

rEdESIGN Project

NEWSLETTER

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FOSTERING SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN RURAL AREAS
FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS



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Fostering social entrepreneurship
in rural areas for sustainable
food systems



Palermo Workshop Strengthens Collaboration & Shared Learning



The Transnational Workshop in Palermo marked an important milestone for the rEdESIGN project, bringing partners together to exchange insights on social innovation, community engagement, and regional good practices. Held on 17-18 June 2025, the event gathered eight participants who actively contributed to discussions and collaborative sessions. - **p.2.**

Seville Workshop Brings Practice, Inspiration and Collaboration Together

A snapshot of key highlights, shared learning, and collaborative outcomes shaping the rEdESIGN workshop experience. - **p.2**

Crete Workshop: Building Resilience Through Place, Practice and Cooperation

An overview of themes, insights, and shared reflections shaping the outcomes of the Crete transnational workshop. - **p.3**

Building a Shared European Social Economy

High-quality workshops advancing cooperation, learning, and long-term impact for resilient communities. **p. 4-5**

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Throughout the two-day meeting, participants explored key themes linked to social innovation, community engagement, and regional good practices. The workshop provided a valuable opportunity to look beyond individual contexts and reflect on how different organisations design and implement community-focused initiatives. This exchange of perspectives helped broaden understanding, spark new ideas, and strengthen awareness of diverse approaches and models that can inspire future work.

A defining strength of the Palermo workshop was its inclusive and welcoming atmosphere. Participants highlighted the quality of facilitation, which encouraged open discussion and active involvement, allowing everyone to contribute their experiences and insights.

The programme design supported meaningful interaction, creating space for both structured sessions and informal exchanges that reinforced trust and cooperation among partners. Feedback also points to the workshop's strong organisational framework and positive working environment, which helped ensure smooth collaboration and focused discussion.

Suggestions for future editions were constructive, mainly calling for even more hands-on moments and extended time for deeper dialogue—clear signs of strong engagement and motivation to build further on the shared work achieved.

Overall, the Palermo workshop stands out as a successful and energising milestone for the rEdESIGN project, strengthening partnerships, reinforcing a shared vision, and laying solid groundwork for continued collaboration and impact in the next project phases.



Seville Workshop Brings Practice, Inspiration and Collaboration Together

The rEdESIGN workshop and field visits held in Seville offered a rich learning experience, combining strategic discussion with hands-on exploration of social agriculture, community services, and sustainable initiatives. According to the workshop report, the event created a dynamic space where partners and stakeholders could exchange knowledge, reflect on practice, and strengthen collaboration.

Over several days, participants explored how social and community-oriented models can deliver meaningful social impact while remaining sustainable. Presentations and discussions provided insights into innovative approaches, while good practice examples helped translate concepts into real-world applications. The programme balanced structured learning with opportunities for dialogue, allowing participants to share experiences and build common understanding. A distinctive element of the Seville workshop was the inclusion of field visits, which brought project themes to life. Visits to initiatives such as Flor de Doñana, BioAlverde, and Hacienda Guzmán offered concrete examples of inclusive and sustainable practices in action. These experiences were appreciated for their relevance and strong connection to project objectives.

Participants also highlighted the professional organisation, welcoming atmosphere, and strong facilitation, which supported open discussion and networking. Suggestions focused on allowing more time for interaction, underlining engagement generated. Overall, the Seville workshop stands out as an inspiring milestone for rEdESIGN, strengthening partnerships and providing momentum for the project's next phases.



Crete Workshop: Building Resilience Through Place, Practice and Cooperation

The transnational rEdESIGN workshop held in Rethymno, Crete brought partners together for an in-depth exchange on social cooperation, rural resilience, and sustainable agri-food systems. Rooted firmly in the local territory, the workshop combined policy dialogue, peer learning, and field visits to create a shared understanding of how social cooperative enterprises can drive inclusive and sustainable development.

Participants explored the realities faced by social cooperatives operating in rural and agri-food-dominated regions, reflecting on structural challenges, sustainability transitions, and the growing role of digital tools. The workshop provided space not only to identify common obstacles, but also to co-create solution pathways grounded in real experience and collective knowledge. This collaborative approach reinforced the importance of resilience as a shared, territorial process rather than an individual enterprise effort.

A key strength of the Crete workshop was its strong territorial anchoring. Field visits to the Psiloritis UNESCO Global Geopark and initiatives such as Shepherd's Land, Androidus-Argastiri, N-Idea, and Filághrios brought abstract concepts to life. These experiences demonstrated how cultural heritage, digital innovation, and environmental stewardship can be integrated into viable social enterprise models.

Overall, the Crete workshop stands out as a powerful milestone for rEdESIGN, strengthening cross-border cooperation, deepening mutual learning, and laying solid foundations for future action towards resilient, sustainable rural economies across Europe.

Join the rEdESIGN LinkedIn Group: A Shared Space for Learning and Exchange

As part of Task 3.2 – Establishing Communication Channel and Platform, the rEdESIGN project is pleased to launch a new open online LinkedIn Group: “rEdESIGN – Social economy practices and Capacity Building.”

This group has been created to strengthen connections among project partners, network members, and a wider community of stakeholders working in the social economy.

The LinkedIn Group offers a central space to access and share resources, exchange experiences, and engage in discussions on social economy practices, capacity building, and rural resilience. It is designed to encourage peer learning, promote collaboration, and support the transfer of knowledge across regions and sectors.

By joining the group, members can stay updated on project activities, discover good practices, contribute insights, and connect with professionals, practitioners, and organisations with shared interests.

The group is open and welcomes contributions from anyone interested in social innovation, cooperation, and sustainable development. We invite you to join the conversation and help grow an active, supportive rEdESIGN community online.

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/16149015/>



High-Quality Exchange, Shared Outcomes, and a Common European Direction

How the rEdESIGN workshops strengthened cooperation and advanced the social economy

Across three high-quality transnational workshops, the rEdESIGN project created structured yet open spaces where social economy actors could learn from one another, reflect critically on shared challenges, and co-shape future solutions. Beyond presentations and site visits, the workshops stood out for the depth of dialogue, the diversity of perspectives, and the strong sense of collective purpose that emerged. Together, they demonstrated how well-designed participatory processes can translate local experience into shared European learning and long-term strategic direction.

Creating Spaces of Trust, Dialogue, and Mutual Learning

The workshop in Palermo highlighted the power of community-based innovation. Participants emphasised the value of exchanging regional good practices and learning directly from diverse social projects. Beyond formal sessions, the atmosphere of openness and hospitality played a crucial role in building trust and encouraging dialogue. Palermo demonstrated how social economy initiatives thrive when they are embedded in strong local networks, where collaboration, mutual support, and shared purpose turn ideas into collective action.

From Principles to Action: Social Economy at Work

In Seville, the focus shifted decisively to practice. Workshops and field visits brought participants face-to-face with social agriculture and community services that translate social values into concrete economic activity. Seeing inclusive and sustainable initiatives in action reinforced a shared understanding: the social economy is not an abstract concept, but a viable model for delivering social impact, environmental care, and local development simultaneously. The Seville experience strengthened confidence in the scalability and transferability of social economy solutions across Europe.

Co-Designing Resilience for Europe's Rural Futures

The workshop in Rethymno, Crete brought a deeper, strategic reflection on resilience. Anchored in the territory and enriched by field visits, discussions connected social cooperation with cultural heritage, environmental stewardship, and digital innovation. Participants explored how social cooperatives act as custodians of local identity while addressing shared European challenges such as sustainability transitions and digital readiness. Crete made clear that resilience is collective: it emerges when communities, cooperatives, and institutions co-design solutions grounded in place yet connected across borders.

Looking Ahead: A European Social Economy in the Making

Taken together, the three workshops delivered far more than moments of exchange or project milestones. They created durable spaces for relationship-building, trust, and collective reflection, allowing participants to move beyond isolated experiences and recognise themselves as part of a wider European social economy ecosystem. Through open dialogue and shared practice, common challenges were reframed not as local limitations, but as shared European questions requiring coordinated responses.

Participants left the workshops with renewed confidence in social economy models as credible drivers of social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and territorial resilience. The quality of engagement—marked by openness, curiosity, and mutual respect—enabled honest discussion about constraints while simultaneously fostering optimism and ambition. Importantly, the workshops helped clarify shared priorities for the future, including the need for stronger capacity building, supportive policy frameworks, and long-term investment in cooperative and community-based approaches.

Beyond individual learning outcomes, the workshops strengthened collective identity and reinforced the value of transnational cooperation. They demonstrated that Europe's social economy thrives when knowledge, experience, and innovation circulate across borders and contexts. As the rEdESIGN project moves forward, these workshops stand as evidence that well-designed, participatory processes can generate lasting impact—nurturing a social economy that is not only resilient, but increasingly connected, confident, and prepared to shape Europe's sustainable future.



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