

Building community Resilience
and sustainable Development
through social economy

Deliverable

D2.2 Report on Transnational Social Missions implemented in Italy, Portugal, Greece, Spain and Belgium, including beneficiaries' selection processes implemented in each Member State

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<i>List of Abbreviations</i>

Acronyms	Meaning
ENSIE	European Network of Social Integration Enterprises
FCAT	Fondazione Comunitaria di Agrigento e Trapani
MANRA	Mancomunitat de la Ribera Alta
MUKA	Municipality of Katerini
TSM 1	Transnational Social Mission 1
TSM 2	Transnational Social Mission 2
TSM 3	Transnational Social Mission 3
TSM 4	Transnational Social Mission 4
TSM 5	Transnational Social Mission 5



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1 Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to the increase of already-existing economic and social challenges in all regions and urban communities. It has exacerbated pre-existing inequalities, having a strong asymmetric socio-economic impact that is likely to be worse for discriminated or vulnerable groups. The “Building ResiliencE and sustainable Development through social economy” (BREED) project engages a transnational consortium of local public administrations, social economy organisations and stakeholders from Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, and Belgium to address these challenges. BREED targets internal urban contexts that are currently facing social, economic and health challenges as consequences of COVID-19 crisis. Overall, the project aims to increase the capacity of local public administrations, social economy organisations and civil society to foster social change and boost the conditions for the social economy to fulfil its potential to contribute to a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable community growth.

Through cross-city and transnational cooperation, a multi-stakeholder approach, exchange of community practices and peer learning, the project is engaging local public administrations, social cooperatives, SMEs, non-profit associations, social economy stakeholders (public and private sectors) and local communities to foster social economy at local level. Thanks to joint collaboration, BREED wishes to co-develop community social economy strategies, action plans and policy recommendations. In other words, project partners are joining forces to develop regenerated community business models, strategies and plans based on social economy, public-private governance, and multi-stakeholders’ engagement to strengthen the collaboration capacity and resilience of local public administrations, social economy organisations and civil society.

In order to achieve these objectives, WP2 “Identification, transnational peer-learning and capacity building on community practices based on social economy” fosters transnational peer-learning, exchange of good practices and cooperation between local governments and social economy stakeholders from each target



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community to work together on common challenges, share community practices on social economy and innovative social business models.

Indeed, WP2 foresees a transnational and cross-city capacity building programme, called “transnational social missions”, in all participating countries of the project, namely Italy, Portugal, Greece, Spain and Belgium. These social missions involve social economy stakeholders and local authorities to share community practices on policies, regulatory framework, governance, success stories and strategies. This report explains the methodology used for the organisation and the implementation of the 5 transnational social missions.

2 Methodology

In this section, the report D2.2 will focus on the methodology used on how the social missions were elaborated and organised while mentioning the activities and explaining the number and the selection of beneficiaries participating in the different social missions.

2.1 Organisation of the transnational social missions

Each transnational social mission, respectively in Italy, Portugal, Greece, Spain, is composed of a particular topic considering the local context of the hosting country, except for the transnational social mission in Belgium. The first one in Italy had a focus on social agriculture, youth entrepreneurship, social inclusion of disadvantaged groups while in Portugal it was about lifelong learning, education, and sport to foster employment and social inclusion. The transnational social mission in Greece referred to green and digital inclusion to foster employment, equality, and integration and the one in Spain had a focus on social protection, housing, and health. As for the one in Brussels, the theme was the analysis and development of shared guidelines for the development of community social actions plans, providing the basis for WP3’s development. The WP3 is called “Development of social economy local action plans with the cooperation of social economy actors and stakeholders (public and private) in all targets local communities”.



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Before the venue of participants, the host organisation prepared an info pack and sent it to the partners to guide them on their journey. For the preparation of the agenda, each host organisation was asked to provide a first draft to ENSIE (as WP2 leader) and FCAT (as project coordinator) and a meeting was then planned to discuss the agenda and the different sessions to guide the organisers. Concerning the dates, the 5 transnational social missions have taken place over the last few months and here are the dates for each of them:

- Transnational Social Mission 1 (TSM 1) from 7th of November to 11th of November 2022 in Italy
- Transnational Social Mission 2 (TSM 2) from 27th of November to 1st of December 2022 in Portugal
- Transnational Social Mission 3 (TSM 3) from 23rd of January to 27th of January 2023 in Greece
- Transnational Social Mission 4 (TSM 4) from 6th of March to 10th of March 2023 in Spain
- Transnational Social Mission 5 (TSM 5) from 17th of April to 21st of April 2023 in Belgium

Every social mission lasted 5 days. The first and the fifth days allowed participants to travel. The following 3 days consisted of a programme of workshops, case studies, study visits face to face discussions. During each transnational social mission ENSIE led a workshop on the definition of social economy and on the Social Economy Action Plan, to raise awareness on fundamental concepts able to shape the local social development. At the end of the workshop, participants had the opportunity to work jointly for a list of actions to implement at local and regional levels to promote and develop social economy.

2.2 Selection of beneficiaries

Each partner had the responsibility to select beneficiaries to involve in every transnational social mission. In particular, the three public authorities being partners had to select 5 beneficiaries: one from the public sector and 4 from the private sector. Thus, in total, this represents 20 beneficiaries per social mission.



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Each public authority involved in the project published a call for applicants to ensure transparent selection methods. Partners have been provided with a document with common references to ensure harmonisation in terms of the scope of social missions, but different methods have been used for the selection of beneficiaries depending on the needs, context, and internal policies.

The municipality of Alcamo, in Italy, published the expressions of interest aimed at signing the memorandum of understanding and participating in the BREED project activities before each transnational social mission. The procedure for selecting people includes the requirements specified in the call for applicants and they must pursue objectives that are compatible with the institutional objectives of the municipality. Beneficiaries may also mention their availability for upcoming social missions if the one approaching does not suit them in terms of dates. The selection criterion therefore refers to an objective criterion (sector of activity) and a time criterion (if the requirements are met, applications are accepted chronologically). If the number of applications received exceeds the availability of 16 participants, the selection criterion is the applicant's experience in the social field, awarding 1 point per month of activity performed.

Although Municipality of Paredes, in Portugal, published the call for applicants on the website, the local authority did not receive many applications from the private sector. Therefore, the partner proceeded by individual invitations relating the institutions with the topic of the social mission to bring to Paredes institutions the knowledge and good practices that were presented in the transnational social missions. The main factor applicants indicate was the availability to be out of the work place some days.

The municipality of Katerini (MUKA), in Greece, published the call for applicants only on the website but it finally noticed that this was not enough and decided to publish the announcement also on social media for each transnational social mission. This approach allowed the partner to better reach potential beneficiaries and ensure that the profiles of each person fit with the themes of the transnational social missions. To express their interest, participants were required to fill out a comprehensive application form including personal details such as their name,



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occupation, and level of English proficiency. Then, an informal interview was conducted with each interested party to learn about their background and activities. However, for the last transnational social mission, the municipality of Katerini did not publish a new call for applicants and used the previous one.

The Mancomunitat de la Ribera Alta (MANRA), in Spain, also published a translated call for applicants in Valencian and Spanish languages. This call was published on the notice board of the Mancomunitat de la Ribera Alta Headquarters and on the Mancomunitat de la Ribera Alta website. However, MANRA did not receive applications and the public authorities decided to directly invite potential entities. An invitation letter was sent to them along with the descriptive document of each mission, by email.

3 Outputs from the transnational social missions

In total, 106 number of beneficiaries participated in the 5 transnational social missions during the previous 6 months. Below is a table summarising the number of participants involved per country and per transnational social mission:

Table 1: Number of beneficiaries involved per participating country for each transnational social mission.

	TSM 1	TSM 2	TSM 3	TSM 4	TSM 5
Alcamo	8	5	5	4	4
Paredes	5	7	5	5	5
MUKA	5	4	9	5	4
MANRA	5	4	5	7	5
Total	23	20	24	21	18

When it comes to the profile of beneficiaries, one can say that women represent 57% compared to men (43%), so they are the majority in the participation of the different transnational social missions. As for the age of the participants, the two



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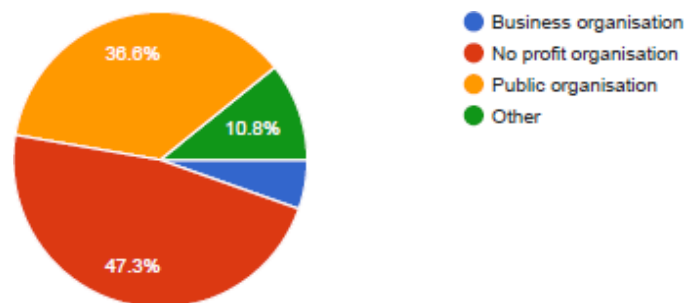
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main groups are 41-55 and 26-40 and they are respectively 41,9% and 38,7%, followed by people over 55 who constitute 14%. Young people were a very minority group during the transnational social missions, since they represent only 5,4%.

The profiles of participants attended to the transnational social missions are quite diverse. As the figure 1¹ below shows, private and public sectors are involved in this specific task and activity of the BREED project. Public authorities' representatives are working in various departments and services such as communication, provision services, project management, social affairs, etc. As for representative of the private sector, one can notice many different structures working in the social field and with different target groups considered as vulnerable. Participants from Italy are mostly from non-profit associations or social cooperatives. They mainly work with disadvantaged groups such as refugees, children, people with disabilities, people with addictions, etc. Beneficiaries from Portugal are mostly working in sport associations and dealing with inclusion projects for young people, elderly persons, children, etc. Regarding Greece, they are particularly from humanitarian organisations to support refugees and their empowerment and also from cultural, animal and agri-food sectors. Finally, beneficiaries from Spain are working in trade union and associations dealing to promote and support social housing for vulnerable citizens.

Figure 1: Type of organisations of beneficiaries involved in the transnational social mission.



¹ Participants who selected the "others" category did not specify the nature of their organisation. Business organisations represent 5,3%.



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Overall, the participants had knowledge of the social economy coming from different sources given the diversity of profiles. Some have been working in the field of social economy and cooperating directly with social enterprises for several years and are aware of the capacity of these actors to play an important role in the promotion of decent work. Others have had the opportunity to study the concept of social economy at university during their studies, or thanks to volunteering experiences or participation in other European projects. Very few reported that they had no knowledge of the social economy.

Most participants from private sector underlined an existing cooperation between their organisation and public authorities. This cooperation particularly takes place through numerous local, national, and European projects and also through the organisation of events in the communities concerned. Collaboration with schools and social care services providing meals to students or families in need is also one of the points mentioned by beneficiaries. By considering the Sustainable Development Goals agenda, some organisations are also working with public administrations to further promote this approach and sustainable elements. While cooperation is demonstrated, some mentioned non-existent collaboration, but they wish to promote it in the near future.

When it comes to the most important learning outcomes from the transnational social missions, participants explain the importance of work integration of disadvantaged people, socially responsible public procurement and the various study visits to social economy actors offering solutions to current issues. Besides, they highlight the knowledge of actions on social economy in the European Union and various projects implemented by local authorities, the information shared on how other countries deal with social inclusion, the improvement of networking skills and collaboration for social and economy development as both are key to increase territory resilience by introducing innovative solutions with local organisations.

Beneficiaries stated several main added values for them from transnational social missions. They mainly referred to dissemination and knowledge of good practices that could be replicated in their own local communities, new innovative ideas and inspirations. They also specified the cultural interaction and the richness to meet new people from other European countries. These various examples and exchanges with local communities help them to better understand the different



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approches towards social economy and to improve their network. This opportunity allows to clarify their ideas and actions that would like to implement at local and regional levels in the framework of this projects for the social action plans through a discussion about objectives, opportunities, needs and challenges.

Moreover, participants showed their will to deepen their knowledge on several topics. In general, socially public procurement was not well known by participants and the evaluation form of the transnational social missions showed an interest from beneficiaries to learn more about it. This point is accompanied by digitisation, environmental protection with green solutions, social inclusion of various groups, promotion of decent work, creation of social enterprises, sustainability, social farming, and philanthropy. They also would like to learn about the development of more efficient and active collaboration between public administrations and private organisations, the funding resources in their own communities, social entrepreneurship with a specific focus on women, and the next steps of the projects related to the social action plans.

Participants were also invited to measure their judgments of the following sentence: I will be able to use and/or transfer what I learned during the Social Mission, through the study visits and the presentation of the Social Economy Action Plan at EU level, to support the development of Local Social Economy Action Plans in the second phase foreseen by the BREED project. A good assessment is also distinguished as 46,2% of beneficiaries consider it very positively and 40,9% perceived the transnational social missions as useful. 8,6% positioned themselves in a neutral situation followed by “not very useful” (2,2%) and “not useful at all” (2,2%).

Concerning organisational matters, beneficiaries mainly state that they are very satisfied for the initial information, the agenda, and the logistic part such as the duration and the venue as it represents 71%. This is followed by 22,8% of



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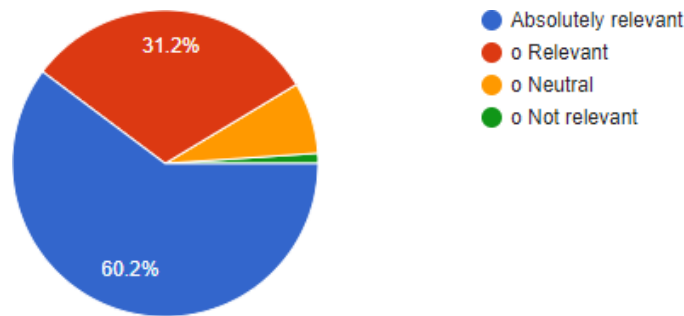
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participants highlighting a satisfaction, 4,3% with a neutral position and 2,2% were not satisfied.

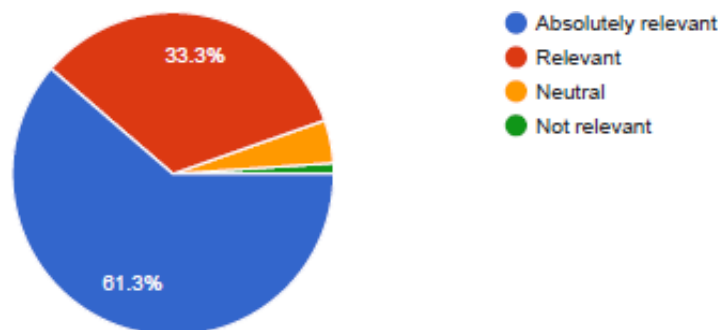
The first day of the transnational social mission was widely appreciated and was considered as absolutely relevant by 60,2% of those involved while 1,1% perceived it as not relevant. 7,5% of beneficiaries have a neutral opinion.

Figure 2: Evaluation of the activities implemented during the day 1 of the transnational social mission relevant to the aim and objectives of the project.



Regarding the second day of implemented activities, one can also distinguish a very positive evaluation since 61,3% of participants found this day absolutely relevant and is slightly higher than on day 1. Moreover, 4,3% of participants found the activities have a neutral position while 1,1% considered it as not relevant.

Figure 3: Evaluation of the activities implemented during the day 2 of the transnational social mission relevant to the aim and objectives of the project.

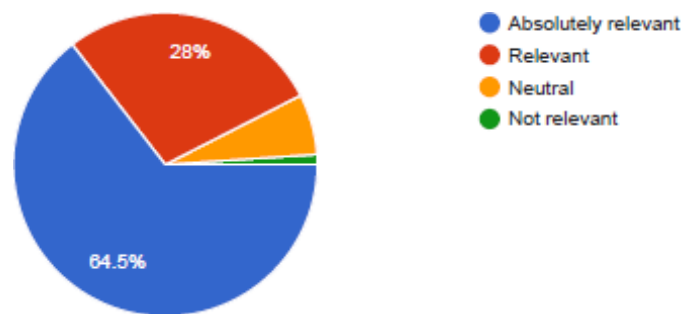


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As for the day 3 of the transnational social mission, compared to the previous two days, this day was the most appreciated by the project beneficiaries as 64,5% stated that this day was absolutely relevant to them and their sector. As the previous day, 1,1% conserved their position as neutral and 6,5% perceived the activities as relevant for their sector.

Figure 4: Evaluation of the activities implemented during the day 3 of the transnational social mission relevant to the aim and objectives of the project.



Finally, participants were asked to rate on a scale from 1 considered as “not satisfied” to 5 meaning “very satisfied” to know their perceptions about the implementation of the transnational social missions concerning the quality of presentations and study visits. Overall, beneficiaries are very satisfied as they represent 65,6%. This good evaluation is followed by the number 4 (23,7%) and 3 (9,7%). One can state that no one involved in the transnational social missions did not select “not satisfied” but 1,1% is not satisfied.

5 Conclusion

The transnational social missions, under the WP2” Identification, transnational peer-learning and capacity building on community practices based on social economy”, made it possible to achieve the objectives set to build a strong basis for the development of the next steps of the project. Through the various activities during these missions, beneficiaries had the opportunity to meet, discuss needs



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and challenges of their community but also to find collective solutions to face similar problems. Through the case studies and study visits, they also learned about the different projects implemented in the participating countries and this allowed awareness raising of relevant topics as well as dissemination of good practices that could be replicated in the other local communities involved.

On the basis of the evaluation form, a positive assessment of beneficiaries is perceived, and this is motivating for the continuation of the project. Indeed, participants would like to deepen their knowledge of the social economy and acquire more experience in this field. Through this initial work with beneficiaries, trust has been established between the public and private sectors to develop social action plans at local and regional level.

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