Official Partner Event to the EU Green Week 2025







Boosting Circular Systemic Solutions through Virtual Regional Circular Economy Space

SOCIAL INNOVATION in the CSS Boost Project

Cristina Barahona, Olaf Reinhold | SCRC Marianthi Liapi, Kostis Oungrinis | TUC







Can you name a disruptive social innovation from the last ten years?

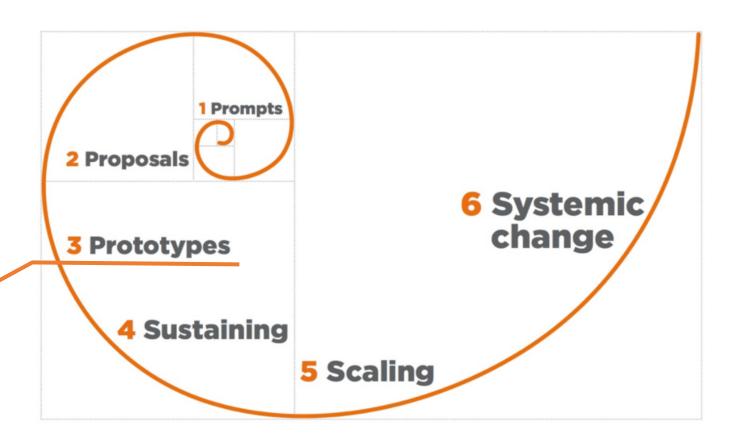
Please switch to Miro



What is social innovation?

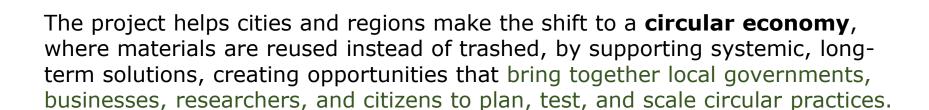
Social innovations are new ideas that meet social needs, create social relationships and form new collaborations.





Murray, Caulier-Grice and Mulgan (2010)





Through pilot projects in European cities, CSSBoost provides tools and knowledge to design circular solutions, involve people meaningfully, and make change practical, measurable, and sustainable. The region's circular economy are also virtualized in a digital platform, by combining expert knowledge, data, and artificial intelligence, to help understand, plan, and improve how resources flow and are reused.





Pilot regions 1-4 in concert & EU





Public Transport Vehicle Recycling and Valorisation CSS

Lisbon, Portugal



Water Reuse and Nutrients Recovery CSS

Marche, Italy



Conventional Plastics and Bioplastics Recycling CSS

North Black Forest, Germany



Agricultural, Livestock and Food
Processing By-Products
Valorisation CSS

Crete, Greece

Powered by Bing





What it is

Social innovation in the CSSBoost is an adaptative and iterative process, where methodologies and tools are applied through collaborative efforts of internal and external stakeholders aimed at addressing social challenges through the implementation of Circular Economy principles. Innovation includes development, transformation, and improvement of value chains, products, and strategies to promote collaborative sustainable solutions.

Goal

Bring together local governments, businesses, researchers, and citizens to plan, test, and scale circular practices.

















2.3 Evidence Planning [M]

Traditionally, evaluation occurs at the end of a project, however it should be an ongoing process that monitors and corrects during the life of the project and social innovation actions. Evidence planning helps to determine desired changes, and mapping the evidence needed to demonstrate and monitor the impact. It encourages organizations to reflect on the influence in beneficiaries, civil society, and related stakeholders.

Based on (Bow Valley College, 2018; DIY - Development Impact & You, 2014)

Resources needed

- Time: 30-40 min
- Pre requirements: clear problem definition.
- Materials: Pens, post its, large sheets of paper, sticky notes. Or a digital board.
- People: working team, representatives from stakeholder groups and civil society.

Potential for CSSBoost Project

Refining the goals of the value chains ad the CSSBoost Platform, planning the monitoring of impact, identifying data requirements, identifying new possibilities for changes in the value chains or prototypes.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Clarifies which evidence needs to be collected from	, , ,
the start, reducing future risks.	could be irrelevant.
Helps anticipate limitations and consequences.	

Related methods

- Problem definition
- Learning Loop

How to use it

- 1. Divide de attendants in smaller teams, pay attention that in every group there is at least one representative of each stakeholder group.
- 2. Set your focus, write your initiative's key goal in the center of the worksheet.
- 3. Reflect, discuss, and answer in individual notes the questions on the worksheet:

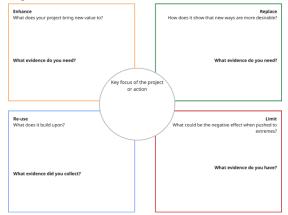






- . What your project brings new value to? Think of who benefits and why, what is innovative about the action.
- . What does it build upon? Are there previous projects, research or partners that are working
- . How does it show that the alternative is more desirable? Explain why the results of the intervention are better that the current state. How could this change sector norms, regulations, or market structures?
- . What could be the negative effect? What are your limitations? Are there contexts where results might not apply?
- 4. Map evidence needs, for each quadrant ask: what type of evidence can show impact? Note down the qualitative and quantitative information that can support the statements, for example surveys, user diaries, interviews, scientific articles, policies, etc.
- 5. Exchange with other groups your results and conclude on a joint worksheet.
- 6. On the same session or a follow up, define the list of evidence to be collected, the instrument, and the person on charge of collecting the evidence, how, and when.

Figure 3 Evidence Planning Worksheet



Further reading

DIY - development impact & you: Practical tools to trigger & support social innovation. (2014). NESTA.

Social Innovation Module Learners Guide. (2018). Bow Valley College. https://cm.bowvalleycollege.ca/-/media/bvc/teaching-andresearch/teaching-and-research-documents-and-images/aiar/social-innovation-on-the-ground/004 social-innovation-learnersguide.ashx?hash=A0396CE7937E58DEC65C4CD48C08AC1D13CFD18B&la=en&utm_source=chatgpt.com



Social Innovation in the CSSBoost **Project**



sharing



Systemic collaboration











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Clarifies which evidence needs to be collected from the start, reducing future risks. Helps anticipate limitations and consequences.	If goals are not clearly defined, the evidence pointed could be irrelevant.

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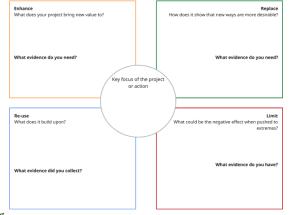






- What your project brings new value to? Think of who benefits and why, what is innovative
 about the action.
- What does it build upon? Are there previous projects, research or partners that are working on a related issue?
- How does it show that the alternative is more desirable? Explain why the results of the intervention are better that the current state. How could this change sector norms, regulations, or market structures?
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Social Innovation in the CSSBoost Project







Systemic collaboration





Social Innovation in the CSSBoost Project



A best practice example:

creating and operating the Athens Municipal Maker Space

by the TUC Transformable Intelligent Environments Lab



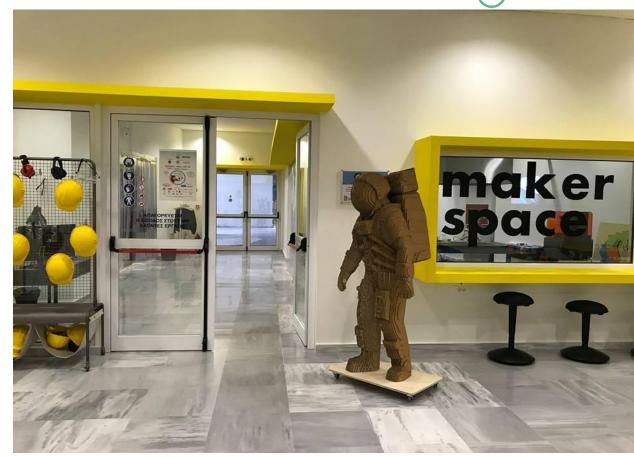






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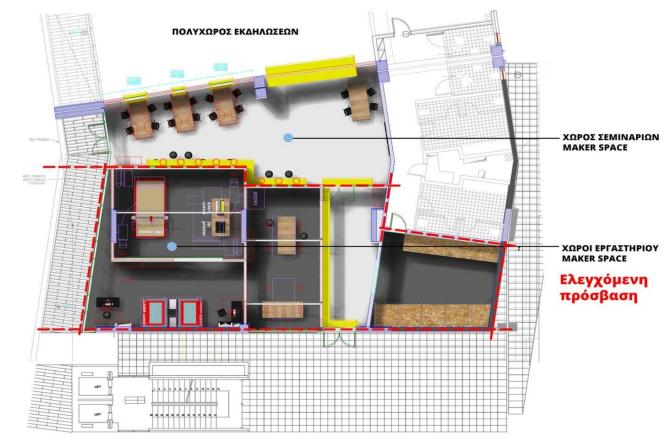


Founding partners



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Introduction





Mission



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Interdisciplinary tools





Interdisciplinary tools

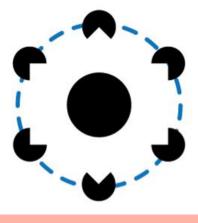






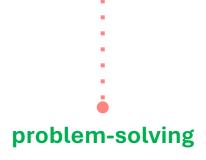


design thinking

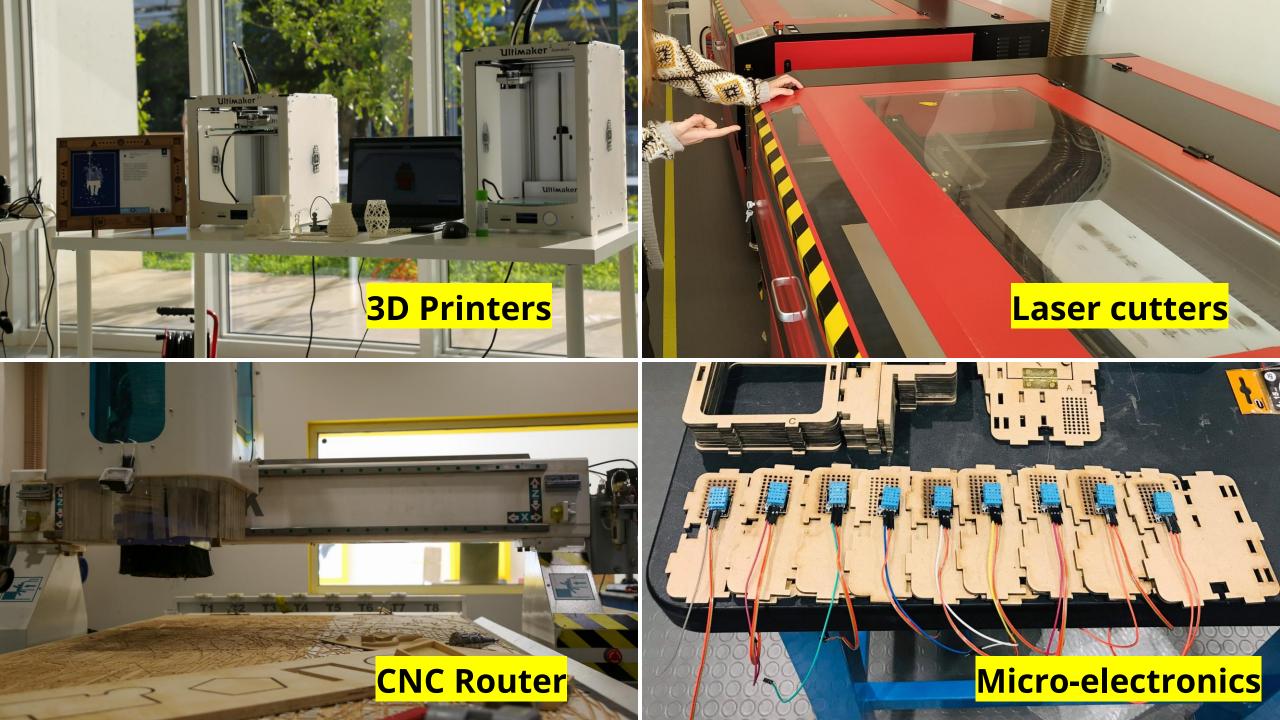


participatory practices









Goals



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Goals



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CSS BOOST

Goals



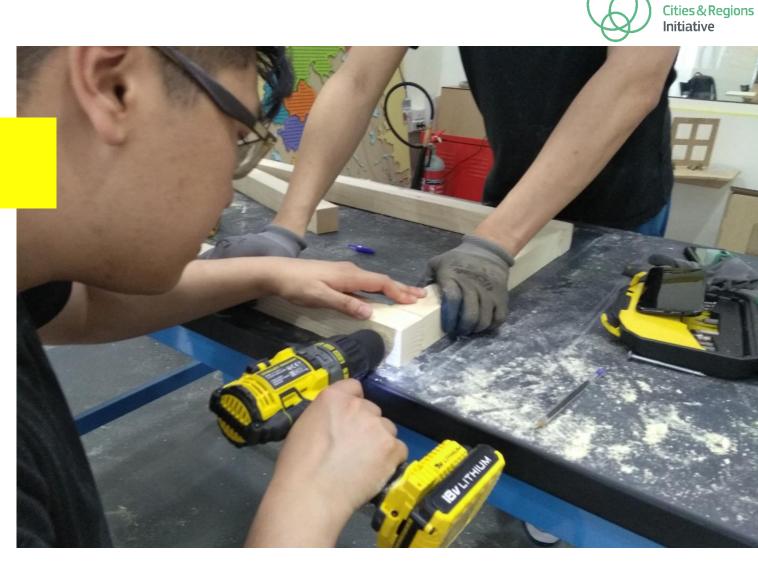
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CSS BOOST

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Circular

Goals



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Goals





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Goals



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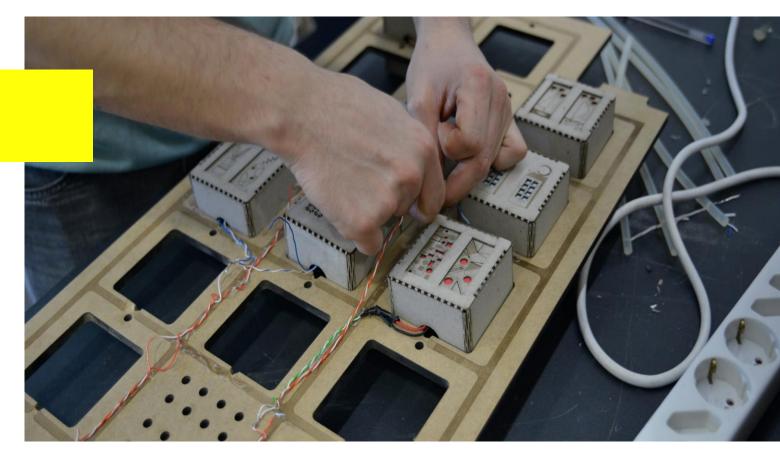






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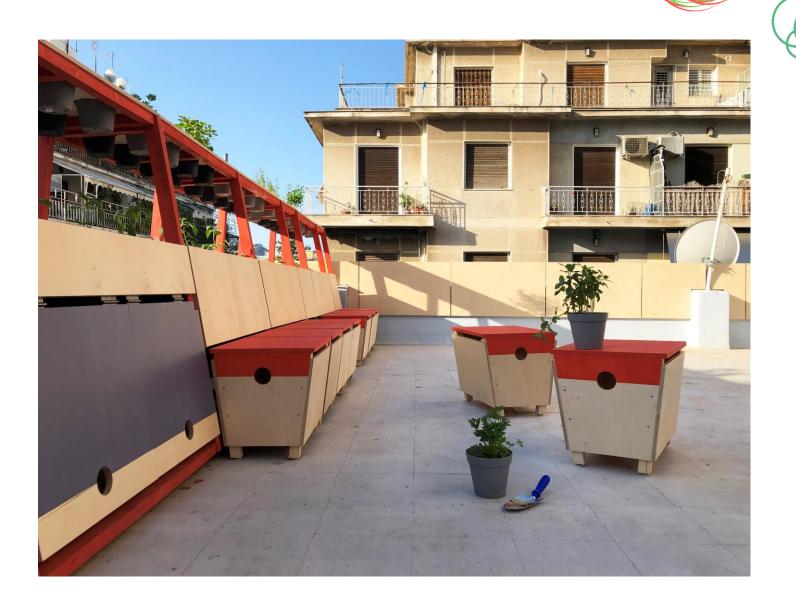




CSS BOOST

Projects

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Circular

Cities & Regions Initiative

Projects







Projects



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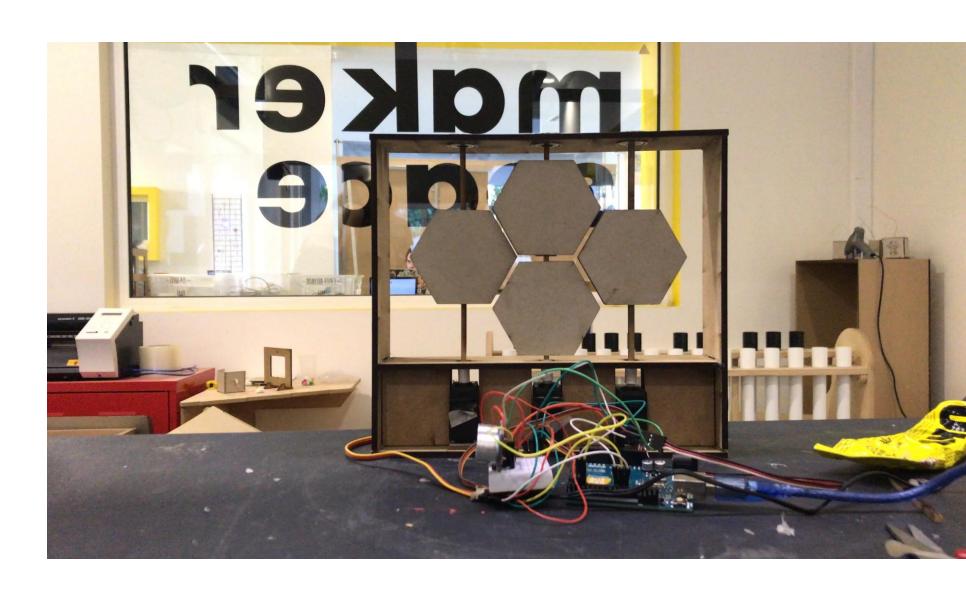






Projects

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Projects

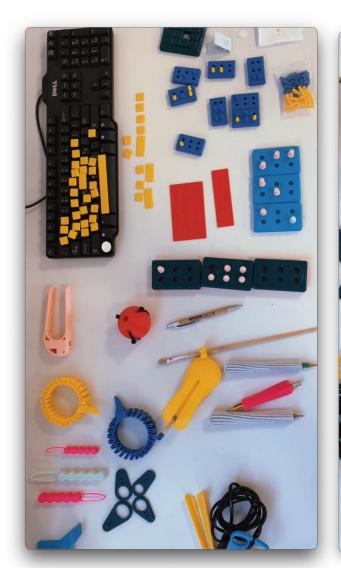
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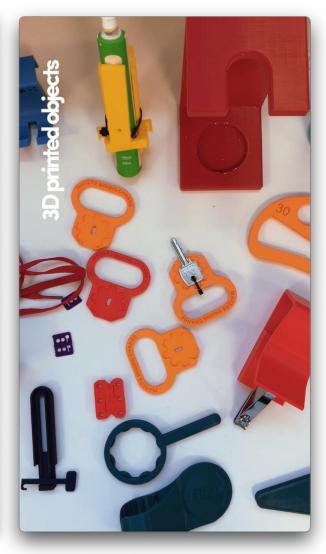
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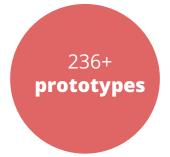
2018-2022















European Capital of Innovation Award

Athens was shortlisted in 2018, recognizing its innovative solutions to social challenges

Social Innovation in the CSSBoost Project

Transformable Intelligent Environments Action



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Systemic collaboration

Citizen Engagement









What makes a circular solution socially valuable and desirable?

Please switch to Miro





Your turn!

You live in a beautiful popular touristic destination full of 5 stars hotels.

Every five years the hotels go through a complete remodeling. Everything is thrown away. As we are approaching the time for the next refurbishment, the landfill is full.

They call upon you to come up with scenarios on how to handle this situation.



Thank You!

