



Scenarios towards the co-creation of a transition pathway for a resilient, innovative, sustainable and digital proximity and social economy ecosystem

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

[The update of the EU Industrial Strategy](#) highlights the need to accelerate the green and digital transitions of EU Industry. Among the various instruments, the Commission proposed to co-create, in partnership with industry, public authorities, social partners and other stakeholders, transition pathways for ecosystems, where needed. The proximity & social economy ecosystem was identified among those ecosystems to develop such a transition pathway.

The Commission services have prepared a Staff Working Document to outline possible scenarios for a transition pathway towards a more resilient, green and digital proximity and social economy industrial ecosystem. Through collaborative efforts, the aim is to co-create concrete actions and commitments with all stakeholders of this ecosystem to step up its green and digital transition and strengthen its resilience to future shocks.

These efforts will build upon the EU Industrial strategy update, which highlighted the need to accelerate the green and digital transitions of EU Industry and identified needs and challenges of 14 industrial ecosystems.

They will also build on the Action Plan on the Social Economy, which proposes a series of actions for the period 2021-2030 to support the development of the social economy.

Based on the results of the consultation, the EC will organise further meetings with stakeholders to deepen the discussions towards finalising the proximity & social economy pathway during 2022.

You are invited to engage in this process by contributing to this survey that will run until 28 February 2022.

In case of questions about this consultation, please send an email to GROW-SOCIAL-ENTERPRISE@ec.europa.eu

1 Organisation and personal information

* 1.1 First name

20 character(s) maximum

Miguel Ángel

* 1.2 Surname (family name)

Cabra de Luna

* 1.3 Which organisation do you represent

20 character(s) maximum

Fundación ONCE

* 1.4 Main location of operations (city)

20 character(s) maximum

Madrid

* 1.5 Country of origin of the organisation or the headquarters of a network

- AT - Austria
- BE - Belgium
- BG - Bulgaria
- HR - Croatia
- CY - Cyprus
- CZ - Czechia
- DK - Denmark
- EE - Estonia
- EU - EU level
- FI - Finland
- FR - France
- DE - Germany
- EL - Greece
- HU - Hungary
- IE - Ireland
- IT - Italy
- LV - Latvia

- LT - Lithuania
- LU - Luxembourg
- MT - Malta
- NL - Netherlands
- PL - Poland
- PT - Portugal
- RO - Romania
- SK - Slovak Republic
- SI - Slovenia
- ES - Spain
- SE - Sweden

* 1.6 What kind of organisation do you represent

- Social economy entity
- Social economy representative organisation
- Social economy sector federation
- Social economy cluster
- Social economy support organisation
- Academic / Research institution
- Public administration
- International Organisation
- EU Institution
- Mainstream business
- Trade Union
- None: EU citizen
- Other

* 1.7 Your organisation is mainly active at...

- EU level
- Member state level
- Regional level
- Local level

1.8 I consider my organisation as part of the

- Proximity economy

Social economy

* 1.9 The competences of your organisation are mostly related to...

Green transition

Digital transition

None

2 Consultation questions

You are invited to reflect the different issues and scenarios presented in the Staff Working Document for the key dimensions of Resilience, Sustainability and Digitalisation. You may choose which questions you answer, and leave others empty. Please, in particular, propose concrete actions and targets. Quantifiable evidence is very much welcome.

Please read and reflect the issues and scenarios proposed in the Section III of the Staff Working Document.

2.1 Fully enabling the ecosystem as agent for the green transition

* 2.1.1 What output scenarios for 2030 would benefit the development of a green proximity and social economy industrial ecosystem, in line with the priorities of the EU Industrial Strategy and the social economy action plan?

2000 character(s) maximum

Social economy is key to facilitate the triple transition: green, digital and social.

It should be noted that the green transition offers an opportunity to solve existing inequalities, such as the exclusion of people with disabilities from the labour market if inclusive labour practices are implemented. The main international organisations agree that the transition should be green, but also fair and equal for all. Reskilling and upskilling for people with disabilities, especially those who have jobs that will likely disappear, is key to ensuring they can access new jobs in the future, including green jobs in the growing low-carbon and circular economy. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to develop ad-hoc and accessible training for people with disabilities. Furthermore, mainstream initiatives on digital skills, such as online learning platforms and training provided for employees, must be inclusive of people with disabilities so they can also benefit from the

new labour market opportunities.

Worth flagging that, in this context tools, to stimulate more co-investments/co-granting opportunities with social economy financial institutions, as cooperative and ethical banks and philanthropic actors should also be considered. To set up specific state aid regime for a universe of social economy enterprises of social and environmental utility would be useful.

* 2.1.2 What are the main challenges to ensure the green transition of this industrial ecosystem, as part of this pathway? Can you provide relevant data or evidence?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Visibility of social economy's solutions for a fair and inclusive green transition is of critical importance, as well as replication of successful practices.
- Investments in the upskilling and reskilling of social economy employees and entrepreneurs, especially on those at risk of social exclusion, like people with disabilities.
- Attracting young and diverse talents to the social economy, foster social economy entrepreneurship education at all levels in an accessible way.
- Further promote socially responsible and inclusive green public procurement.

In this sense, further collaboration between social economy actors and other players as research, the public sector, traditional companies, foundations and civil society, including philanthropy, is needed.

*** 2.1.3 On which challenges are you ready to work jointly with other stakeholders for the green transition of this industrial ecosystem, as part of this pathway?**

2000 character(s) maximum

Fundación ONCE runs the Spanish Operational Programme "Social Inclusion and Social Economy", co-funded by the European Social Fund, which allows it to develop several key activities, including the transnational initiative "Disability Hub Europe for sustainable growth and social innovation", that focuses on best practice exchange, dissemination, mutual learning and awareness-raising on the binomial Disability and Sustainability. In this regard, we will continue to do our utmost to help address the challenges that the green transition creates, especially regarding people with disabilities. The goal is that social economy is considered as they center piece to achieve an inclusive digitalisation in the context of the green transition.

*** 2.1.4 What pledges and/or actions towards the green transition of the ecosystem, do you intend to present, as part of this pathway?**

2000 character(s) maximum

In October 2021, Fundación ONCE launched the Green Makers initiative to promote sustainability within the organization. According to the latest Sustainability Report from the foundation, as a result of the application of the Sustainability Master Plan 2019-2022, which integrates various measures relating to the environmental dimension, ONCE calculates its carbon footprint annually (Scope 1, 2 and 3), including its dependent entities (Inserta Empleo, Inserta Innovación and Servimedia) and states that in 2020, 47% of the electricity consumed came from renewable sources.

As one of the key social economy players in Spain, Fundación ONCE also commits to promote an inclusive digital transition that serves general interest and to raise awareness on social economy's potential to lead an inclusive entrepreneurial revolution in the digital economy.

2.2 Digitalising the ecosystem

*** 2.2.1 What output scenarios for 2030 would benefit the development of a digital proximity and social economy industrial ecosystem, in line with the priorities of the EU Industrial Strategy and the social economy action plan?**

2000 character(s) maximum

We are experiencing a huge digital transformation of our societies in real-time. These changes lead to an ever growing “digital economy” and thus they deeply impact the world of work as a whole. With opportunities also come challenges like the imperative to leave no one behind in the digitalisation process, including the more than one billion persons with disabilities across the globe.

The inclusion of people with disabilities is reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, committing all UN Member States to leave no one behind. The 2030 Agenda recognizes people with disabilities as a vulnerable group, and various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) explicitly refer to them, such as SDGs 4 (Quality education), 8 (Decent work and economic growth), 10 (Reduced inequalities), 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and 17 (Partnerships for the goals). An inclusive digital future of work is key to the achievement of the SDGs. All stakeholders, including governments, companies, trade unions, employers’ organisations, organisations of persons with disabilities and academia, have an important role to play in creating a digitally inclusive future of work that benefits all people.

It is clear that people with disabilities face barriers in accessing the labour market. Social economy enterprises and organisations foster the inclusion of people with disabilities in the labour market in addition to promoting inclusive and sustainable businesses. What’s more, their historical close ties to communities and specialised support for socially excluded groups, give them a unique advantage in this field. In fact, social economy enterprises employ up to three times more people with disabilities than traditional enterprises.

Digital tools are playing a central role across the employee life-cycle. If digital tools are not inclusive and accessible, people with disabilities will find barriers at every step of the cycle, which will not develop the social economy ecosystem.

* 2.2.2 What are the main challenges to ensure the digital transition of this industrial ecosystem, as part of this pathway? Can you provide relevant data or evidence?

2000 character(s) maximum

The new world of work scenario for people with disabilities brings unprecedented opportunities for their inclusion into the labour market, but also many digital barriers.

On the one hand, digital tools enable people with disabilities to gain direct access to employment through online recruiting platforms. Digital tools can also support them in their daily tasks at the workplace, amongst other opportunities. Conversely, if they do not possess the required skills, if they find ICTs unaffordable or if digital tools are not accessible, people with disabilities will not benefit from these opportunities and are therefore at risk of being left behind.

The challenges for people with disabilities in this field such as new skill requirements, technological barriers or challenges associated with working conditions such as low and irregular pay, long working hours or isolation can be overcome by appropriate actions to turn them into opportunities.

As the technological revolution is constantly transforming jobs and creating new ones, the required skills are also changing. The demand for digital skills in both existing jobs and in new digital jobs is growing at a constant pace. Specific data on the digital skills of people with disabilities is not available at a global level.

Nonetheless, they generally experience lower levels of education and training than the rest of the population.

Reskilling and upskilling people with disabilities is therefore key to ensure they can access new digital jobs.

It is important to ensure that initiatives to foster digital employment are inclusive of people with disabilities.

Initiatives to promote digital employment, specifically targeting people with disabilities should also be developed. To address the challenges mentioned and break down barriers, the involvement of key stakeholders is essential to ensure a digital future of work that is inclusive for everyone.

* 2.2.3 On which challenges are you ready to work jointly with other stakeholders for the digital transition of this industrial ecosystem, as part of this pathway?

2000 character(s) maximum

Contributing to a just and inclusive digital transition, in particular, integrating underprivileged groups such as persons with disabilities, youth, women needs to be a top priority for the social economy ecosystem. Digital transformation can affect different groups in society in very different ways, not only in the field of work but also in other spheres of life, such as access to physical or virtual environments or access to new products and services. When used to their full potential, the technological drivers mentioned in the box above provide numerous opportunities for improving people with disabilities' daily and work activities. However, they also present many challenges, such as technology taking over tasks or roles, also including people with disabilities.

Each of these technological drivers presents different opportunities and challenges for people with disabilities. Moreover, the impact of digitalisation varies amongst persons with disabilities.

In this regard, it is important to adopt an intersectional approach when analysing the impact of digitalisation on people with disabilities. Persons with disabilities represent the full breadth of intersectional identities of human beings. Across the community there is the intersection of cultural background, education level, religion, gender, ethnicity, age, geography, sexual orientation and socio-economic status, amongst others. Insufficient resources/focus on the synergies between social economy and groups at risk of social exclusion, like people with disabilities, is also a main challenged that needs to be addressed. Therefore, engagement in alliances for the upskilling and reskilling of social economy employees and entrepreneur for the digital transition, especially regarding the ones directed to the inclusion of workers at risk of social exclusion, like people with disabilities, is needed.

* 2.2.4 What pledges and/or actions towards the digital transition of the ecosystem, do you intend to present, as part of this pathway?

2000 character(s) maximum

On our end, we are very much focused on helping in the creation of an inclusive digital labour market with the help of social economy, especially throughout ensuring accessibility for people with disabilities, promoting digital skills and promoting the digital employment of people with disabilities.

Only through collaboration and alliances amongst relevant stakeholders can an inclusive digital labour market that leaves no one behind be achieved. Therefore, every part has an important role to play:

1. Public authorities should adopt:

- Specific measures to strengthen the required skills amongst people with disabilities
- Promote the availability of disaggregated data on disability and digitalisation
- Set accessibility requirements and provide regulations and guidelines
- Ensure that the digital world promotes decent work opportunities

2. People with disabilities and their representative organisations, like Fundación ONCE, must:

- Carry out advocacy activities in initiatives related to the digital labour market
- Raise awareness of the need to work on an inclusive digital labour market
- Support and guide stakeholders on accessibility and disability inclusion

3. The digital industry has to:

* Mainstream a Universal Design approach for digital products and services

- Provide accessibility training to developers and service providers
- Ensure that the products and services provided are accessible to all

4. The corporate sector should:

- Target people with disabilities in talent acquisition programmes
- Ensure general training and physical and digital infrastructure are accessible
- Guarantee teleworking policies are inclusive

5. Social partners – trade unions and employers organisations must:

- Foster the hiring of people with disabilities in the digital economy
- Promote reskilling and upskilling of people with disabilities
- Support the rights of people with disabilities in the digital world

3 General comments

3.1 What other comments would you like to give?

2000 character(s) maximum

The creation of a resilient, innovative, sustainable and digital social economy ecosystem is vital in order to build an inclusive EU. The social economy, in its various forms, has a historical track-record of supporting the full integration of people with disabilities across all aspects of life. This can span from entering the labour market through education, training and job opportunities to the development of accessible products and services and to access to information, leisure, sport and cultural activities.

Thanks to the social economy's defining values and characteristics - for instance, favouring the social objective over profit, the centrality of the person, acting in the interest of its members and users and/or the general interest, having democratic governance, reinvesting its profit into the enterprise - it is best placed to offer equal opportunities for socially excluded individuals, including people with disabilities, focusing on skills, support and full participation. Many actors of the social economy, such as social cooperatives, social enterprises, and particularly work integration social enterprises (WISEs), and associations, include people with disabilities in their governance structures, allowing for their participation in the decision-making of the enterprise or organisation.

Therefore, on the one hand, it is crucial to ensure that social economy enterprises and organisations are well equipped and supported and have access to economic relief measures established both by the EU and by Member States to respond to the current crisis. On the other hand, people with disabilities, rather than being considered an added problem, can and must be part of the solution, participating in the recovery plans and putting their efforts in the fight against the pandemic.

Mindful of the complexity of the disability field, we call on the EU and its MS to foster the full inclusion of people with disabilities by promoting social economy business models.

4 Communication

Whom should we contact regarding your contribution and possible further involvement in the P-SE Transition Pathway process? We use this contact information when launching a Call for Interest for potential participants in the Stakeholder consultation workshops in Februari - June 2022.

4.1 First name

Miguel Ángel

4.2 Surname (family name)

Cabra de Luna

4.3 Function

Director of Alliances, Social and International Relations

4.4 Organisation

Fundación ONCE

4.5 Email

50 character(s) maximum

irene.valintorres@fticonsulting.com

Contact

[Contact Form](#)