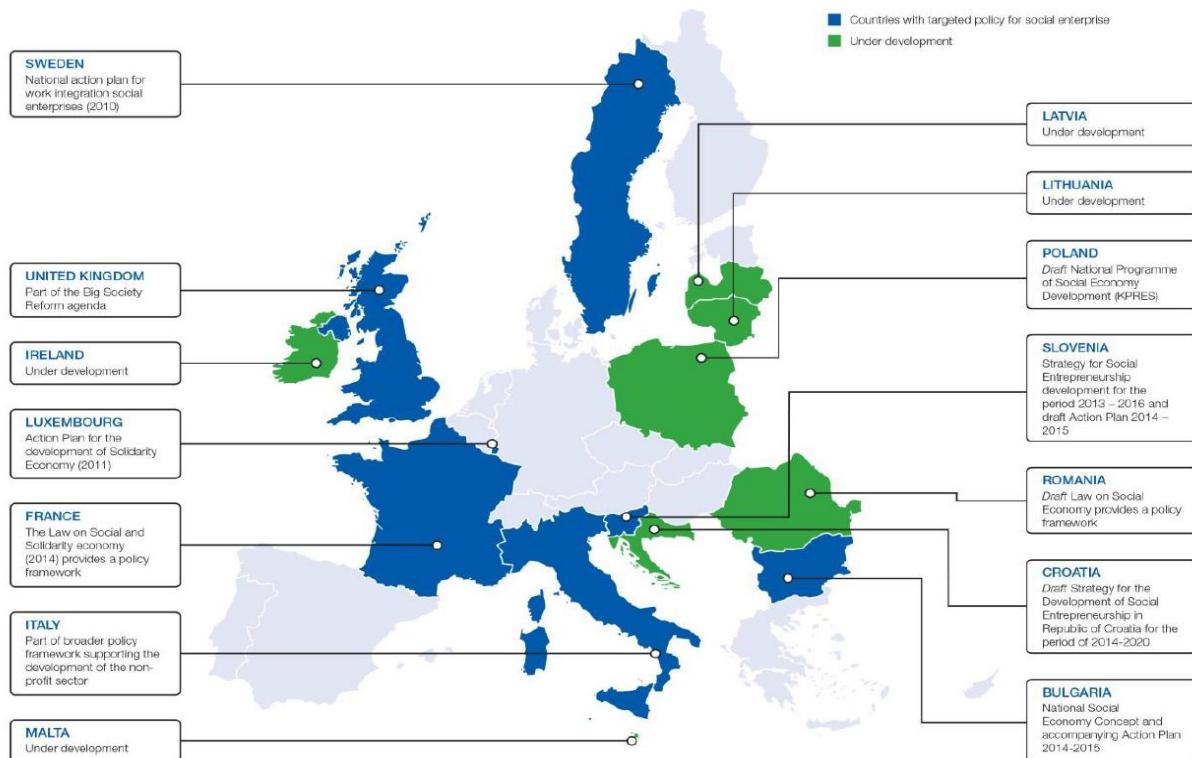
Figure 13 - National policy framework for social enterprises; source: European Commission (2013)

Focusing on our Atlantic Area countries, in 2013, France and United Kingdom were among the countries in Europe with a defined a policy framework for social enterprises, while Ireland's one was under development (and it is still in progress). A specific policy framework is missing both for Portugal and Spain. However, a broader number of countries in Europe have defined some kind of legislation that recognises and regulates social enterprise activity. In the case of the Atlantic Area countries[16], the approach chosen refers to the adaptation of existing legal forms to take account of the specific features of social enterprises: France created a new legal form for social enterprise by adapting the cooperative legal form, Spain and Portugal recognise social cooperatives in their existing legislation covering cooperatives and Portugal also changed the status of Private Institutions of Social Solidarity to enable them to pursue

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[16] No information is available on Ireland on this issue.

commercial activities, while the UK created its social enterprises legislation by specifically adapting the company form.

Taking as a point of reference the definition used by the European Commission (social enterprises as enterprise for which the social or societal objective of the common good is the reason for the commercial activity, where profits are mainly reinvested with a view to achieving this social objective, where the organisation or ownership system is inspired to democratic or participatory principles) table 19 summarises the families of institutionalised or "de facto" social enterprises in the countries object of this study.

	Institutionalised	Type
France	Enterprise for the reintegration of economic activity Enterprise of service for the employment of disabled people	Cooperatives (SCIC, SCOP) Mutuals Non-profit organisations (Associations and foundations) Mainstream enterprises pursuing an explicit and primary social aim
Ireland	There is no institutionalised form of social enterprise in Ireland	Company Limited by Guarantee, which is the most common legal form within Ireland, and which can be used by social enterprises Friendly societies, which include organisations that provide financial welfare to specific groups (e.g. the Irish Grocers Benevolent Fund) Credit Unions, which may provide finance to social enterprises and which on some counts may themselves be considered social enterprises Industrial and Provident Societies, the most usual legal form of cooperatives
Portugal	Social solidarity cooperative under Cooperative Code (Law no 51/96)	Private Institutions of Social Solidarity (IPSS)
Spain	Social initiative cooperatives under National law 27/1999 and regional laws Sheltered Employment Centres (Law 13/1982) WISE (Law 44/2007)	Worker-owned companies Non-profit organisations with commercial activities
United Kingdom	Community Interest Companies (CICs) A sub-set of Social Enterprise Mark holders	Members of Social Enterprise UK Organisations self-identifying with social enterprises on the basis of the governmental definition

Table 19 - Families of social enterprise in the five Atlantic Area countries

Source: European Commission (2013; 2016)

In France, the social economy has high political recognition and this is reflected in the existence of specific structures within government as well as in the various

legislative initiatives regarding the sector. The expression "social enterprises" is still not widely used, but is gaining visibility. The specific legal status of SCIC (*société coopérative d'intérêt collectif)* has been introduced in 2002, while a more encompassing framework for social enterprises and social economy (Law on Social and Solidarity Economy, July 21st 2014) was adopted in 2014. This Law does not contain a specific definition of an organisation belonging to the SSE, but provides a set of criteria to appreciate whether an organisation can or cannot be considered as the one providing a social utility and therefore whether it can be included into the perimeter of SSE. The number of available public support schemes and general interest of public authorities in the development of social economy/social enterprises is one of the highest among EU Member States. In particular, since the crisis, the authorities have become more active in the area of social economy, considering the support to this sector as one of the policy responses to the crisis. It should be noted that while EU funds play a relatively small role in the French context, regional authorities in the country are very proactive on this sector, if compared with their peers elsewhere in Europe.

The other Atlantic country where policy framework is more advanced, is the UK, which has a long tradition of social enterprise of one form or another and the concept is therefore well established and recognised. Since 2001 the UK government created a dedicated Social Enterprise Unit within the (then) Department of Trade & Industry, and this Unit published its first strategy in 2002. Community Interest Company ("CIC") legal form has been created as part of the 2004 Companies Act and it has played a key role in the development of the social enterprise sector. The development of the sector has been reinforced through the 2012 Public Services (Social Value) Act, and by the new tax-relief from 2014 for social investments. There is a very large number of support schemes for social enterprises delivered at UK, national, regional and local levels, most of which are operated and delivered through partnerships or networks of support providers.

As for the Iberian countries, the social enterprise concept is not yet fully stabilised in both of them and political and public debates refer mostly to the notion of social economy.

Portugal was the second country in the world to have a law on cooperatives, on July 2, 1867. Notwithstanding, national initiatives on the sector are relatively recent: The Social Economy Law, nº 68/XII, has been adopted on the 13th of March of 2013. The law states that SSE organisations are represented in a so-called Economic and Social Council and in other bodies having the competency to define strategies and public policies in support of SSE (such as the National Council on Social Economy, CNES). The growing interest of the government in the sector is reflected in some initiatives of public support, including the establishment of some "public-social partnerships" (such as CASES, a partnership between the Government and some Social Economy federative bodies) and the design of special subsidies. Private Institutions of Social Solidarity (IPSS) have a specific status which relates associations, mutual and foundations with the social security system. Social solidarity cooperatives are considered equivalent to IPSS for

cooperation agreements with the government. The lack of knowledge and a legal framework for social enterprises creates problems in terms in perceiving the ambit of social enterprises within the social economy, including the special category of social insertion enterprises, cooperatives which have a social and societal mission but are not social cooperatives, associations with commercial activities which are not IPSS and even businesses that primarily pursue a social mission.

Spain also has a relatively long tradition of social economy, dating back to the nineteenth century, with more recent developments in the last few decades. Following the examples of some other Member States, such as Italy, the legal form of social cooperatives was introduced with the National Law 27/1999. Some significant developments have been realised during the decade of the 2000s but a key intervention is the Law on Social Economy (Law 5/2011) of 2011, aiming at establishing a legal framework that supports and recognises social economy as a separate economic sector that requires substantive actions of public promotion and support. However, while the concept of social economy has a regulation, social enterprises does not have yet a specific regulation, neither a targeted public support and funding. Furthermore, the decentralised nature of the Spanish state builds a diverse mosaic of policies and social economy movements at regional level.

As for Ireland, there has been an increasing interest in the role of social enterprises at governmental level and a legal framework to promote and support social enterprises is currently under development. So far the majority of the social enterprise in Ireland have opted for the legal form of companies limited by guarantee (and not having a share capital). While there are no fiscal incentives specifically available to social enterprises, since the year 2000 two schemes have addressed the social economy more broadly: The Social Economy Programme and the Community Services Programme.

2.8.2. Available Data on Social Enterprises

The different political acknowledgement of social enterprises, as well as their different definitions and understandings, is reflected in the different efforts countries have made to collect and make available data on the sector. This consideration suggests that the data presented in this paragraph have limited comparability, and should be approached as a preliminary overview of the sector in Atlantic Area countries.

France is among the countries where timeliness, accuracy and scope of available data on the social economy is comparatively higher, the most relevant initiatives are the annual data collected by the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) and the primarily data collection made by the National Observatory on Social and Solidarity Economy (*Observatoire National de l'Economie Sociale et Solidaire*). Governmental actors, such as the Ministry of Economy and Finance, also provide figures for the sector: estimates made by the Ministry for social economy sector accounts for over 2.4 million employees and over 200,000 entities in France.

These figures are broadly in line with the calculations of National Observatory on Social Economy concerning number of social enterprises which assumes that by the end of 2012 there were almost 223,000 Social Economy organisations employing 2,341,346 persons. According to these sources, social economy in France accounts mostly for micro and small entities (94.5 per cent of all of the population) but with a few relevant large organisations (employing more than 250 people) such as *Caisse d'épargne Banque populaire* (banking sector), *Macif* (insurance), *Maif* (insurance), *Matmut* (insurance), *Croix-rouge française* (humanitarian aid), Association des paralyses de France (social care) or AFPA (vocational training). As for the fields of activity, social economy in France is strongly concentrated in social care sector, while other important segments of the economy are finance/insurance (traditionally some French cooperatives and mutuals operating in the financial sector are quite established) and education. In terms of geographical distribution, data reveals that beyond the capital region of Ile-de-France, other regions such as Rhône-Alpes, Provence-Alps-Côte d'Azur as well as two western regions of Bretagne and Pays-de-la-Loire have a strong presence of social enterprises.

As for the UK, the most widely cited and used data collection on social enterprises is the Small Business Surveys commissioned by the responsible UK Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), a large-scale telephone survey among business owners and managers. The SBS 2012 edition survey was based on 4,000 CATI interviews, to which the Welsh Government, Scottish Government and Northern Ireland Assembly added commissioned additional interviews in to generate a total sample size of 5,723. The estimation of the business' population is of some 284,000 social enterprises, or 5.9 per cent of the business population. Building on the number of enterprises estimated in the SBS, data from the Cabinet Office indicates that there was an estimated total of 1,145,200 people employed by social enterprises in the UK in 2012, although most sources refers to a lower figure of 973,700 people, generated by the exclusion of employees in large social enterprises. According to the UK Cabinet Office 2013 report 'Social Enterprise: Market Trends'[17] UK social enterprises, if compared to the overall UK population of SMEs, are statistically more prevalent in the food/accommodation, health, and arts/leisure sectors, and less prevalent in the manufacturing, construction, information/communications and business services sectors.

In Portugal[18] there are some regular reports elaborated by the National Institute of Statistics (INE) and CASES (Social Economy Satellite Account, SESA) and the Social Security Institute. According to the SESA 2016, whose data are referred to 2013, there are 61.000 social economy organisations. The Private Institutions of Social Solidarity (IPSSs) are about five thousand, representing 50.1% of the gross value added and 63.4

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[17] This Report is also based on the 2012 Small Business Surveys data. The Report is available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/205291/Social_Enterp rises_Market_Trends_-_report_v1.pdf

[18] See Ferreira (2015) for more a detailed discussion on the Portuguese case.

% of the paid employment of the Portuguese social economy sector. The panorama of actors in the field however is more variegated, and therefore the Social Economy Satellite Account includes associations and foundations, religious orders and *misericórdias*, non-profit private hospitals and universities, government bodies with private non-profit status, as well as housing and social co-ops, alongside cooperatives in areas such as agriculture, fisheries, manufacturing, commerce, consumption and services and financial activities (Ferreira 2015: 220). The whole sector represents, as a whole, 2.8% and 5.5% of the Portuguese gross added value and paid employment, respectively. The field of activity of IPSS includes social assistance and care services of general interest (76.4%), culture, sport and leisure (6.4%) housing and local development (2.9%), education (1.6%) health and welfare (3.3%) and religious cults (8.0%). There are 108 social solidarity cooperatives. There is a strong focus on social inclusion, though there are also newer developments, including fair trade and recycling. The 2013 satellite account of the Portuguese social economy shows that social action, culture, education, sports and recreation are most important in number of organisations. Data available are scarcer for the other two countries.

In Spain there is no institution responsible for systematically collecting data on social enterprises: The Spanish National Statistical Institute (INE) only considers cooperatives as part of the social economy while CEPES, the Spanish Confederation of Social Economy Enterprises (*Confederación Empresarial Española de Economía Social*), includes in its statistics all the entities that are covered by Law 5/2011. The statistics compiled by CEPES seem to be the most comprehensive and therefore can be used to estimate that the scale of the social enterprise amounts to 7,830 entities in 2012 (7,086 of which being associations carrying economic activity).

Lastly, as for Ireland, a 2013 review made by Forfás - the national policy advisory board for enterprise, trade, science, technology and innovation dissolved in 2014 - reported that 1,420 social enterprises were active in Ireland in 2009, employing over 25,000 people, with a total income of around EUR 1.4 billion. However, this review employ an estimation based on the numbers of enterprises registered in 2009 on a non-profit business database (supplemented by experts' knowledge of the social enterprise sector), more than 63% of which did not generate any revenues from trading activity. An application of the EU operational definition would therefore reduce the total number of social enterprises among this group to around 520 (in 2009). According to the 2013 Forfás review, almost a third of all social enterprises were found to work in childcare. A wide diversity of sectors, including arts, tourism and leisure, social housing, social services, and environmental services.

2.9. Macro Level Analysis Conclusions

This Conclusion aims at collecting and highlighting some of the main information emerging by the broad analysis realised so far. The five Atlantic Area countries range from the intensely populated United Kingdom to the scarcely populated Ireland, with significant differences at the subnational level related to the different economic vocations of the areas and to the different geographical conditions. Distribution of population by broad age groups indicates Ireland as the "youngest" country, while France, Spain, and particularly Portugal, as the "oldest". Looking at data related to the education levels of the population, the five countries can be grouped in two clusters: Spain and Portugal present definitively higher percentage of population with low levels of education with respect to the other three countries, with Norte and Centro regions in Portugal presenting worst performances than the national value.

Rates of the active population are lower than the European average in Ireland and France, at the national level, and in all the regions, with the only exception of Centro in Portugal. The trend of the employment rates is growing, or at least stable, for all the territorial units and, symmetrically, unemployment rates are decreasing or stable in all the situations. However, the level of the rates is different among the countries, with a pretty stable difference of more or less ten percentage points between the two countries in every year, with Spain and Portugal experiencing a more critical situation.

Ireland presents the higher GDP per capita, followed by United Kingdom and France, whose values are still above the European index, while Spain and Portugal's figures are below it. In terms of mean and median income, Ireland, France and United Kingdom all presents similar figures, surpassing by more than double the Portuguese ones. According to analyses of the OECD, Portugal, among European countries, has one of the highest levels of relative poverty and is one of the most unequal countries with respect to disposable income.

As for social expenditures, although social and welfare models applied in the European countries have common characteristics, these are differently organised in the analysed countries. Following established academic analyses, it can be observed that models in place in the five Atlantic Area countries are three: the Continental model (France), emphasising employment as the basis of social transfers so that the benefits are linked to income; the liberal or Anglo-Saxon model (United Kingdom and Ireland), emphasising the responsibility of individuals for themselves, with smaller social transfers than in other countries, more targeted and "means tested" and the Mediterranean model (Spain and Portugal), where the low level of social transfers is partly counterbalanced by the traditional strong supportive role of family networks. Despite the differences in governance models and political approaches, across the OECD countries the volume of social expenditures as percentage of the GDP has been quite stable, on average, since 2009, at the historically high figure of 21%. All the five countries present percentages above this value, with the exception of Ireland, which traditionally

have a relatively low level of social expenditure. The expenditure for pensions, everywhere the largest social protection programme, are significantly higher - compared to the EU average - in France, quite in line in the UK and below the average value in Spain, Ireland and Portugal.

In line with what is happening everywhere across Europe, for all the Atlantic Area countries it is visible the decreasing trend as for voter turnout at parliamentary elections, particularly worrying for Portugal and France. However, at least for Ireland and to a lesser extent for United Kingdom and France, the proportion of people engaging in voluntary work is quite high.

Atlantic Area countries show different situations and degrees of satisfaction with life conditions: citizens rate their general satisfaction broadly in line with the OECD in France and Spain, while they express higher level of dissatisfaction in Portugal, with UK and Ireland's citizens expressing satisfaction in some areas and dissatisfaction in others. At least in the case of France, this satisfaction is reflected in the data about people at risk of poverty or social exclusion: this country is one of the lowest values in the whole EU with respect to indicators related to inequality and poverty. On the other side, with the exception of United Kingdom, whose value is in line with the EU one, the other countries – Portugal, Spain and Ireland – present a more critical situation. Particularly critical is the situation of Spain, which is among the Member States for which AROPE rate has grown from 2008 to 2015, along with Greece and Cyprus.

Looking at the entrepreneurial context, France, Spain and the United Kingdom give a home to some of the largest active enterprise populations in Europe. Irish entrepreneurs have among the highest job creation expectations and entrepreneurs are twice as likely to start a business to pursue an opportunity rather than out of necessity. The "Total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity" rate also has high values for the United Kingdom and for Portugal, where austerity measures have driven unemployment levels to record highs, with many responding by turning to entrepreneurship. Portugal has increasingly reported consistent improvement in entrepreneurship framework conditions thanks to efforts to reduce bureaucracy, while Spain is still lacking behind the other countries.

High business birth rates are evident for both Portugal and the United Kingdom: however, in the case of Portugal, death rates are high as well, signalling a high turnover in the population of business enterprises. As for the employer enterprises the highest birth rate is that of United Kingdom and high values are also recorded for Spain and Portugal, at the national level.

Spain is the only country where the percentage of innovative enterprises is below the European average and is significantly detached from the Irish situation in this respect. In terms of employment in innovative sectors, in manufacturing industry and KIS, Ireland performs well above the other countries, while Portugal presents value below the European average. This is partially the case also for Spain, the only difference between the two Iberian countries being that Spain shows a percentage of employment

in the KIS in line with the European average. High percentages of employment in the KIS can be appreciated also for United Kingdom, among the main knowledge-intensive economy of the world.

Finally, focusing on social economy and social enterprises, only few European countries had written policies encouraging and supporting the development of social enterprises: France and United Kingdom are among the countries in Europe with a defined a policy framework, while a specific policy framework is missing both for Portugal and Spain, and under definition in Ireland. The different political acknowledgement of social enterprises, as well as their different definitions and understandings, is reflected in the different efforts countries have made to collect and make available data on the sector. While some information on the sector can be appreciated for France and United Kingdom, data are quite scarce for the other three countries, signalling the relevance of projects such as Atlantic Social Lab also for collecting information and produce knowledge on this sector.

CHAPTER 3 – MESO LEVEL ANALYSIS

3.1 Methodology

In this section, the methodology that was used for the meso level analysis will be discussed. Focus groups will be addressed and explained by what is meant by meso level analysis and what was intended with Focus Groups within the ASL.

3.1.1. Meso Level Approach

The meso level approach studies the experiences of groups and the interactions between groups. Thus, gaining an understanding of the social effect of interventions through the analysis of the organisational outputs and societal outcomes. The current meso level analysis will provide an individual and collective perception of the territorial stakeholders to assess which needs are considered the most urgent to fill and what strategies are being/can be implemented to minimise them and consider an overview of policy or support mechanisms for social innovation. Therefore, the present analysis was done using focus groups with regional stakeholders, articulating the dimension of governance with academic research.

3.1.2. Focus Group Method

Beginning with a broader, more comprehensive and simplistic definition of the method chosen for this meso analysis – The Focus Group, Kind (2004) states that, the focus group is a data collection procedure in which the researcher has the possibility to listen to several individuals at the same time, on a particular subject. In addition, the researcher will be able to observe the existing focus group interactions. When compared with the European Commission view, in its Guidebook for Socio-economic Development Assessment - EVALSED, Technical Manual II (2004), the focus group is a social research method already well-established, and was initially used in market studies, and is now widely applied to a variety of application contexts, within academic research.

Morgan (1997) considers the focus group as a research technique for collecting data through group interaction on a topic presented by the researcher (the organiser/researcher will be the one that will guide the group dynamics). In this way, Morgan (1997) affirms that there are three essential focus group characteristics:

1) the focus group is a research method directed to the collection of data;

2) locates the interaction in the group discussion as the primary source in the data collection;

3) the individual who has formed and/or suggested the focus group has an active role in facilitating group discussion.

The method makes it possible to bring together different individuals or stakeholders involved in a program, project or idea (managers, technical staff, users and others) and collect a vast amount of qualitative information within a relatively short period. Therefore, sharing and comparing their experiences and points of view, participants generate new knowledge and understanding regarding the problem (EVALSED, 2004). According to Nery (1997) apud Kind (2004, p. 127), these are the purposes of using the focus groups method:

- Explore small population samples;
- Further research into the motivations, desires and lifestyles of groups on the topic under discussion;
- Understand group language and perspectives;
- Test concepts, questions and assumptions for the research and future investigations;
- Bring more content and follow other qualitative research;
- Obtaining more information about a particular context, product or phenomenon.

Thus, the focus group is a discussion and debate of ideas, values, and ways of seeing a particular problem, which will provide an interesting data collection for a specific study that can be from several levels, from business to academic. This method will then have to have a guide, moderator or discussion facilitator that aims to guide the group so that the debate has the desired effects, and for the discussion become a focus group, it has to "spin" in a well-defined and clear problem and its participants will have to have a set of common characteristics related to the topic under discussion (Silva et al., 2014; Eaton, 2017).

In the ASL project, the Focus Groups had an approximate number of 10 individuals and the duration of one-two hours[19], the only necessary material was: one room with chairs and a whiteboard, scenery paper, ribbon glue and markers of various colours. Generally, the focus group purpose was to address the following topics/themes: regional social needs and regional social innovation strategies, which were questioned in different phases during the focus group:

- <u>First Phase: Nominating Social Needs</u> - The objective is to identify all the needs to be pointed out by the participants;

- <u>Second Phase: Ranking social needs</u> - The objective is to know the votes that each participant gave to the social needs and the reasons that were behind the choices;

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[19] With the exception of the French partners that carried out a different focal group methodology, the following sections will explain which methodology was used

- Third Phase: Assessing Social Needs - The objective is to identify all strategies to be carried out to respond to the needs;

- Fourth Phase: Raking the Assessment of Social Needs - The objective is to identify which are the essential strategies after the selection process, including the votes for each one and the reasons that were behind the choices.

3.2. Focus Groups in the Atlantic Social Lab Project

The Atlantic Social Lab partners that have utilised the Focus Group, as previously mentioned, are divided into the following countries: Spain, Portugal, United Kingdom (Northern Ireland), Ireland and France. Regarding the social innovation process, proposed by this project, several stages should be followed and reached. First, it is necessary to analyse social needs and challenges in each territory by elaborating the mapping to identify: new/unmet / inadequately met social needs; development of new solutions in response to these social needs; evaluation of the effectiveness of new solutions in meeting social needs; scaling up of effective social innovations. Thus, the Focus Group sessions are a qualitative methodology that allowed the experience and knowledge of social agents working in each territory to be one of the main sources of information and proposal to map the needs of each territory. More precisely, each partner in the respective region conducted a Focus Group on the subject that would be addressed within the Atlantic Social Lab project to map the social needs and possible solutions. The table below shows the partners who conducted the Focus Groups by region.

Within each Focus Group after the presentations and the framing regarding the project and the activity, participants were asked to identify the three social needs that they consider most important to address in the region (First Phase: Nominating Social Needs). It was then proposed that the participants rank the problems highlighted. From this hierarchy were identified the most pressing social issues to be addressed (Second Phase: Ranking social needs). Subsequently, participants were asked to present three concrete actions and strategies to address the main social needs identified (Third Phase: Assessing Social Needs). This process of identifying solutions/strategies also passed a hierarchical process (Fourth Phase: Raking the Assessment of Social).

Subsequently, in order to get a better understanding of each focus groups dynamic and their intervention in the project, a small framework regarding the focus groups will be created. At the same time, an attempt will be made to enumerate and characterise the focus group participants per partner.

Country	Partner	Focus Groups
Spain	- Avilés Municipality - Santiago de Compostela City Council	1 Focus Group 1 Focus Group
United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)	- Enterprise North West	1 Focus Group
Ireland	- Cork City Council	2 Focus Group
France	- Regional Chamber of Social and Solidarity Economy of Bretagne - Agglomeration Community of Pau- Pyrénées	1 Focus Group 1 Focus Group
Portugal	- CIM do Ave	1 Focus Group
Total	- 7 PARTNERS	8 Focus Groups

Table 20 - Atlantic Social Lab Partners

3.2.1. Avilés Municipality

Focus Group Framework

Regarding the topic, the partner chose The Welfare Service as an area to improve and to fill social needs. They focused the discovery of new tools and techniques of social innovation on two essential challenges:

- <u>Access and better use of public resources for people at risk of exclusion</u> - The initial premise is that the most vulnerable people do not benefit most from social, educational and cultural programs due to their lack of knowledge and information.

- <u>Combat job insecurity, creating more labour market inclusion tools addressed to people at risk of exclusion</u> - In the partner's view, socially responsible public procurement is an efficient tool in promoting Corporate Social Responsibility, Social Enterprises and Occupational Insertion Companies, as well as access to the labour market to the most vulnerable target groups.

Contextualisation of the Focus Group Participants

The participant's choice took into account the welfare scope within the social innovation concept, in this way, the mechanism for selecting participants followed the specific criteria of the project: gather different points of view about social needs from all social actors working on this field and figure out the best way to tackle these

problems. Therefore, Avilés Municipality had 10 participants in the focus group dynamic among them were:

- Public Administrations - In a welfare state system, public administrations are responsible for ensuring all citizens' basic needs are met through different public services existing in the city. The following entities were invited to participate in this focus group:
  - Socio-economic Observatory;
  - Municipal Social Services Department;
  - Training and Employment Department;
  - Education Centre;
  - Health Service.

- Social Entities - These institutions support and work closely with the most vulnerable individuals, having a vast knowledge of the social needs that public administrations do not meet The following have taken part in this Focus Group
  - *Caritas*;
  - *Asociación Los Glayus* (association that works with children);
  - *Asociación Ye too ponese* (association that works with young people).

- Civic and Vulnerable Groups Associations - The most vulnerable people's opinions are essential to understanding their needs and the best ways to approach their matters. The following have taken part in this Focus Group representing:
  - A neighbour's association;
  - An association of relatives of people with mental illness;
  - Youth in vulnerable situations.

3.2.2. Santiago de Compostela City Council

Focus Group Framework

Regarding the topic, the partner chose The Public Participation and Engagement as an area to improve and to fill social needs, as well as in the discovery of new tools and techniques of social innovation. The focus group discussion focused the primary social necessities (regarding the participation at community initiatives and population engagement) of the Santiago de Compostela Municipality, as well as some measures to take to solve such needs.

Contextualisation of the Focus Group Participants

The participant's choice took into account the public participation and engagement scope within the social innovation concept, in this way, the mechanism for selecting participants followed the project-specific criteria: gather different points of view about social needs from all social actors working on this field and figure out the best way to tackle these problems. Therefore, Santiago de Compostela City Council had 6 participants, existing a great homogeneity among them, they were and still are socially involved through their participation in community initiatives, or by taking part in the Steering Group for Participative Budget Dynamics, currently being run at the City Council.

From a social-demographic point of view, the participants were people who enjoyed high education standards and a wide range of ages (35 to 65 years old). On the other side, from a perspective, they are residents of different areas within the municipality, with similar weight given to residents of rural and urban areas. The participants were mainly:

- <u>Civic and Group Associations</u> - representatives of neighbour's associations, and;
- <u>Individual Agents</u> - Santiago de Compostela residents.

3.2.3 Enterprise North West

Focus Group Framework

Regarding the context to which the method was applied, this partner chose to "mix" two scopes - Welfare Services, Social Economy and Social Responsibility in the Private Sector. The partner did not properly choose to "mix" the topics, the dynamics of the focus group session led to the emergence of other topics. The same has happened with focus group dynamics with other partners. In this way, the objective is to improve and fill social needs, assess the needs of communities, and to identify the potential to develop locally tailored initiatives (new tools and social innovation techniques) that will aim to improve the social wellbeing and happiness of residents. The focus group session was based on three essential challenges and problems:

- Employment opportunities for the population (focus on young people and people with differentiated social needs);
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation;
- Support for needy families.

Contextualisation of the Focus Group Participants

The participant's choice took into account the welfare and social economy scope within the social innovation concept, in this way, the mechanism for selecting participants followed the specific criteria of the project: gather different points of view about social needs from all social actors working on this field and figure out the best way to tackle these problems.

Thus, Enterprise Northwest had 5 participants during the focus group. The organisations and individuals used within the focus group included representatives from:

- Public Administrations - Derry City and Strabane Council (Municipality);
- Social Entities - Princes Trust (Youth People Scope) and Nerve Centre (Education and Creative Sector);
- Civic Associations Groups / Local Community Development Group - The Whistle Project.

3.2.4. Cork City Council

Focus Group Framework

Contrary to other partners, Cork City Council agreed to hold two separate focus groups; one around The Social Enterprises and Social Economy theme and one around The Civic Engagement / Public Participation theme. Thus the characterisation of the context and participants of the focus group is done separately according to the two proposed themes.

- *Focus Group concerning The Social Enterprises and Social Economy*: This focus group concentrated on the social enterprise theme and aimed to explore the social needs and the needs of Social Enterprises in Cork city and look at how social enterprise could address these needs. It also aimed to generate ideas, actions or strategies which could be pursued to this end as part of the Atlantic Social Lab Project. The PURE CORK - An Action Plan for the City, provided a framework for this focus group. This plan states that social enterprise in Ireland has the potential to grow significantly to generate at least 65,000 jobs and 5% of GDP. The importance given to supporting social enterprise in this plan is mirrored in the questions addressed in this focus group particularly in terms of looking at the needs of social enterprise so that they can emerge, grow and develop to meet the needs of the city. Then focus group concentrated on brainstorming around three fundamental questions:

- o What are the social needs in Cork city that could be addressed by Social Enterprise or Social Innovation and what are the needs of Social Enterprises?
- o How could Social Enterprise or Social Innovation address these needs?
- o What ideas, actions or strategies could be developed to facilitate this?

- *Focus Group concerning The Civic Engagement / Public Participation theme*: This focus group aimed to explore the issues concerning Public Participation in the City and look at ideas or strategies which could address these. It also aimed to generate possible pilot actions which could be pursued to improve Public Participation in the City. As in the previous focus group, The PURE CORK provided the framework for this focus group, as the plan also focused on enhancing and affirming the PPN (Public Participation Network) as a critical vehicle to represent social inclusion, community, voluntary and environmental interests. Then the focus groups concentrated on brainstorming around two key questions:

  - o What are the issues facing Public Participation in the City?
  - o What ideas, strategies or actions could be pursued to improve Public Participation in the City?

Contextualisation of the Focus Group Participants

Regarding the characterisation and contextualisation of the participants, they were also divided according to the two focus groups.

- *Focus Group concerning The Social Enterprises and Social Economy:* The participant's choice took into account the social enterprises and social economy scope within the social innovation concept, in this way, the mechanism for selecting participants followed the specific criteria of the project: gather different points of view about social needs from all social actors working on this field and figure out the best way to tackle these problems. Thus, Cork City Council had 11 participants during the focus group, the participants can be divided and characterised in the following groups:
  - o <u>Social Enterprises</u> - Churchfield Community Trust; Meitheal Mara; Boomerang Enterprises; STEAM Education; Deaf Enterprises;
  - o <u>Local / Public Administration</u> - Cork City Council (Regarding the RAPID and Pure Cork Projects);
  - o <u>Associations and Community Support Organisations</u> - Cork City Partnership Supports; North Side Community Enterprises; Cork City Local Enterprise office.

- *Focus Group concerning The Civic Engagement / Public Participation theme:* The participant's choice took into account the civic engagement / public participation scope within the social innovation concept, in this way, the mechanism for selecting participants followed the specific criteria of the project: gather different points of view about social needs from all social actors working on this field and figure out the best way to tackle these problems. Thus, Cork City Council had 7 participants during the focus group dynamic, the participants can be divided and characterised in the following groups:
    - Local / Public Administration - Cork City Council (Regarding the RAPID and Pure Cork Projects and the Planning Authority and the LCDC support staff);
    - Civic Associations and Community Support Organisations - Cork City Partnership; the Public Participation Network (PPN).

3.2.5. Regional Chamber of Social and Solidarity Economy of Bretagne

Focus Group Framework

Contrary to what was previously established among all the partners, the CRESS partner, due to having already carried out some activities with the local stakeholders and the local community, decided to proceed in a slightly different way regarding the focus groups. For several months now, CRESS Bretagne has been coordinating a regional network of social economy stakeholders focusing on waste-related issues. Organising "meetings" such as the focus group suggested by the Atlantic Social Lab. CRESS, therefore, decided to write a report based on three meetings organised with their stakeholders and other interested parties. The analysis in CRESS report covers the entire Bretagne region.

Regarding the context, this partner chose The Green Inclusive Economy. In this way, the objective was to improve and fill social needs, assess the needs of communities, and to identify the potential to develop locally tailored initiatives (new tools and social innovation techniques) that will aim to improve the social well-being and happiness of residents. The analysis and "focus group" made by CRESS, was thus based on the organisation of several work sessions regarding the recycling social issues:

- A plenary meeting with public stakeholders and social economy stakeholders;
- A regional meeting with Bretagne recycling and resource centres;
- A meeting of back-to-work enterprises and specialist disabled worker's enterprises.

Contextualisation of the Focus Group Participants

The participant's choice took into account The Green Inclusive Economy scope within the social innovation concept, in this way, the mechanism for selecting participants followed the specific criteria of the project: gather different points of view about social needs from all social actors working on this field and figure out the best way to tackle these problems. It should be noted that since the methodology used by CRESS was different from that used by the other partners (as explained above), the number and type of participants also differentiated. Subsequently, participants will be explained and enumerated taking into account each session that CRESS provided:

- A plenary meeting with public stakeholders and social economy stakeholders - This session had a total of 34 participants, including elements from the Public and Regional Administration, Social Enterprises, Civic Associations and Social Entities;

- A regional meeting with Bretagne recycling and resource centres - This session had a total of 42 participants, including directors, employees, and board members from 20 recycling facilities, and initiators of recycling projects in Bretagne, and elements regarding Social Entities and Social Economy;

- A meeting of back-to-work enterprises and specialist disabled worker's enterprises - This session had a total of 7 participants, including directors, employees, and board members from back-to-work enterprise, and elements of Social Entities.

3.2.6. Agglomeration Community of Pau-Pyrénées

Focus Group Framework

Regarding the method context, the partner chose The Welfare Services as an area to improve and to fill social needs, as well as in the discovery of new tools and techniques of social innovation. The focus group discussion focused on a single target: the seniors who are subject to an essential deployment of the public policies of the city of Pau.

Contextualisation of the Focus Group Participants

The participant's choice took into account the welfare scope within the social innovation concept, in this way, the mechanism for selecting participants followed the

specific criteria of the project: gather different points of view about social needs from all social actors working on this field and figure out the best way to tackle these problems.

However, it is necessary to take into account that the methodology used and the number of participants differs from what was postulated among the Atlantic Social Lab partners. Thus, the sessions were based, in workgroup organisation, that is, the focus groups consisted of two groups from within the "*Centre Communal d'Action Social*" (CCAS), with the departments' heads and some of their agents (around twenty people in each case): one united the teams of home nursing aid and another comprised the three services involved with accompanying seniors, including fragile individuals. A third group (around ten people) was organised with social volunteer partners, both institutional and associative.

3.2.7. CIM do Ave

Focus Group Framework

Regarding the context to which the method was applied, this partner chose to "mix" two scopes Welfare Services and Social Economy and Social Responsibility in the Private Sector as areas to improve and to fill social needs, as well as in the discovery of new tools and techniques of social innovation, focusing the focus group discussion in the AVE Social Development Plan (developed by CIM do Ave). The plan has as objective the definition of a supra-municipal strategy for social development that addresses the region social challenges. Therefore, the document defines a strategy to improve the social development of the territory; and to list a set of guidelines and priorities, as well as proposals for action in the various social fields. Thus, the focus group held by CIM do AVE analysed and debated essentially the AVE Social Development Plan, reinforcing the primary needs of the Region.

Contextualisation of the Focus Group Participants

The participant's choice took into account the welfare and social economy scope within the social innovation concept, in this way, the mechanism for selecting participants followed the specific criteria of the project: gather different points of view about social needs from all social actors working on this field and figure out the best way to tackle these problems.

Thus, CIM do Ave had 9 participants during the focus group. Participants included some key players representing:

- <u>Community Associations / Organisations</u> - Sol do Ave Association;

- <u>Local Administration</u> - CIM do AVE, *Póvoa de Lanhoso* City Council, *Guimarães* City Council, *Fafe* City Council, *Vila Nova de Famalicão* City Council, *Mondim de Basto* City Council.

These participants were invited based on their active and close involvement in the social work of the CIM do Ave and on their knowledge of the needs of the region and the participation history and structures in the region and of broader related national policies and local strategies which might get impact on the work of the Atlantic Social Lab project.

3.3. Focus Group in Atlantic Social Lab Project – General Data

This section summarizes the most essential points presented above, general information, such as sessions duration and the number of participants in the focus groups, the type of themes, and participants that attended to the sessions.

General Data Summary	Avilés	Santiago de Compostela	Enterprise NW	Cork City Council	CRESS	Agglomeration Community of Pau- Pyrénées	CIM do Ave
Number of Focus Groups	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Duration of Focus Groups	120	100	180	110/110	NA	NA	90
Number of Participants in Focus Groups	10	6	5	11/7	83	50	9

Table 21 - Focus Group General Data Summary

Concerning the Table 21, it is observable that there is homogeneity in all the analysed parameters. There is only a lack of information and discrepancy within the French Partners (CRESS and Agglomeration Community of Pau- Pyrénées) and the other Atlantic Social Lab Partners. Regarding the Focus Group duration, the lack of information (NA), can be explained by the fact that, the French Partners focus groups approach was slightly different from the other partners. Thus, their dynamics were carried out from several sessions and working groups, not registering precisely the total time of the sessions and working groups. Regarding duration, the discrepancy among the number of participants is explained in the same way, that is, by the fact that the French partners carried out from several sessions and working groups with a larger number of participants.

It should also be noted that, although the French Partners have held several sessions, group dynamics and working groups during the focus group sessions, they gathered all the information as necessary in a single report, therefore, the table concerning the number of focus groups only has one focus group for CRESS and one for Agglomeration Community of Pau- Pyrénées.

Table 22 shows a mean and median summary, regarding the number of focus groups, duration and number of participants. As can be seen, the general parameters of the focus groups agreed between the partners were fulfilled. The insertion of the median arises essentially so that in the question of the number of participants can demonstrate that despite the mean being 22.62, the median is 9.5, meeting the parameters agreed between the Atlantic Social Lab Partners.

Simple General Data Statistic	Mean	Median
Number of Focus Groups	1,14	1
Duration of Focus Groups	118 Minutes	110 Minutes
Number of Participants in Focus Groups	22,62	9,5

Table 22 - Focus Group Simple General Data Statistics

Within figure 14, it can be seen that in Focus Groups, considering the four domains of Atlantic Social Lab, there was a greater emphasis on welfare issues (40%), and a less dominant focus on the Green Inclusive Economy (10%). It is necessary to point to a better understanding of the chart, that the initial Focus Group dynamics has been diluted in other themes when describing the social needs and the possible solutions. Thus, there are partners that despite their focus on a specific theme throughout the Focus Group, have discovered needs and solutions that meet other issues and needs.

The leading partner (Avilés Municipality), despite its focus on Welfare Services, also focused on the Social Economy issue during the focus group. Derry partner (Enterprise NW), beyond the Social Economy and Welfare Services questions, also found needs and solutions that met the Green Inclusive Economy. The partner in the Ave Region (CIM Ave), despite its initial focus on Social Economy and Welfare Service, also highlighted Public Participation and Engagement during the session. These issues will be explained and covered in more detail during the next sections of the report.

- Welfare Services
- Social Economy
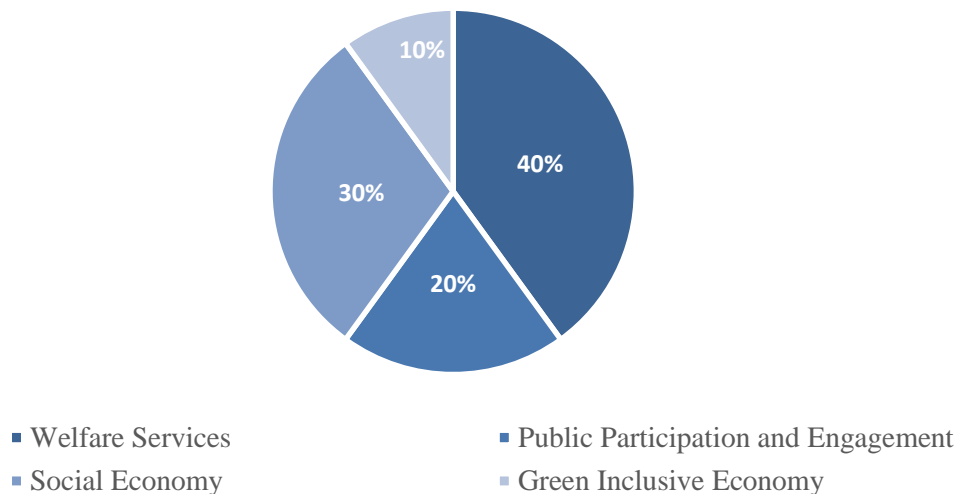- Public Participation and Engagement
- Green Inclusive Economy

Figure 14 - General Topics Addressed in the Focus Groups Sessions

Kanji Tanimoto suggests that there are a variety of organisations around social enterprises that are crucial to ignite social innovation (Tanimoto, 2006).

Figure 15 - Main Entities of Social Innovation

Source: Tanimoto, 2006 p.38

The Figure 16 describes the types of participants in the Focus Group sessions. Thus, based on the study of the author mentioned above and the needs and vicissitudes of the Atlantic Social Lab project and the subsequent Focus Groups, it was decided to divide the types of participants into five distinct groups:

- Public Administration - all agents that act directly in public policies, such as, Government and Local authorities;
- Social Entities - such as, Social Associations, NGO's, Social Enterprises, Back-to-work Enterprises and Social Institutions;
- Civic Associations - takes into account Neighbours Associations; Community Groups and Cooperatives;
- Individual Agents - Neighbours, Residents and General Consumers;
- Private Sector - all the private initiative, such as, Enterprises, Companies and Business Associations.

Thus, it is observable that there is a greater preponderance of the partners in having as participants the actors related to Social Entities (51%), this fact can be explained in the context in which Social Entities, such as associations and social enterprises have a fundamental role in the discovery of social problems and in the subsequent obtaining of solutions for them. Next, the private sector appears with a large number of participants (mainly due to the sessions held by CRESS), with a percentage of 22%. With 18%, appears the Public Administration, namely local authorities. This

phenomenon of participants can be explained by the fact that it is from public policies and by the intervention of local authorities (funding) that can be implemented active and effective social measures. The Civic Associations and the Individual Agents had a combined result of 9%, which could be explained by the fact that these participants were mostly called to participate when the theme was the Public Participation and Engagement.
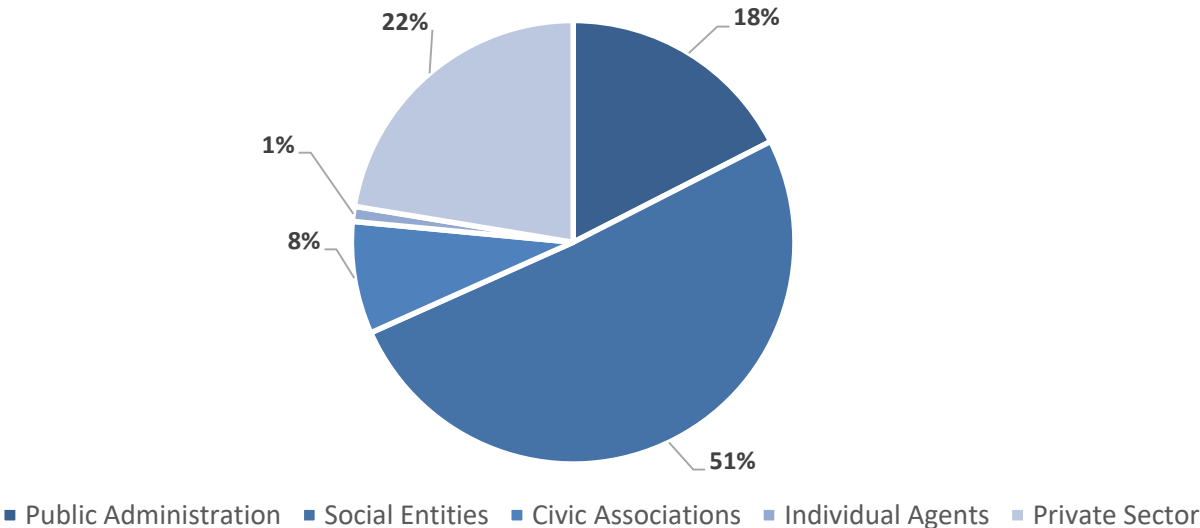

Figure 16 - Type of Participants in the Focus Group Sessions

3.4. Social Needs and Rankings – Results by Partner

This section describes and analyses the social needs encountered by the partners in their regions during the focus group sessions. In addition to the needs found and according to the reports provided by the partners, there will also be made a ranking of the social needs found. The ultimate goal is to make a joint analysis of the social needs detected.

3.4.1. Avilés Municipality

Avilés partner, during the Focus Group session, managed to find five social needs in the region, being directly linked to the issue of Welfare Services and Social Economy. It was confirmed that several vulnerable target groups were always left out of benefits and resources. These target groups are children, especially those living with families at risk of exclusion, young people, social groups at risk of social exclusion, the elderly and the disabled. Then the participants of the focus groups had the opportunity to vote on the problems that they considered most important (each participant had access to three votes). Subsequently, with the votes, a hierarchy of the social needs of the region was obtained. The hierarchy achieved with the votes of the participants was as follows:

1) Problems related to Training and Employment;
2) Problems related to Formal Education;
3) Problems related to Primary and Secondary Social Support Networks;
4) Problems related to Active Participation of Vulnerable People;
5) Problems related to Recreational and Leisure Programs.

As it can be seen, according to the ranking carried out by the participants, the problems that are more prevalent regard two central issues: First, the access and better use of public resources for people at risk of exclusion, that is, the most vulnerable people are not who most benefit of social, educational and cultural programs due to their lack of knowledge, information and due to the education centres not being adapted to children and young people with social difficulties, academic failure and early school leaving. Second, is the question of unemployment. It was confirmed that several vulnerable target groups are always left out of benefitting from resources and opportunities. There is a need for creating labour market inclusion tools addressed to people at risk of exclusion.

3.4.2. Santiago de Compostela City Council

The Santiago de Compostela City Council during the Focus Group session managed to detect five social needs in the region, being directly linked to the Public

Participation and Engagement theme. The participants during the focus group dynamics argued that public consultation and participation are essential, but they have to be oriented to find new solutions to existing problems, such as solving participation problems. They also argued that social and community assessments and consultations should be oriented to particular needs at the municipality of Santiago, in a wholesome way, and carried out by parishes and neighbourhoods. Subsequently, with the votes, a hierarchy of the social needs of the region was obtained. The hierarchy achieved with the participants' votes was as follows:

1) Social and community assessment of the municipality, which must be oriented to real necessities and be unified, even if it is carried out by parishes and neighbourhoods;
2) Encouragement, through education, to participate;
3) Higher focus on the people;
4) Unifying approach;
5) The problems regarding the weakness of civic participation. Necessary but very hard to define rights and responsibilities in participation.

It is noteworthy that, according to the participants, the socio-cultural diagnosis was done centrally and not by the population (parishes and neighbourhoods), being that, the main problem concerning civic participation and engagement. In this way, a significant focus that measures aimed at involvement should have a greater emphasis on people and population, to attract more people to local polling stations. There was also an engagement and participation "approximation" that does not unify the people, as well as a large community that does not have the information or the "education" necessary to participate.

3.4.3. Enterprise North West

The Enterprise North West Focus Group session managed to denote six social needs in the region, being directly linked to Welfare Services. Additional topics addressed included the social economy, private sector responsibility and the green economy. This fact may reflect that some problems are directly connected with others and that in turn innovation and social entrepreneurship can interconnect a vast panoply of issues and solutions. The focus group case conducted by Enterprise North West illuminates and demonstrates this premise quite well. The ranking of the six social needs found is:

1) More opportunities/ jobs for young people;
2) More locally based jobs for people from disadvantaged communities;

3) Increased levels of entrepreneurship and innovation;
4) More locally based jobs based in the community;
5) Further support for mental health;
6) Further support for families (early intervention).

For each detected need, the partner listed some factors that contribute to it.

1) More opportunities/ jobs for young people:
   o Focus on the output of number of attendees rather than the outcome;
   o Young men in the young enterprise group dropped out when young women stayed;
   o No knowledge of the full range of options open to the young people;
   o Other issues to consider when dealing with young people: mental health, addictions, self-harm, homelessness and offending background.
2) More locally based jobs for people from disadvantaged communities / More locally based jobs based in the community:
   o Recognition needed that circular economy (green economy) holds a unique opportunity for creating jobs, meeting new ways of provisioning goods and services, and eliminating waste in Derry;
   o Need to develop local city wide initiatives but also an opportunity to develop and implement local community initiatives and even smaller targeted initiatives with the support of the local authority;
   o Need to engage with local companies to actively inspire business to re-think traditional supply chain operations and adopt the principles of the circular economy and increase the levels of local examples of industrial symbiosis being achieved.
3) Increased levels of entrepreneurship and innovation:
   o A lack of a common project and vision for the city can discourage entrepreneurs as it erodes confidence in the city's and region's assets making the decision to create a company in that city or region more difficult;
   o There is a lack of examples of entrepreneurs succeeding locally and creating jobs and wealth for the city;
   o There are few financial tools designed to support local entrepreneurs in Derry;
   o There is no "entrepreneurial ecosystem" in Derry.
4) Further support for mental health:
   o Mental health is 25% higher in NI than any other part of the UK. Evidence suggests that levels of poor mental health are in the upper end of the international scale within Northern Ireland due to the conflict that was experienced by the society;
   o Those living in lower socioeconomic groups are more likely to experience

chronic ill-health and die earlier than those who are more advantaged. Individuals in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland are twice as likely to show signs of a mental health problem (30%) than those in the least deprived areas (15%).

5) Further support for families (early intervention):
   o The realisation that a lot of the social issues that are within the city need to be addressed in the home environment with children and parents being support better and having access to the correct type of support needed.

3.4.4. Cork City Council

As previously explained Cork City Council decided to hold two focus groups. The focus groups reports will be analysed separately. The nomenclature will be: Focus Group 1 - Social Economy (Social Enterprises) and Focus Group 2 - Public Engagement.

Focus Group 1 – Social Economy (Social Enterprises)

The focus group session held by the Cork City partner first began by naming some general social needs in the region. The needs enumerated by the participants were: Needs related to the elderly; Needs related to house provision and; Needs related to the apprenticeships. Subsequently, the focus tried to relate these social needs to the role of social enterprises in the region. In this way, it is clear that although the focus group session focuses on the social economy and social enterprises, this issue is directly and closely related to issues such as welfare services. In short, participants selected six emerging social needs directly related to social enterprises (the ranking is below):

1) The rigidity of public and governmental policies concerning social enterprises;
2) Employment in social enterprises is precarious and complicated. They need more support so that people can work in these organisations at full time;
3) Lack of expertise in social enterprises which needs to be filled;
4) Need for more research and analysis into the costs and benefits of social enterprise employment;
5) Need to identify and value currencies other than money when measuring the costs and benefits of social enterprises;
6) The gap in the governance capacity of boards of social enterprises which needs to be addressed.

During the identification and ranking of the social needs in the focus group held by Cork City Council, it is clear that the needs encountered and mentioned are based on

three central problems. First, there is the lack of legislation and clear definition concerning the social enterprises, second the lack of institutional and governmental support to the social enterprises, and finally, the lack of clear understanding and analysis of the social benefits that social enterprises can bring to society.

Focus Group 2 – Public Engagement

Cork City Council during the Focus Group session managed to identify five social needs in the region, being directly linked to the Public Participation and Engagement issue. The participants during the focus group dynamics seven social needs on this issue of public involvement:

- There is a lack of knowledge amongst the public as to where they should go to engage in different issues;
- The issue of whether officials are really willing to engage with the public;
- How to inspire people in disadvantaged areas to participate more;
- How to increase voter engagement and educate people on the importance of participating in the voting process;
- How do to match the professional timeline to the voluntary sector - the voluntary sector does not operate on a 9 am to a 5 pm timetable;
- How to overcome cynicism? There was agreement that there is cynicism amongst the public concerning public participation. Many believe that their views and opinions are not taken into consideration and that requests for participation are token gestures;
- How to ensure that there is a two-way communication process in public participation and that the public participation process moves forward from the consultation step.

Then the participants of the focus groups had the opportunity to vote on the problems that they considered most important (each participant had access to three votes). Subsequently, with the votes, a hierarchy of the social needs of the region was obtained. A hierarchy of 3 social needs was obtained that "fused" the social needs mentioned above:

1) There is a lack of knowledge of the structures available to engage with. People are unclear as to where they should go to engage with government on different issues;
2) It generally tends to be the same people and groups who participate and engage all the time. There is a need for new groups and communities to be stimulated to engage. These new communities or groups need not be geographical;

3) Some structures which had previously been very strong in the city have been weakened in recent years, and this means there is a specific gap in relation to the more disadvantaged communities in the city and their voice at a city-level.

Taking into account the social needs mentioned and hierarchized, it is observable that the biggest problems related to public participation are: the education for participation, lack of knowledge of how, when and where to participate, and only a minimal "stratum" of the population participates. Thus, the population "real voice" is not really heard, but only a part of it, that belongs to the social elites, leaving the rest of the population and the more unfavourable ones, outside of the decision-making process.

3.4.5. Regional Chamber of Social and Solidarity Economy of Bretagne

CRESS had a different methodology from the other partners (as stated before) for the information and data collection, therefore, the elaboration and enumeration of the needs was also different. The partner during all the dynamics, sessions and workshops that were performed, denoted three broad groups of social needs that encompass a wide range of social needs and problems, and that should and could be solved by social innovation. The social needs encountered regard the Green Inclusive Economy, but at the same time, they have a close connection with the Social Economy. Thus, the social needs encountered by the participants were:

- Coping with dwindling natural resources;

- Necessities regarding social ties:
    - Difficulties of low-income households cannot access products at affordable price;
    - Difficulties with grassroots involvement in the environmental challenge to cut the consumption of natural resources;
    - Problems with social ties in remote areas that are a long way from urban centres.

- Work-related needs:
    - Dealing with job losses caused by facility closures (incineration and landfill centres) and job relocations due to regrouping and massification of waste in large urban centres;
    - Supplying work support for people in social insertion;
    - Suitable jobs in the territory for people who lack qualifications;

o   Professionalising work relating to reuse and recovery (recycling and repairs).

The partner did not rank the found social needs. However, it is possible to observe a significant concern on the part of the participants with the reduction of the intensive use of natural resources. That said, there is a very close link between the social issues of employment, the living standards and unfavourable population to the environmental issues. According to the social needs resulting from the sessions carried out by CRESS, a wide range of social problems is due to environmental issues, and many environmental problems can be solved by solving at the same time other social problems and needs, such as, unemployment, low-income households, population at risk of exclusion, etc. Thus, according to the CRESS findings, it can be stated that finding solutions for one need/problem, another can also be solved.

3.4.6 Agglomeration Community of Pau- Pyrénées

This partner managed to find two great social needs in its respective region, directly linked to Welfare Services. The Agglomeration Community of Pau-Pyrénées had into account a single target, the seniors who are subject to an important deployment of the public policies of the city of Pau. Thus, the two primary social needs found were:

- Isolation problems and integration needs:
    o   Needs regarding the residential access;
    o   Needs regarding the mobility and movement;
    o   Needs regarding the social link;
    o   Needs regarding the caregiver support.

- Problems with the access to rights and helping seniors to exploit them
    o   Communication and identification needs;
    o   Lack of cross-cutting and coordination of the involved parties;
    o   Lack of support for administrative and daily tasks.

Despite the non-hierarchy of the two primary social needs mentioned by the participants, the partner mentioned that three major factors explain the emergence of these priority problems in the Pau area: The Struggle Against Isolation and Accessibility to Rights. First, the sociologic and demographic factors, according to them there is a concentration of the elderly in Pau town centre, the core of the *Communauté d'Agglomération Pau Bearn Pyrénées*. This is accentuated by the departure of families with children between 2009 and 2014. The population over 60 years old represented almost 30% of the total population of Pau in 2014. Second, the organisational factors,

the Agglomeration Community of Pau- Pyrénées states that the French decentralisation laws make the organisation of the sanitary-social and medical actions more complex. Finally, the urban factors, the partner states that the evolution of an ageing population creates problems with certain obsolete housing estates, the renovation of shared properties and their common areas.

3.4.7 CIM do Alve

CIM do Ave during the Focus Group session managed to find eight social needs in the region, being directly linked to Welfare Services and Social Economy. It was confirmed that several vulnerable target groups were always left out of benefits and resources. These target groups are children, especially those living with families at risk of exclusion, young people, social groups at risk of social exclusion, the elderly and the disabled. Thus, the eight social needs encountered during the dynamics were as follows:

- Mental health;
- Disabilities;
- Care dependency in old age;
- Poverty and social exclusion;
- Domestic violence and children and young people at risk;
- Social economy, social innovation and social entrepreneurship;
- Accessibility;
- Institutional coordination, articulation and capacity building.

Regarding the social needs ranking, the Ave region partner did not ask the participants to do a ranking during the focus groups session, but instead, asked the participants to identify which of those social needs stood out as the most critical and urgent need to be resolved. All of them have chosen the social needs related to the social economy, social innovation and social entrepreneurship. The participants thought that the needs concerning the social economy and social entrepreneurship are the needs which the public entities could have a more active and dynamic participation, as well as the promotion and involvement of several stakeholders to find possible solutions to a broad range of social problems.

3.5. Social Needs and Rankings – Joint Result

In this report section, a brief summary of some essential points discussed above is presented. Subsequently, there will be a joint result for the population affected (targets) by the social needs encountered, as well as a gathering and comparison of the social needs encountered. Thus, in order to analyse the population covered by the found social needs, it was necessary to make groups of individuals taking into account the analysis made in the previous session. After the analysis, the following population groups were formed, covered by the social needs encountered during the Focus Group dynamics:

- Youngsters and Children - This population group includes all children, youth and adolescents who suffer some kind of social need mentioned in the focus groups. In this group belong children and young people as a whole, from the so-called "normal" young people, or the young people with early school drop-out rates, high rates of delinquency and vandalism, indices of drug use, or merely having different integration and educational needs or come from needy families;
- Elderly People - This population group encompasses all the elderly population that has problems and social needs mentioned in the focus groups, such as lack of mobility, isolation, poverty, among others;
- Disabled People - This population group characterises the entire population with some kind of disability or special educational needs that has problems and social needs mentioned during the focus groups dynamics;
- Unemployed People - This population group takes into account the entire unemployed population that has problems and social needs mentioned during the focus groups dynamics;
- Vulnerable People / Risk of Social Exclusion - This population group needs a more in-depth explanation, during the Focus Groups dynamics, there was a high tendency to talk about the unemployed, the disabled people, the youngsters at risk and the elderly, but on the other hand, other groups of individuals were mentioned, groups that can also be defined as more vulnerable and risk groups which. These groups were not specified as those mentioned above. Thus, this population group includes individuals suffering from problems and abuse of alcohol and drugs, vulnerable families, domestic violence, with higher poverty rates, who are more displaced from social centres and urban and may suffer from greater isolation and lack of information and low-income households. In short, this cluster harbours the remaining most vulnerable population at risk of social exclusion;
- Others - This population group includes the remaining population that may have problems and social needs mentioned during the focus groups dynamics. This cluster was created to characterise the resident population of the regions that

are in the focus group genesis that do not fit the previous population groups, such as neighbours, consumers and residents in general.

After the creation of these population groups, they were analysed, and the data is featured in the chart below (figure 17). Based in references in the Focus Groups, the population group that experiences a greater direct or indirect range of problems and social needs is the vulnerable people with 22%. This can be explained by the fact that many of the social needs observed in the focus groups mention specific groups of individuals such as the elderly, children, and the unemployed, but at the same time they also mention other groups of individuals at risk of exclusion or vulnerability, such as victims of domestic violence and families at risk of poverty. Subsequently, 18% belongs to the disabled people. During the majority of the focus group reports analysed, there was a great concern about the needs inherent with this population, with constant concern for the standard of living, employment and health of these individuals. With 17%, it can be observed the population groups of the young people and the others. As with the question of the disabled people, there is a constant concern about the levels of school drop-out and schooling of young people in the regions. Finally, with 13% each, are the groups of the unemployed and the elderly. The issue of unemployment is also a concern of many of the partners as regards employment rates and opportunities for the local population, which is often linked to youth unemployment and opportunities for young people.
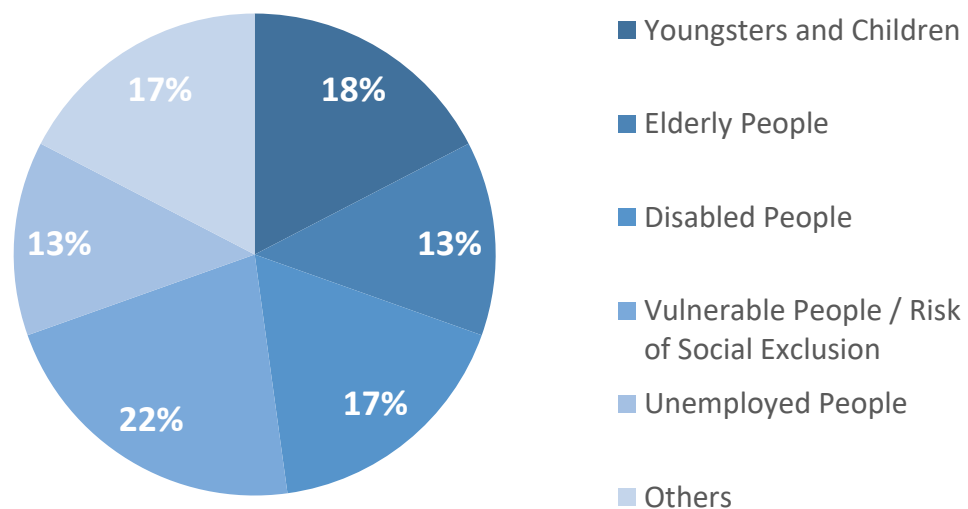

Figure 17 - Focus Groups Target Population

When set beside with the population groups, the same thing was necessary to be done with the social needs in order to obtain a brighter and precise analysis. Thus, it was essential to create groups of social needs mentioned during the focus groups to facilitate the data analysis. In addition to the analysis of the needs encountered in the Focus Groups, it was also necessary to take into account and correlate the social needs that according to the European Union can be considered as common set of major social needs, challenges and opportunities (Demographic change and aging Social inclusion and cohesion; Tackling poverty; Environmental protection; Increasing awareness and promotion of social innovation; Political change; Economic reform). After the social needs analysis, the following social needs groups were formed:

- <u>Educational and Training Needs -</u> This group of social needs takes into account the needs mentioned during the focus groups that have in their genesis problems at the educational level, such as early school dropout, learning problems, difficult access to teaching, lousy teaching conditions, few teaching facilities, among others. This group also has in its genesis, problems of civic and political training;
- <u>Employment Needs -</u> This group of social needs takes into account all aspects concerning the employability, ranging from the most general issues of unemployment to problems with working in social enterprises;
- <u>Public Engagement Needs -</u> This group of social needs encompasses all issues of public engagement. This group includes issues such as the lack of population interest to participate, the difficulty in participating, the lack of confidence in the public sectors on this issue, among others;
- <u>Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Social Economy Needs -</u> This group of needs encompasses all the needs and problems concerning the lack of innovation and entrepreneurship. In addition, it also has in its genesis the question of social economy, that is, everything that includes problems with social entrepreneurship, social enterprises among others;
- <u>Support and Integration Needs of Vulnerable Families and Individuals -</u> This group of social needs encompass all the integration needs, vulnerability and social isolation of families and individuals (such as the elderly, children, disabled, among others);
- <u>Need for New and Improved Public Policies -</u> This group of social needs comes from the understanding that, some needs and problems come from outdated public policies, lack of coordination between public bodies and lack of political engagement with social issues;
- <u>Environmental Concerns -</u> This group of social needs encompasses all the adjacent problems concerning the green economy.

After the creation of these social needs groups, they were analysed, and the data is featured in the chart below (figure 18). The most significant share belongs to the social

needs concerning the support and integration of vulnerable people and families. This fact can be explained by the fact that this category covers a large part of contemporary social concerns (seniors, poverty, young people at risk, disabled people, among others). This concern is practically transversal in all areas of social action. Therefore, it appears continuously as a necessity to improve and an active and permanent need in contemporary societies. Then, with 18%, there are the problems related to employability, once again the constant concern with unemployment in contemporary societies is demonstrated. Subsequently, with 14% each, appear the needs related to entrepreneurship, innovation and social economy and the needs regarding the public engagement. The issue of innovation and entrepreneurship is something that has become a concern in the modern societies, because it is from these dynamics that one region can achieve good social and economic levels. With one percent less, the issue of education and training appears with 13%, this slice occupies the fifth place in the groups of needs mentioned so far. Finally, the needs for new and improved public policies and concerns about the environment and the green economy appear at 9% each. It should be noted that this concern for the environment is growing in terms of relevance.
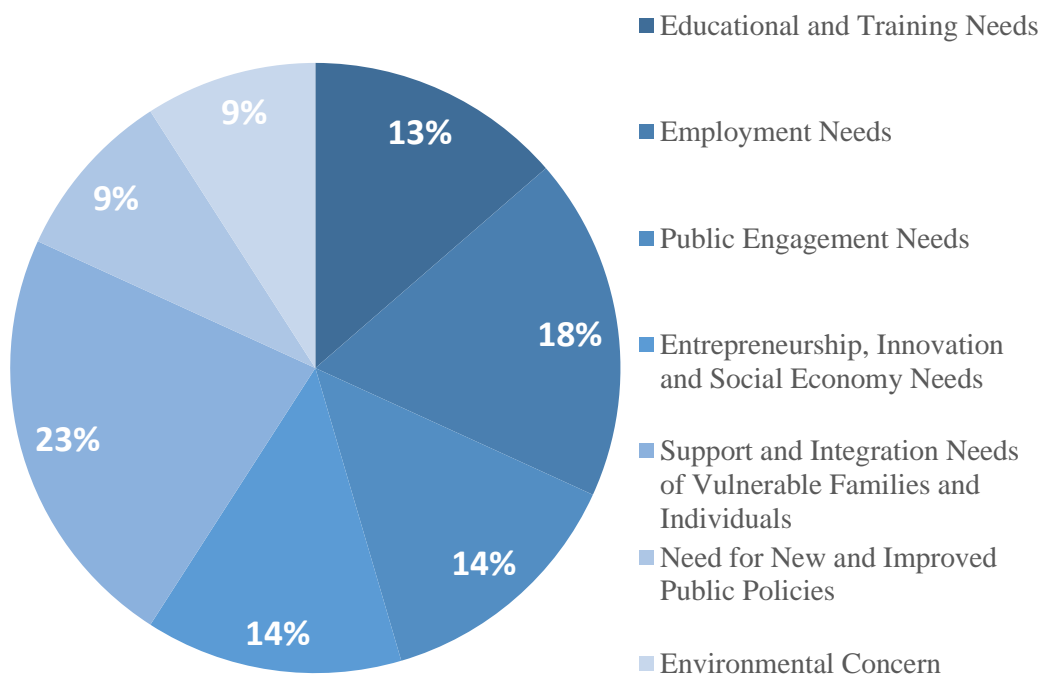

Figure 18 - Social Needs Found During Focus Groups

In the course of the analysis, it was pertinent to create a synthesis table and some charts that could summarise the groups of social needs addressed by each partner during the focus groups, the social need most voted by the participants and the general focus group topic.

As can be seen in table 23, according to the topics The Welfare Service and Social Economy (Figure 19 and 20), it is possible to observe that although during the focus groups the partners want to treat the topics in a separate away, they are often correlated, as is the case of Derry Region and Ave Region. In addition, there are three social needs that are always are addressed during the discussion: Support and Integration Needs of Vulnerable Families and Individuals, Employment Needs and Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Social Economy Needs. Regarding the topic The Public Engagement and Participation (Figure 21), it is clear that the two major issues are: Public Participation Needs and Needs for Better Public Policies, as well as greater coordination among all governmental, associative and institutional actors. Finally, the theme related to the Green Economy, denotes needs concerning the Environment and Education (Figure 22), as well as a strong correlation with the employability that this sector can bring.
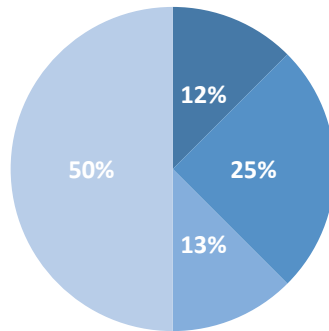
- ■ Educational and Training Needs
- ■ Employment Needs
- ■ Public Engagement Needs
- ■ Support and Integration Needs of Vulnerable Families and Individuals

Figure 19 - Welfare Services Needs
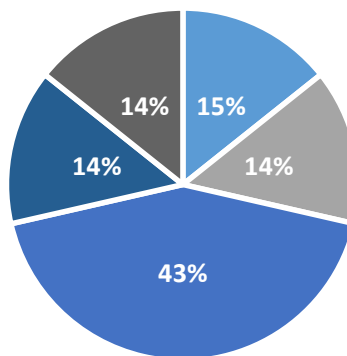
- ■ Employment Needs
- ■ Public Engagement Needs
- ■ Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Social Economy Needs
- ■ Need for New and Improved Public Policies
- ■ Environmental Concern

Figure 20 - Social Economy Needs

- Educational and Training Needs
- Public Engagement Needs
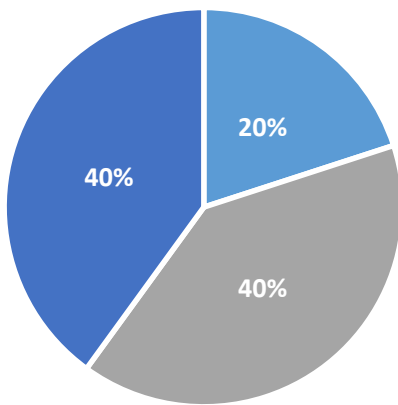- Need for New and Improved Public Policies

Figure 21 - Public Participation and Engagement Needs
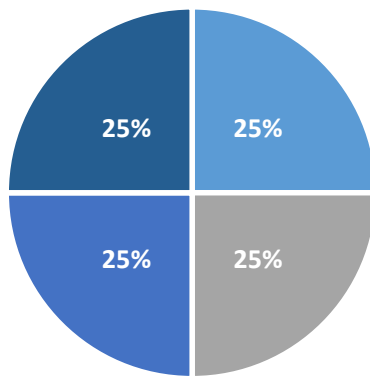
- Educational and Training Needs
- Employment Needs
- Support and Integration Needs of Vulnerable Families and Individuals
- Environmental Concern

Figure 22 - Green Inclusive Economy Needs

ASL Partner / Social Needs	Educational and Training Needs	Employment Needs	Public Engagement Needs	Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Social Economy Needs	Support and Integration Needs of Vulnerable Families and Individuals	Need for New and Improved Public Policies	Environmental Concern	Most Voted Social Need	Focus Group Discussion Topic
Avilés Municipality	⊗	⊗	⊗		⊗			Problems related to Training and Employment	The Welfare Service
Santiago de Compostela City Council	⊗		⊗			⊗		Social and community assessment of the municipality	The Public Participation and Engagement
Enterprise NW		⊗		⊗	⊗		⊗	Jobs for young people	The Welfare Services and Social Economy
Cork City Council		⊗	⊗	⊗		⊗		Focus Group 1: The rigidity of public concerning social enterprises Focus Group 2: Lack of knowledge amongst the public as to where they should go to participate	Focus Group 1: Social Economy Focus Group 2: The Public Participation and Engagement
CRESS	⊗	⊗			⊗		⊗	NA	The Green Inclusive Economy
Agglomeration Community of Pau-Pyrénées					⊗			NA	The Welfare Services
CIM do Ave			⊗	⊗	⊗			Social needs related to the social economy, social innovation and social entrepreneurship	The Welfare and Social Economy

Table 23 - Aggregated Social Needs Information by Focus Group Session

Thus, taking into account all the collected needs and the ranking made by the participants in the Focus Groups, it is possible to make the following classification of needs by the countries/regions:

- Spain (Avilés and Santiago de Compostela Region) - Social problems related to unemployment and population training, as well as lack of active public participation and coordination among the various public, institutional and organisational actors;
- Ireland (Cork Region) - Lack of legislation and public support concerning the social economy sector, more specifically regarding the social enterprises. On the other hand, there is limited public knowledge and participation;
- Northern Ireland (Derry Region) - The primary concerns of the region are centred on entrepreneurship and innovation, there is a strong link between this need and the environmental and employability problems of the younger population;
- Portugal (Ave Region) - Since this region is undergoing a regeneration, evolution and improvement of its business and industrial fabric, the greatest need found regards the entrepreneurship and innovation, with a strong relationship with the employability of the region;
- France (Region of Bretagne and Pau) - There are two distinct realities, on the one hand we have Bretagne that has an active concern with environmental policies and employability in this sector, on the other hand, in the region of Pau, there is a concern on elderly population, in particular, the access to information and care.

3.6. Strategies, Actions and Rankings – Results by Partner

3.6.1. Avilés Municipality

The Avilés partners, during the Focus Group session, grouped the social needs into three groups and later elaborated solutions and strategies for each of these groups. During the Focus Group session, the participants did not make any hierarchy among the strategies found. Thus, this report will mention which are the groups of needs and then carry out a summary of the actions and strategies according to each need:

- <u>Strategies regarding Training and Employment - </u>As measures and strategies, participants pointed out measures to support hiring, such as, encouraging the creation of insertion companies and introducing social clauses in public procurement procedures as a tool to achieve the integration of disadvantaged people into the labour market Regarding the training question, the participants were more concerned with the supporting and training of specific target groups and individuals. The strategies mentioned were, for those more at risk of exclusion, it will be necessary to set up medium-term training and employment itineraries and include classroom and outdoor activities, leisure activities and adapting training strategies to every target group and creating tailored training programs;

- <u>Strategies regarding Formal Education - </u>Regarding this social need for formal education, the found strategies are mainly concerned with the cooperation among the various public bodies, associations and institutions, as well with the direct support for children and families in need. One of the solutions goes through the use of a teamwork methodology between the education community and the municipal services (social services, education department, youth department) to tackle the problems disadvantaged minors face to integrate, as well as academic failure and early school leaving through comprehensive strategies. Besides, it is still mentioned that should be created, learning communities with neighbourhood social actors, as well as, extracurricular activities;

- <u>Strategies regarding social support networks - </u>The strategies that participants pointed out were essentially to meet the isolation issue by the creation of social networks that allow the identification, accompaniment and help of the most isolated and vulnerable people. For this purpose, the participants suggested measures of implementation of neighbourhood-oriented resources, activities and social interaction programs, making sure the programs are targeting people living in specific neighbourhoods and can be isolated and with communication

difficulties, as well as adapting information and communication channels to specific target groups within specific neighbourhoods.

Considering the strategies found by the focus groups participants, some general points can be denoted. First, the public services and resources (departments working in education, training and employment, social services and health) must make constant effort to adapt to the needs of the most vulnerable groups. Second, the necessity to use an interdisciplinary approach that will have a more significant impact, and therefore, will facilitate target groups benefitting from public services and resources. Finally, it is necessary to start one-to-one support and accompaniment to enable disadvantaged people to know about services and resources.

3.6.2. Santiago de Compostela City Council

The Santiago de Compostela partners, during the Focus Group session, created and grouped four types of general solutions and then deployed each in various strategies. There is mention that the strategies were ranked hierarchically, appearing from the beginning by hierarchy order. Thus, this report will mention which are the groups of general solutions and then carry out a summary of the actions and strategies according to each group:

- Social and community assessment of the municipality, oriented to real necessities and unified, even if it is carried out by boroughs and districts:
    - The assessment should come accompanied by concrete measures which are economically viable and offer a unifying picture;
    - Fieldwork, coordinated with groups who work in the area;
    - A defined work plan as a starting point.

- Encouragement to participation through education:
    - The activities need to be structured by age and educational level groups and have to be linked to the knowledge of new technologies;
    - Resources, information and communication, must be completely transparent;
    - The participation contents have to be well defined.

- Higher focus on the people:
    - Sociocultural centres should not be only for leisure activities, but also to address the problems of the residents;
    - The administration must be close to the people and be efficient.

- Unifying approach;
  - The perspective of both rural and urban areas must be permanently present;
  - Representatives of each social group (rather than territorial) must always be present.

Considering the strategies found by the focus groups participants, some general points can be denoted. First, there is a focus on solutions and measures regarding the proximity of local government to the population, some solutions were suggested such as: fieldwork, coordinated with groups who work in the area and the administration must be close to the people and be efficient. These possible social innovation strategies denote that there is a lack of framing between measures and actual needs, "government of the people, by the people, for the people." There is also a "range" of strategies that invokes the education of individuals to participate, according to the solutions indicated above, there is a need to train and educate people for participation, but with "weight and measure", in this case, according to ages and level of education. Finally, the question of social groups is also observable, that is, according to focus group participants there must be a greater heterogeneity in representativeness: Representatives of each social group (rather than territorial) must always be present.

3.6.3. Enterprise North West

The Derry's partner has used a methodology of strategies that focus directly on each of the social needs mentioned above (point 3.4.3 of this report). During the focus group session, five social needs were mentioned, the participants for each of these social needs tried to find several possible solutions and strategies. During the group dynamics, due to a large number of strategies and solutions, these strategies were not ranked, but the most important and achievable were underlined. Thus, to avoid giving an exhaustive and extensive description of all the solutions mentioned in this focus group session, only the underlined strategies in the report provided by Enterprise North West are mentioned:

- Possible strategies to achieve more opportunities/jobs for young people:
  - More use of digital innovation to engage with young people within the school environment and outside.

- Possible strategies to achieve increased levels of entrepreneurship and innovation:
  - Promote entrepreneurial activity in the city (Amongst citizens, amongst public leaders and existing institutions), Derry could develop a campaign to raise awareness about the importance of entrepreneurship. This

activity/campaign is particularly pertinent to Derry as the private sector is not always viewed as positively as it is in other cities;

- o Training 'capsules' and incubators to respond to a broad range of entrepreneurial needs. At each stage of the development of their business, entrepreneurs will require technical or moral support;
- o University student led incubators. Incubators that are created with a research and innovation mandate should be located within or nearby universities, research centres or technological parks in order to bring together researchers, laboratories, research facilities, companies and start-ups.

- **Possible strategies to achieve more locally based jobs for people from disadvantaged communities / subject related with circular and green economy:**
  - o Support businesses in preparation for re-use and recycling;
  - o Pay as You Throw (PAYT) schemes;
  - o Embed Zero Waste Circular Economy principals into economic development plans and business funding;
  - o Develop a local market for secondary material.

- **Possible strategies to achieve further support for mental health:**
  - o Due to the lack knowledge in the focus group concerning this issue the members highlighted that they didn't have depth of knowledge to be able to formulise strategies to deal with mental health support systems. However, there was a recognition in the group that a more comprehensive support system was required in the City due to the high levels of deprivation that exists within the City and that the planned 24 Crisis / Intervention Centre was much needed.

- **Possible strategies to achieve further support for families (early intervention):**
  - o Social Cafes / Repair Cafes with the support of local café owners and multinationals that had cafes or social spaces that could be easily accessed;
  - o Staff to volunteer in community-based programmes (Young Enterprise) to bring inspiration to young people and those from a long background of unemployment.

After a more in-depth analysis of the defined strategies, it is possible to summarise some strategies and solutions mentioned by Focus Groups participants. There is a considerable correlation between the issue of innovation and entrepreneurship, the employability of the younger generation and the dynamism of the green economy. The vision that the participants have for the region goes through a

lot of the entrepreneurial and innovative dynamism regarding the city, always trying to conjugate with an approximation of the private sector with the general population. At the same time, such dynamics will stimulate the creation of jobs for the youngsters and of course for the rest of the population. In short, all the vision, strategies and solutions found, aim at an approximation between these three social needs, dynamization of innovation and entrepreneurship, combining with the green and circular economy, directly affecting the employment and training opportunities of the younger generations.

3.6.4. Cork City Council

As explained in the previous sections, Cork City Council decided to hold two focus group sessions with two different discussion topics. Thus, in this session to better understand the strategies regarding each focus groups topic, the focus groups reports will be analysed separately.

Focus Group 1 – Social Economy (Social Enterprises)

The Cork City partners, during the Focus Group session, created and grouped five general solutions / strategies. In the report provided by the partner, there is mention that the strategies were ranked hierarchically, appearing from the beginning by hierarchy order. Thus, this report will mention which are the groups of general solutions / strategies:

- Define, Connect and Map Social Enterprises and Social Enterprise Support Services in the City - A networking event could be organised to contribute to this mapping process while also facilitating networking and knowledge exchange;

- Provide Case Studies on Social Enterprises in the region – Assisting in the exchange of knowledge and experience;

- Provide coaches/mentors and additional supports in place for Social Enterprises to cover gaps in expertise - This would then provide the experience and learning to enable item 4 (see above) to be developed in the medium-term;

- Provide Social Enterprises with Toolkits - across a variety of areas such as data protection, employee support and others;

- Develop and grow an educational programme - for the management for Social Enterprises in conjunction with learning institutions in the city.

Analysing the strategies found during the Focus Group, it is observable that there are some central solutions and strategies to solve the social needs that the region has regarding the social enterprises. The strategies are based on the effective and legal recognition of "what is a social enterprise", "what they serve" and "what is their real contribution to society". Besides, there is a need to organise and create synergies of knowledge among this type of organisations. Thus, in addition to the necessary synergy between social enterprises, there is also the need for external factors to intervene and help in their definition, learning and training, and one of the strategies is to develop and grow an educational program for the management of Social Enterprises in conjunction with learning institutions in the city, as well as the integration of coaches/mentors and additional supports in place for Social Enterprises to cover gaps in expertise.

Cork has refined these general strategies into the following practical actions:

- Organise a mapping event where social enterprises will be identified and mapped geographically as well as in terms of their key characteristics.
- This event will also identify their needs, facilitate networking and link social enterprises with support organisations based in Dublin. These support organisations provide funding, mentoring, tool kits and other supports specifically for social enterprises.
- Organise a series of events which will provide training and advise to social enterprises on identified areas of need for example governance, access to finance, procurement etc.
- These events will also facilitate networking between social enterprises and further cement links with Dublin based support organisations.
- Organise an event to create links between social enterprises and private sector organisations building relations and contributing to procurement potential

Focus Group 2 – Public Engagement

The Cork City partners, during this Focus Group session, created and grouped three general solutions/strategies. In the report provided by the partner, there is mention that the strategies were ranked hierarchically, appearing from the beginning by hierarchy order. Thus, this report will mention which are the groups of general solutions/strategies:

- <u>New processes of engagement</u> - Use a joint piece of local area based planning as a pilot for testing new processes of engaging with the public;

- Develop a plan to simplify and improve the public engagement process - Key to this is ensuring that the technical language used in government documents is simplified for the layperson;

- Provide officials with training and support on public participation - Part of this involves providing officials with tools to better facilitate engagement.

Considering the strategies mentioned by the participants, it is possible to denote that there are two very salient pillars in the proposed solutions. There is a consistent concern with the strategies that invokes the education of individuals to participate, according to the solutions indicated before, there is a need to train and educate people for participation. Subsequently, and related to this one, there are the solutions regarding the engagement communication and organisation. Thus, it can be stated that, is intertwined with the population training on how and when to participate, because if there are communication and organisation measures, the population will automatically be educated directly and indirectly.

3.6.5. Regional Chamber of Social and Solidarity Economy of Bretagne

The CRESS partner, during the Focus Group session, created and grouped six groups of general solutions and then deployed each group in various strategies. During the Focus Group session, the participants did not make any hierarchy among the strategies found. Thus, this report will mention which are the groups of general solutions and then carry out a summary of the actions and strategies according to each group:

- Raising grassroots awareness:
  - This awareness-raising can be done directly by the authorities (State, local authorities) or by associations.

- Changing legislation:
  - Extended Producer Responsibility processing chains;
  - Encouraging the use of bio-sourced materials, for example, adjusting taxation so that the use of bio-sourced materials is more advantageous than the use of new and/or non-renewable materials.

- Increasing local authority involvement:
  - Improving territorial coverage - certain areas are lacking in fresh responses to waste-related social needs;
  - Acting as coordinators for local stakeholders - local authorities may tend to have bilateral partnerships, whereas the best possible

response to social needs in their territory involves them acting as networking facilitators;

- o Adopting cross-cutting approaches - local authority approaches are often limited to "waste" policy, whereas providing the best possible responses to social needs calls for the adoption of cross-cutting approaches that encompass the economy, land use, good citizenship, grassroots involvement strategies, and even social services.

- Supporting back-to-work policies:
    - o Many new activity projects are initiated by back-to-work organisations. The best-established recycling structures that do not involve back-to-work schemes systematically use France's State-aided contracts (Contracts Aidés) during their development.

- Supporting business creation and development:
    - o Supporting the logistics side of activities, the average investment required to provide recycling facilities with a reuse and recovery aspect is between €60,000 and €80,000. If the operating premises are covered by an agreement or partnership enabling their use at a lower cost (on the grounds of the social added value of the reuse and recovery activity), less investment may be required.

- Supporting professionalization:
    - o The local authority in charge of training (Bretagne Region) should, therefore, finance training for the employees of such organisations.

- Sectors identified as having high development potential
    - o Reuse of computers;
    - o Reuse of materials;
    - o Reducing food waste, for example, recovering unsold food from supermarkets and 'anti-waste' canteens.

Considering the strategies found by the focus groups participants, some general points can be denoted. Firstly, it is remarkable that the solutions go through the change of the legal framework of this issue - the green economy, as well as the change in mentalities and population awareness. Second, there is a concern to act as a joint force in this matter, there is a preoccupation to ensure more measures for the engagement and involvement by governments and local authorities. Lastly, interconnecting almost every point, there is a concern to find economic and financial viability of "green projects". There is, therefore, a need for more significant support, legislation and

funding for these social organisations (for example, the back-to-work organisations), so that they can be economically and socially advantageous, creating a green economy, promoting, among other things, the sector professionalization increasing the jobs opportunities.

3.6.6. Agglomeration Community of Pau – Pyrénées

The Agglomeration Community of Pau- Pyrénées, during the Focus Group session, mentioned six projects that play as strategies that are based on social innovation to fill social problems and needs concerning the elderly. During the Focus Group session, the participants did not make any hierarchy among the strategies found. Thus, this report will mention which are these projects and then carry out a summary of the actions and strategies according to each project:

- The experimental project in renovating the "Saragosse" district - The global solution consists of: the creation of 140 adapted and evolutionary flats within the area; adapting existing flats, common areas and the spaces close to the foot of the buildings; the layout of adapted public spaces; service proposals; projects for health and entrepreneurial centres in the heart of the district. The idea is then to copy and paste this innovation to the rest of the territory when needed;

- The Anti-Solitude Plan - This plan is a regional project, centred on the individual, analysed in consideration of social isolation, proposing a series of solutions, answering related needs. For example, amongst the solutions considered, one action, foresees the construction of an offer of services dedicated to senior citizens, to reinforce the existing services (home support, operations and operating plans, among others);

- Diversifying activities for the EHPAD (*Établissement d'Hébergement pour Personnes Agées Dépendantes*): Institution hosting non-reliant elderly individuals "*Nouste Soureilh*" – This project has the possibility to solve social issues such as ageing and non-refunded public health-care (dental; skin; gynaecologic; optical; among others), the "*Nouste Soureilh*" institution is about to become a centre of innovation and excellence for the heavily reliant population. It will house a health centre (primarily specialised in dental care for the elderly or isolated individuals in difficulty, secondly it could be extended to include other medical services);

- "*Espace Lydie Laborde*"*:* the house for seniors and caregivers - This house will be a key hub related to the active and healthy ageing population. It will unite

all gerontological services of the area. Specialised in welcoming, guiding and preventing loss of autonomy throughout life, it will be orientated towards accessibility of rights;

- "Pau, age-friendly city" network - Following the first analysis of social needs, the "Social Cohesion Direction" proposes an approach to study social needs and issues of the elderly and ageing in greater depth and a cross-coupled manner;

- The "COLLECTIViLAB" project - Finally, beyond the only policy developed for senior citizens, the "COLLECTIViLAB" project challenges the local authorities to digitise for which the social policies are very late although, for many administrations, digitalisation was their priority number one. Therefore, they should maximise effort to innovate and modernise.

After this analysis of the defined strategies, it is possible to summarise solutions mentioned by Focus Groups participants. There is a considerable association between all the projects mentioned as possible solutions and strategies to the previously encountered problems and social needs. It is possible to verify that there are two different types of projects involving the elderly. First, the most individual and specific projects, such as "The Anti-Solitude Plan" and "Diversifying activities for the EHPAD". Each of them with different purposes, but that surpass by the specific resolution of individual needs and centralised attention in the elderly. Subsequently there are projects that can be considered macro-level initiatives, such as: "Espace Lydie Laborde": the house for seniors and caregiver" and "Pau, age-friendly city network", these projects are intended to produce a coherent umbrella for the smaller projects, creating supporting, communication and caring networks, that extend to the whole territory and that will correlate all the projects.

3.6.7. CIM do Ave

The CIM Ave, during the Focus Group session, the participants mentioned nine possible strategies that are based on social innovation to fill only the social needs regarding the social economy, social innovation and social entrepreneurship. During the Focus Group session, the participants did not make any hierarchy among the strategies found. Thus, this report will enumerate which are the strategies found by the participants:

- Clarification sessions/workshops/motivation sessions with the aim of discussing/reflecting on what is social innovation;

- Presentation of good practices/national testimonies in the area of social innovation;
- Clarify what is the Community program called Portugal Social Innovation (pioneer and pilot in the European Union, which will serve as an example in other EU countries in the next framework of support), as well as presenting the platform *geofundos*, among others;
- Identification of the social problems of the territory with the local partners and promote the public participation;
- Identification of people with ideas/projects aimed at solving these identified societal problems;
- Intensive training/mentoring process to support the elaboration of the project in its different phases (project design, business model, partnerships, sustainability);
- Support for the preparation of applications for funds (Portugal Social Innovation);
- Financing of the project by public entities (CIM do Ave, Municipalities);
- Creation of an incubator for social projects in the Ave region.

Considering the strategies found by the focus groups participants, some general points can be denoted. Mostly the solutions found by the participants, take into account a significant dimension of dissemination concerning social innovation, "what is social innovation in relation to entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship?". In addition to this fact, it also presupposes an informative dimension of the funds that can be used to finance the social projects (such as Portugal Social Innovation). There is also the preoccupation to find solutions that will bring a more intense training process to help in the development of the social project. In short, the primary concern and strategies are with the aid, support and financing of the projects t. Thus the ultimate goal is to create an incubator of social projects that covers all these issues.

3.7. Strategies, Actions and Rankings - Joint Result

In this report section, a brief summary of the most essential points discussed above is presented. Subsequently, there will be a joint result of the social strategies encountered. Thus, in order to analyse the strategies and solution found by the Focus Groups participants, it was necessary to make groups of strategies taking into account the analysis made in the previous session and also correlating the five targets of Europe 2020 Strategy (Employment, R & D / Innovation, Climate Change / Energy, Education, Poverty / Social Exclusion). After the analysis, the following strategies groups were formed, covered by the social needs encountered during the Focus Group dynamics:

- Technological Strategies - This group of strategies emphasises the use of technology in general. All measures and solutions based on the Use of technology are grouped in this type. For example, strategies such as: use of digital innovation to engage with young people within the school environment and outside; The reuse of technological material; The use of technology for communication, involvement and integration of the elderly;

- Funding Strategies - The strategies of social innovation that are encompassed by this group, take into account, all the strategies that directly need some financing. Directly, because the majority of strategies, always require some type of "resource" that often depends on some indirect financing for its implementation, therefore, this group of strategies will only take into account, the direct financing/investment, that is, strategies that need a direct investment in a specific measure. For example, strategies such as: Funding and encourage the creation of insertion companies; Support businesses in preparation for re-use and recycling; Support the logistics side of activities (Green Economy);

- Awareness, Visibility and Communication Strategies - This group of strategies excels at all the strategies that have in its core the increasing of communication and visibility of some need or problem. Measures such as campaigns and presentation and other communication strategies are grouped in this group. All the strategies covered here have the purpose of sensitising and/or alerting to a thematic or problem. For example, strategies such as: Campaign to raise awareness about the importance of entrepreneurship; Communication and awareness-raising measures regarding public participation, where, how and when to participate; Raising grassroots awareness; Clarification sessions/ workshops/motivation sessions with the aim of discussing/reflecting on what social innovation;

- Strategies for Interaction and Involvement of Governmental Structures and Legislative Changes - This group of strategies takes into account all strategies that require greater involvement, support and interaction of central and local government structures. In addition, it also takes into account the strategies that are based on some kind of legislative change. For example, strategies such as: The introducing social clauses in public procurement procedures as a tool to achieve the integration of disadvantaged people into the labour market; The administration must be close to the people and be efficient;

- Networking and Integration Strategies - This group of strategies embarks all strategies that are based on networking. When there is a strategy that enhances synergies and group work, as well as a greater integration of individuals into society, it will be covered by this group. For example, strategies such as: The creation of social networks that allow the identification, accompaniment and help of the most isolated and vulnerable people; The Creation of Social Cafes / Repair Cafes with the support of local coffee owners and multinationals that had

cafes or social spaces that could be easily accessed; The definition, connection and map of Social Enterprises and Social Enterprise Support Services in the City;

- Training and Development Strategies - This group of strategies has a broader scope since it will take into account all the strategies that have in their base the formation, training or development of individuals and/or organisations and institutions. For example, strategies such as: The intensive training / mentoring process to support the elaboration of the project in its different phases; The local authority in charge of training (Bretagne Region) should, therefore, finance training for the employees of such organisations (Green Economy); Provide officials with training and support on public participation;

- Entrepreneurship and Innovation Strategies - This group of strategies aims to take into account all strategies that focus on development and enhancement of entrepreneurship and innovation in the regions. All types of entrepreneurship will be covered by this group, as well as, all innovations will be taking into account, from technological innovations to social innovations. For example, strategies such as: Creation of an incubator for social projects; Training 'capsules' and incubators to respond to a broad range of entrepreneurial needs.

After the creation of these social innovation strategies groups, they were analysed, and the data is featured in the chart below (Figure 23). The most significant slice belongs to the strategies that have in their genesis, the measures of training and development (19%). The result shows that the vast majority of the social needs found have a significant lack of training and formation of the covered population, and one of the most viable strategies is always the development of these individuals. When it comes to training, here we have to take into account that a wide range of measures come in, from professional training to training for public participation, among others.

Then, with 16% each, there is the strategies of awareness and communication and the strategies of networking and Integration. On this point, it is observable that there is a lack of communication and awareness concerning the types of measures and solutions. Regarding the networking strategies, there is the realisation that one of the considerable gaps in solving social problems is the lack of networks and synergies between the various entities and population, as well as a compelling lack of integration of more displaced and vulnerable individuals.

Subsequently, appears the strategies of financing, the strategies for interaction and involvement of governmental structures and legislative changes appear, and the strategies of entrepreneurship and innovation, with 13% each. It was made explicit throughout the analysis that there is a lack of funding for many of the projects to be undertaken around social innovation, as well as an evident lack of involvement and participation of local and central authorities. In the 13% there are still the strategies of innovation and entrepreneurship, in these strategies, there is always a deep connection with the development of the region at the corporate level, always based on some social

purpose, such as integration, employability, green economy, among others. Finally, with 10%, there are strategies that excel in the use of technology.
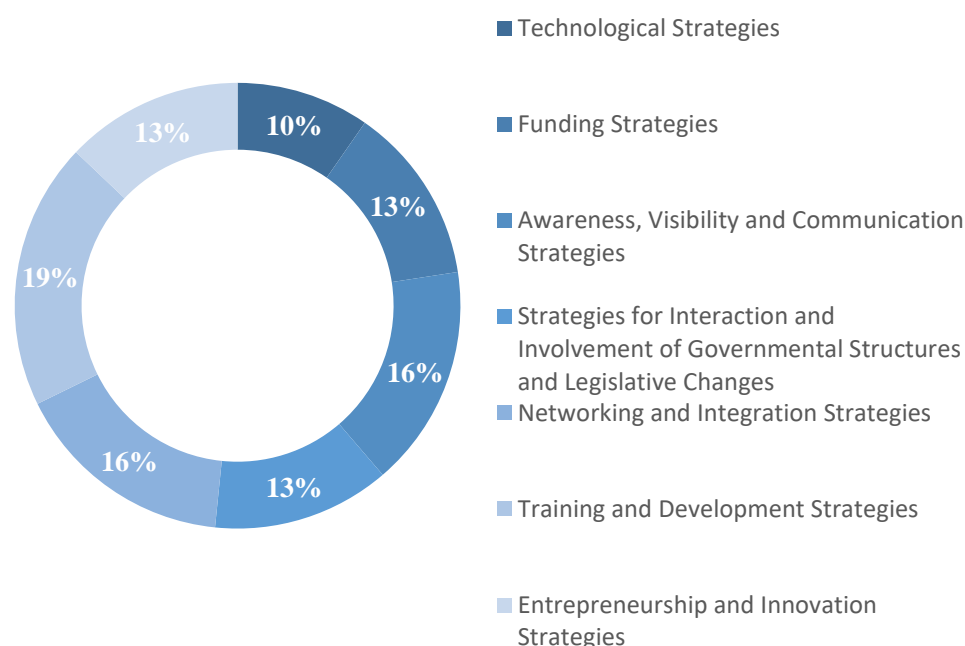

Technological Strategies

Funding Strategies

Awareness, Visibility and Communication Strategies

Strategies for Interaction and Involvement of Governmental Structures and Legislative Changes

Networking and Integration Strategies

Training and Development Strategies

Entrepreneurship and Innovation Strategies

Figure 23 - Strategies Founded During Focus Groups

Somewhat similar to what was done with the social needs groups in the preceding sections, a summary table (Table 24) was carried out, which synthesises the information regarding the strategies found. In the table below (Table 25), it is possible to verify the relationship between social needs and the strategies that can be used to fill them. Regarding technological strategies, it was verified that there is a higher preponderance in its use to solve problems that are related to training, formation and support to the most vulnerable populations.

The financial strategies are the type of strategy that appears more often because funding is always necessary for some type of project, activity, construction among other, which lacks direct financing. Regarding the awareness strategies, it appears linked to issues such as public engagement needs and the needs of entrepreneurship, innovation and social economy.

Consequently, there are the strategies for involving public structures. As expected, there is a great tendency for this strategy to be used in matters related to the needs for improvement in public policies, as well as in the issues concerning the environmental concern. The strategies involving networking and integration and the training and development strategies cover a large part of the social needs encountered since many of the social needs require strategies in terms of population formation and

development, as well as greater synergy between the various organisms and population. Finally, entrepreneurship and innovation strategies are closely linked to the needs of entrepreneurship, as expected, and to the environmental needs.

Social Needs / Strategies	Educational and Training Needs	Employment Needs	Public Engagement Needs	Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Social Economy Needs	Support and Integration Needs of Vulnerable Families and Individuals	Need for New and Improved Public Policies	Environmental Concern
Technological Strategies	⊗	⊗			⊗		⊗
Funding Strategies	⊗	⊗		⊗	⊗		⊗
Awareness, Visibility and Communication Strategies		⊗	⊗			⊗	⊗
Strategies for Interaction and Involvement of Governmental Structures and Legislative Changes		⊗	⊗			⊗	⊗
Networking and Integration Strategies	⊗		⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	
Training and Development Strategies	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗			⊗
Entrepreneurship and Innovation Strategies				⊗	⊗		⊗

Table 24 - Relationship Between Social Needs and Strategies

Thus, taking into account all the collected strategies provided by the participants in the Focus Groups, it is possible to make the following strategies classification correlated with the social needs by countries/regions:

- Spain (Avilés and Santiago de Compostela Region) – The social problems are related to the unemployment and population training, as well as lack of active public participation and coordination among the various public, institutional and organisational actors. Therefore, the underlined strategies by these regions to combat these social needs include improvement of networks, more significant investment in training and development, and greater involvement of government offices;
- Ireland (Cork Region) - There is a lack of legislation and public support concerning the social economy sector, more specifically regarding the social enterprises. On the other hand, there is a lack of public knowledge and participation. That being

said, in this region, the strategies suggested are the increase of networking and training, as well as a high emphasis on strategies of sensitisation and communication, both among individuals and between individuals and local administration and authorities;

- Northern Ireland (Derry Region) - The primary concerns of the region are centred on entrepreneurship and innovation, there is a strong link between this need and the environmental and employability problems of the younger population. Since the needs of this region are very intertwined with entrepreneurship and employability, there is an apparent link between the strategies proposed by the participants. There is a considerable focus on strategies for financing activities, both technological and environmental, which will subsequently lead to new and improved strategies for entrepreneurship and innovation;

- Portugal (Ave Region) - Since this region is undergoing a structural change, the greatest need found is the entrepreneurship and innovation, with a strong relationship with the employability of the region. Thus, there is a tendency on the part of the participants to find solutions and strategies that focus on entrepreneurial activities and innovation, as well as financing and training in innovation project;

- France (Region of Bretagne and Pau) - There are two distinct realities, on the one hand we have Bretagne that has an active concern with environmental policies and employability in this sector, on the other hand, in the region of Pau, there is a concern with the most vulnerable elderly population, in particular, the access to information and care. Although the difference between the social realities of the regions, there are groups of strategies that can be used by both region, such as the innovation strategies and the financing strategies. On the other hand, the region of Bretagne places a greater emphasis on training and development strategies, while the Pau region, in networking and integration strategies.

In order to conclude this section of the report, it is important to make a brief outline of some effective measures within the strategies mentioned above. Table 25 highlights some measures according to the general "theme". Thus, it will be possible to determine the measures that can be transversal to all the regions, according to the problem to be solved. It should be noted that this framework of measures was carried out according to an analysis of "identical" measures that were mentioned during the focus group sessions, which can be replicated in several regions with these types of problems.

Theme/Measures	Measures
The Welfare Services	1) Creation of insertion companies and introducing social clauses in public procurement procedures as a tool to achieve the integration of disadvantaged people into the labour market 2) More use of digital innovation to engage with young people and help them within the school environment and outside 3) Creation of social networks that allow the identification, accompaniment and help of the most isolated and vulnerable people (neighbourhood-oriented resources, activities and social interaction programs, among others) 4) Social Cafes / Repair Cafes with the support of local cafe owners and multinationals that had cafes or social spaces that could be easily accessed 5) Anti-Solitude Plans, centred on the individual, analysed in consideration of social isolation, proposing a series of solutions, answering related needs. For example, amongst the solutions considered, one action, foresees the construction of an offer of services dedicated to senior citizens, to re-enforce the existing services (home support, operations and operating plans, among others)
The Social Economy	1) Creation of an incubator for social projects, for example, to support the preparation of applications for funds 2) Provide Social Enterprises with Toolkits across a variety of areas such as data protection, employee support and others (mentoring and training); 3) Define, Connect and Map Social Enterprises and Social Enterprise Support Services in the City 4) Training 'capsules' and incubators to respond to a broad range of entrepreneurial needs. At each stage of the development of their business, entrepreneurs will require technical or moral support
The Public Participation and Engagement	1) Identification of the social problems of the territory with the local partners and promote the public participation, therefore, it can be identified people that has ideas/projects aimed at solving these identified societal problems 2) Develop a plan to simplify and improve the public engagement process. Key to this is ensuring that the technical language used in government documents is simplified for the layperson 3) Representatives of each social group (rather than territorial) must always be present 4) Sociocultural centres should not be only for leisure activities, but also to address the problems of the residents 5) The participation activities need to be structured by age and educational level groups and have to be linked to the knowledge of new technologies
The Green Inclusive Economy	1) Reducing food waste, for example, recovering unsold food from supermarkets and 'anti-waste' canteens 2) The local authority in charge of training should, therefore, finance training for the employees of Green Organisations 3) Encouraging the use of bio-sourced materials, for example, adjusting taxation so that the use of bio-sourced materials is more advantageous than the use of new and/or non-renewable materials 4) Support businesses in preparation for re-use and recycling 5) Pay as You Throw (PAYT) schemes 6) Embed Zero Waste Circular Economy principals into economic development plans and business funding 7) Develop a local market for second-hand material

Table 25 - Strategies by Theme

3.8. Meso Level Analysis Conclusions

The Meso Analysis allowed to understand the individual and collective perception of local and regional organisations (governance, social entities, the private sector, among others) in order to evaluate the most urgent needs of the regions. The Focus Groups promoted the debate about strategies that can be implemented to minimise the social needs encountered. In this way, it was possible to observe the involvement of several entities in the support mechanisms for social innovation.

The Atlantic Social Lab partners, spread throughout the different regions of the Atlantic Area and within their scope of analysis, were able to detect a wide range of needs and possible solutions and strategies. It was notable that there was a greater preponderance of the partners in the Focus Groups on welfare issues and less dominant focus on the Green Inclusive Economy. However, it is necessary to point to a better understanding, that the main Focus Group topics have been diluted in other subjects when describing the social needs and the possible solutions. Thus, there are partners that despite their focus on a specific theme, have discovered needs and solutions that meet other issues. In short, the needs and strategies encountered were transversal to several domains, not remaining in a single theme or scope. As an example, the leading partner (Avilés Municipality), despite its focus on Welfare Services, also focused on the Social Economy issue during the focus group, the Londonderry (NW Enterprise) partners, beyond the Social Economy and Welfare Services questions, they found needs and solutions that met the Green Inclusive Economy.

This assumption can demonstrate three realities. Firstly, problems and solutions of social innovation are not unique. Instead, they have several dimensions, which can be solved in multiple ways. Secondly, there is a kind of transversality of social problems according to the regions of the Atlantic Area. It has been established that the problems of some may be the problems of others and that the solutions of one part may be the solution of the other. The dynamics of the focus groups highlighted the cross-cutting of social needs, the central themes were set aside and the problems and solutions that were discussed were widespread in most of the territories covered by the Atlantic Social Lab. Thirdly, research has demonstrated that although some problems and social needs are transversals within the Atlantic Area, there is, on the other hand, a difference in the dimension of the needs, as well as a difference of resources and mechanisms to find solutions and strategies to fulfil the social problems and needs in specific territories. This means that social innovation is a process with a strong embeddedness in territorial aspects.

CHAPTER 4 – MICRO LEVEL ANALYSIS

4.1. Methodology

4.1.1. Micro Level Approach

In this section, the methodology that was used during the micro level analysis will be discussed. Interviews will be addressed and explained by what is meant by micro level analysis and what was expected concerning the interviews within the ASL Project.

When in a study, research or project is intended to perform a micro-level analysis, this means that the smallest levels of interaction will be examined, in some cases, just "the individual" alone. Thus, the micro level analyses could include one-on-one interactions between individuals. One of primary concerns in this kind of analysis is in how the social context influences the individual understandings. Within the scope of the Atlantic Social Lab Project, the objective is to understand and know key actors, projects and initiatives that directly respond to the social needs of the regions. In this way, it will be possible to contribute for the comprehension of how individual and combined efforts of local actors can promote social innovation.

4.1.2. Interview Method

A crucial step for scientific research is data collection. The interview is one of the qualitative techniques used by researchers for this purpose. Thus, beginning with a more comprehensive definition of the method chosen for this micro analysis (Richardson, 1999) the term interview is constructed from two words, "inter" and "view". The "view" refers to the act of seeing, being concerned about something. "Inter" indicates the relation of place or state in space that separates two persons or things. Therefore, the term interview refers to the act of perceiving realised between two people or more.

After this brief introduction of what is the interview in a more general way, it is convenient to perceive effectively in what consists this qualitative technique of data collection. Ribeiro (2008) states that the interview is the most pertinent technique when the researcher wants to obtain information about its object, because, it allows to know attitudes, feelings and values underlying the behaviour, which means that one can go beyond the descriptions of the incorporating new sources for the interpretation of the results by the interviewers themselves. Weiers (1988) mentions that the advantage of using this technique comes from the ability to obtain more complete answers on a particular subject or theme. The question concerning the effectiveness of the interview is also important to be mentioned. According to Rogers and Stevens (1987), the effectiveness of using the interview technique does not only depend on the domain of

the methodology in which it is inserted but also requires an "anthropological" attitude of the interviewer, that is, empathy is fundamental in the interview technique.

There are several types of interviews that can be conducted, structured, semi-structured or unstructured. The option in the Atlantic Social Lab was to do semi-structured interviews. In semi-structured interviews, the interviewer follows a series of themes, introducing some flexibility in the responses by the interviewee (Ghiglione & Matalin, 1992). In short, the semi-structured interview is the type of interview in which the interviewer sets a general direction for the conversation and pursues specific topics raised by the interviewee (Babbie, 2007). That being said, according to Rosa and Arnoldi (2006), these are the advantages and purposes of using the semi-structured interview technique:

- Enable rich, informative - intensive, holistic and contextualised - because they are endowed with a particularly open style since they use semi-structured question
- The interview provides the interviewer with an opportunity for clarification, allowing the inclusion of unforeseen scripts, which is a more direct, personalised, flexible and spontaneous interaction framework;
- The interview plays a strategic role in predicting errors, as flexible, targeted and cost-effective approach which anticipates, in advance, hypotheses and other useful guidelines for the actual circumstances of the investigation.

In conclusion, the in-depth understanding offered by the qualitative interview may provide valuable contextual information to explain specific aspects. In this way, the versatility and the value of the application of this technique is evident as it is applied in many scientific social disciplines and also in commercial social research. Thus, the interview can play a vital role for a scientific work if combined with other methods of data collection, as it is done in the Atlantic Social Lab. In addition to the interviews, two methods of data collection are also used: the desk research technique and focus groups method.

4.2. Interviews in Atlantic Social Lab

In the ASL scope, each partner selected a relevant social innovation initiative and interviewed 1 and 3 individuals, that were involved in its implementation. Each interview had approximately one-hour duration. Generally, the purpose of the interview was to address the following topics/themes concerning each specific social innovation initiative:

- General Description of the Initiative
- Needs, Purposes and Targets
- Social Capital; Innovation Enablers and Barriers
- Financial Resources
- Innovation Enablers and Barriers
- Strengths and Weaknesses
- Measures
- Implications.

The Atlantic Social Lab partners have applied the interviews in their respective region. The table 26 below shows the partners who conducted the interviews by region and the total amount of interviews done by each partner.

Country	Partner	Number of Interviews
Spain	Avilés Municipality	2 Interviews
	Santiago de Compostela City Council	2 Interviews
United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)	Enterprise North West	3 Interviews
Ireland	Cork City Council	3 Interviews
France	Regional Chamber of Social and Solidarity Economy of Bretagne	3 Interviews
	Agglomeration Community of Pau-Pyrénées	2 Interviews
Portugal	CIM do Ave	2 Interviews
TOTAL	7 PARTNERS	17 Interviews

Table 26 - Atlantic Social Lab Partners and Interviews

The interviews were analysed using the qualitative data analysis software MAXQDA. All results obtained, charts and figures were generated from this software.

Subsequently, in order to get a better understanding of each interview and their intervention in the project, a small framework regarding the interview was created. At the same time, an attempt is made for summarizing the interviews information.

4.2.1. Avilés Municipality

Interviews Framework and General Information

Avilés Municipality focuses on social innovation practices that address issues related to The Welfare Services. Thus, the partner conducted two interviews that denote two distinct realities. Although, at the same time, the interviews have some points of convergence regarding the social needs and target groups. Next, two schemes will be presented that will show which are the levels of intervention, target audience, social needs, years of establishment and type of entity in each of the interviews.

The following diagram (Figure 24) shows some of the more generic characteristics mentioned above analysed during the first interview conducted by Avilés' partner. The name of the initiative is: Municipal Instruction to Incorporate Social Clauses to the Public Procurement of the City Council of Avilés. Briefly, this project is a municipal institution to incorporate social clauses into public hiring in the municipality of Avilés.
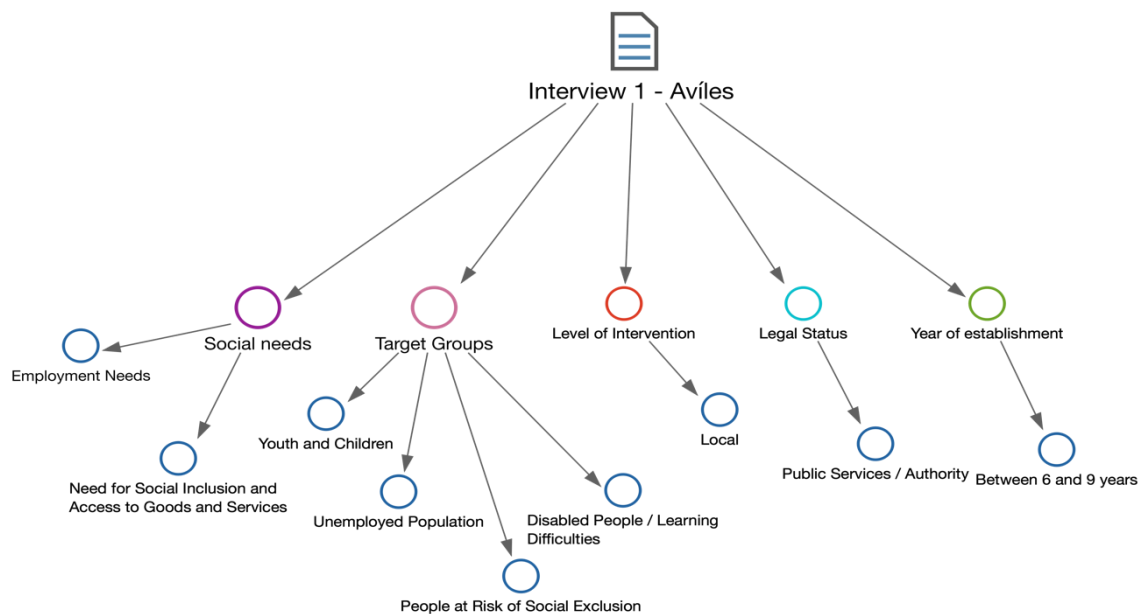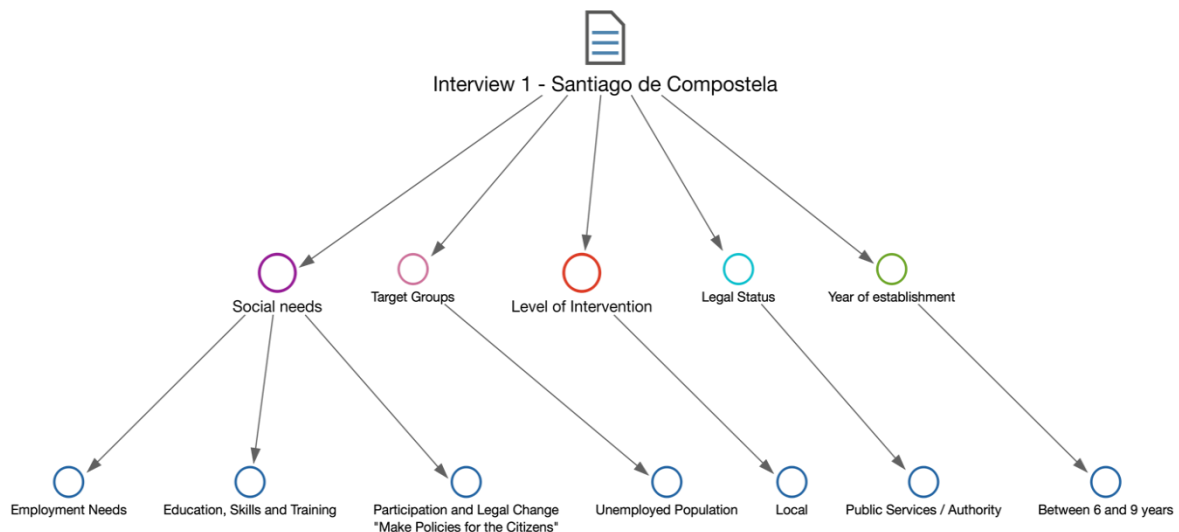

Figure 24 - Interview Scheme (1) - Avilés

Figure 25, illustrates the same information as Figure 24, this time for the second interview conducted by the partner. The name of the initiative is: Project Transi, from the Association - "Ye too Ponese". In summary, the project has the ambition of providing a kind of educational compensation for young people at risk of dropping out of school.
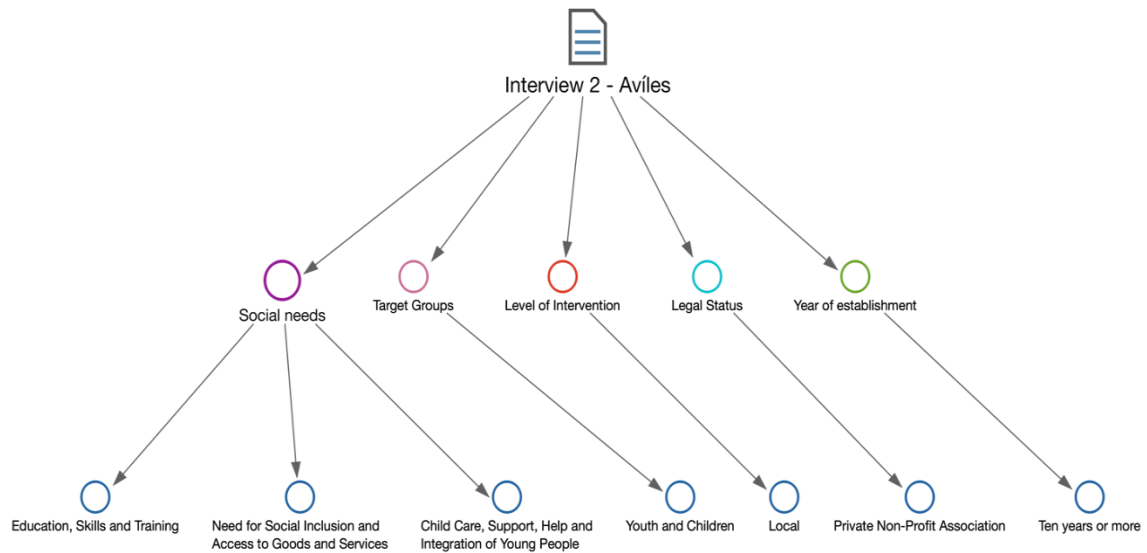
Figure 25 - Interview Scheme (2) - Avilés

4.2.2. Santiago de Compostela City Council

Interviews Framework and General Information

Santiago de Compostela City Council focuses on social innovation practices that address issues related to The Welfare Services and Public Participation and Engagement. Thus, the partner conducted two interviews that denote two distinct realities. Next, two schemes will be presented that will show which are the levels of intervention, target audience, social needs, years of establishment and type of entity in each of the interviews.

The following diagram (Figure 26) shows some of the more general characteristics mentioned above analysed during the first interview conducted by Santiago de Compostela partner. The name of the initiative is: Local Colocation Agency of the City Council of Santiago. Briefly, this project is a public service that desires to operate in the field of employment directly and locally, with a service that includes legal and regulatory protection to the population.

Figure 26 - Interview Scheme (1) Santiago de Compostela

Figure 27, illustrates the same information as Figure 26, this time for the second interview conducted by the partner. The name of the initiative is: Leading / Motor Group of the Process of Participatory Budgets of the Council of Santiago. The initiative belongs to the Association of Marrozos Residents of Santiago. In summary, the project has the ambition to promote the direct participation of citizens in everyday decisions that affect the city and, therefore, their neighbourhood.
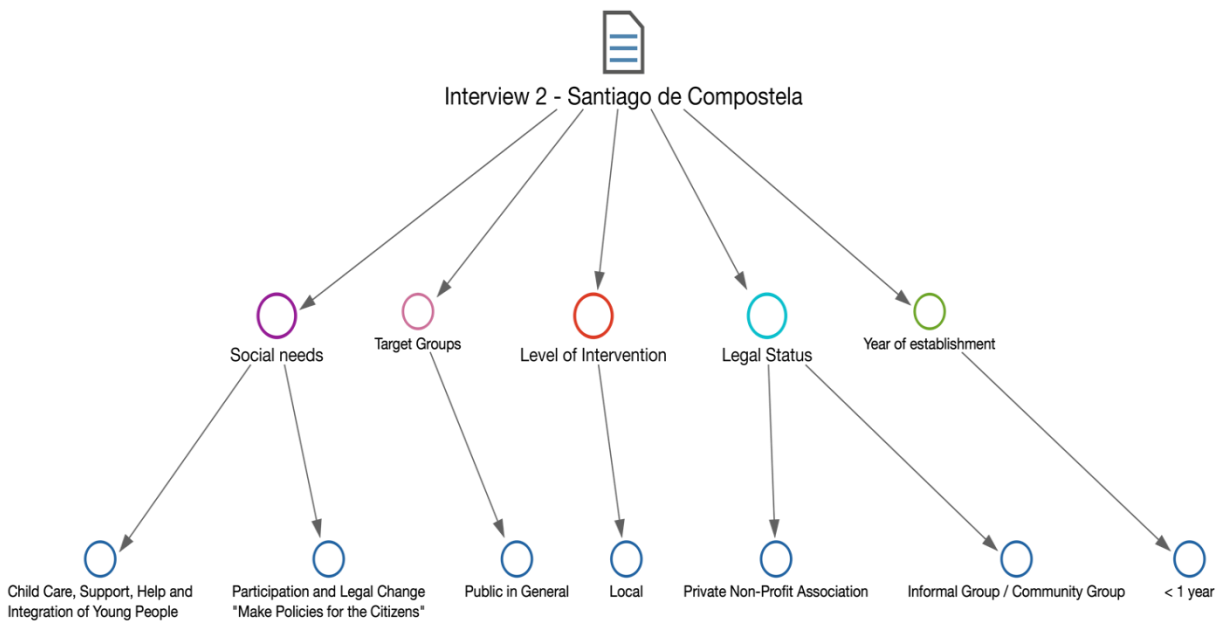
Figure 27 - Interview Scheme (2) Santiago de Compostela

4.2.3. Enterprise North West

Interviews Framework and General Information

Enterprise North West has a vast scope concerning the social needs and the social innovation strategies that deal directly with Social Enterprises and Social Economy. There is, however, a reliable interconnection between Social Enterprises and the issue of the Welfare Service, as well as the Green and Circular economy. This assumption can be verified with the interviews that were carried out by this partner. Thus, the partner conducted three interviews that denote three distinct realities. However, there is an intrinsic relationship between the needs and targets that each initiative and/or project intends to achieve. Next, three schemes will be presented that will show the levels of intervention, target audience, social needs, years of establishment and type of entity in each of the interviews.

The following diagram (Figure 28) shows some of the more general characteristics mentioned above analysed during the first interview conducted by Enterprise North West. The name of the initiative is: Kippie. Briefly, this project has a mission of meeting the needs and expectations of the local community through the provision of education and training, contributing to the improvement of the quality of life of the population, more specifically, they work with the young population with or without learning difficulties.
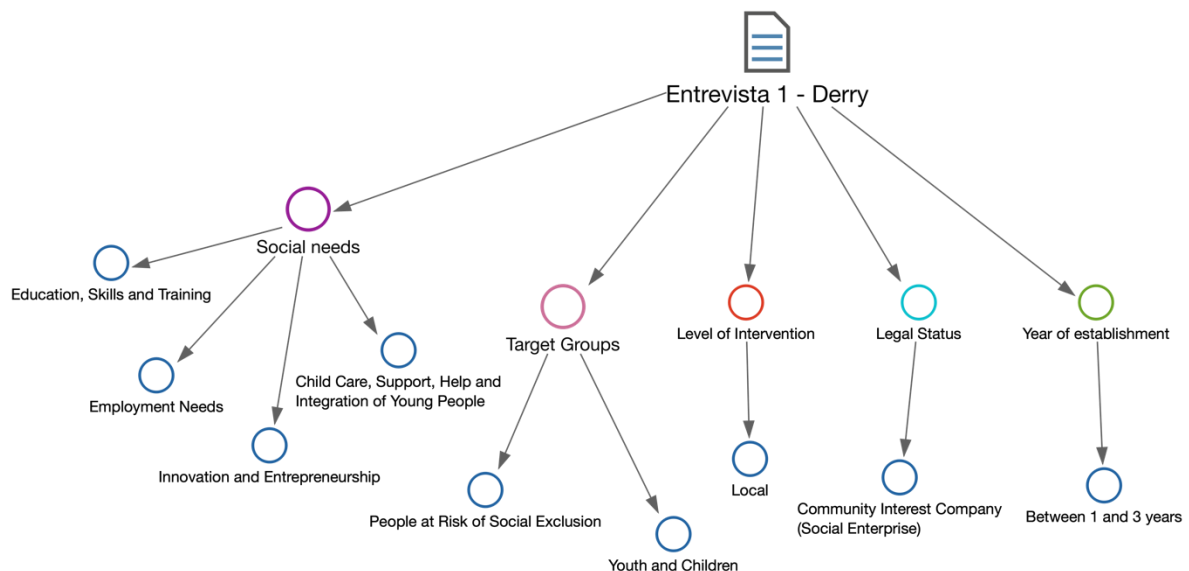

Figure 28 - Interview Scheme (1) Derry

Figure 29, illustrates the same information as Figure 28, this time for the second interview conducted by the partner. The name of the initiative is: UV Arts CIC. This Social

Enterprise is a fun, dynamic non-profit enterprise and urban arts company that aims to meet the social needs of specific areas of Derry City, as well as the integration of young people at risk of social exclusion. For this purpose, they carry out projects of space rehabilitation using urban art such as graffiti. It is necessary to make a brief note about the intervention level of this interview. This project has a mostly local level of intervention; however, its members have already participated in national and international meetings and initiatives, having already disseminated its initiative, hence the project has some level of extra-local intervention.
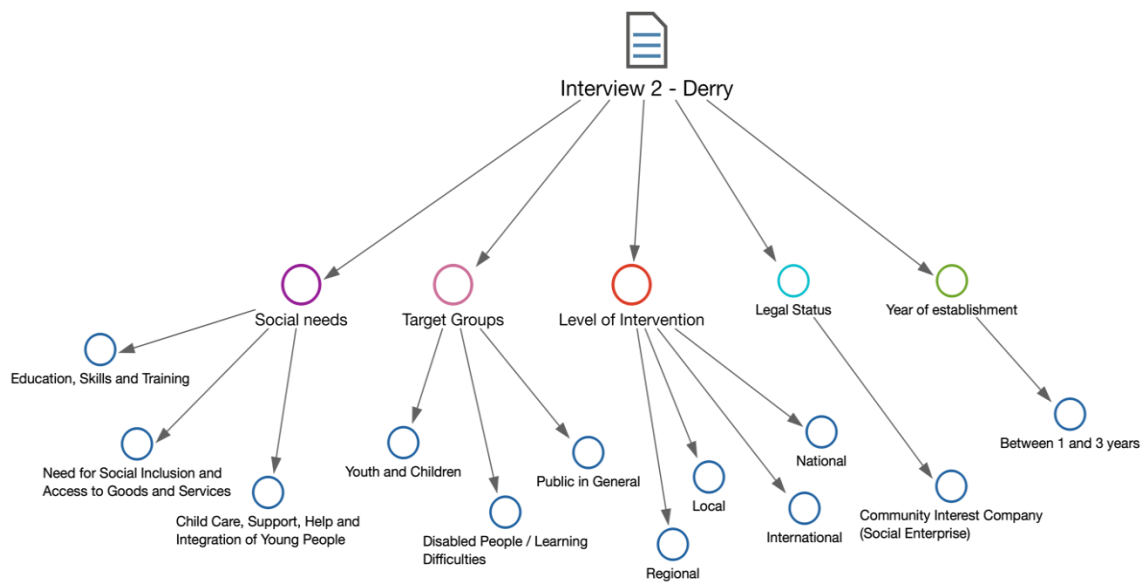
Figure 29 - Interview Scheme (2) Derry

Finally, in Figure 30, there is the third interview conducted by Derry's partner. As in the previous two interviews, the collected information analysed is the same. The name of the initiative is: 4Rs. Briefly, The Reuse Centre is a social economy enterprise that has the purpose of recycling household items and white goods to reduce items going to landfill. Located at Derry, their mission is to reuse unwanted furniture and electrical goods and to upcycle these goods for resale. In doing this, they provide the opportunity to develop skills among local people (more specifically individuals with disabilities, with alcohol and drug problems and marginalised).
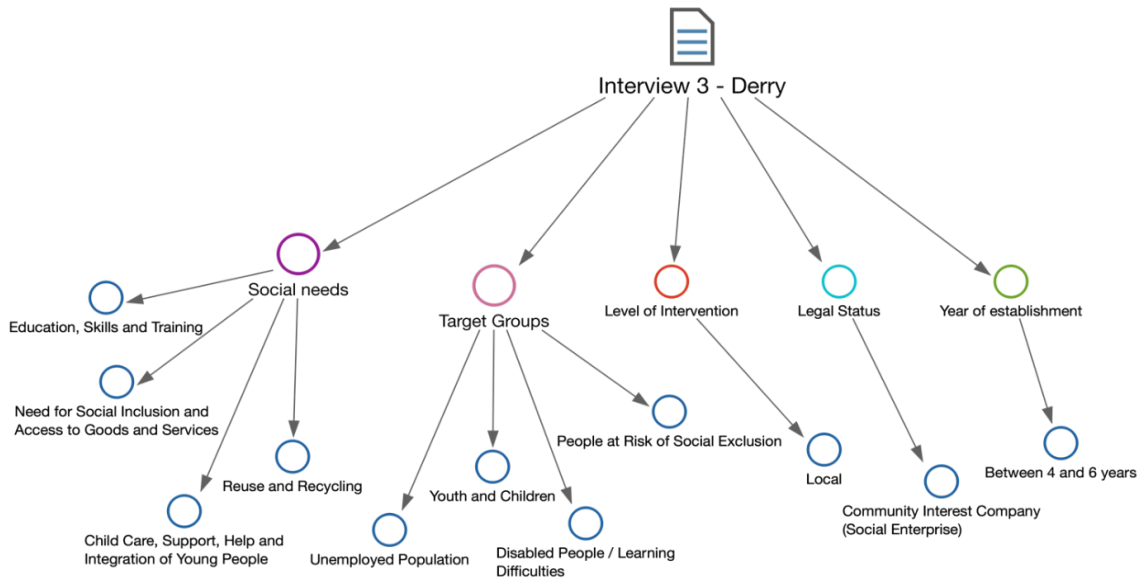
Interview 3 - Derry

Social needs

Education, Skills and Training

Need for Social Inclusion and
Access to Goods and Services

Reuse and Recycling

Child Care, Support, Help and
Integration of Young People

Target Groups

Youth and Children

Unemployed Population

People at Risk of Social Exclusion

Disabled People / Learning
Difficulties

Level of Intervention

Legal Status

Year of establishment

Local

Community Interest Company
(Social Enterprise)

Between 4 and 6 years

Figure 30 - Interview Scheme (3) Derry

4.2.4. Cork City Council

Interviews Framework and General Information

Cork City Council in order to obtain a better knowledge of the initiatives and projects of social innovation that were taking place in the territory carried out three interviews with actors who worked in the area of Social Economy and Participation and Public Engagement. Thus, the partner conducted three interviews that denote three distinct realities. However, there is an intrinsic relationship between the needs and targets that each initiative and/or project intends to achieve. Next, three schemes will be presented that will show the levels of intervention, target audience, social needs, years of establishment and type of entity in each of the interviews.

The following diagram (Figure 31) shows some of the more general characteristics mentioned above during the first interview conducted by the Cork City partner. The name of the initiative is: Steam Education Limited. In summary, this project wants to inspire kids to love the STEAM subjects - Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Art. The reason being it is that there is a shortage of highly qualified graduates in the STEM fields.
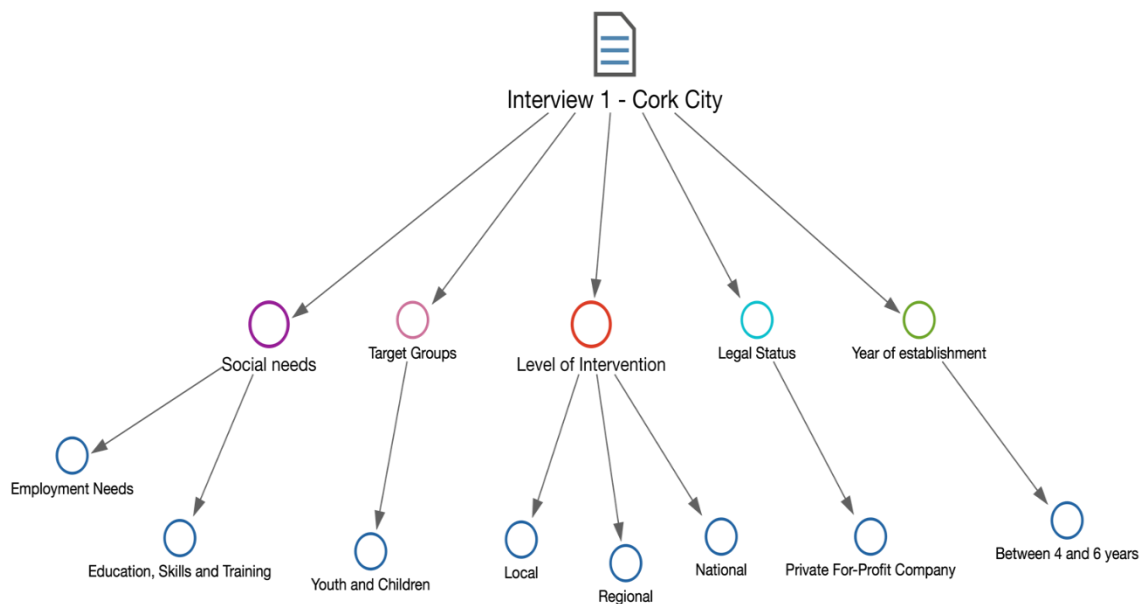
Figure 31 - Interview Scheme (1) Cork City

Figure 32, illustrates the same information as Figure 31, this time for the second interview conducted by the partner. The name of the initiative is: Cork City Public Participation Network (PPN). This initiative arises as a response to a perceived gap in representation by the community and the public, in particular, at local government level, therefore, the public participation networks are a bridge between local government and the needs and population desires.
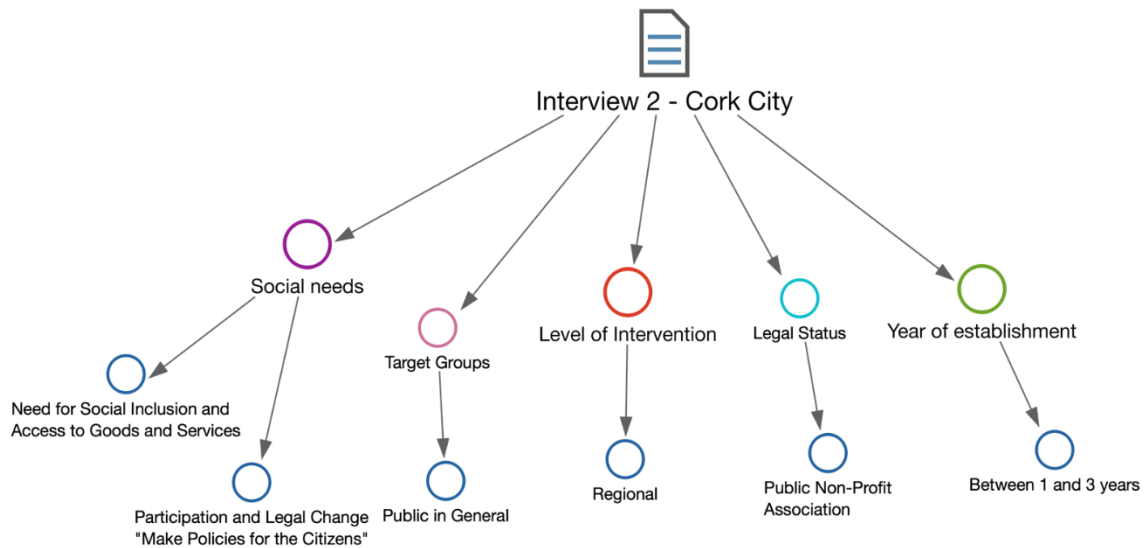
Figure 32 - Interview Scheme (2) Cork City

Finally, in Figure 33, there is the third interview conducted by Cork City partner. As in the previous two interviews, the collected information analysed is the same. The name of the initiative is: Churchfield Community Trust. Briefly, this initiative aims to work collaboratively with the Department of Justice through the probation service in order to help and integrate people in recovery from substance misuse, substance addiction, alcohol misuse, alcohol addiction and offending behaviour.
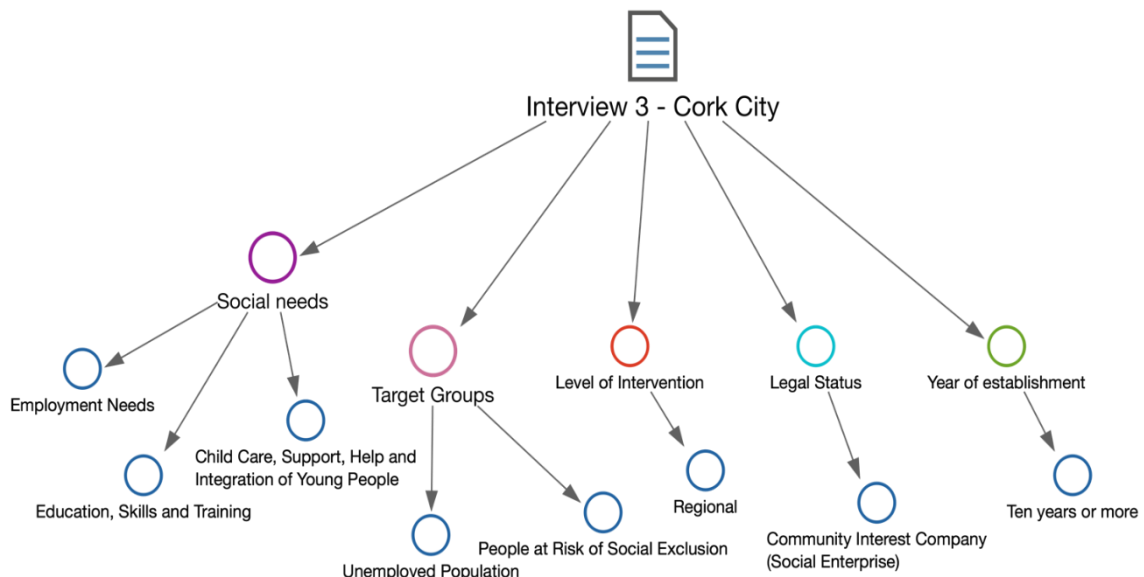
Figure 33 - Interview Scheme (3) Cork City

4.2.5. Regional Chamber of Social and Solidarity Economy of Bretagne

Interviews Framework and General Information

CRESS Bretagne during their interviews on social innovation initiatives, gathered data that is in line with the Green Economy, with a strong interconnection with Social Enterprises, Social Economy, Circular Economy and also at the same time to the Welfare Services. It is clear that within Green Economy there is a whole parallel economy established and a wide range of social problems beyond environmental issues that there are also addressed. Thus, the partner conducted three interviews that denote three distinct realities. However, there is an intrinsic relationship between the needs and targets that each initiative and/or project intends to achieve. Next, three schemes will be presented that will show the levels of intervention, target audience, social needs, years of establishment and type of entity.

The following diagram (Figure 34) shows some of the more general characteristics mentioned above during the first interview conducted by CRESS Bretagne. ENVIE 35, this project aims to collect medical equipment and then re-use it, recover it and restore it to provide it at a lower price to institutions of elderly care and people with disabilities. Their human resources count on individuals with disabilities, thus helping them to integrate into society and the labour market. ENVIE 35 was established more than 10 years ago but the medical equipment reuse activity started only 2 years ago.
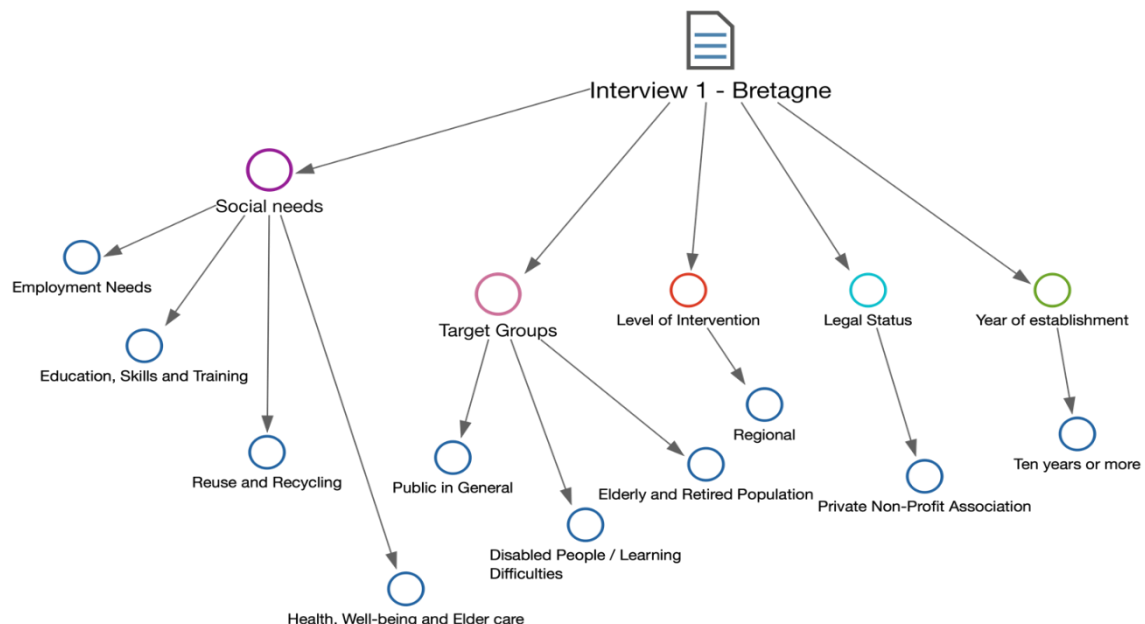

Figure 34 - Interview Scheme (1) Bretagne

For the second interview, the same analysis was carried out. The data in Figure 35 are related to an initiative that has the name: *La Matériauthèque* (Material Library). This project aims to reduce construction waste and develop reuse of building materials. To this end, its workforce relies on individuals with difficulties of insertion in society, unemployed and people with disabilities.
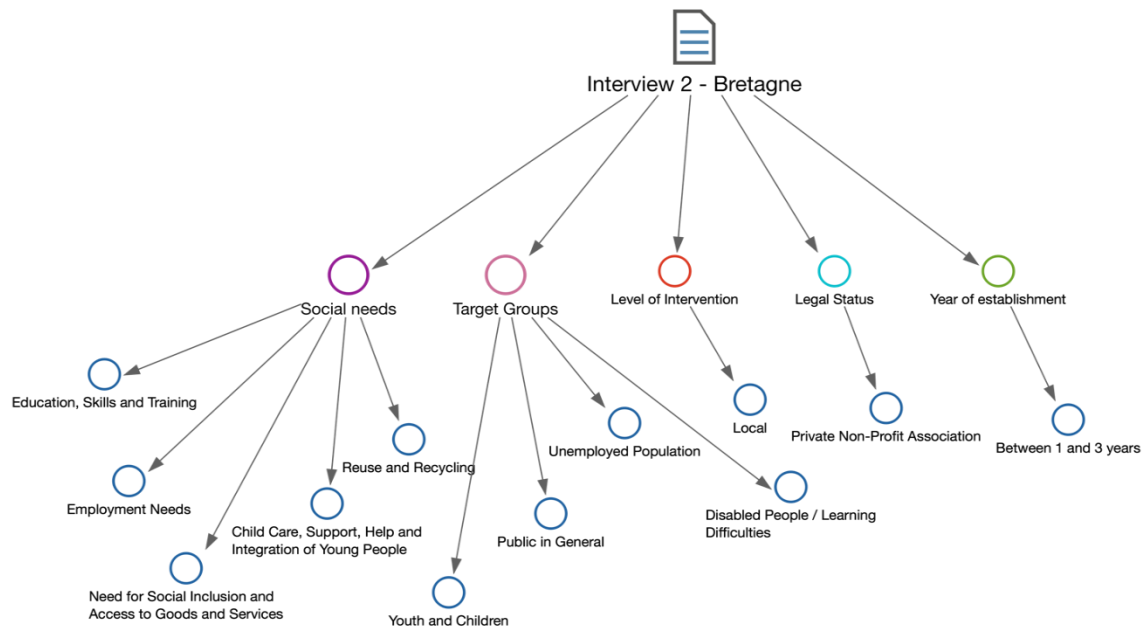

Figure 35 - Interview Scheme (2) Bretagne

Finally, in Figure 36, there is the third interview conducted by Bretagne partner. As in the previous two interviews, the collected information analysed is the same. The name of the initiative is: La Matériauthèque (Material Library). This project aims to reduce construction waste and develop reuse of building materials. To this end, its workforce relies on individuals with difficulties of insertion in society, unemployed, young people and people with disabilities.
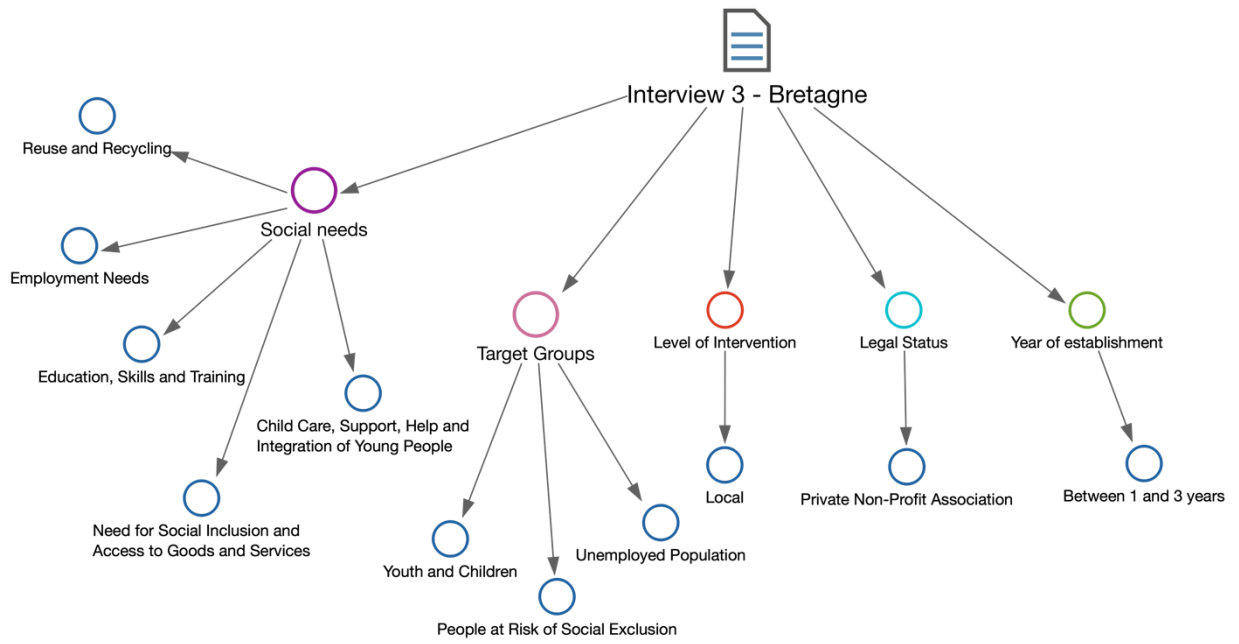
Interview 3 - Bretagne

Reuse and Recycling

Social needs

Employment Needs

Education, Skills and Training

Child Care, Support, Help and
Integration of Young People

Need for Social Inclusion and
Access to Goods and Services

Target Groups

Youth and Children

People at Risk of Social Exclusion

Unemployed Population

Level of Intervention

Local

Legal Status

Private Non-Profit Association

Year of establishment

Between 1 and 3 years

Figure 36 - Interview Scheme (3) Bretagne

4.2.6. Agglomeration Community of Pau- Pyrénées

Interview Framework and General Information

Agglomeration Community of Pau Pyrénées focused on social innovation practices that address issues related to The Welfare Services. Thus, the partner conducted two interviews that denote two distinct realities. Although, at the same time, the interviews have some points of convergence regarding the social needs and target groups. Next, two schemes will be presented that will show which are the levels of intervention, target audience, social needs, years of establishment and type of entity in each of the interviews.

The following diagram (Figure 37) shows some of the more general characteristics mentioned above during the first interview conducted by Pau partner. The name of the initiative is: Retired people policy - Seniors' White Paper. Briefly, this original, innovative project relies on several coordinated axes, such as the offer of services focused on healthy and active ageing and the prevention of autonomy, habitat-adapted answers and integration of new technologies concerning the elder people.
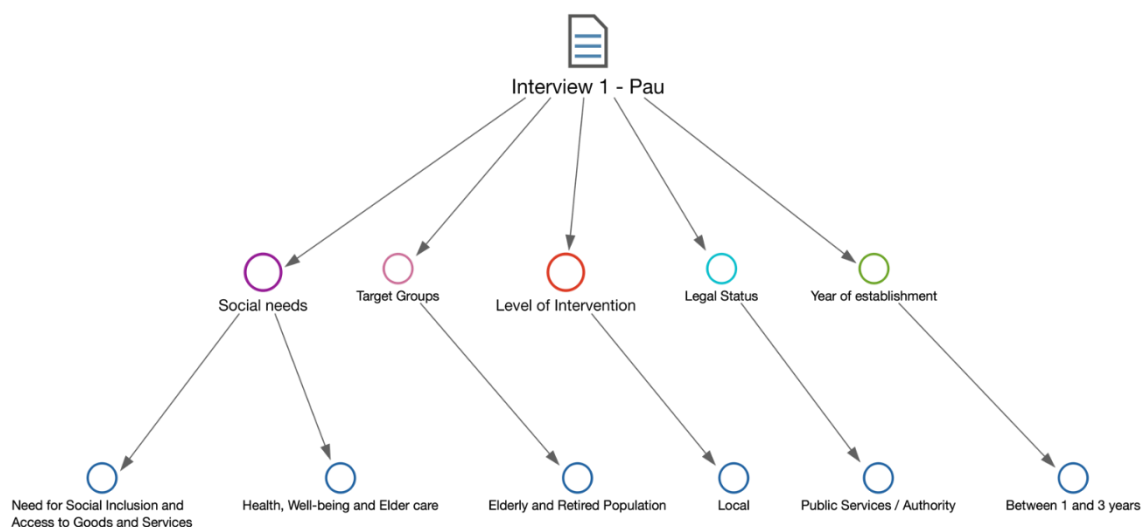
Figure 37 - Interview Scheme (1) Pau

For the second interview, the same analysis was carried out. The data in Figure 38 are related to an initiative that has the name: Silver & Co. This project aims to create a policy driven by the Habitat and Urban Renovation Management. One of the major issues is to extend responses coordinated between habitat and services, encouraging prevention of loss of autonomy.
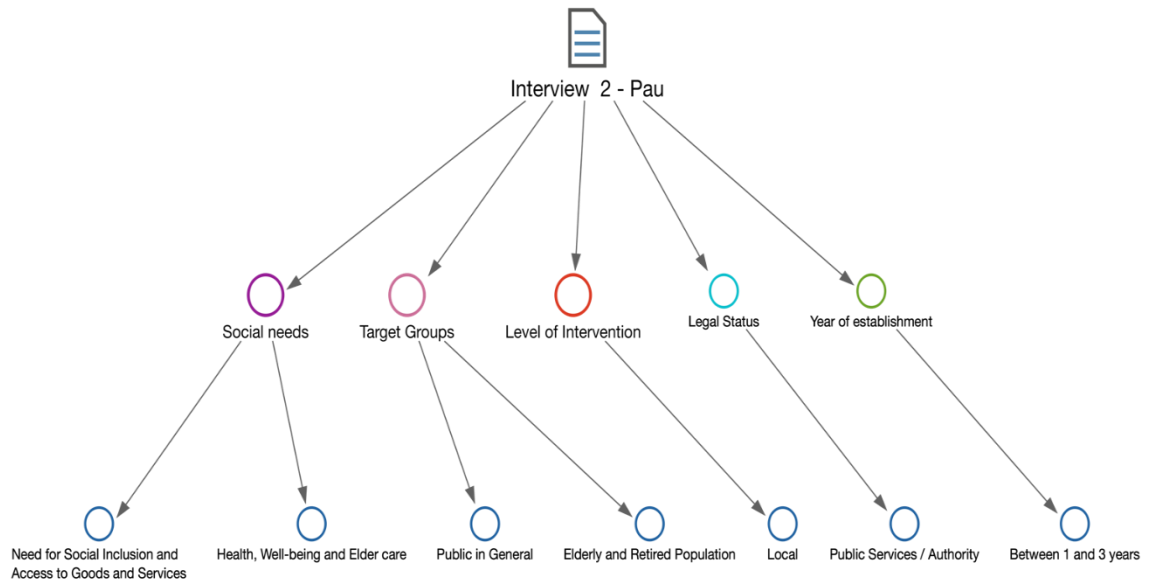
Figure 38 - Interview Scheme (2) Pau

4.2.7. CIM do Ave

Interviews Framework and General Information

CIM do Ave conducted interviews aimed at social innovation practices focused on Social Economy and Social Enterprises. Despite this scope, it was observable during the analysis of the interviews that there were an interconnection and a concern with issues related to Welfare Services and Public Participation. Thus, the partner conducted two interviews that denote two distinct realities. Although, at the same time, the interviews have some points of convergence regarding the social needs and target groups. Next, two schemes will be presented that will show the levels of intervention, target audience, social needs, years of establishment and type of entity in each of the interviews.

The following diagram (Figure 39) shows some of the more general characteristics mentioned above during the first interview conducted by CIM do Ave. The name of the initiative is: ASA - Ave Social Angels. The ASA Project aims to combat youth unemployment by promoting employability, fostering entrepreneurial skills and supporting the creation of micro-businesses and social entrepreneurship initiatives, based on the development and operationalisation of an active and innovative model of entrepreneurial communities.
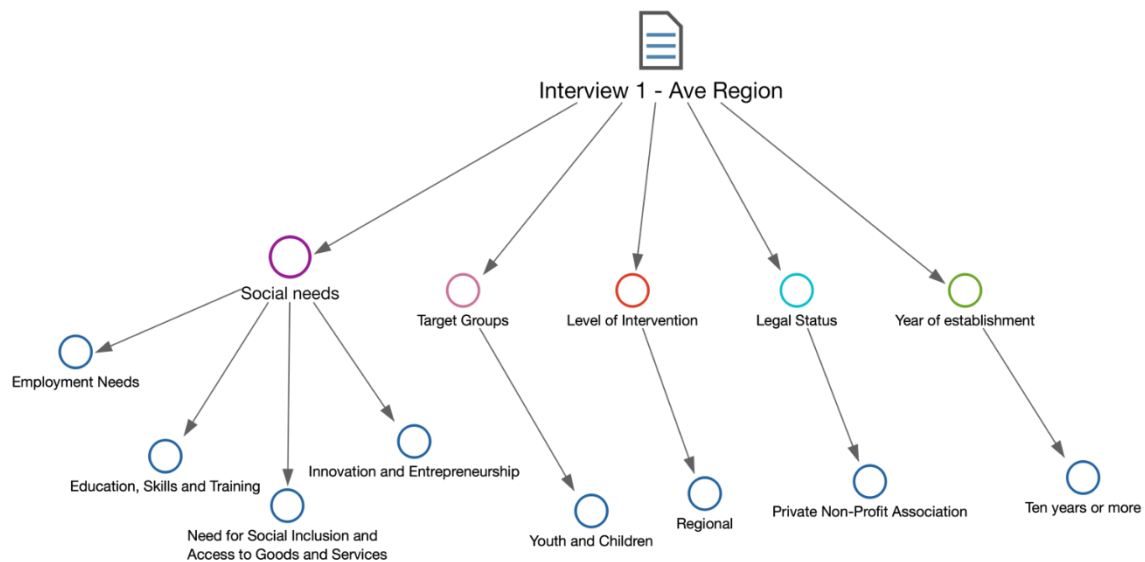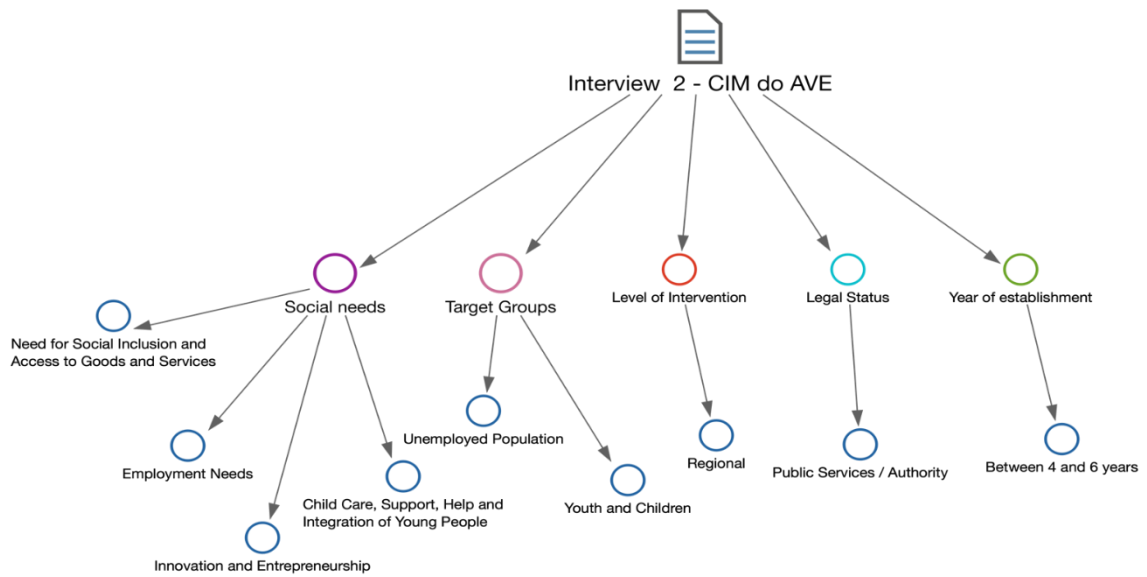

Figure 39 - Interview Scheme (1) Ave Region

For the second interview, the same analysis was carried out. The data in Figure 40 are related to same initiative that has the name: Ave Social Angels. As stated before, the ASA Project aims to combat youth unemployment by promoting employability, fostering entrepreneurial skills and supporting the creation of micro-businesses and

social entrepreneurship initiatives, based on the development and operationalisation of an active and innovative model of entrepreneurial communities.

4.3. Interviews in Atlantic Social Lab – Joint Result (General Data)

In this report section a brief summary is presented with the most essential points in a joint analysis of all the interviews carried out by the partners of the Atlantic Social Lab Project.

Figure 41 presents the legal status of the initiatives analysed. The majority of social innovation initiatives are carried out by a Private Non-Profit Association (33.3%) as the main driving force, in this cluster, there are Social Institutions, NGOs and Associations of Solidarity. Subsequently, with 27.8%, appears the Public Service Agency, which includes the Local Authorities, Public Administration, Central and Local Government. The Social Enterprises also have a significant share of the pie (22.2%), in this group are all the Companies of Social Character. Finally, with 5.6% each, there are the Public Non-Profit Association, the Private For-Profit Companies and Informal Groups / Community Groups.
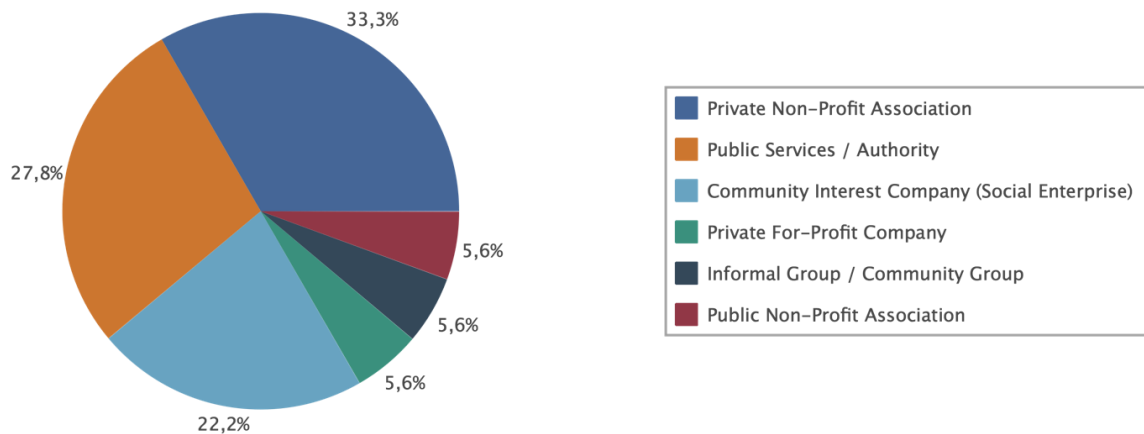

Figure 41 - Legal Status

According to Figure 42, it is notable that there is a higher preponderance for these initiatives of social innovation to be recent since the sum of the initiatives with one or fewer years with those between one and three years reaches 47.1%, almost half of the initiatives analysed. There are the oldest initiatives (23.5%), which often result in "upgrades" to projects and initiatives that have been in place for some time. With 17.6%, there are social innovation initiatives between four and six years of age and finally, with 11.8%, initiatives with seven to nine years.
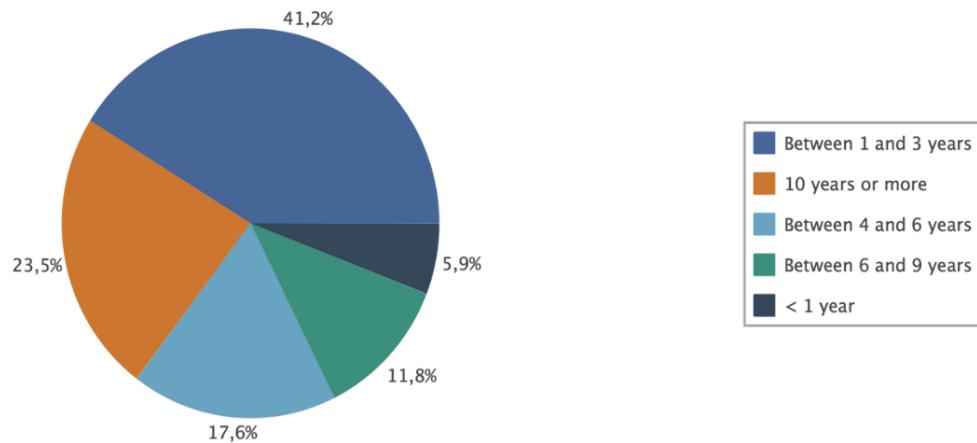
Figure 42 - Year of Establishment

Regarding the Target Groups of the initiatives analysed in the interviews, it is advisable to do an additional explanation of it. It is clear that there is a more equitable distribution of the scope that innovation initiatives have since many of the initiatives do not only focus on an only target group. This phenomenon happens because the initiatives will, directly and indirectly, affect a vast panoply of individuals. Analysing the Figure 43, the following aspects can be denoted:
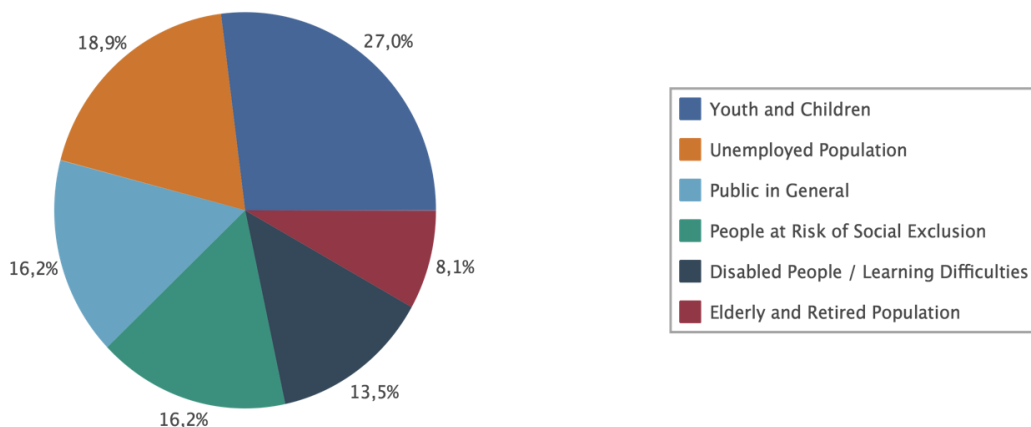

Figure 43 - Target Groups

- Youth and Children (27%) - In this group are inserted all young people and children. This group is a vast group that includes: Children and Youth, that can suffer of, delinquency, alcohol and drug abuse, domestic violence or family neglect, have made some kind of offence, have school disinterest, have a pre-school dropout. At the same time, this group can include "normal" young people and children, that is, young people and children that do not have any risk of social vulnerability, as well as encompasses young people who are unemployed, thus having a great relationship with the Unemployed Population target group. In

conclusion, the young people is one of the main concerns that the Atlantic Area regions have. The primary concern is the issues that are related with, integration, education, training, and future employability. There is a wide range of entities that attempt from social innovation mechanism promote all these assumptions;

- Unemployed Population (18.9%) - It is clear from the results of the analysis that this target group is a constant concern of public policies, support institutions and social enterprises. This cluster covers the entire population that is unemployed. Policies to support employment include measures such as training, education, help with job creation (entrepreneurship), public policies aimed at hiring and promoting a circular economy that promotes greater employability in the regions;

- Public in General (16.2%) - This target group takes into account the entire population of the region that the initiative will affect (the remain population that does not fit the other target groups). In short, it is all individuals who are directly and indirectly affected by the current project. As an example, the issue of public participation, which affects, in addition to more specific groups, all residents of a given location. Besides, there are still issues such as environmental concern, which affects the general population regarding their environmental awareness, reuse and recycling. It is clear that there are a constant concern and a significant number of initiatives that target the population as a whole and not only specific groups;

- People at Risk of Social Exclusion (16.2%) - During most of the interviews and in addition to the risk groups (unemployed, disabled, young, elderly, among others), it was also mentioned that some initiatives were allocated to "People at Risk or Vulnerable". After a more detailed analysis, it was noted that this group of people refers to ex-prisoners, women at risk, drug addicts and alcoholics, people who committed crimes, people suffering from racism and xenophobia, LGBT people, and people from debilitated families;

- Disabled People / Learning Difficulties (13.5%) - This target group takes into account all individuals who suffer some type of disability or having some kind of learning difficulties. Projects and initiatives to support these individuals take into account issues such as training, education, active integration into society and in the labour market One of the main concerns in this issue is the effective integration of these individuals into the society "to make them feel useful and autonomous", often passing through a gradual integration in the labour market It was observable that there is a robust correlation between this target group and the issues of circular economy and social enterprises;

- Elderly and Retired Population (8.1%) - This cluster refers to the target group that takes into account all elderly individuals. There is a concern to undertake social innovation initiatives that take into account the fight against loneliness, the

reconstruction of buildings that take into account their needs, help in obtaining information and access to health and care services and goods.

Following this more detailed analysis of the target groups, it is now essential to analyse the Intervention Levels of the initiatives. As can be seen in Figure 44, the vast majority of the projects and initiatives have a very local scope (54.5%). Subsequently, the regional initiatives appear with a 31.8% expression. With some percentage points less, some initiatives have a National expression (9.1%) and finally those that can have some impact at the International level (4.5%). It should be stressed that an initiative can have several levels of impact.
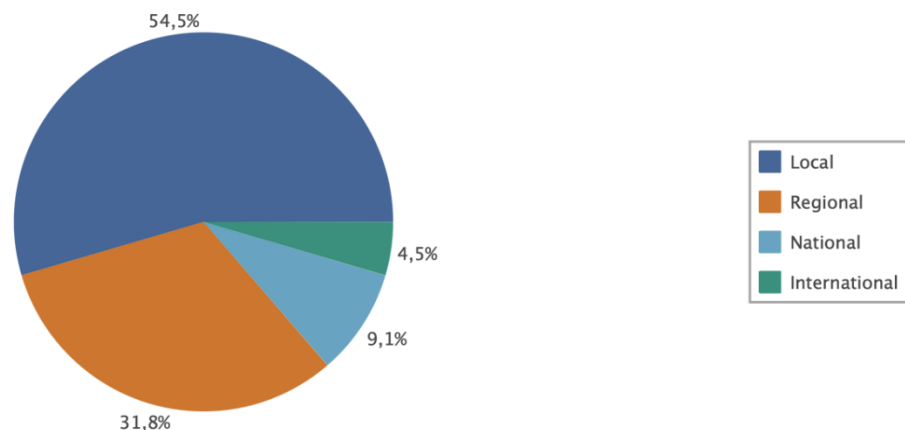

Figure 44 - Levels of Intervention

As expected the Social Needs have an intimate and direct relationship with the Target Groups. Analysing the chart below (Figure 45), the following aspects can be underlined:

- Education, Skills and Training (20.4%) - The most significant slice belongs to this social need. This social need affects a large part of the target groups mentioned above. A broad part of the social innovation initiatives have behind them a need for training and education of the population. From environmental issues, unemployment issues due to lack of skills, issues of lack of training and education for public participation, to education issues and aid to promote innovation and entrepreneurship;
- Need for Social Inclusion and Access to Goods and Services (20.4%) - This social need, as well as the need for Education, Skills and Training, becomes quite transversal and often mentioned during interviews. The issues of combating poverty and social exclusion, in particular by making it possible for the most disadvantaged populations to have access to education, employment, goods and services, are well mentioned, and there is a panoply of measures that always have this issue of social inclusion. Many initiatives, apart from trying to promote

training, education, employment, support for young people, children and the elderly, always have the issue of access to goods and services;

- Employment Needs (18.5%) - There is a great need for employability, this need is transversal in most of the initiatives analysed. The concern with this social problem is constant, and there is always a reliable link with the problems of training, education and social inclusion, especially concerning the most vulnerable population and young people;

- Child Care, Support, Help and Integration of Young People (16.7%) - It was quite salient during the analysis of interviews that young people and children are the future, the pillar of societies. There is a full notion that all problems related to young people and children, such as school drop-out, delinquency, crime, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, youth unemployment, have to be followed up and subsequently filled. Most of the social innovation initiatives have in their genesis the integration or reintegration of young people into schools, families, the labour market, as well as their constant training;

- Reuse and Recycling (7.4%) - The concern with environmental issues and with the circular economy has been a constant in contemporary societies, proving this, is that there are social innovation initiatives for this social need;

- Participation and Legal Change "Make Policies for the Citizens" (5.6%) - There is an increasing number of initiatives that directly or indirectly promote public participation and subsequent legislative changes. One of the social needs most mentioned and found within this scope was that the rulers were not "interested" in the real needs of the population;

- Health, Well-being and Eldercare (5,6%) - This social need has a very close relationship with the social problems of isolation, especially of the older stratum of the population;

- Innovation and Entrepreneurship (5.6%) - Finally, the social needs of entrepreneurship and innovation are often combined with job creation, training and population formation. It is a constant concern in the Atlantic Region.
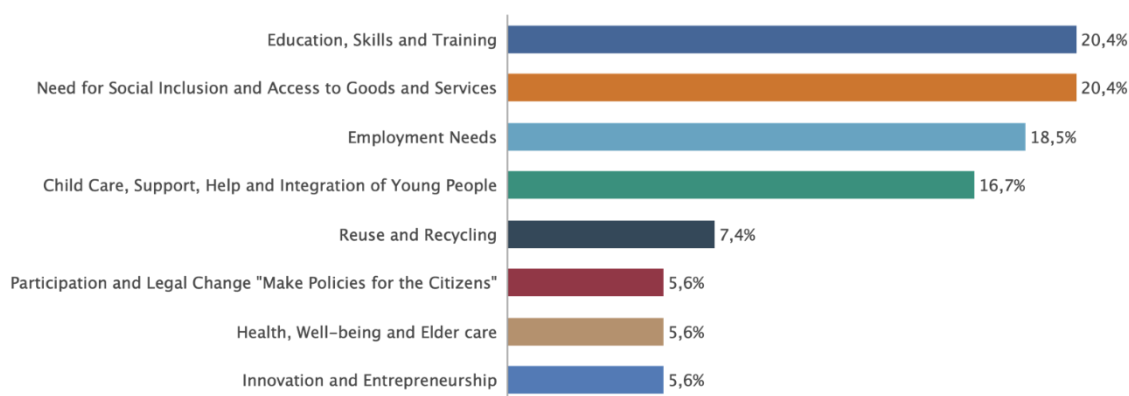

Figure 45 - Social Needs

In order to corroborate the analysis, some extracts from the interviews are transcribed below. With the transcriptions, it is also being possible to verify that there is a fundamental relationship between target audiences and the needs to be filled, and that a target public may have intrinsic various social needs. Thus, there is a relation between all the social needs and between the social needs and the target publics.

What social needs does your organisation intend to fill?

"Being Sol do Ave a regional development association, its mission is to respond to various needs identified in the territory, namely: Increase in the qualifications of the active population; Combating short and long-term unemployment; Combating poverty and social exclusion, in particular by enabling the most disadvantaged populations to access educational opportunities - formal, informal and non-formal - access to educational and leisure activities for children and young people, access to services and opportunities for employment."

CIM do Ave, interview to Sol do Ave.

"We manage to identify several priority needs, such as: the ageing of the population; households' financial fragility; the growing number of people living alone, particularly seniors, creation of social isolation, all the more worrying when accompanied by physical dependency; social housing, that are small enough to adapt to people living alone or loosing autonomy, inexpensive."

Communauté d'Agglomération Pau Béarn Pyrénées, interview to Silver & Co.

"It was basically to reduce landfill in Partnership with DSDC, and to provide training opportunities for those socially inactive and unemployed and for them to gain skills".

Enterprise North West, interview to 4Rs.

4.4. Joint Result of the Interviews by Addressed Themes

The previous section carried out an analysis taking into account the partners and the interviews, which led to a joint analysis of the more generic results in order to contextualise the social innovation initiatives of each region. Next, an analysis will be carried out for topics covered during the interviews. Thus, the analysis that follows will not be made from an interview in an interview, or from partner to partner, but rather by topics covered, culminating in a joint analysis of the results obtained. The following topics will be addressed:

- Purposes and Reasons to Create the Initiative;
- Social Capital of the Initiative;
- Initiative Financial Resources;
- Initiative Partnerships and Collaboration Networks;
- Initiative Innovation Enablers, Barriers, Strengths and Weaknesses;
- Measures of the Initiative;
- Initiative Implications.

4.4.1. Purposes and Reasons to Create the Initiative

The present sub-section of the report will discuss the reasons, objectives and goals of the initiatives analysed in the interviews. Analysing Figure 46, it can be seen that the two main reasons for creating social innovation initiatives are: Unemployment (20%) and Lack of Help and Support for Young People and Children (20%). In the previous section concerning social needs, these issues were also highlighted. As such, it become expectable that in the reasons that are behind the initiatives' creation, these issues were also in evidence. It should be pointed out that these are often correlated since there is a significant concern about youth unemployment, as well as a significant concern with the education and training of the young population and the unemployed population.

Subsequently, there is the question of Dynamization and Urban Rehabilitation (14.3%), many initiatives are behind this question, to renew and ignite their regions, through cultural enhancement, rehabilitation of buildings for the elderly for example, stimulus for entrepreneurial activities and innovations, to urban modification taking into account environmental concerns.

Then, there are three reasons with 11.4% each: Helping People with Disabilities and Learning Difficulties; Environmental Concern and; Access to Affordable Goods and Services. Regarding the help of individuals with disabilities, this reason is intertwined with issues such as the employability and training of these individuals. Concerning environmental concerns, there is a solid interconnection with the employability this sector can bring. Access to goods and services is often combined with environmental

concerns, as there are many initiatives to re-use goods so that they can "reach" people at affordable prices. Finally, with 5.7% each, the reasons appear: Ageing Population and Citizen Participation and Engagement (Community Representation).
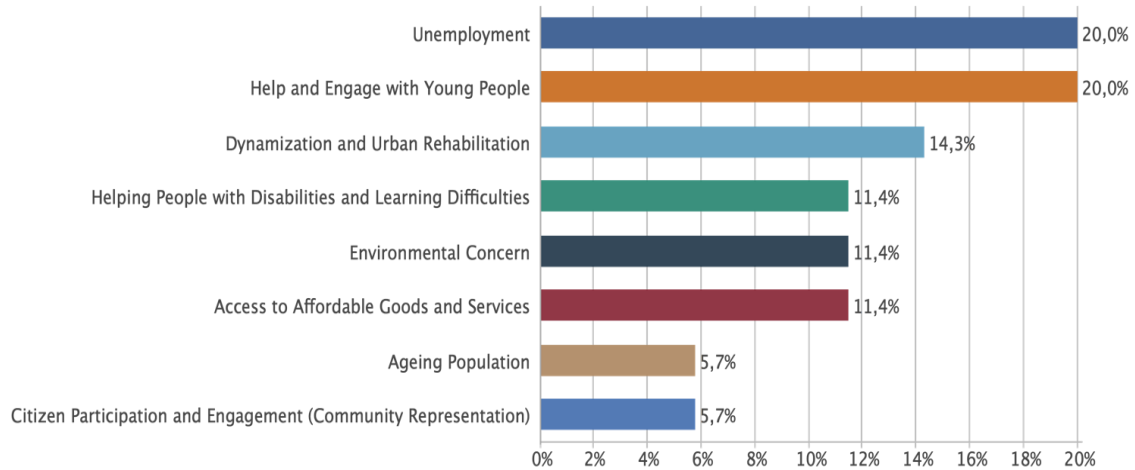

Figure 46 - Reasons for Initiative Creation

Once the analysis of the reasons behind the creation of the initiatives has been completed, the analysis of the objectives and goals that are intended to be achieved with the initiatives is now taking place. As expected the goals and objectives have an intimate and direct relationship with the reason behind the creation of the initiative. Analysing the Figure 47, the following aspects can be underlined:

- Promote Employment (18.5%) - This goal is transversal to most of the initiatives analysed in the interviews. When the initiatives speak about the help and integration of young people, employment promotion for this group of individuals is also mentioned. When they are talking about environmental concerns, innovation and entrepreneurship, in addition to all the benefits that this will bring to the regions, there is always the integration of people in the labour market Regarding the help to the people with disabilities, in addition to training and education, there is always the presupposition of their integration into the labour market In short, it was denoted that one of the best measures of social integration that could and should be highlighted and improved by social innovation initiatives is the promotion of employment;

- Promote Training and Education to the Population (16.7%) - This objective, besides covering a large portion of the target population affected by this type of social innovation initiatives is also interlinked with various social needs. It has been assumed during most of the interviews that skill, training and education of the population are crucial in issues such as public participation, integration or re-

entry into the labour market, in the help of people with disabilities, in the creation of companies and other social innovation initiatives, among others. In conclusion, training is in most cases a topic that is intended to improve;

- Promote Socio&Economic Development and Access to Goods&Services (16,7%) - The great expressiveness of this goal can be explained by the fact that there is a great deal of social inclusion and integration of a vast group of individuals and populations. Besides, entrepreneurial activity, innovative activities and circular economy activities, focus on the promotion of socio-economic development and the affordable / easier access to goods& services;

- Promote Entrepreneurship and Innovation (11.1%) - This goal has a very significant and vital expression, this is because the regions increasingly tend to focus on intervention and aid mechanisms that are innovative in their ends and their means – the social innovation. In addition, there is a constant concern of the regional entrepreneurial dynamics concerning their business fabric, social enterprises and circular economy enterprises;

- Promote Reintegration and Help to Young People (9.3%) - This objective, although related to a large part of the objectives and reasons already mentioned above, it has a direct relation concerning the help in the reintegration of young people who have suffered from some kind of domestic violence, committed crimes and delinquency, school dropout, alcohol or drug abuse, among others. As such, this aid intends to reintegrate young people in a family, in the educational system and professional life;

- Promote public policy changes (9.3%) - This objective aims at the existence of changes in public policies, in particular on issues such as public procurement policies, more detailed legislation on social enterprises and support institutions, legislative changes in relation to environmental concerns, among others;

- Promote Adequate Responses to the Aging Problem (7.4%) - There is a concern of some of the regions of the Atlantic Area to obtain and promote mechanisms to combat the isolation of the elderly. These responses are intended to promote the reorganisation of the urban space, rehabilitation of housing, combating isolation and assistance in bringing quality goods and health services;

- Promote Green and Circular Economy (7,4%) - Promote Green and Circular Economy (7,4) - In this objective, it is remarkable that the solutions go through the change of the legal framework of this issue - the green economy, as well as the change in mentalities and population awareness concerning this problem. Second, there is a concern to act as a joint force in this matter, in this way, there is a preoccupation to ensure more "measures" for the engagement and involvement by governments and local authorities. Third, there is plenty of employment opportunities in this field. Lastly, interconnecting almost every point, there is a concern to find economic and financial viability of these green projects;

- <u>Promote Participation in Decision Making (Direct Participation) (3,7%)</u> - The goal with less expression has to do with the direct participation of the community in political decisions, such as participatory budgeting.
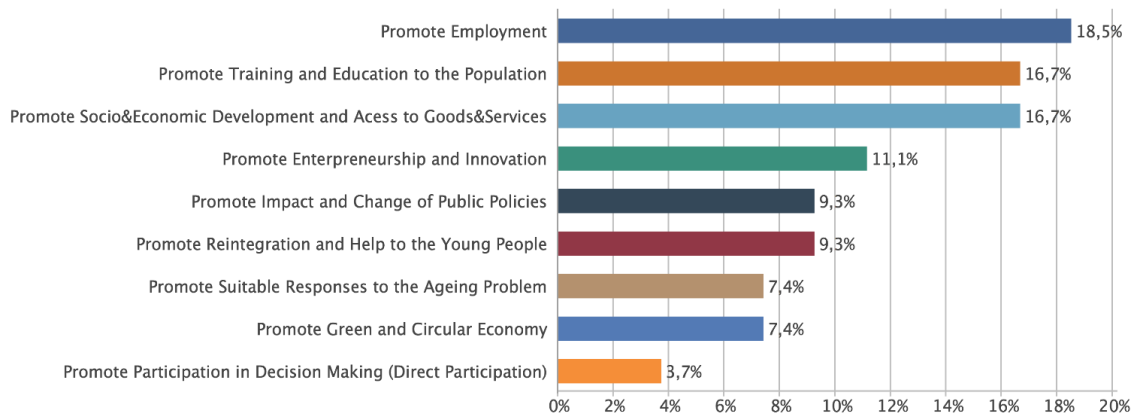

Promote Employment — 18,5%
Promote Training and Education to the Population — 16,7%
Promote Socio&Economic Development and Acess to Goods&Services — 16,7%
Promote Enterpreneurship and Innovation — 11,1%
Promote Impact and Change of Public Policies — 9,3%
Promote Reintegration and Help to the Young People — 9,3%
Promote Suitable Responses to the Ageing Problem — 7,4%
Promote Green and Circular Economy — 7,4%
Promote Participation in Decision Making (Direct Participation) — 3,7%

<center>**Figure 47 - Initiative Main Goals**</center>

In order to corroborate and give a greater depth to the analysis made and to the categories created in relation to the main goals of selected initiatives, some excerpts from the interviews are quoted below. With the transcriptions, it is possible to observe two realities, firstly that the main goals are transversal and that solving one problem may automatically be solving another. Secondly, it is also possible to verify that there is a linkage among four parameters analysed: Target Groups, Social Needs, Main Reason and Main Goals.

Main Goals - What are the main goals of this initiative?

"To promote entrepreneurship. Young people don't feel like they have a place here when they get older. We wanted to show that if you take the initiative then digital skills is something you can do at home on a computer and to persuade people there are other routes to employment if the traditional routes aren't working for them. We are all very positive about the creative industries as well in Northern Ireland and that is something else we wanted to push"

Enterprise North West, interview to Kippie.

"Therefore, we wanted the initiative to impact all public policies on the needs of people, based on the fact that there can be no local development without the well-being of citizens (...) An important objective was to give a greater social value to the municipal public procurement policy to which we were dedicating 40% of the municipal budget and this initiative would

also help to promote the employment of people with greater difficulties of access to the labour market."

"The genesis of the project are several observations from the field of associations linked to the disability sector. I have some knowledge, including my wife who worked in the healthcare industry. Our first observation was that: there is a huge waste of medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, medical beds, walkers, etc. (...) This is the first postulate. Second postulate, which arose more from the associations of the elderly, ADMR - home help association - or associations of people with disabilities, users have increasingly problems of financial access to medical equipment. Because prices tend to increase, since they are more and more specific materials (...)"

4.4.2. Social Capital of the Initiative

The following analysis takes into account aspects such as the number of people who are part of the initiatives, the levels of education and the necessary skills and expertise for the effective development of the initiative. The large majority of initiatives is of limited scale. Analysing the Figure 48, it can be seen that the ten or more employees represent only a little bit more than a third (35.7%). After establishing a connection matrix between the number of employees of the initiatives and the legal status of the initiatives, it was pointed out that initiatives with 10 or more individuals are mainly social enterprises, and the initiatives between 4 and 6 employees are associations, institutions and companies. Then, with 21.4%, there are initiatives with employees between 1 and 3, being mostly governmental entities and local authorities. Finally, with 7.1%, there are initiatives that have between 7 and 9 employees.
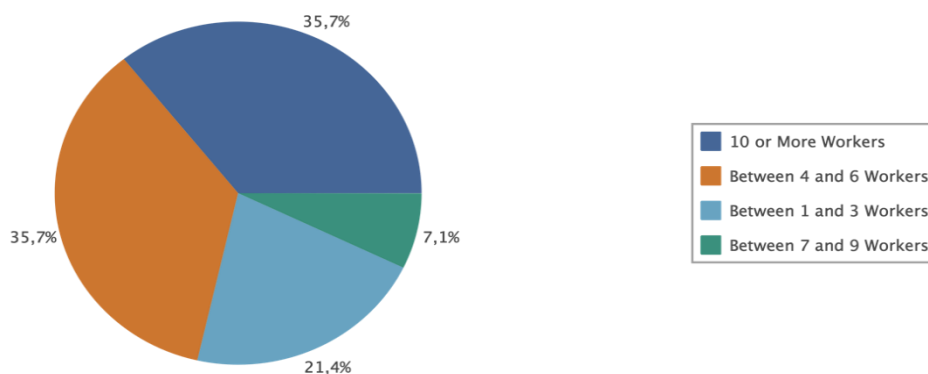

Figure 48 - Initiative Formal Members

Figure 49 shows the level of education of the members of the initiatives. The level of qualification is high. It is possible to verify that 73.1% of the individuals have a bachelor's degree or higher (46.2% bachelor, 15.4 master and 11.5 PhD). Only 26.1% of the individuals do not have higher education; however, 23.1% have secondary education or equivalent, with only a minority of people having a lower secondary education (3.8%). Regarding the areas of formation of the initiative members, five can be highlighted: Social Science, Economics and Business, Linguistics, Legal Sciences, Computer Science.
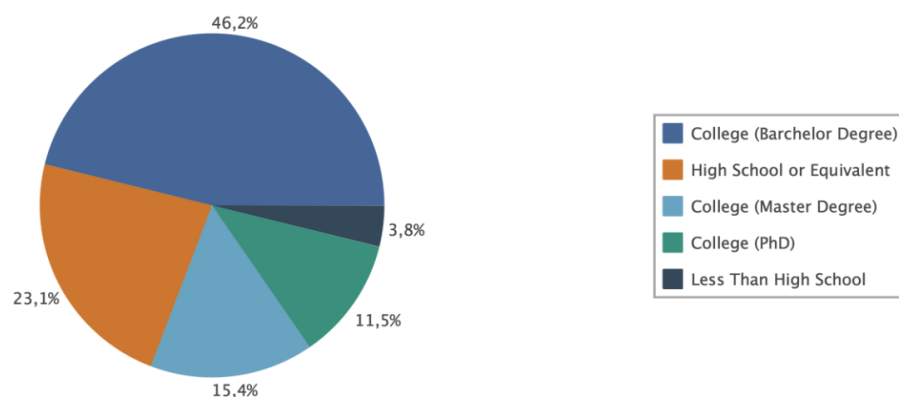
Figure 49 - Level of Education

Finally, Figure 50 shows the competencies and skills that the initiative and the initiative members must have for the initiative to succeed. First, with 21.7% each, Teamwork; Communication and Dialogue. These two aspects are interconnected. The need for teamwork is constant because the initiative only can succeed if there are an inter-help and support among the team members. Communication, capacity for dialogue and negotiation is essential, there is a constant need to connect, discuss and negotiate with various types of social actors.

Then, with 17.4%, Management Skills are referred as quite valuable. It is essential to know how to "do the business". The entities that promote social innovation initiatives need to manage their assets, their expenses, their services and even how to apply for support funds, national and European.

With 13%, there is the Skills related with New Technologies. There is an increasing need to have computer skills, website skills, programming skills, among others. Subsequently, with 10.9% each, there is, the Ability to Adapt to New Tasks and the Non-Formal Education skills (Life experience, Work experience). It is essential to have this type of skills and experience because, in these initiatives, the resources are limited, and there is a considerable need to adjust to new challenges and tasks that tend to appear. In addition, the non-formal education is vital because, in that kind of initiatives the organisations are dealing with people who are very vulnerable socially,

life and work experience often exceeds the academic level. Finally, with 4.3%, the Knowledge about Legislation.
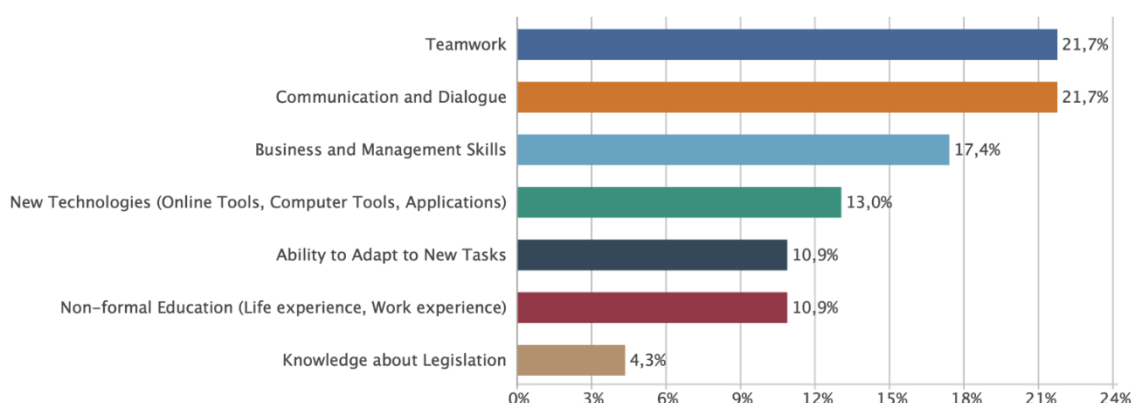

Figure 50 - Skills and Expertise

In order to provide an additional insight regarding relevant skills to the initiatives, some excerpts of the interviews are transcribed below:

What skills and expertise are available for the development of the initiative?)

"What each of us lack the others make up for. The problem is time; everyone is very busy as they all work or are self-employed as well. Balancing out time is difficult and being able to employ someone else to develop funding would be perfect. That's where I would lack the most although the other directors would be better. Some would be better at office organisation and financial management."

Enterprise North West, interview to UV Arts.

"We have a fairly broad skills set – there is obviously the content of the programmes – there is that focus so we have a lot of people that are qualified for that. Also we do sales and marketing so we have those skills sets and then there's accounts and procurement so we have those also."

Cork City Council, interview to Steam Education Limited.

4.4.3. Initiative Financial Resources

The following analysis takes into account the financial aspects such as: source of funding, the adequacy of funding (if it is sufficient for the development of all activities) and finally, what are the opportunities and/or funding strategies that could increase the initiative efficiency.

Analysing Figure 51, it can be seen that much of the funding for these social innovation initiatives comes from public funding (64%). In particular, it relies on the access to support funds from local and central governments. Then, with 16%, there is the private financing, with 12% financing from European sources, such as H2020 support funds. Finally, philanthropists represent 8%.
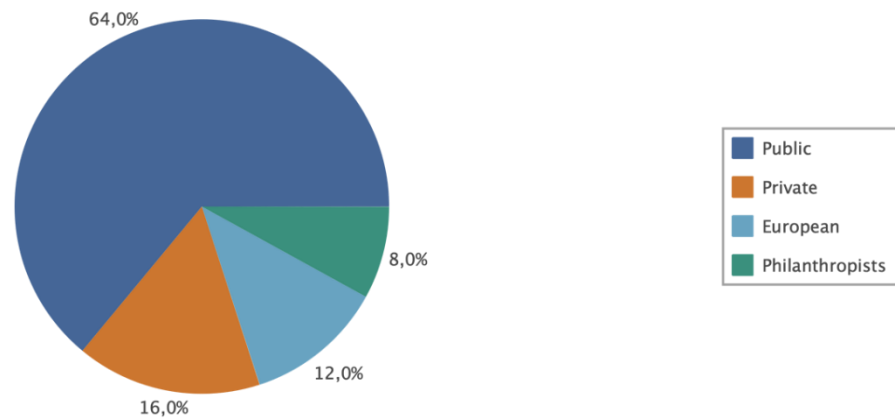

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Figure 51 - Funding Source

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The following Figure 52 shows if the respondents considered that the funding that they have for the initiatives is sufficient. It is possible to attest that the vast majority considers the funding insufficient (70.6%). However, it is necessary to make a caveat, many of the interviews mentioned that the financing is "enough to get by", but that they "cannot do more and better", that they do not have the response capacity they would like to have.
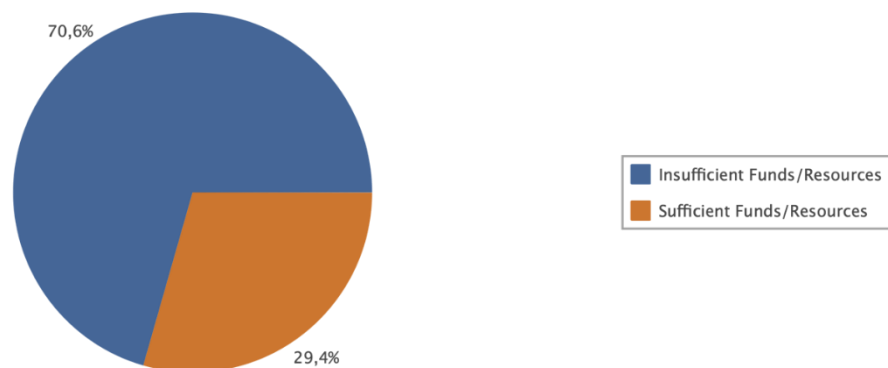

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Figure 52 - Funding Adequacy

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Figure 53 allows the data observation concerning opportunities and/or funding strategies that could increase the initiative efficiency? As can be seen, the most preferred strategy was the Increase of Self-Funding (26,1%). This phenomenon can be explained because what was evident previously in Figure 52, there is a lack of sufficient resources and funding to develop the initiatives properly, that is, the Public, European and Private funding is not enough to support all the projects and activities that this kind of social innovation initiatives have. Thus, it is essential in the perspective of the most of the interviewees to increase the self-funding of social innovation initiatives.

The Increase in Government Financing and the European Funding (European Projects) comes next in the chart ranking with 21,7% each. The reasons behind this preoccupation in increasing the Government Financing and the European Financing is because a higher number of initiatives do not know how to "compete" and how to do the "legal forms" to apply for European Projects, such as ERDF, H2020 among others. The same thing happens with Public and Governmental funding. Some of this social innovation initiatives do not have the necessary formation, skills and expertise to "auto-apply" to this kind of funding. Therefore, it is crucial to expanding the knowledge concerning this issue, only with that it will be possible to increase the Public and European funding.

Subsequently, there is the Increase in Private Funding (13%). The initiatives as can be seen in the precedent figures have a higher Public, Governmental and European funding dependency. Thus, one of the opportunities can be and should be the search and research for Private Funding. Finally, with 8,7% each, appear the Improvement of Working Conditions and the Initial Impact of the Initiative and Assessment. It as observable, that the lack of initial impact of the initiative or the lack of assessment of the initiative has a bad influence on its success.
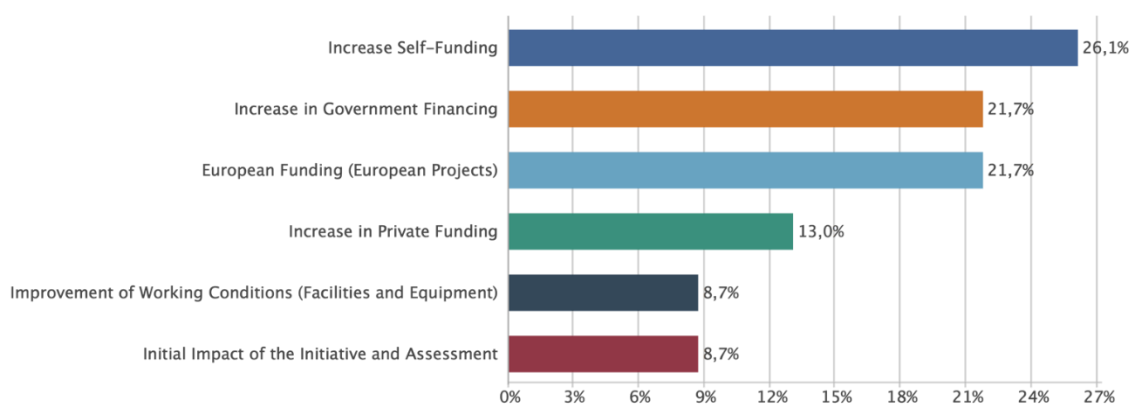

Figure 53 - Opportunities and/or Funding Strategies that Could Increase the Initiatives Efficiency

4.4.4. Initiative Partnerships and Collaboration Networks

The following analysis takes into account some of collaboration and networking aspects such as: the existing relations and collaboration networks, and if the initiative belongs to a formalised cooperation. This section also addresses considerations on the absorptive capacity and the initiative.

Following the analysis, Figure 54 shows which type of entities are prevalent in the collaborative networks of the analysed initiatives. By doing a more in-depth analysis of each of the collaborative groups, it is possible to reach the following conclusions:

- Public Governance Bodies (25.5%) - It is observable, that most initiatives originate from public bodies, one more reason for this high percentage of networking. Besides, it has also been reported in previous sections that should be taken into account the fact that many of the initiatives rely on public funding, therefore, it is normal that the most extensive network and collaboration to be made with public bodies;

- Solidary / Social Institutions (15.7%) - These solidarity institutions play a crucial role in integrating, re-integrating, assisting and supporting the most disadvantaged populations. This kind of institutions also have a well-developed knowledge and responsiveness concerning a panoply of social needs;

- Social Enterprises (15.7%) - Like solidarity institutions, these non-profit social enterprises also play a key role in issues such as access to goods and services at affordable prices for the needy population, employability and to the circular economy;

- Private Sector (15.7%) - There are some reasons why the private sector appears in these domains of collaboration and networking. There is a panoply of innovation activities mentioned in the interviews that depend on the private sector, such as: policies to promote employment, reuse policies and green economy, youth and people with disabilities integration policies in the job market and education in the environment business (green economy), among others;

- Schools and Universities (13.7%) - There is a constant need to link the public sector to the private sector and the knowledge production sector. This rationale does not escape the scope of social innovation initiatives. There is a need to observe knowledge of universities and centres of study, as well as the necessity and partnerships with schools and universities for the training and education of a wide variety of individuals;

- Social Agents (11.8%) - In this case, social agents refer to entities such as unions, syndicates, professional bodies, communities, residents, among others. At this point, some interviews have shown a direct collaboration in promoting

employment with unions, or in promoting public participation with local communities;

- Business Organisations (2%) - A very small or almost residual expression, only one case is that it had a business organisation in its network.
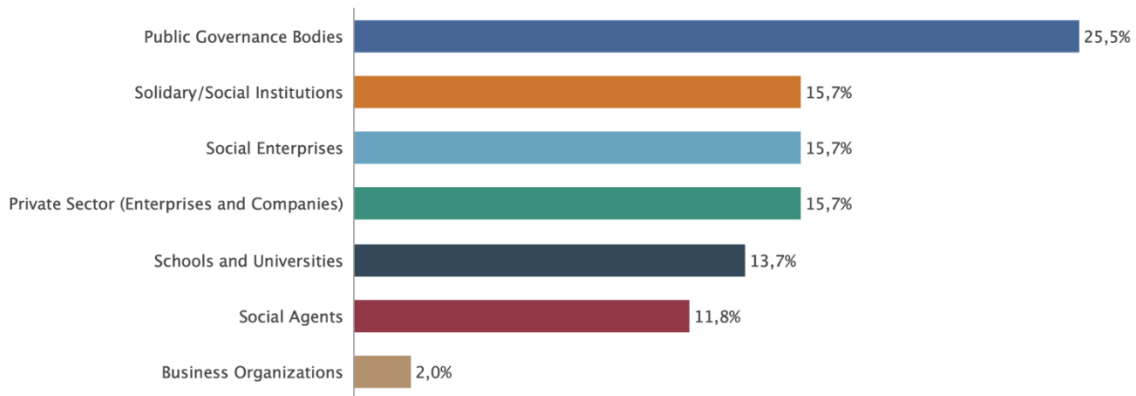

Figure 54 - Collaboration Network

In order to corroborate the analysis made and to the categories created in relation to the collaboration networks that are more important within this kind of social innovation initiatives, some parts of the interviews are transcribed to allow a better comprehension on the networking aspects in social innovation.

What are the existing relations with: public governance bodies, other organisations in the area of social innovation, universities and research centres, industry/companies?

> *"At the local level, the Agency is in charge of the relationship with economic and social agents, even in the elaboration of the Local Employment Strategy, which would be the Employment Pacts and, therefore, leads the entire process of agreement. Also as an Agency, we have the obligation to make a permanent transmission of data to the State and Autonomous Employment Observatory."*
>
> Santiago de Compostela, interview to the Local Placement Agency of the City Council of Santiago.

> *"The Municipality of Póvoa de Lanhoso takes over the network in its various areas of education and at the most varied levels: local and regional as diverse peers and networks in the areas of social intervention, education, training and employment, promotion of economic development, between others."*
>
> CIM do Ave, personal interview to Póvoa de Lanhoso Municipality.

"Ok, other organisations in the area of social innovation, like Cork is a pretty contained city and in its community and voluntary sector you quickly become aware of who the players are and its very much been the case of, creating relationships with them and then determining where overlap is inevitable and where it can be avoided essentially."

Cork City Council, personal interview to PPN.

After the description of the collaboration networks and its interview transcriptions, it may be interesting to analyse if there are formalised domains of networking. Taking into account the information in Figure 55, it is possible to observe that practically half of the initiatives have a formal collaboration network (53,8%).
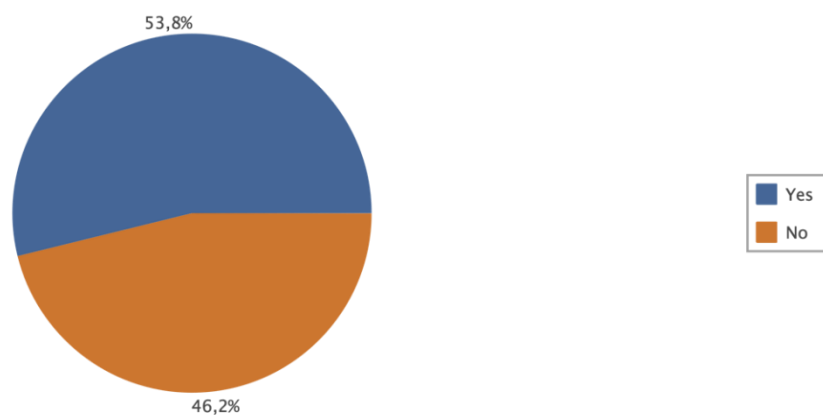

Figure 55 - Formalised Collaboration Network

As expected the collaboration networks and the absorptive capacity have an intimate and direct relationship (Figure 56). During the analysis of the interviews, there were quite a few who did not respond to the question or the answers that had little to do with the question itself, demonstrating that there was no capacity for absorption. Due to this fact it is possible to explain that the most significant percentage in the chart is that they Did Not Respond or Had No Absorption Capacity (20.8%). Then, with 16.7% each, there is knowledge about Computers and Technologies and Management Knowledge. Then, with 12.5% each, it is denoted that there are capacity and need for absorption concerning the knowledge related to Marketing and Communication and in the knowledge related to tools to Apply for Funding. With 8.3%, there is the knowledge that is absorbed from Local and Central Authorities and Governments, as well as the knowledge that is internalised from Scientific Sources, such as universities, knowledge centres or it is just based on surveys and bibliographic reviews. Finally, with 4.2%, there is the capacity for absorption of the Life Experience of the various members and partners of the initiative.
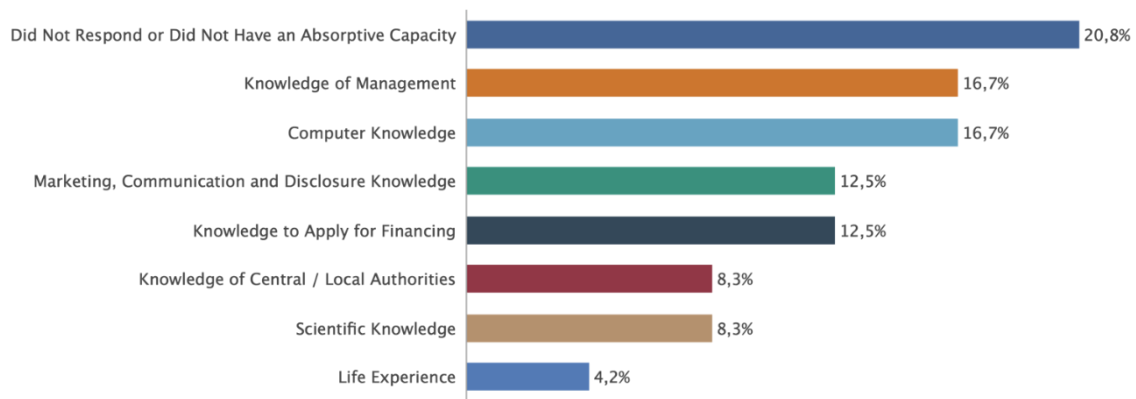
Figure 56 - Absorptive Capacity

4.4.5. Initiative Innovation Enablers, Barriers, Strengths and Weaknesses

The main enablers/key elements, the main barriers, the main strengths and the main weaknesses of the initiatives are now analysed. Regarding the Figure 57, it is possible to obtain data on the "facilitators" or key elements that allow social innovation initiatives to succeed. During the interviews, several enabling factors were mentioned, from institutions that facilitate the practice of the initiative, to factors of the initiative itself, such as communication and teamwork. As might be expected, the highest percentage belongs to Public Governance Bodies (33.3%), as well as in the collaboration networks mentioned in the previous section there is a great dependence on this type of initiative to public bodies and public social agents.

Then, the second most mentioned element is the Networking Environment (19.4%), that is, it is the networks that come from the social innovation initiative. Many interviewees consider that it is the networking and collaboration and the environment of inter-help and permanent transfer of information and knowledge that positively influences the social innovation initiatives. Somewhat related to the previous one, a key factor also mentioned was Teamwork, Communication and Dialog (16.7%). This point is essential for the good functioning and success of the initiatives because if resources are scarce, it is often necessary to work as a team, it is necessary to have effective means of communication, within and outside the initiative.

The Universities, Schools and Research Centres (11.1%) were also mentioned as a critical factor that facilitates the success of the initiative, both in obtaining knowledge and in partnership in projects.

Finally, with 8.3%, there is the issue of Political Climate, Legal and Normative Framework, in this point are focused issues such as legal changes that allowed the success of the initiative and the political climate suspects of higher funding for the initiative.
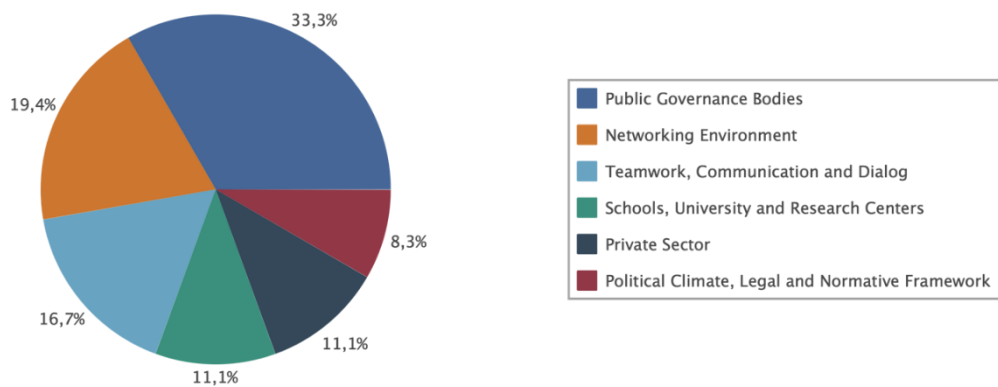
Figure 57 - Initiatives Key Elements

The following Figure 58 shows the barriers that, according to the interviewees could negatively influence the initiatives. The most mentioned barrier was the issue of Political Changes, Bureaucracy and Resistance (25.7%). There is the notion that the dependence of the political power in electoral cycles may jeopardize the efforts of specific initiatives, as well as all the bureaucracy that is necessary to ask for support and financing.

The Lack of Collaboration and Cooperation (22.9%) is also relevant according to the interviews. Although in some cases there is a lot of collaboration with external elements, in other cases this does not happen - there is an apparent lack of cooperation, endangering the success of the initiatives.

The Loss of Financing (17.1%), appears third in the list of barriers. This is because, the vast majority is not self-sufficient, so, if the initiatives lose the financing or there is some cut, the social innovation project runs the risk to end. Also in third place with 17.1%, appears the Lack of Knowledge and Information Transfer. This consists in the lack of knowledge on the part of some actors (inside and outside the project) in terms of operationalization of social innovation projects, lack of culture of shared management of resources, difficulty in involving large companies in the initiative, generalized skills deficit for the identification and recognition of proposals of different social value, absence of culture and practice of alternative and innovative financing mechanisms for projects.

Lastly, with 8.6% each, there are barriers related with Lack of Working Conditions and Legal Framework, which may not be conducive to the social innovation activity to be developed.
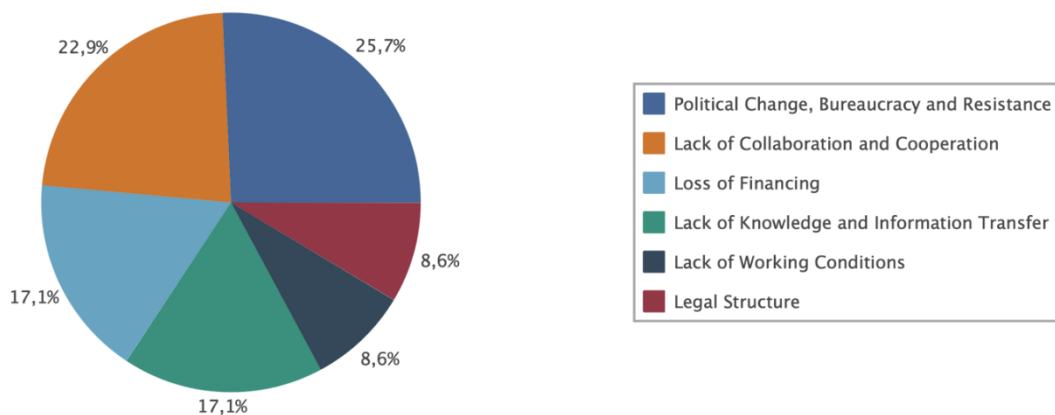
Figure 58 - Initiatives Main Barriers

Taking into account the Main Strengths reported (Figure 59), the most mentioned was the resolution of the proposed problem, that is, the Created Social Value and Innovation (33.3%). In the vast majority of cases, it is considered that one of the greatest strengths is to create something with social value that is innovative. Thus, solving a social need.

Next, it is mentioned the Passion and Quality of Human Resources (21.2%). There is a conviction that despite all the vicissitudes of the projects, such as lack of funding, adequate facilities and lack of human resources, the passion of the existing human capital and its quality, it can do much more than expected.

Transferability and Flexibility of the Initiative (18.2%) appear in the third place, many respondents are "proud" to say that their initiative has a capacity of transferability and to adapt to different environments and realities.

In fourth place, with 15.2% appears the Inter-Institutional and Actor Relationship, in other words, Networking. There is a clear perception that is very important and an added value to have a network of contacts and a good relationship between the various instances that intervene directly and indirectly in the initiatives.

Some interviewees mentioned the fact that the initiative being Long-Term (6.1%) is itself a strength. Finally, with 3% each, appear the Infrastructure of the initiative and the fact of being Low-Cost.
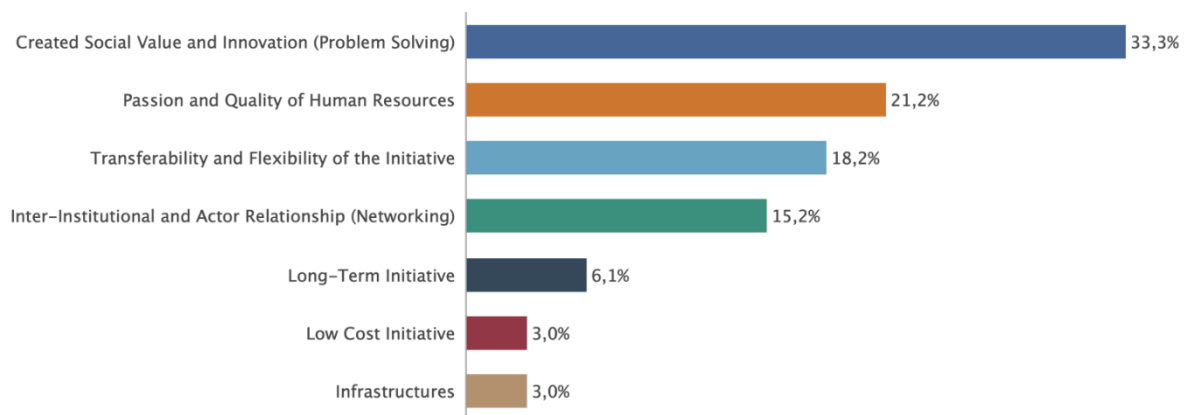
Figure 59 - Initiatives Main Strengths

Finally, Figure 60 shows the Initiative Weaknesses. With 25.7% of the cases, there is the question regarding Funding that Generates Dependencies. Some cases refer to lack of specific funding and competition in funding, the dependence on certain people (political power), the low government budgets, among others.

The problem related to the lack of human resources (14.3%) appears in the second position. The workload and possibly burnout is a weakness mentioned many times, reducing its capacity to respond to social needs. Also with 14.3%, there is the Lack of Impact Assessment (Measurement Tools).

Third, with 11.4%, the Centralisation of Initiatives and Support problem is deepened. According to those interviewed, funders increasingly allocate more and more resources towards technological innovations, to the detriment of social innovation initiatives. Besides, there is a stigma that local and community initiatives are much more likely to disappear if a national initiative with higher visibility appears.

Following the analysis, with 8.6% each appears the Non-Continuity of the Initiative and Activities and the Knowledge Deficit weaknesses. The first aspect mentioned, refers to the timeline of the initiative, which may have an end that may leave many things to be done, the second point has to do with the deficit of knowledge that staff and stakeholders have towards the initiative.

Finally, there are three other weaknesses with 5.7% each, being: Lack of Visibility, Follow-up Difficulties and finally Reduced Response Capability.
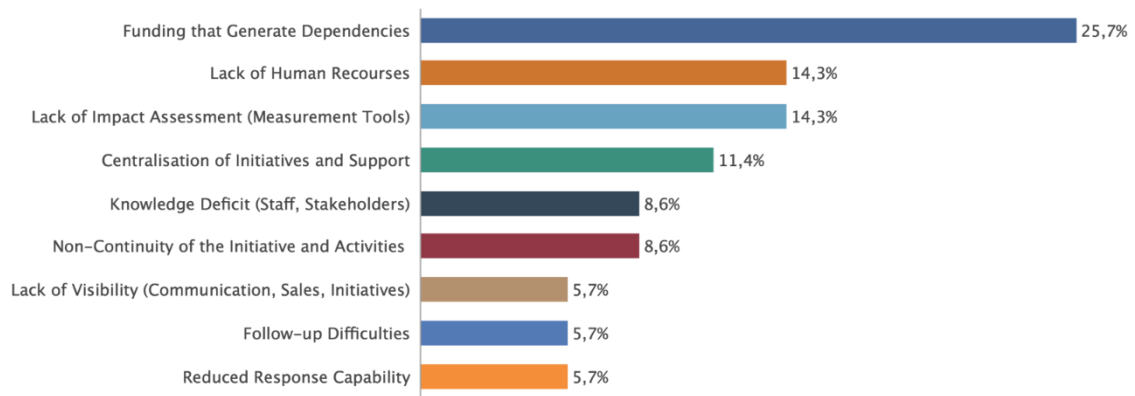
Figure 60 - Initiatives Main Weaknesses

Below excerpts from the interviews are presented to illustrate relevant issues regarding Main Weaknesses. There is a close relationship between the barriers that prevent the growth of these initiatives and the weaknesses in the implementation of this kind of social innovation projects/initiatives.

What are the main weaknesses of your social innovation initiative?

"*I believe that one weakness is that the initiative is always hanging by a thread, which depends on the fact that certain specific people, continue to believe at a political level and at a technical level, continue to believe in it.* (…) *The risk that there is in that, is that if we are only a person (in this case) it is complicated, because we have to attend to many things at once.*"

Avilés Municipality, interview to Ye too Ponese.

"*The Funding. There is no specific financing and all the financing that is developed in the city councils. This means that there is no ability to design in the long run. Therefore, the absence of financial autonomy.*"

Santiago de Compostela, interview to Local Placement Agency of the City Council.

"*I think for a successful business in social innovation is time pressure on the key people who are running it and investment in the support structures that would take the pressure off the key people that are running it. I think all of the others may be challenges but they are not barriers. There are lots of incubators out there, you can get support in academia, you can get some funded support from academia and others, there are lots of networks out there. There might be an issue with access*"

to some of these that could be improved but the main barrier is burn out of the key people, and trying to find the funds to hire people to reduce that pressure (...) Possibly difficulties in organising their idea into a functional business. I think that's it. Transferring it into something practical."

Cork City Council, interview to Steam Education.

"I'll go back to in terms of the burnout rate could be high, funding is always a challenge, however, it's just a reality."

Cork City Council, personal interview to Churchfield Community.

4.4.6. Measures of the Initiative

The following analysis takes into account the measures of the initiative. The aspects that will be considered in the following analysis will be, the measures to minimise risks that will allow the goals are achieving, the metrics to quantify the social value of the initiative, and finally, the initiative improvement points.

Regarding measures taken to minimise risk (Figure 61), that is, the measures that will allow the achievement of the objectives of the social innovation initiatives it is possible to draw the following conclusions:

- Analysis of Indicators and Results (25%) – The reason why this point is the most mentioned one during the interviews arises from the fact that many of the actors interviewed have the notion that one of the most excellent tools of risk minimisation is the evaluation of results and strategies periodically. The implementation of systems for continuous monitoring of activities in order to be able to evaluate their implementation and to be able to introduce changes and/or adjustments promptly is highly advisable for the practical achievement of the initiative goals. In short, there is a concern to work closely with risk management, based on an evaluation of the indicators and results of the initiative;

- Variety of Actors and Knowledge (20.8%) - The variety of actors and knowledge, leads to a higher efficiency of organisations and initiatives of social innovation, this is because it improves the modes of cooperation, decompartmentalisation and skills gathering that will lead to greater benefits for social innovation organisations. Many of the strategies involve the participation and accountability of the partners in the actions, thus obtaining a higher number of actors, synergies and knowledge. In short, if there is a wide variety of actors and knowledge in the social innovation initiatives and if a new need or challenge arises, the initiative members are more likely to tailor their work program more easily to suit that new need;

- ISO Certification (12.5%) - Some of the strategies to minimise risk pass through ISO certification. Some interviewees mentioned the ISO certification they already have or those they intend to obtain (ISO 9001, ISO 31000, COA 14000);

- Extensive Knowledge Concerning the Territory and The Initiative (12.5%) - With a broad knowledge of the territory and the initiative, there is a tendency for the initiatives with smaller risk and in turn, more probability in achieving the goals. The issue of observation before the implementation of the initiative and the feasibility studies on the initiative and on the territory are fundamental to have a sufficiently capacity that allows the initiative to succeed;

- Teamwork and Dedication (12.5%) - This point is related to the incipient forces mentioned in the previous section. When asked about ways to minimise the

initiative risks, many of the interviewees considered that it is the willpower, teamwork and dedication of all the members of the organisation and/or initiative that allows achievements. In addition to this fact, it was also mentioned the dedication concerning methods of work and organisation using tools, such as quarterly reporting, monthly reporting, weekly team meetings, board meetings, subcommittees from the board, among others;

- Stimulation of Knowledge Transfer (12.5%) - There is a concern to stimulate the transfer of knowledge among the various actors, partners, members and stakeholders of the initiative. According to the interviews, if there is a greater ability to transfer knowledge, the problem solving and subsequent achievement of objectives becomes a more facilitated task;

- Adapted Measures and Procedures (4.2%) - One of the ways to prevent risk is to make certain measures, procedures and even policies to be adapted to the initiative. There is, for example, the adaptation of norms, policies and procedures in place for vulnerable adults, youth, child protection, unemployed, among others.
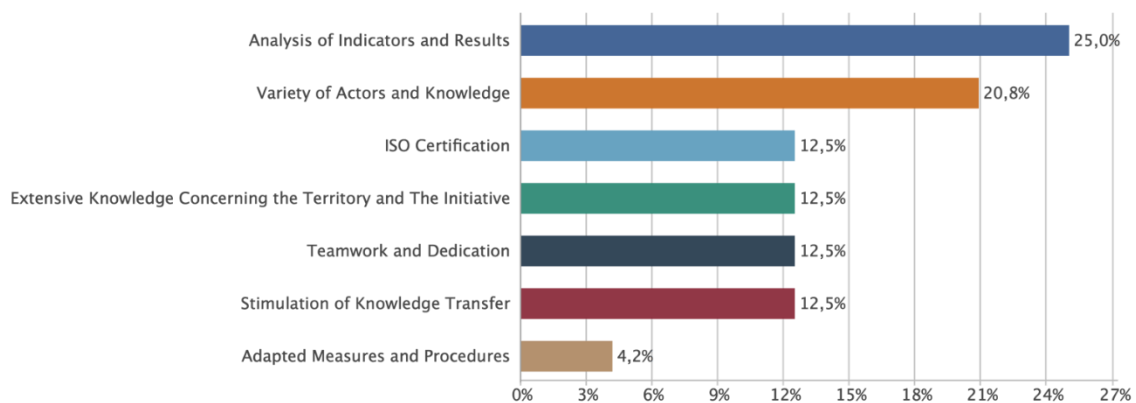

Figure 61 - Measures to Achieve the Initiatives Goals (Minimise Risks)

In the quantification of the social value of the initiative (Figure 62), the Quantitative Assessment Forms (40%) are the most used metrics. Basically, these evaluation mechanisms take into account the number of people affected by the initiative, number of aids, number of stakeholders, number of participants, number of meetings, number of events, among others. Then, there are the Qualitative Assessment tools (25%). The most common tool here is the interview. Interviews could be made to stakeholders, to people helped by the initiative, or follow-up interviews during the initiative. Feedback also represents 25% of the metrics used, it is a widely used tool and is based on requests for opinions of the people involved in the initiative. Finally, with 5% each, there is the Punctual Observation and Other Impact Assessment Instruments.
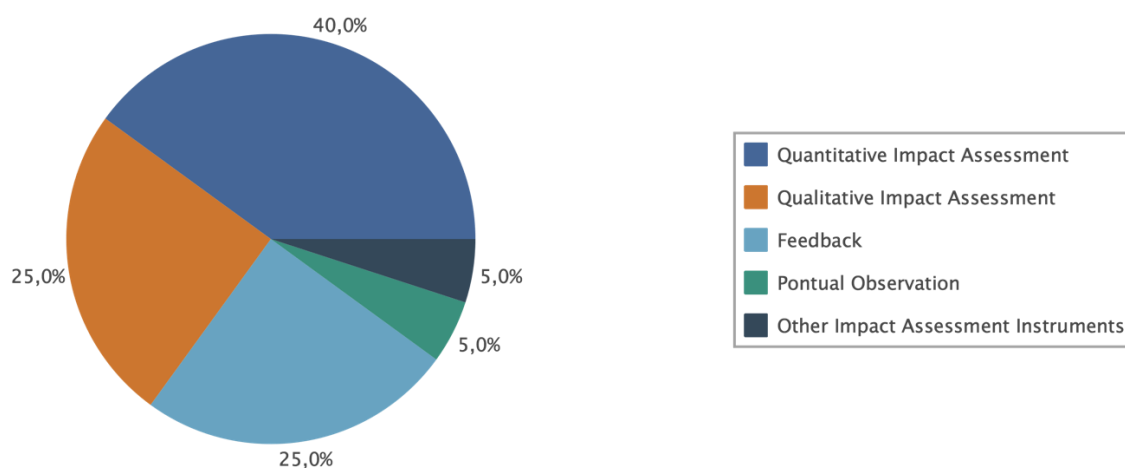
Quantitative Impact Assessment 40,0%
Qualitative Impact Assessment
Feedback
Pontual Observation
Other Impact Assessment Instruments

25,0%
25,0%
5,0%
5,0%

Figure 62 - Metrics to Quantify the Social Value of the Initiatives

Finally, regarding Initiative Improvement Points (Figure 63), the first two places are occupied by, Increase in Marketing and Communication and the Initiative Expand and Update. Each of these improvement points has a percentage of 30%. There is the assumption that strengthening the communication and marketing campaigns could help to improve the adherence to the project of new entrepreneurs and the promotion of its image, thus being an attraction factor for a higher investment and financing. Regarding the initiative expanding and updating, the interviewees consider that it is necessary to continually update the initiatives concerning the social needs. It is still important to refer that there is a desire to expand it to obtain more and better results. Second, with 15%, there is the Increase in Networking, some interviewees said that for better results they would have to obtain a more embracing contact network in order to get more support, knowledge to reach more and more individuals and areas. Subsequently, with 10% each, are the improvement points related to Technical Training and Increase in Human Resources. The technical training mainly refers to the training of the employees of the initiative, concerning subjects such as legislation, management, marketing, communication, informatics among others. Finally, with 5%, there is the improvement point that concerns Longer Projects, according to the interviewees, one of the improvements should be defining projects with more extended schedules and timelines.
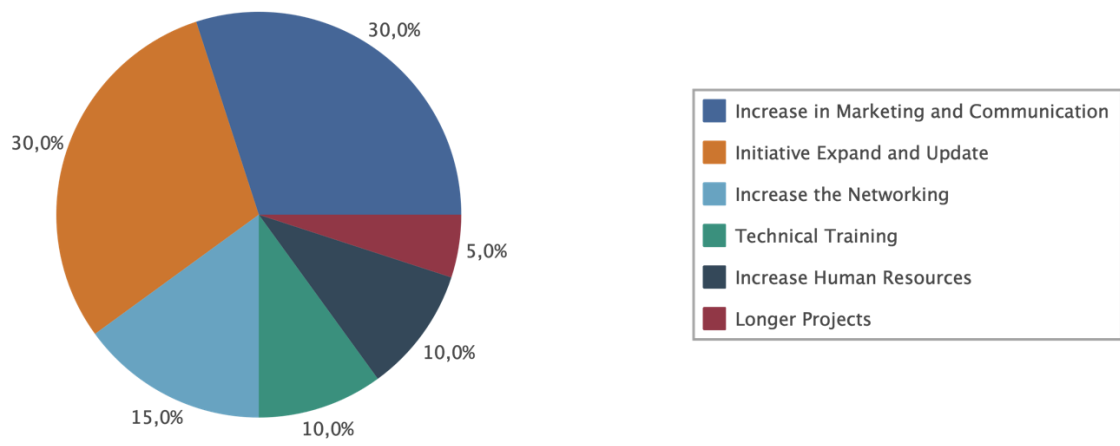
Figure 63 - Initiatives Improvement Points

4.4.7. Initiative Implications

Implications of the initiative concern to what extent will organisations/initiatives be able to scale up the practical implications by generating social effects (scaling-up). It also points to the consideration if initiatives/organisations succeed in achieving goals.

Most of the interviews consider that their initiative has a Nationwide scale capacity (43.5%), then the Regional scale capacity appears (39.1%). Finally, only with 8.7% each appears, the scale capacity at the International level. The same percentage also applies to those that believe that the scaling up capacity of the initiative is only at the local level (Figure 64).
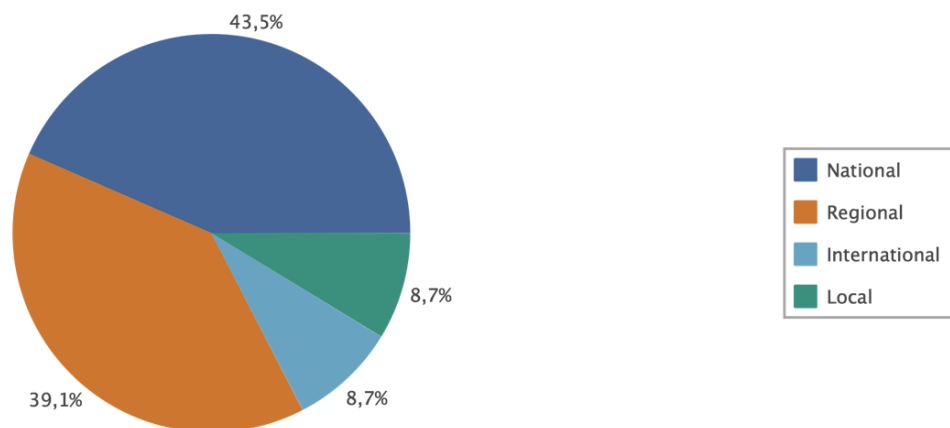

Figure 64 - Initiatives Scaling-up Capacity

The last graph (Figure 65) corresponds to the success of the initiative. The vast majority of respondents (66.7%) consider that their initiative met the established Objectives. 26.7% consider that their Initiative Surpassed the Established Objectives. Only a minority (6.7%) considers that the initiative Did Not Meet the Objectives.
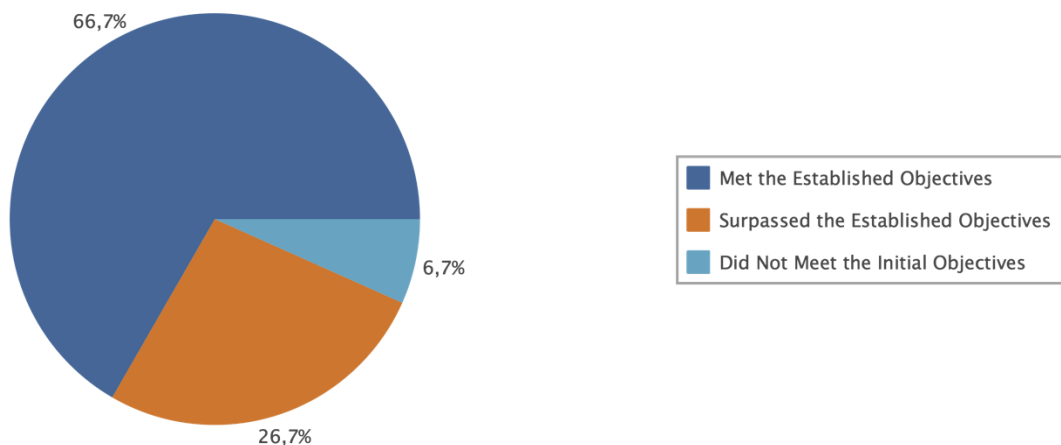

Figure 65 - Success of the Initiative

4.5. Micro Level Analysis Conclusions

The analysis of the interviews that were carried out by the partners of the Atlantic Social Lab, underlined two fundamental aspects, already observed during the analysis of the Focus Groups. It was possible to corroborate the emerging social needs of the regions, as well as the target groups of those needs. In the target groups, the following clusters of individuals were highlighted: Youth and Children; Unemployed Population; Public in General; People at Risk of Social Exclusion; Disabled People with Learning Difficulties; Elderly and Retired Population. Concerning the social needs that the social innovation initiatives try to fill, they were mainly highlighted: Needs for Education, Skills and Training; Need for Social Inclusion and Access to Goods and Services; Employment Needs; Child Care, Support, Help and Integration of Young People; Reuse and Recycling; Participation and Legal Change "Make Policies for the Citizens"; Health, Well-being and Eldercare; Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Subsequently, it was possible to understand and address some dimensions that explained the essence and rationale of the initiatives. In short, it was possible to verify that most of the initiatives have an as main motive of creation and objective, the problems, needs and social challenges explored and mentioned previously.

It was also possible to understand some of the financial aspects that characterise this type of initiatives. Firstly, the vast majority of the initiatives have a high dependence of public financing, Second, it is possible to attest that the majority considers the funding that they already have insufficient. However, it is necessary to state that many of the interviews mentioned that the financing is "enough to get by", but that they "cannot do more and better", that they do not have the capacity of response that they would like to have.

Finally, three important aspects that were analysed during the interviews that could and should be highlighted in this conclusion: Main Barriers; Main Strengths and; Main Weaknesses. Aspects related with the Political Change, Bureaucracy and Resistance were mentioned as Main Barriers. The most mentioned strengths were the resolution of the proposed problem, that is, the Created Social Value and Innovation and the Passion and Quality of Human Resources that the project or initiative has. Finally, in the Main Weaknesses, Funding that Generates Dependencies; Lack of Human Resources; The Workload and Possibly Burnout; Lack of Impact Assessment; Centralisation of Initiatives and Support; Non-Continuity of the Initiative; Knowledge Deficit; Lack of Visibility and Reduced Capacity are the most referred problems.

Summing up, the Micro Analysis enabled to identify actors, projects and initiatives that directly respond to social needs of the regions. It was also possible to see that there are combined efforts of the local actors to promote social innovation organisations and initiatives, and how they operate. In short, the analysis identified needs and types of social innovation responses that each initiative developed taking into account the vicissitudes of each region.

CONCLUSION

Social innovation is absolutely crucial as an answer of the contemporary challenges of human society. The implementation of social innovation in the Atlantic Area requires a careful assessment of the existing situation.

The current study was a stepping stone for the implementation of the Atlantic Social Lab project by providing the identification of the social needs and facilitating a deep discussion of its possible solutions. In this document, it was presented an original multilevel perspective, anchored both in quantitative and qualitative information, that may be useful for a better comprehension of this phenomena in different territorial scopes. We believe this multilevel perspective can be a relevant approach for other projects and studies on social innovation.

Throughout the different levels of analysis, it was possible to verify a range of similarities corresponding to the reality of the regions that are part of the Atlantic Area. Even if many challenges are transversal and of international relevance, it was also verifiable that social needs and challenges may vary according to national and regional specificities. From the three levels of analysis carried out (Macro, Meso and Micro), it was possible to identify social needs in the ASL regions. It may be interesting to discuss the social needs encountered during the analysis according to the typology of social needs referred in the introduction of this report. The typology mentioned was divided in: basic needs, latent needs, emerging needs, and strategic needs.

Throughout the three levels of analysis, it has been found that there are problems with regard to basic needs, such as problems concerning the risk of poverty and deprivation of housing. Portugal, Spain and Ireland, presented a critical situation regarding these basic social needs. During the Meso and Micro level analyses, there was a growing concern on welfare services, with the support and integration of vulnerable families and individuals, demonstrating that basic needs are impact and expression in the Atlantic Area. It also should be mentioned that a relevant proportion of the targeted public of the initiatives in the micro-level analysis are people at risk of social exclusion, poverty and/or with difficulties of access to food and health.

Regarding the latent needs, this type of social problems was raised during the analyses. The issues of integration into society by young people who are at risk of dropping out of school, lack of training and education of the population leading to higher unemployment and therefore a lower sense of belonging to society because they do not have a "place" in the society in which they are inserted. There are still problems of collective identification, that is, this problem may be related to the fact that there is little concern and willingness to actively participate of the citizens in the public management of the regions. Using the Meso analysis, it was possible to verify that the latent needs have expression in topics such as public engagement, unemployment, training and formation of the population.

Emerging and strategic needs in the course of this report have been inextricably linked. Concerning the emerging needs, there has been a debate about the specific needs of each region, taking into account their political, territorial and environmental contexts. For example, there is a difference in policies for the social economy and for social enterprises, and according to each region and context, the type of problems and needs around the social economy. Focusing on social economy and social enterprises, few European countries prepared policies encouraging and supporting the development of social enterprises: France and United Kingdom are among the countries in Europe with a better defined a framework. The emerging needs here are correlated with the strategic needs as some of the social needs and possible solutions go through environmental trends and/or new community trends related to poverty, health and well-being. For example, in the field of social economy, there are still concerns about entrepreneurship and innovation that are related to strategic needs, namely related with societal challenges, related with environmental sustainability and social inclusion.

The question of the transversality of social problems according to the regions of the Atlantic Area is linked to the fact that the problems of some individuals may be the problems of many others and that the solutions of one part may be the solution of the other. At the three levels of analysis it was possible to show that there are problems that are transversal to all the regions of the Atlantic Area, such as, the decreasing trends for voter turnouts; growing unemployment; lack of population training; limited legislation for the social economy, and public support concerning the social enterprises, among others. However, it should be noted, despite the similarity and cross-cutting problems and possible solutions, that there are differences and specificities of the selected regions. The socioeconomic development of the regions demonstrates two realities, first, the existence of a difference in the dimension of the needs, the analysed social needs have different forms and levels. The size and impact on society are variable, for example, Ireland is the "youngest" country, while France, Spain, and particularly Portugal, are the "oldest". This example can demonstrate that although almost all regions generally have problems with ageing, the mechanisms of resolution and the impacts on society will be different. The second reality is that there is, in fact, a difference of resources and mechanisms to find solutions and strategies to fulfil the social problems and needs. Correlated with what has been said previously, the type of problems and the development of the societies make the mechanisms and resources differentiated.

The Macro-level analysis has been based on information on general indicators based on secondary data from official statistical offices. It was possible to highlight and clarify some of the challenges that the countries and consequent regions of the Atlantic area face. Thus, the analysis that was carried out helped to reflect on more general social needs, concerning education, health, labour market, business fabric, quality of life and social action.

The Meso-level was based on the analysis of Focus Groups. leading social actors of the territory (NGOs, citizen associations and civil society, etc.) were invited to participate to jointly identify the primary social needs. In short, the Focus Groups analysis helped to understand the individual and collective perceptions of local and regional organisations (governance, social entities, the private sector, among others) in order to evaluate the most urgent needs of the regions. The Focus Groups managed to promote the regional debate about strategies that can be implemented to minimise the social needs found. In this way, it was possible to observe the involvement of this type of entities in the policies and mechanisms of support and social innovation.

Finally, the Micro-level analysis included a selection of local best practices by project partners and semi-structured interviews to key individuals implementing these initiatives. Interviews were analysed using a content analysis supported by a specific software. Each ASL partner had to identify at least one best practice in the project topics. It was possible to identify actors, projects and initiatives that directly respond to the social needs in the regions. It was also possible to see that there are joint efforts of the local actors to promote social innovation organisations/initiatives and how they operate. In short, the analysis allowed the identification of the needs and types of social innovation responses that each initiative develops taking into account the vicissitudes of each region.

The next steps for the ASL partnership are of more applied character. Based in the assessment, the project partners are implementing pilot actions regarding Social innovation and welfare services, Social innovation and active public engagement, Green economy and Social economy and social responsibility in the private sector. These pilot actions will be assessed during the project lifetime in terms of their impacts, generating insights not only for future implementation of similar actions but also for providing hints for scaling up and transfer to different territorial contexts.

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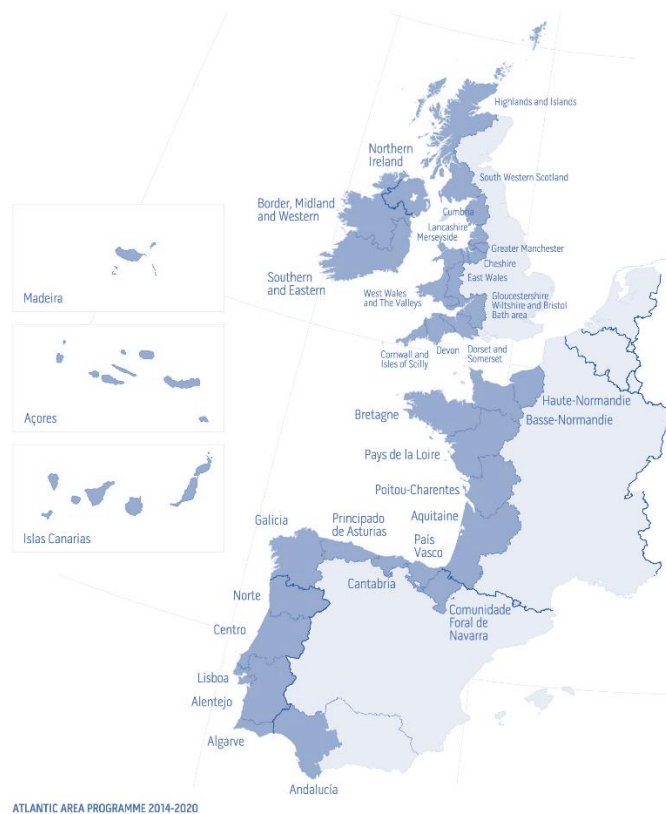
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