



ESF+ National Competence Centers for Social Innovation



The European Social Innovation Alliance (ESIA) is a network of currently 25 member organizations from Estonia, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands which brings together a wide range of actors in the field of social innovation, including ministries, European Social Fund (ESF) authorities, NGOs, CSOs, foundations, academia, (social) enterprises etc.

We cooperate and collaborate to support and learn from each other as we build and establish National Competence Centers for Social Innovation (NCC SI) in each country within 2024-2027. Ultimately, we are all committed to improving the political and economic frameworks (i.e. ecosystems) for social innovation in our respective countries and on EU level.

The NFCS is partnering in the project together with Social Enterprise Estonia, Development Centre of Võru County, Good Deed Foundation, Tallinn University and Tartu University. Associate partners are the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications and Social Innovation Laboratory.

Main activities the NFCS coordinates:

- Mapping of the competences and development needs of the NCC SI network, development and implementation of the NCC SI capacity building program
- Development of the NCC SI strategy for the years 2025-2030
- Organising international study visits in Estonia
- Organising panel discussions and events at Impact Day
- Preparation and distribution of thematic newsletters on social innovation and social entrepreneurship
- Strategic cooperation with the ministries and ESF authorities
- Participation in national and international cooperation meetings, workshops, study trips and events

Main activities that Estonian partners coordinate:

- Advocacy of social innovation, including introducing the Social Innovation 2030 vision document
- Reviewing and updating the Estonian SI ecosystem mapping
- Analysing social economy data used in various studies
- Compiling, publishing and distributing the Estonian Social Entrepreneurship Monitor
- Creating the Global Entrepreneurship 2025 Estonia study report
- Creating a social impact measurement model for organisations in Estonia
- Conducting the Vunki Mano Social Hackathon, mentoring selected ideas and analysing the impact
- Participating in and testing the international Train-the-Trainer course in Estonia, analysing and adopting the curriculum for Estonia
- Organising international hackathons - Impact Crash Courses
- Organising social innovation themed international events

International network activities:

- Developing and implementing a creative social media strategy
- Workshop on reflections and lessons learned from the analysis of social innovation ecosystems in NCC SI pilot projects
- Workshop on social innovation in regional and local (social) innovation ecosystems
- International Train-the-Trainer program
- Business incubator for social enterprises
- Business Incubator
- Consortium study tours to Germany, Luxembourg and Netherlands
- International Community of Practice for Impact Measurement
- Participation at International SI Community of Practice (SI CoP) events and activities