

Partner search

Program / Call for proposals	SMP-COSME-2024-SEE-01 — Stepping up organisational and entrepreneurial capacity of SMEs in social economy (topic 1)
Project title	Supporting the strengthening and the development of the business models of non-profit associations engaged in economic activities and providing jobs
Partner description	<p>Toulouse Métropole is a French local authority with a population of 800,000 inhabitants, bringing together 37 municipalities, around a common planning and development project. It is the fourth largest urban area in France (45,820 hectares) and employs 5,097 people.</p> <p>In 2020, the social and solidarity economy in Toulouse Métropole accounted for 2,890 establishments and 38,200 employees, representing 8.4% of jobs and 12.6% of private-sector employment. Over five years (2018-2023), it created 4,500 jobs, marking a growth of 14.6%.</p> <p>Toulouse Métropole leads a roadmap for the social economy 2021-2026 as part of the Economic Development Directorate’s roadmap, aimed at developing the social and solidarity economy (SSE) and social innovation locally together with 21 partners under the collective “Toulouse Métropole Impact”. A key pillar of the social economy roadmap is supporting SSE enterprises in their emergence, creation, development, and sustainability. To this end, the local government has structured an "SSE Enterprise Pathway" that supports economic projects from the idea stage through to the development of the enterprise, with dedicated tools for support, financing, and accommodation.</p>
Partner role	Coordinator
Partners sought	<p>We are looking for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A service provider or federating organization for the social economy experienced in the non-profit associative sector at the EU level which can take the role of ‘enabling organization’ at the EU level. • An enabling organization (service provider or federating organization) for the social economy experienced in the non-profit associative sector at local level in a country from group 2: Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain. • An enabling organization (service provider or federating organization) for the social economy experienced in the non-profit associative sector at local level in Romania.
Project outline	<p>The project focuses on strengthening and transforming the business models of non-profit associations engaged in economic activities and providing jobs, which qualify as SMEs. Targeted sectors are early-child and child care on the one hand and culture on the other hand, two sectors that contribute to social and economic inclusion and where organizations have particularly fragile business models. While public grants remain an important source of funding, their unpredictability due to shifting priorities and budget constraints necessitates that non-profit associations in these sectors adopt innovative approaches to invest, consolidate their own funds, find adequate financing, and collect new streams of capital.</p> <p>The main goals are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Designing a portfolio of support services for social economy (SE) businesses from the expertise and experience of the partners involved and an assessment of SE enterprises’ needs in 3 regions (including Toulouse metropolitan area). Strategic actions include accessing philanthropic and corporate funds, financial education and investment readiness, accessing public and private procurement, exploring innovative business models and new legal structures.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Piloting the support services in 3 regions, for an increased organizational excellence and a strengthened competitiveness of non-profit associative businesses 3. Spurring innovation among SE organizations through transnational exchanges 4. Creating blueprints for replication through an online platform
Budget	2 million euros
Deadline	December 10, 2025
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