

Social Innovation Competence Centre

The aim of the Competence Centre is to shape an environment in Estonia where innovative ideas can grow and develop into impactful solutions. This means providing support through tools and knowledge, sharing experiences, developing policy recommendations, and creating opportunities for international collaboration.

The Centre's activities in 2024–2027 are part of the broader European Social Innovation Alliance (ESIA), which connects Estonia, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, and through which we both share and draw inspiration from Europe's best practices.

In Estonia, the Competence Centre is formed by the National Foundation of Civil Society (coordinator), the Estonian Business for Sustainable Development Association (KELL), Võru County Development Centre, Good Deed Foundation, Tallinn University, and the University of Tartu, also The Ministry of the Interior, The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, and the Social Innovation Lab are involved.

Our shared vision is to build a systemic support structure that makes social innovation a natural part of societal development and helps create a future that is more inclusive, fair and sustainable. NFCS currently runs three projects and the NULA programme within the Competence Centre.

Competence Centre of Social Innovation Development Project 2.0

CCSI 2.0 is developing Estonia's Competence Centre of Social Innovation, bringing together knowledge, experience and partners to find solutions to major societal challenges. The project, led in Estonia by the National Foundation of Civil Society together with its partners, is part of the international ESIA network and runs from 2024 to 2027.

Activities are focusing on creating a strategy for CCSI, strengthening networks, fostering international cooperation and developing practical tools to ensure that social innovation reaches every community and organisation.

Social Innovation activities of the Swiss–Estonian Cooperation Programme

The social innovation activities of the Swiss–Estonian Cooperation Programme for Social Inclusion (2024–2028) support communities and organisations in finding innovative solutions to complex societal challenges. The focus is on advancing social innovation, including solutions and collaborations that promote the integration of people from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

The programme provides guidance to organisations in developing socially impactful products and services, organises trainings and workshops to raise awareness, and supports the creation of networks that foster social innovation. It also collects and shares best practices to bring new knowledge and inspiration to communities across Estonia.

The activities are led by the National Foundation of Civil Society, in cooperation with partners from Estonia and Switzerland.

Buduy Razom (building the future together)

Buduy Razom is an international project that supports refugees from Ukraine in Germany, Lithuania and Estonia, helping them build a more secure and sustainable life in a new environment. NFCS contributes as an associate partner, sharing its expertise in social innovation and the civil society sector.

NULA – the Smart Solutions Incubation Programme

The NULA programme, implemented by NFCS in cooperation with the Good Deed Foundation, seeks impactful and sustainable solutions to societal problems. The start-up grant enables initiatives that have completed the incubation programme to test and further develop their innovative solutions.