

The background of the entire page is a complex network of thin, dark lines connecting various points, creating a web-like structure. The lines are set against a solid orange background. The network is denser in some areas and sparser in others, with some lines being thicker than others.

**sike**

**social innovation  
through knowledge  
exchange**

## **Effecting change**

How universities and organisations collaborate in order to effect social change.



universidade  
de aveiro



Co-funded by the  
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How universities and organisations collaborate in order to effect social change.

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The logo for SIKE (Social Innovation through Knowledge Exchange) features the word "sike" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The letter "i" is grey, "k" is orange, and "e" is grey.

**social innovation**  
through **knowledge**  
exchange

**Effecting change**

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# Table of contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>About SIKE</b>	<b>8</b>
The Concept	9
The project	9
Working virtually	11
Support Units	12
Conclusions	12
<b>SIKE project context</b>	<b>14</b>
The results	15
<b>EVOLVE Competition</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Evolve winners</b>	<b>22</b>
SOMOS OREKA	23
Overall Winner	23
Portugal Regional Winner	24
Vintage for a Cause	24
UK Regional Winner	24
Homies Capital	24
Germany Regional Winner	25
Heimbridge	25
Croatia Regional Winner	25
1000 Solar Roofs	25
<b>SIKE Units</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>What is a SIKE Unit?</b>	<b>28</b>
SIKE unit Values	29
SIKE unit Characteristics	29
SIKE Generic Process	30
SIKE Operational functions	31
SIKE Users	31
Strategic Position Within the HEI	33
SIKE Unit mission: Education, Innovation and Engagement for Social Impact	37
SIKE unit Specific aims/ objectives	38
Physical Space	39
REPAIREL	43
ABOUT	43
UK SIKE Unit	43
GREATER GOVANHILL	44



# Introduction

# About SIKE

by Mark Majewsky Anderson

## The Concept

Back in 2013, at the conference Social Frontiers, hosted by Glasgow Caledonian University, NESTA and the EU project, TEPSIE, the Brazilian philosopher Roberto Mangabeira Unger spoke without a script and without pause but with a majestic, passionate eloquence about how democracy had stagnated under ‘the dictatorship of no alternatives’. Since then, of course, this failure of our systems to tackle our most pressing issues has led to the re-emergence of the kinds of extremist ideologies long since thought extinct, and now in the last year our world has been completely turned upside down and the ‘dictatorship of no alternatives’ has also been revealed to be absolutely impotent before the Covid crisis that necessitates a response not only as a health emergency but also as a socioeconomic disaster which threatens the largest sectors of our societies. But Unger was not just making an insightful diagnosis. He was also making a plea for a new approach, one that he described as ‘social innovation’.

Social Innovation can be a contentious term because everyone has a slightly different understanding of what it means (just like ‘love’ or ‘terrorism’!). Its meaning and function vary, depending on the context. From a university perspective, ‘social innovation’ can be seen as a variation of the innovation process. Innovation within universities is about applying the new knowledge created by researchers and absorbed by students in order to give it value. If you have an idea for a flying car, it isn’t worth anything until that idea is developed into a product that people can use. In this sense, innovation within universities tends to refer to commercialisation – selling an idea (usually protected with a patent or other form of IP) through licenses, or the creation of a spin-off company. In this sense, ‘social innovation’ isn’t concerned with commercial value but rather with the notion of social value – how an idea can help the communities we live in – which is, of course, especially significant in this times. For years, universities have developed units dedicated to the commercialisation of ideas, but increasingly universities will need to create units dedicated to the societal impact of the ideas they create. If we develop a flying car, how will it help resolve our social problems like health inequalities, poverty, or the environment? It is absolutely crucial that our universities take on this responsibility and engage directly with their communities.

## The project

Social Innovation through Knowledge Exchange (SIKE) (<https://sike-eu.org/>) is a project funded under the Knowledge Alliances Programme of European Commission, as part of Erasmus+. Knowledge Alliances are transnational projects which bring higher education

institutions and business together to work on common issues. The overall aim is to help strengthen Europe's capacity to innovate and to support the modernisation of Europe's higher education systems.

Knowledge Alliances focus on one or more of the following:

- developing new, innovative, and multidisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning,
- stimulating entrepreneurship and the entrepreneurial skills of higher education and company staff,
- exchanging knowledge and working together on new solutions.

The SIKE project aimed to demonstrate the potential of universities to use their knowledge in order to affect social change in a direct and meaningful way. It has done this by developing new paradigms and tools for knowledge exchange practice that embrace social innovation, encourage social entrepreneurship and offer more effective support to local communities. The Partners – leading socially innovative universities and experienced social innovation drivers – are working together to create an ecosystem that nurtures and supports sustainable, resilient and responsible innovation.

The SIKE project brings together eleven consortium partners from five different countries: Spain, Croatia, United Kingdom, Germany, and Portugal. They come from a range of institutions including higher education institutions (HEI) and non-profit organisations and Small-Medium Enterprises (SME).

Institution	Country	Type of institution
BIB - Business Innovation Brokers	Spain	Non-profit Org./SME
SIL - Social Innovation Laboratory	Croatia	Non-profit Org./SME
SIX - Social Innovation Exchange	United Kingdom	Non-profit Org./SME
GCU - Glasgow Caledonian Univ.	United Kingdom	Public or state HEI
SIL - Social Innovation Lab	Germany	Non-profit Org./SME
TUDO - TU Dortmund University	Germany	Public or state HEI
TMP - The Melting Pot	United Kingdom	Non-profit Org./SME
UAV - Universidade de Aveiro	Portugal	Public or state HEI
UD - Universidad de Deusto	Spain	Private HEI
SCML - Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa	Portugal	Non-profit Org./SME
VERN – University of Applied Science	Croatia	Private HEI

The project is supporting social innovation through knowledge exchange by forging alliances between the stakeholders of the social innovation ecosystem, from business, local government, civil society organisations and community groups and developing SIKE social innovation support units in order to develop and adapt knowledge exchange tools and processes to the needs of social innovators. We are also stimulating social entrepreneurial skills within the University and the regional community by offering facilities for social innovation incubation and hot-desking facilities, linking services for connecting social entrepreneurs and community groups with the knowledge base of the university, and offering resources, processes and expertise to evaluate and demonstrate the value of social innovation to policymakers.

### Working virtually

In addition to a series of workshops and policy briefings in the participating regions, the Project has created a suite of online tools developed around creativity, incubation, markets and finance, the social innovation process, social networking and employability, and working with communities. It has also developed a specific work area for social innovators, <https://glocal.sike-eu.org> developed in collaboration with a company from the Basque Country. Described as “The Smart Network to Grow Your Community”, Glocal is an online platform specifically designed to facilitate networking, knowledge exchange, project management and so much more. It allows users to connect with the people, projects, and organisations in the areas that matter to them most, whilst at the same time allowing them to manage their own teams and projects remotely.

By signing up to Glocal/SIKE users can create an individual or company profile, to showcase their skills, experience, projects and work, house their own projects and manage these in one central place. They can subscribe to thematic channels in order to receive personalised information and publish news, events, training activities and any other content to an ever-growing community. As such, the platform offers social innovators offer a way for social innovators to grow their



theglocal.network

<https://glocal.sike-eu.org>

network in order to connect with like-minded people and access resources to expand their knowledge and learn more about a particular area.

In light of the current situation, it is more important than ever for us to adapt to our new working conditions and learn collaborate remotely. Amongst its library of tools, Glocal houses specific guidance on how to do this more effectively.

### **Support Units**

SIKE demonstrates the potential of universities and their partners to use their knowledge by developing new paradigms and tools for targeted exchange between actors from all societal sectors. At the same time, they have demonstrated how universities can learn from other organisations with more experience in supporting social innovation. The projects developed are forging alliances between universities and stakeholders across the social innovation ecosystem including business, local government, civil society organisations and community groups in order to develop a new concept for knowledge exchange, informed by a needs analysis and monitoring of local social innovations. By combining the different experiences from universities and non-HEI practitioners, a blueprint for a social innovation support unit has been developed that can be adapted by other institutions wishing to join the Network and emulate our experience, creating a physical space to bring together different stakeholders in order to support social innovation processes.

The Units offer training, policy-briefings and online tools as part of a suite of incubation and knowledge exchange services applying specialist research, equipment, outreach programmes and existing business support tailor-made to the needs of social innovators, whether they be students, academics or external stakeholders. A series of strategic recommendations and case studies, as well as online tools and teaching materials, have been produced to help other HEIs wishing to create similar units for driving social innovation through knowledge exchange.

### **Conclusions**

The rationale behind SIKE is that to successfully support social innovation, it is not enough to rely on traditional methods and processes for knowledge exchange. A university needs to establish a specialised unit that is specifically geared towards the needs of social innovators. The approach argues that universities should support social innovation in a systematic way beyond ad hoc initiatives and sporadic activism. A Unit is the next step towards institutionalisation of social innovation through universities. Moreover, the explicit notion of this form of

knowledge exchange clearly places universities as conscious actors within the social innovation ecosystem: they proactively assume the task of facilitating the exchange, flow and co-creation of knowledge.

Our ultimate goal is to create a global network for supporting social innovation within universities, to embed a culture of changemaking as a fundamental part of higher education, to be able to tackle the pervasive challenges of our age and combat the 'Dictatorship of no alternative'.

# SIKE project context

by Gonalo Gomes and Marta Ferreira Dias

The appropriate contextualization of the social needs to be addressed in the SIKE project required the implementation of a strategy for collecting and analyzing these needs. Three monitoring moments were developed throughout the project to allow a transversal reading of the social needs to be addressed in the SIKE Units deployment strategies. Thus, a first preliminary questionnaire was developed, aimed at the consortium of project partners, as well as two other in-depth, mass-application surveys, which allowed for a reading of the most pressing social needs in the various regions where the project was implemented. This document includes the results of the second in-depth survey, carried out at the final stage of project implementation, and the comparative analysis with the results of the first in-depth survey carried out at the beginning of the activities. Like the first, this questionnaire was delivered to a broader audience of organizations/institutions working in the Social Innovation (SI) field, mainly from the regions where the project was implemented and is divided into 4 categories (one for each objective), with sub-categories and specific questions within each of them, and it was disseminated within the partner's contacts' network. The main objectives were:

- 1) To allow the identification and characterization of the network of organizations/institutions working in Social Innovation in each region;
- 2) To map and characterize the structures, methods, work processes of the organizations/institutions and their experience in this field;
- 3) To congregate the social challenges and needs of each region.
- 4) Compare the evolution of the results of the first questionnaire with the second questionnaire and try to conclude the impact of the project.

This last comparator report finishes with a reflection on the various indicators collected during the project and puts forward conclusions on its impact.

## The results

For the second in-depth survey, we again sought to disseminate the questionnaire among a large sample that would guarantee a high degree of representativeness and quality in the final results.

The methodology to disseminate the questionnaire was to make it available through the project's social networks, by direct email contacts through the contact network of each SIKE Unit, dissemination on the platform "The Glocal Network" and newsletters, both of the SIKE project and the partners involved. In total, during the two in-depth surveys, we were able to obtain 140 valid inquiries which were statistically treated. These results were relatively evenly distributed across all regions, demonstrating a balance in the number of



responses among all partner countries.

In this context the second in-depth survey allowed us to add to the first moment of data collection a new layer of fundamental information for cross-cutting knowledge on the topic of Social Innovation, specifically in the context of the regions participating in the SIKE project, and that enabled us to draw comparative conclusions between the two moments.

The first conclusions we can draw are that the sample is mainly composed of "Social Economy Entities - foundations, associations, cooperatives, charities, organisations" and by "Public or State Higher Education Institutions/ Research Entities", mostly Non-profit, and that classifies their involvement in Social Innovation activities as Good or Excellent.

In an attempt to identify the type of involvement, the data also allowed us to conclude that the majority develop "collaborative initiatives in partnership with other similar institutions" and "cross-sectoral initiatives", normally in small teams of less than 5 employees, a reality that has been maintained in recent years. Concerning the number of collaborators involved, this is still a reality that is not very expressive, which can be explained by the fact that Social Innovation is still an area that seeks to assert itself and by the fact that the last few years, characterised by the COVID-19 pandemic, it was probably not the ideal moment for the intensification of this practice.

It was also in this sense that we sought to include in the second survey some specific questions about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in this specific field. Thus, several questions were added to the survey, such as: 1) "Has the recent context of COVID 19 changed your set of planned activities?", and 2) "Do you think that the experience imposed by the context of COVID 19 will change your future initiatives in the field of Social Innovation?".

About these specific questions, the results show us that the percentage of initiatives that were completely abandoned due to the context of COVID-19 was quite insignificant and that the vast majority maintained the previously planned activities making only some adjustments or developed other activities to replace those that had been planned.

These are also indicators that tell us that, as far as the future is concerned, opinions on whether the context of COVID 19 will change its future initiatives in the field of Social Innovation are quite controversial, with the same percentage of respondents who think it will not and those who think it will. However, we cannot fail to mention that among those who think that the pandemic has changed the way of working in this area, the main changes identified are the role of technology and the ability to adapt to dynamic realities, as well as issues related to social and environmental sustainability. Although this COVID-19 context has brought many novelties and uncertainties, the results of the study demonstrate that the main factors that continue to encourage social innovations remain, characterised by the most urgent pre-identified community needs, resulting in projects that, according to the majority of respondents, see their success as dependent on good coordination between

stakeholders, a good communication strategy and the pre-acquired skills of those involved. This is an evolution concerning the first moment of data collection, where "adequate funding" was the most common condition for the success of the projects. However, when faced with the question of what obstacles might inhibit these projects from succeeding, the issue of funding remains in the first place.

We can therefore consider that the SIKE project may have had an impact on the way the respondents now interpret the implementation strategies of the initiatives, valuing issues other than funding, which, however, they still consider fundamental for their sustainability. In the same sense, the survey results allow us to conclude the importance that is given to collaborative work, with the active participation of respondents in international networks, something that they now consider more relevant, with special emphasis on the network created under the SIKE project (<https://theglocal.network/sike>).

Lastly, about current social challenges and needs, the most recent results indicate the option "Intervention in poverty" as the main social need across all regions participating in the SIKE project. Nevertheless, it is important to mention that, in terms of average assessment, the difference between the first and ninth options is approximately 0.5 points. These intervention areas, being quite balanced among all regions, also show us that they have changed according to the current pandemic context, where social novelties, specifically related to health and economy, or even the relation between both, are now highlighted. As far as the training needs of participants in social innovation projects are concerned, the results showed us that there is still a need to provide answers regarding "Training in the field" and "Individual guidance/consultancy to the entrepreneur/manager", as well as the possibility of providing "Internships" in this field.

Similarly, when analysing the data on the support services that are lacking in the regions and that hinder the development of Social Innovation projects, it was noted, with some surprise, at the second moment of data collection, that the option "Collaboration between university academics and social programmes" now appears at the top, prominently, which could be an important indicator of the results of the SIKE project.

Having reached the end of the project with this option highlighted, when in the first in-depth survey it was only in 5th place, allows us to state that this is a clear indicator that the project activities have demonstrated the importance of the relationship between these partners and universities and that they now recognise the importance of academia offering more solutions to support social innovation projects.



EVOLVE  
Competition

The Evolve competition took place during the last phase of the SIKE project and aimed to reward social innovations ideas supported by the SIKE Units.

Under the theme “A business plan competition with a difference...”, it was open to anyone aged 18 or over, residing in Europe, and the task was to make a 3-5 two minute videos over a six-month period, demonstrating the evolution of an idea for a social innovation project.

It was foreseen that the regional finalists (from Spain, Portugal, Croatia, Germany and Scotland) were to be invited to present their ideas at the Social Innovation through Knowledge Exchange Conference, to be held in Brussels in March 2021, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event took place online.

The winners, one for each region and one global, were chosen by a judging panel made up of SIKE partners. Each of the regional winners was awarded a prize of 500 euros and the overall winner was rewarded with 2000 euros.

In addition to the short biography that follows, some of the winners are identified in this book in the sections of projects supported by SIKE Units with the symbols:



# Evolve winners

## Overall Winner



### **SOMOS OREKA**

Household food shortages and food waste are intrinsically linked problems, and Oreka has developed an end-to-end solution that addresses both. They have a clear mission: to help companies to end food waste and food shortages in their communities, and do so in a simple, safe and profitable way.

Oreka's technology enables companies to safely donate excess food, access tax deductions, and obtain statistical data to guide better management and business decisions.

### **Denis Ugalde**

Denis Ugalde (Getxo, 1991) is the founder of Oreka, a technology start-up that fights against food waste through the design of circular economy circuits.

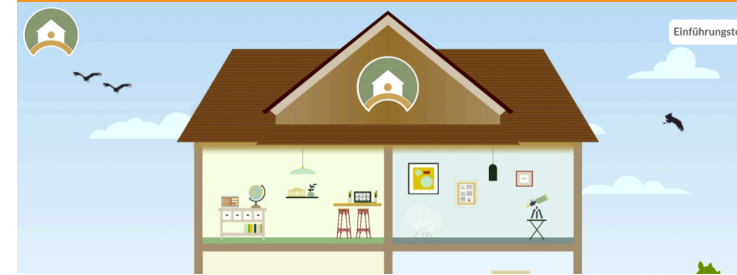
A graduate in Law and with an MBA in entrepreneurship and innovation, he specializes in the design and development of innovative projects and companies. He has also worked as a volunteer in different organizations and projects in Europe, Africa and Central America.

**Portugal Regional Winner****Vintage for a Cause**

Created in 2012 by Helena Antonia, Vintage for a Cause design and manufacture the majority of their limited-edition collections by responsible manufacturing partners, in Portugal or abroad, using sustainable methods and materials. They source deadstock and sustainable fabrics incorporating better practices throughout or supply chain to make beautiful vintage inspired styles at a fraction of the environmental impact of conventional fashion. It is their mission to lead and inspire a sustainable way to do fashion. They want to create clothes with quality that feels antique and unique and that permeates the full form of time, resisting and maintaining its identity.

**UK Regional Winner****Homies Capital**

Homies Capital is a community development-focused venture capital firm specializing in SME financing, strategy advisory & corporate education. Founded by Kgaudi - Piet Motalaota, an Engineer, private equity professional & social entrepreneur whose primary labour is committed to technological innovation, finance, and community development. Kgaudi has worked as an Engineer for General Electric (GE) and as a management consultant for Bain & Company (Bain).

**Germany Regional Winner****Heimbridge**

Changing life circumstances such as limited mobility and health make the world smaller and smaller as we age. We are developing a multi-sided platform that gives seniors access to new digital opportunities. With our visualization concept, even people without prior knowledge can participate in the web.

**Croatia Regional Winner****1000 Solar Roofs**

1000 Solar Roofs – Cities and Jobs Regeneration through Community Led is a project from Green Energy Cooperative (hrv. Zelena energetska zadruza, ZEZ) which is a RES (renewable energy sources) cooperative and social enterprise based in Zagreb, Croatia. Developed on an online matchmaking platform called “On the Sunny Side”, it registers citizen interest and connect citizens, community groups and cities with developers, solar companies and installers. It thus allows establishing a network of partners and testing the business model of community-led solarization. The business model will not depend on government subsidies and will drive market development.



SIKE Units

# What is a SIKE Unit?

The main objective of a SIKE unit is to support social innovation through knowledge exchange based on the main results of SIKE project, establishing spaces where this kind of activity can take place. Each unit is characterized by being: 1) A space for dialogue; 2) A space for innovation and co-design, and; 3) A hub for connecting people.

It is in this sense that the Units are prepared to attract a variety of stakeholders, such as, academics, students, representatives from private bodies, representatives from public bodies and other experts, who, together, will thus be better prepared to generate:

- New social enterprises and projects;
- New social innovations;
- New organizational models (foundations, cooperatives, not-for-profit, - combinations and hybrid forms are possible);
- New models for corporate social responsibility (rethinking the way in which private bodies interact with society);
- New business and funding models, including microcredit and crowdfunding resources;
- New products and services (produced as a result of new social processes, social patterns, social interactions or social organisations);
- New collaborations between university academics and social programmes;
- New courses, content or projects that seek for a social change.

## **SIKE unit Values**

- represent innovative strategies to develop solutions for social problems
- believe that greater diversity of skill means greater possibility
- encourage a collaborative physical environment
- progressively build local development
- create commitment to addressing social issues

## **SIKE unit Characteristics**

A SIKE unit should have the following characteristics:

- **Creativity:** the SIKE unit is a creative environment, which is not only generated by the physical spaces it offers but also through the people who work within it. The SIKE unit

encourages the presence of people in their facilities. A SIKE unit encourages people to use spaces and resources available to develop ideas, projects and also enhance and generate knowledge

- **Collaboration with society:** a SIKE unit does not deliver or provide a top-down solution to a society, as “experts from university” providing knowledge to “passive citizens” but recognize the diffused creativity available in society and that social innovations often emerge from bottom-up initiatives such as citizens’ activism, emerging spontaneously from a specific group of people.
- **Open-door policy:** a key policy of a SIKE unit is to have an open-door policy in order to attract social innovators but also any kind of stakeholder. This is a key factor for supporting projects but also to raise awareness inside and outside.
- **Mutual-learning process:** a SIKE unit fosters knowledge exchange between universities and society in a mutual learning process. Universities recognize the knowledge embedded in society (e.g. traditional knowledge) and, at the same time, they make scientific and technological knowledge available to society.
- **Innovative copyright policy:** social innovations are the result of collaborations between different stakeholders in society to face commonly recognized challenges. Traditional copyright policies may not be appropriate in a SIKE unit if it is to foster the right environment for the development of social innovation, it might hinder the process.
- **Academic credibility:** an active SIKE unit contributes to academic credibility in the realm of social innovation (as universities have done in scientific and technological innovation through institutes and dedicated centres).

### **SIKE Generic Process**

The SIKE generic process suggests 5 stages:

It starts with an entrance (1), where new users enter the project. the process contains an offer (2) module, where the entire social innovation support is described and delivered to the users, who enter in the SIKE process. This is followed by a monitoring (3) and evaluation (4) stage designed to keep track of the advances of each individual or group and furthermore to use the results to improve the ongoing operational process of the SIKE unit as well. The generic process ends with a closing (5) stage. A sustainable exit strategy is key for the long term success of both the participating users and the SIKE unit itself.

### **SIKE Operational functions**

The SIKE units specifically aim to widen the scope of regular knowledge transfer activities and offer special shared incubation space. These spaces do not simply work as a social business incubator, but rather they develop the tools and resources to build an ecosystem in which social innovations can grow and flourish. In particular, they seek to offer the following:

- Help social innovators to prototype solutions with appropriate equipment
- Increase in new social enterprises and projects;
- Identify and leverage new funding opportunities, including microcredit resources;
- Encourage collaborations between university academics and social programmes in order to lend academic credibility;
- Develop new innovation models (foundations, cooperatives, not-for-profit companies etc.),
- Standardise measurement of social responsibility based on benchmarking such as ISO26000 or ASHOKA changemaker status offered to internal and external, private and public organisations
- Become involved international networks in social innovation
- Develop measurement procedures to assess both social and economic impact of social innovation initiatives
- 

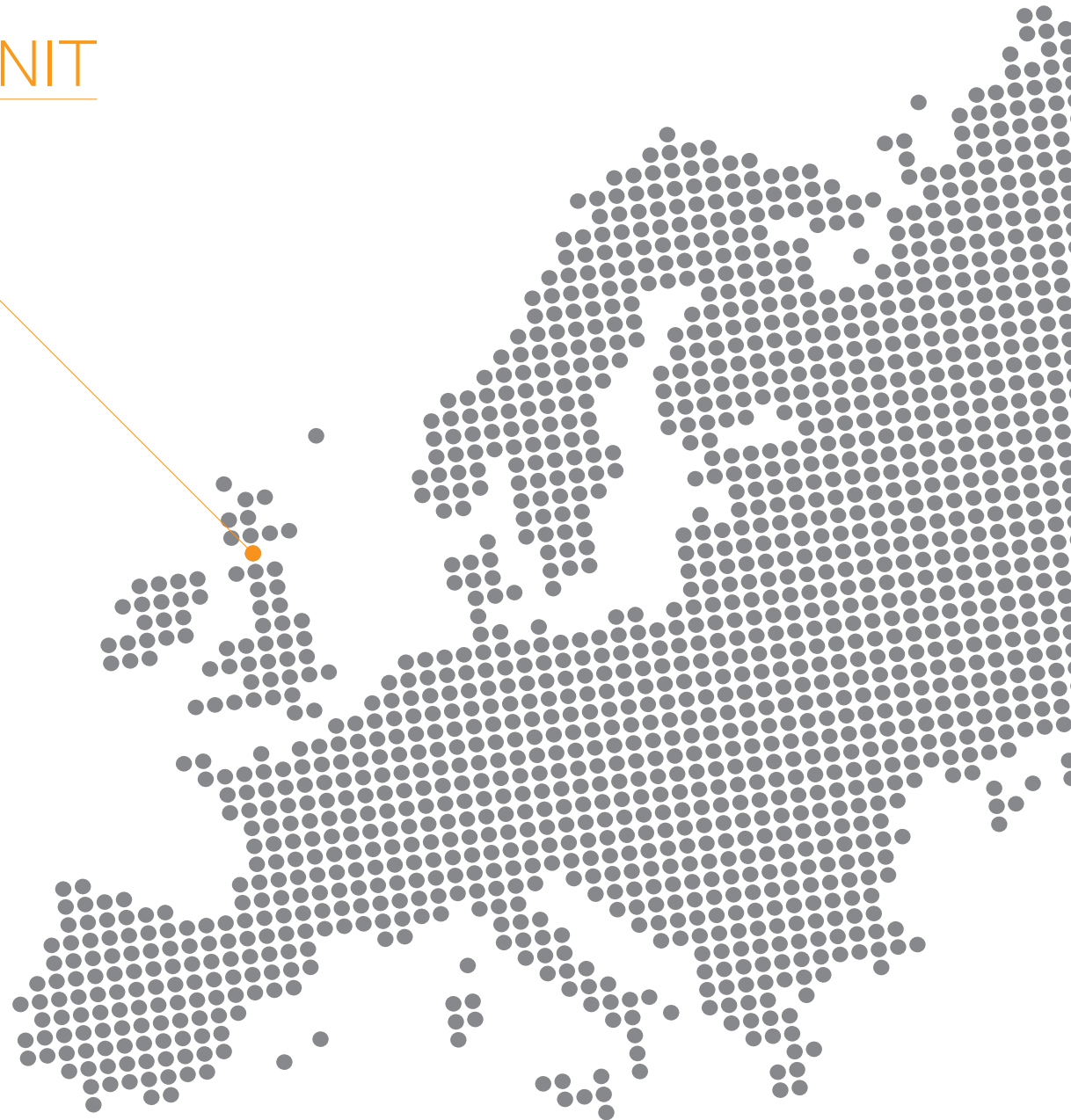
### **SIKE Users**

The Units should attract a variety of stakeholders:

- **Academics:** social innovators and anyone from the network will be able to contact academics in order to receive guidance.
- **Students:** Students benefit from shared work spaces, incubation facilities or training in social innovation
- **Representatives from private bodies:** industry will be able to generate inputs related to prototypes, products, services and models for social innovators.
- **Representatives from public bodies:** public managers/public servants will be able to generate inputs on how social innovators can integrate with current policies, including access to finance.
- **Experts:** The Units should incorporate suitable experts for mentoring social innovators.



UK / **sike** UNIT



The mission of UK SIKE Unit reflects Glasgow Caledonian University Strategy 2020 and overarching vision: to 'have a global reputation for delivering social benefit and impact through education, research and social innovation'.

### **Education, Innovation and Engagement for Social Impact**

UK SIKE Unit works to reinforce GCU's distinct position as the University for the Common Good that works to harness its intellectual, social and emotional capital, collaborate with others to find solutions to some of society's most pressing challenges and deliver social benefit to the communities we serve. In particular, the university is committed to contributing to three major societal challenges across the world – building inclusive societies, living healthy lives and creating sustainable environments. As such, the mission of SIKE Hub directly aligns with GCU goals:

- Transforming lives through education
- Enriching cities and communities through research
- Innovating for social and economic impact
- Engaging globally
- Aligning for the Common Good

### **Strategic Position Within the HEI**

GCU's commitment to social innovation is reflected in and inspired by its motto, *For the Common Good*, and is shared by its students and staff at all levels and not least by the University's Emeritus Chancellor and Nobel Laureate, Professor Muhammad Yunus, and the current Chancellor, Annie Lennox OBE – a highly-respected social activist and philanthropist. The establishment of UK SIKE Unit underpins this commitment and aligns with GCU's renewed pledge to promote social innovation through teaching and research as an Ashoka U Changemaker Campus. The newly established Ashoka U action plan (2018-2020) places focus on supporting students to understand and engage in social innovation, through training, guidance and mentoring; social innovation projects, including SIKE, SEASIN, LASIN and Common Good First; digital storytelling; community engagement, including supporting our students to be more active in Glasgow communities, and create impact. This unit, which is the direct responsibility of the Research and Innovation office, would establish formal links between GCU initiatives and projects, including U-Hatch, GCU Enactus, wider EU projects, Careers (particularly the Work Experience Hub), the Yunus Centre for Social Business and Health and other research centres; as well the Common Good Curriculum activity within the schools.

Given institutional focus and the support of senior management, including the Research and Innovation Office (RIO), the SIKE Hub will have a prominent and cross-cutting role within the university with clear links to university strategy, supporting research, curriculum development, business support services and public and community engagement (Figure 1). The operations and activities of the SIKE Unit are the direct responsibility of the Social Innovation Adviser within RIO, GCU, overseen by the Director of Research and Innovation. The Hub will also support and enhance other existing GCU initiatives and projects, including U-Hatch, GCU Enactus, Careers (particularly the Work Experience Hub), Public and Community Engagement, the Yunus Centre for Social Business and Health and other research centres (figure 1), the Masters in Social Innovation, Ashoka-U, as well the Common Good initiatives. Fundamentally, it will articulate GCU's social innovation activities in a way that will attract national and international funding and ensure that the University's maintains its reputation in a burgeoning area of policy making and investment.

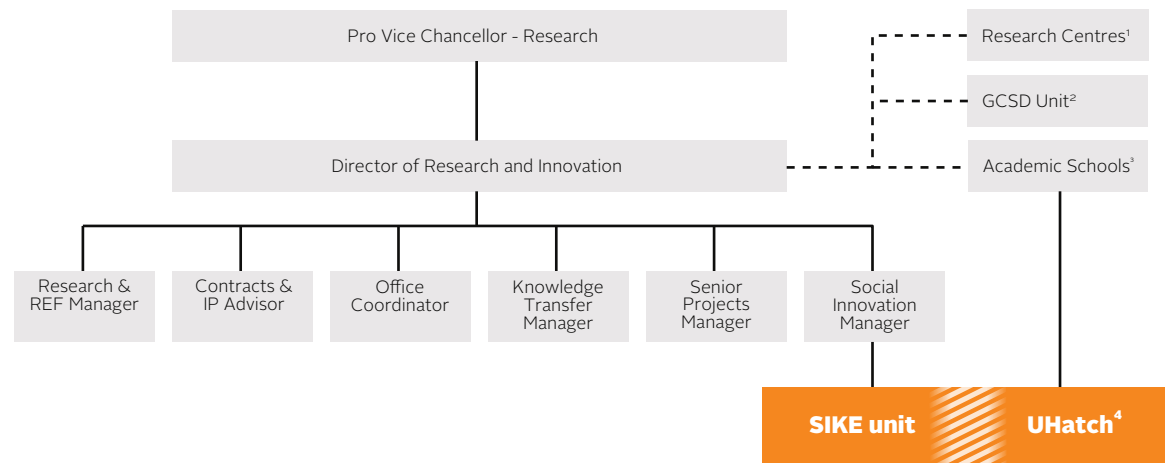


Figure 1. Social Innovation Hub at GCU – Strategic Position

<sup>1</sup> There are seven research centres and units at GCU:

- Yunus Centre for Social Business and Health
- Centre for Living
- Centre for Climate Justice
- Fair Fashion Centre
- NMAHP Research Unit
- Centre for Built Environment Asset Management, and
- Moffat Centre

<sup>2</sup> Global Challenges and Sustainability Unit (co-led by the Yunus Centre and RIO)

<sup>3</sup> There are three academic schools at GCU:

- School of Engineering and Built Environment
- Glasgow School for Business and Society
- School of Health and Life Sciences

<sup>4</sup> UHatch is GCU's incubator space/ accelerator, designed to assist entrepreneurial students, graduates and staff members.

The rationale for implementing the SIKE Unit at a level where it is both prominent and cross-cutting are three fold:

- In response to the results of WP1 'Needs Analysis' and WP2 'Consolidated Best Practice'
- To align with the university's mission, vision and goals
- To ensure maximum impact of the SIKE Hub – as well as the wider SIKE project – within and out with the university.

To best enable maximum impact, meet stakeholder needs and align with wider institutional goals, the management team of the UK SIKE Unit explores a range of university-wide strategies and approaches including, but not limited to:

- GCU providing scientific expertise (drawing from the schools and centres across the university)
- GCU funding the wider activities of the SIKE Hub
- GCU providing students with access to experts in order to create effective solutions
- The delivery of services designed by SI organisations including The Melting Pot
- Building on and enabling regional linkages with SI organisations to examine social

- innovation projects in action, further embedding GCU in the SI ecosystem
- Driving university concept testing in SI organisations
  - Enabling students to gain practical experience
  - Considering curriculum changes and exploring the role of SIKE Unit in this process
  - GCU providing/ enabling specific support to the SIKE Unit, including:
    - concept oversights
    - development of projects
    - monitoring
    - formal and non-formal educational content
    - one on one coaching
    - evaluation support
    - various learning events
    - organisation of workshops
    - space for events and incubation
    - connection to fellow start-up social innovators and potential partners

The management of the UK SIKE Unit works with key stakeholders, including the Advisory and Evaluation committee.

**SIKE Unit mission: Education, Innovation and Engagement for Social Impact**

GCU Goal	SIKE Hub values	SIKE Hub aims	SIKE Hub activities
Transforming lives through education	Education as transformative	Equip students with opportunities to make a positive impact on communities	Develop SIKE Hub internship opportunities for GCU students
		Equip students with knowledge to understand global challenges and identify socially innovative solutions	Develop opportunities for students to engage with SI experts in order to create effective solutions Contribute to SI curricula content development (MSc Social Innovation) Develop and deliver specialised workshops/ seminar series (e.g. Sunway University's Sustainability Series)
Enriching cities and communities through research	Driving research for impact	Engage with GCU academics focused on research with social impact	Provide opportunities for academics to engage with the wider university and visiting academics, sharing knowledge
		Enable linkages between academic and practitioners	Delivery of services designed by SI organisations including The Melting Pot Encouraging KE linkages – providing scientific expertise (drawing from schools and centres across the university)
Innovating for social and economic impact	Enabling creativity and Innovation:	Act as a resource and hub for social innovators (internal – staff and students)	Monitoring and evaluation support, in partnership with RIO
		Act as a SI reference point for external parties	Delivery of learning events Act as a space for events
Engaging globally	Having global social impact	To extend our impact and engage globally	Project development – seeking SI project opportunities across the globe Building on our well-established networks across Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America
Aligning for the Common Good	Collaboration: leveraging collective knowledge for social impact	Adopt an active approach to building on regional linkages with SI organisations	Explore opportunities to examine SI projects in action (through SI organisations in the eco-system) Providing concept oversights to SI organisations/ driving university concept testing in SI organisations

Table 1. UK SIKE Unit values, aims and activities and their relationship to wider GCU goals

### SIKE unit Specific aims/ objectives

This Unit:

1) Support social innovation through knowledge exchange by: forging alliances between the stakeholders of the social innovation ecosystem, from business, local government, civil society organisations and community groups and develop Social Innovation through Knowledge Exchange (SIKE) Units that will specifically develop and adapt knowledge exchange tools and processes to the needs of social innovators;

2) Stimulate social entrepreneurial skills within the University and the local community by: offering facilities for social innovation incubation and hot-desking facilities; linking services for connecting social entrepreneurs and community groups with the knowledge base of the university; offering resources, processes and expertise to evaluate and demonstrate the value of social innovation to policymakers.

The role of the SIKE unit may develop over time, adjusting as user needs and institutional priorities and opportunities. While the SIKE blueprint highlights a broad range of SIKE unit aims – for use by all regional partners, the regional aims of SIKE Unit are identified at Table 1. That being said, SIKE Unit management will continually reflect on stakeholder needs and feedback from the Advisory and Evaluation committee and consider alternative or additional aims/ objectives. As such, the more generic blueprint aims are tabulated below to serve as a reference point for future strategy.

New social enterprises and projects	New social innovations
New organizational models (foundations, cooperatives, not-for-profit)	New models for corporate social responsibility (rethinking the way in which private bodies interact with society)
New business and funding models, including microcredit and crowd funding resources	New products and services (produced as a result of new social processes, social patterns, social interactions or social organisations)
New collaborations between university academics and social programmes	New courses, content or projects that seek for a social change

Table 2. Project wide SIKE unit aims/ objectives

### Physical Space

Part of the mandate of RIO includes the management of GCU's incubation facility and a strategic priority transformed UHatch into a co-working space which allows the space more flexibility and footfall, geared primarily for the development of Social Enterprises at GCU in order to encourage entrepreneurial students, staff and graduates. In order to facilitate this, UHatch became a member of the Coworking Accelerator Network (<https://www.coworkingaccelerator.network/>) which is organised by The Melting Pot, a partner on the SIKE project, as a way of professionalising the management of the space. Conversations are underway with key players in the social innovation eco-system focused on partnering with GCU and developing a new investment network for social enterprises.

The SIKE Unit have presence across the university. This include:

- The development of a converted co-working space, in the current U-Hatch, whereby users can book and use space as and when required. We intend to invest in the space, updating resources and assets to appeal to users. Investment will be made in new signage and branding as well as user equipment (Figure 1).
- The development of Maker and Green Screen Spaces in a neighbouring building. It has been well established that an essential element of the social innovation process is to allow communities a way to experiment and engage with each other. In order to enhance this dynamic, we propose that existing spaces within the Charles Oakley building be kitted out with the means to become publicly accessible workshops for sharing and developing knowledge, ideas and designs, equipped with suitable tools (e.g. 3d printing, virtual reality, laser cutters, green screen videos).

Overall, the SIKE Unit at GCU is a space for dialogue, a space for innovation and co-design and a hub for connecting people: a physical place where people can gather together. We hope to target academics, students, representatives from private and public bodies, experts and members of the wider community interested in social innovation and knowledge exchange in order to best enable a collaborative approach to social innovation.

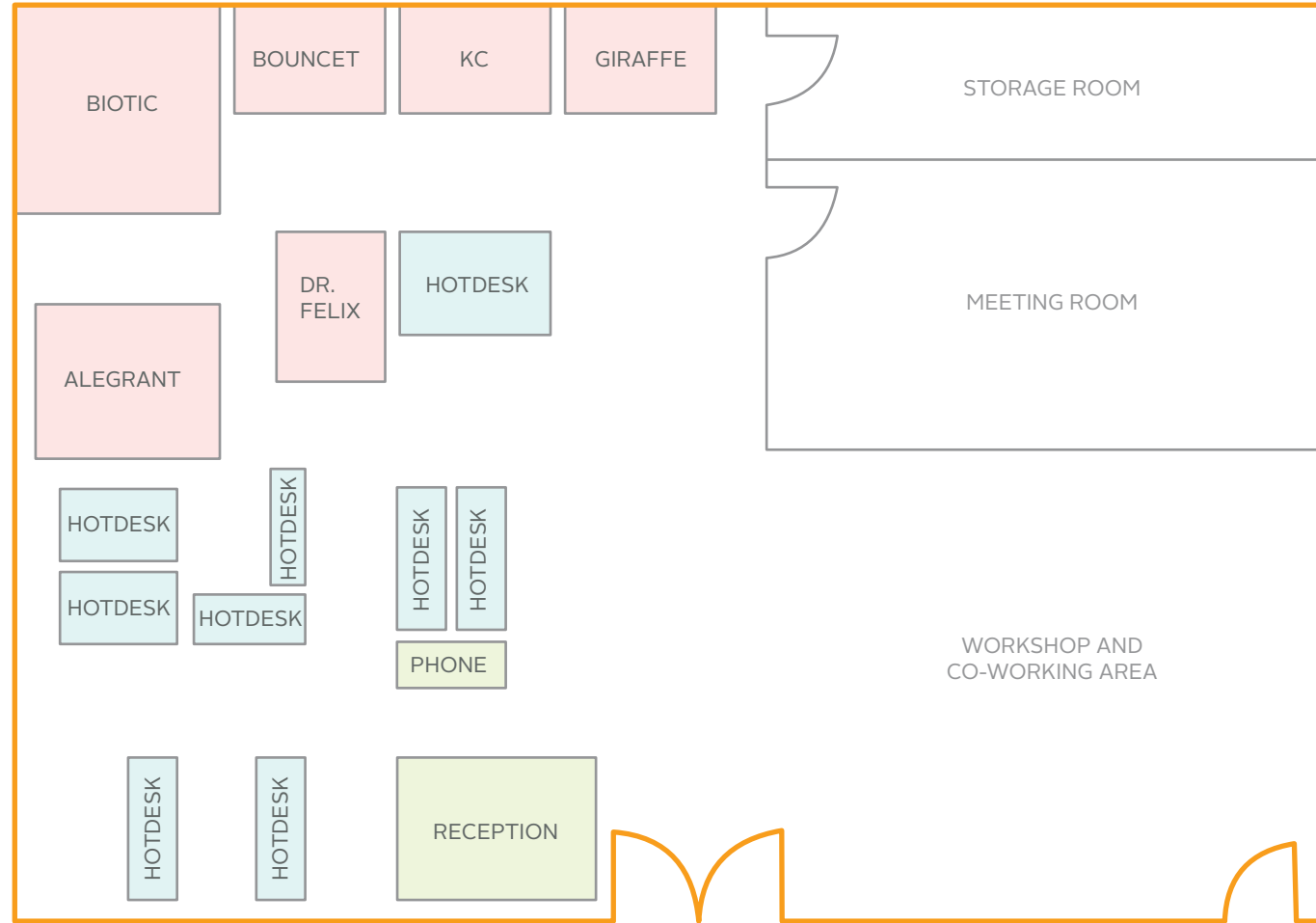


Figure 1. UK SIKE Unit – plans for layout



Figure 2. UK SIKE Unit – pictures

# UK SIKE Unit / Supported cases



## REPAIREL

2019-20

## ABOUT

REPAIREL CIC is a new social enterprise created to respond to the climate emergency at a local and actionable level. REPAIREL's first aim is to create an environmentally conscious Shoe Repair Hub/Lab in the North West of Glasgow that will help people break away from the throwaway culture of buying and discarding shoes, reduce shoe waste and facilitate innovation and circular design practices through 3 interlinked elements joined together in one creative space:

1. Repair Hub
2. Sustainable Fashion
3. Fab Lab

## UK SIKE Unit

Petra Baiba Olehno, founder of REPAIREL, took part in the incubation and training workshops in the SIKE Hub. Support included workshops; a facilitated process using design thinking methodology; guidance on business model development; Eco-system connection and network development.

### Services provided

- > Workshops.
- > Incubation
- > Networking

### Read more

<https://good-ideas.org/if-the-shoe-fits-repair-it>



## GREATER GOVANHILL

2019-20

### ABOUT

Govanhill is one of the most diverse and interesting places to live in Scotland. It has a wealth of community projects, independent retailers and a vibrant atmosphere. A multitude of cultures, languages and social groups co-exists in Govanhill, often happily, but also fear, othering and isolation are problems, too.

Govanhill resident Rhiannon Davis has set out to change this. Not just to counter the negative image that Govanhill has become all too accustomed to, but to encourage connection and a sense of pride in the community.

Rhiannon is bringing power back into Govanhill by creating a community magazine, available in print and online. Greater Govanhill is a new community magazine that will be available in print and online. It takes a solutions-focused approach to the stories that matter to the neighbourhood - and provides a platform for under-represented voices in the community.

Workshops, training, and events will also enable the residents of Govanhill to feed into the magazine, empowering people to tell their own stories in their own words. It is a not-for-profit social enterprise, run from a community interest company.

### UK SIKE Unit

Rhiannon Davis, founder of Greater Govanhill, took part in the incubation and training workshops in the SIKE Unit. Support included workshops; a facilitated process using design thinking methodology; guidance on business model development; Ecosystem connection and network development.

#### Services provided

- > Incubation
- > Workshops
- > Networking

#### Read more

<https://good-ideas.org/thats-the-community-spirit>

## SCOTTISH ESPORTS HUB

2019-20

### ABOUT

Scottish Esports Hub is a not for profit social enterprise dedicated to supporting the Scottish esports through careers advice and skills development.

Founder Brian Houston began forming his idea for the Scottish Esports Hub based on his own personal experience of the problems in the Esports arena in Scotland. He identified that there is a lack of support for the community in Scotland, which has led to mental health issues among its members. Support is needed to avoid a loss of talent and disillusionment, all of which discourage the industry and pose a threat to its growth. Brian wants to be a leading part of a movement which will give the support needed. The aim of this new social venture is to offer advice to Esports participants in Scotland. This starts with career advice to support those who want to work in this growing sector. The longer term goal is to create a cohesive, supportive Esports community. It's an industry that is only going to get bigger, Brian wants to ensure that a culture that supports mental health and well-being is created and maintained.

### UK SIKE Unit

Brian Houston, founder of Scottish Esports Hub, took part in the training and incubation workshops in the SIKE Hub. Support included workshops; a facilitated process using design thinking methodology; guidance on business model development; Ecosystem connection and network development.

#### Services provided

- > Incubation
- > Workshops
- > Networking

#### Read more:

<https://good-ideas.org/building-virtual-bridges>



## MEREL BEKKING

2019-20

### ABOUT

Merel Bekking is a product designer who wants to use her skills to bring more income into creative social enterprises.

Many social creative studios are full of outstanding artists doing amazing things, but for these studios funding opportunities are lacking. This means a lot of the artist's work will never be shared with a large audience, and it will not receive the appreciation it should get.

Another deficit in the mainstream world of work is a lack of access to employment for several groups. Many people are written off during the hiring process for a variety of reasons. This might be a disability, an interaction with the prison system or refugee status.

Merel wants to address these problems and, in true social entrepreneur style, she has ideas for building a social business to do just that.

The first stage is to work with studios to help them create a product line that will fly off the shelves. She will use her expertise as a product designer to work as a consultant with studios looking to develop a range of products they can sell to generate income. This income will play a crucial role in helping artists feel valued and taken seriously. The long term plan is to use this model to

fund her own social design studio that employs people who have characteristics that make it harder for them to access employment.

### UK SIKE Unit

Merel Bekking took part in the incubation/training workshops in the SIKE Unit. Support included workshops; a facilitated process using design thinking methodology; guidance on business model development; Ecosystem connection and network development.

### Services provided

- > Incubation
- > Workshops
- > Networking

### Read more:

<https://good-ideas.org/designs-made-to-last>



## SCRAN4THECLAN

2019-20

### ABOUT

Mark Johnson identified a problem with the way consumption in Scotland currently happens. Although many of us aspire to be more ethical and shop responsibly, it can be challenging. There are many different ethical and local producers and retailers, but they can be hard to find. It's made even harder by the fact that these often operate individually. Because of this, many people simply do not have the time to source products which align with their morals. Mark's social venture plan is centred around developing an app which creates a one-stop-shop to make it a much easier task. This marketplace links a whole host of local and ethical producers and retailers together. Not only this, but it will include a handy feature that lets users add filters. This way, shopping can be done based on individual values and ethics. Mark's theory of change assumes that a more user friendly interface will create fertile digital soil for ethical businesses to be seeded and to grow. The goal is a place for people to shop and rest assured that they are supporting fair labour conditions, the environment and beyond. The benefits, Mark hopes, will also extend to communities. Faced with the COVID-19 pandemic Mark temporarily pivoted his idea partnering with

Food and Health partnerships and a group of volunteers to create a campaign for community solidarity and alignment. They provided a service linking local hot food traders with volunteers to provide meals for key workers. Scran4TheClan set up a 'grub hub', a roadside drop point for a drive by grocery drop.

### UK SIKE Unit

Mark Johnson was a member of the Incubation / Training workshops in the SIKE Unit. Support included workshops; a facilitated process using design thinking methodology; guidance on business model development; Ecosystem connection and network development.

### Services provided

- > Incubation
- > Workshops
- > Networking

### Read more:

<https://good-ideas.org/scran4theclan>





## HIGHLAND CREATIVE CENTRE

### ABOUT

2019-20

Robert Sproul-Cran is founding Highland Creative Centre, which will run creative retreats in Scotland's wilderness. *"We are living in cities, right next to other people, but completely disconnected both from them and from nature further afield, from the wild spaces that Scotland has. And this is particularly acute right now with us being forced into isolation. We're noticing a lot of things for the first time, but it's not the first time that it's been there. There's been a longing to reconnect. If anything, the last few weeks have taught us that we've been waiting for permission to connect; to the neighbours, to the postie, to far flung friends."* Rob is building a community through creative retreats, where people can go and learn a connection with the land to try things from the most ancient crafts right through to the modern day, to discover what it means to express themselves in ways that they hadn't explored before, never felt that they would be able to, or ways that they had actually been using on a day to day basis, a career, and they need space to develop further.

## UK SIKE Unit

Robert Sproul-Cran attended SIKE workshops in Glasgow before joining further training with The Melting Pot. Support included workshops; a facilitated process using design thinking methodology; guidance on business model development; Ecosystem connection and network development.

### Services provided

- > Incubation
- > Workshops
- > Networking

### Read more:

<https://good-ideas.org/space-to-flourish>

## LISTENUP STORYTELLING

2020

### ABOUT

ListenUpStorytelling supports professionals who care for others to care for themselves. Caring professionals need care too. Many professionals suffer high levels of stress and anxiety as a result of their caring roles. Stress, Burnout and Compassion Fatigue are just a few of the many conditions that are increasingly reported as being prevalent in caring professionals. ListenUpStorytelling facilitates time out to consider reflection on practice and ways to support wellbeing and development. Safe space to share stories, reflect on who we are and what informs our actions and explore ways to co-create alternative endings. With Storytelling as core to what they do, their practical, interactive, and creative workshops and courses are delivered by skilled facilitators who offer a range of tools to develop self-awareness and self-care, build resilience, challenge practice, and find joy and meaning at work. Alongside storytelling, their methods also include Lego Serious play, arts and crafts, mindful practices, poetry and role play. Storytelling can be used to support team building, through examining work cultures, creating a shared vision and clarifying individual and organisational values. We also offer 1:1 mentoring, to support personal and professional development.

## UK SIKE Unit

After undertaking the incubation programme, Dr Kath MacDonald attended the SIKE Connection | Mental Health & Well-being Knowledge Exchange event.

### Services provided

- > Incubation
- > Networking

### Read more:

<https://www.listenupstorytelling.co.uk>



## BL Studios

2020

## ABOUT

BL Studios are a digital creative hub. Producing meaningful experiences that tell a story, build brands, and grow businesses. Our digital services range from Brand Campaigns, Social Media Management, Art & Animation, Photography & Videography. Part of their mission is to embark on socially conscious projects, where they create content to help promote aspects of the local community in Glasgow and activities that are happening. They also strive to purposefully work with a diverse range of clients and hire staff from diverse backgrounds; in particular disabled and ethnically diverse backgrounds.

## UK SIKE Unit

BL Studios has joined the UK SIKE Hub recently and has undertaken a number of activities. They have engaged with the incubation and business development support available. They have presented their business at international networking events and have accessed the range of digital tools and training available.

### Services provided

- > Incubation
- > Business Development Support
- > Virtual training and tools
- > Networking

### Read more:

<https://www.blstudios.co.uk>

## DIVERSIFIED MAGAZINE

2020

## ABOUT

Diversified Magazine was born out of the social movement following the Black Lives Matter Protests last year. Their business idea is to create a fully digital and highly interactive magazine, called Diversified celebrating and highlighting unity through diversity, through interviews, stories, and articles. They will gain funding to grow the magazine through partnering with local social enterprises to offer advertising in their magazine. They hope to grow into a brand in the longer term, with a multi-medium engagement platform to promote the beauty of diversity.

## UK SIKE Unit

Diversified Magazine has joined the UK SIKE Hub recently and has undertaken a number of activities. They have engaged with the incubation and business development support available. They have presented their business at international networking events and have accessed the range of digital tools and training available. They have been able to access tools to build their magazine virtually through the Unit.

### Services provided

- > Incubation
- > Networking
- > Business Development Support
- > Virtual training and tools



## GIRAFFE HEALTHCARE

2018

### ABOUT

Giraffe Healthcare is a community interest company. It has been developed by experienced healthcare professionals working closely with patient groups and users. It is simple, easy to use and can be accessed by patients and healthcare professionals anywhere in the world. Giraffe Healthcare has been designed for people who have difficulty accessing traditional face-to-face clinical services because of work commitments, rural location, specific cultural and language issues, transport problems, mobility limitation, or significant symptoms such as fatigue. Their extensive library of exercises is used by clinicians to provide patients with unique, personalised exercise programmes which can be monitored and altered remotely as appropriate. Their inbuilt messaging function allows secure interaction between clinical and patient.

### UK SIKE Unit

Giraffe Healthcare has accessed the SIKE Unit from the beginning of the project. They have engaged with the incubation and business development support available, as well as; accessed funding, networking events, used training and tools on offer, specialist business development advice and internationalisation support.

#### Services provided

- > Incubation
- > Workshops
- > Networking
- > Business Development Support
- > Training and tools
- > Internationalisation
- > Funding

#### Read more:

<https://www.giraffehealth.com/>

## LINGO FLAMINGO

2018

### ABOUT

Recent research shows that speaking a foreign language can postpone the effects of dementia by up to 5 years. In addition to this, language learning increases our decision-making skills, multi-tasking skills and heightens our ability to concentrate and communicate. Lingo Flamingo therefore provide the world's first portfolio of tailored outreach language workshops to older adults delaying the effects of dementia by keeping older adult's brains' fit and active. Since founding they have provided 3,500 classes to participants across Scotland empowering older adults through the knowledge of foreign languages.

### UK SIKE Unit

Lingo Flamingo has been in operation for a few years but joined the UK SIKE Hub recently to access resources and support to expand their activities and grow their business. They have engaged with the networking events and support available through the hub, connecting with other social enterprises internationally. They have also accessed the range of virtual training, events and tools provided.

#### Services provided

- > Networking
- > Virtual training and tools

#### Read more:

<https://www.lingoflamingo.co.uk/>



## VISION ACADEMY

2020

### ABOUT

Established in 2020, Vision Science Academy aims at providing extensive training and expert guidance to aspiring students and professionals on the widely popular science of vision care. VSA is an online platform providing services for eye health professionals.

Their goal is to increase the capacity of eye health professionals and health systems to treat and prevent blindness and visual cognitive impairment around the world. They have an effective learning community, a great place to be for a member and an educator. Their culture is built on a common set of values, tutor accountability, and high expectations all resulting in high levels of members achievement. One of the most important ways in which the Academy and the Academy's Foundation serve members of the vision science community is through its recognition awards, grants, scholarships, travel fellowships and research funding to promote better vision healthcare.

### UK SIKE Unit

Vision Academy has accessed a number of services through the SIKE Unit: they have engaged with the incubation and business development support available and they have accessed the range of project management and virtual tools available to them through the Unit.

#### Services provided

- > Incubation
- > Business Development Support
- > Virtual training and tools

## BASMÎ VENTURE

2020

### ABOUT

Basmî Venture is into importation, supply and sale of organic, quality, and healthy African food products enriched with essential nutritional benefits and dietary properties vital for a healthy functioning body. These products are sourced from Southern Nigeria and supplied to operators of African, Caribbean and Asian food retail businesses and directly to communities with health issues, as well as health-conscious consumers in the United Kingdom.

The business operation is guided by a lean business strategy, aimed at achieving the business' operational objectives of maintaining availability, affordability, and efficient delivery of high-quality products to its customers with reduced waste.

As a sole trading business on a social course, Basmî Venture is a keen advocate of the United Nation's 2030 Sustainability Development "Goal 3- Good Health and Wellbeing" by focusing more on ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for all at all ages, thereby contributing in building a healthy society.

### UK SIKE Unit

Basmî Venture has joined the UK SIKE Hub recently and has undertaken a number of activities. They have engaged with the incubation and business development support available to begin to develop their business plan further. As they go forward they will access more services available.

#### Services provided

- > Incubation
- > Business Development Support



## In Agency

2020

### ABOUT

Trishna Goklani is the founder of In Agency, a Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic (BAME) mentorship program that aims to disrupt and widen the accessibility into the creative industry. The idea for a mentorship program started as a passion project over the summer of 2020, after many conversations with close friends and industry professionals. Trishna shares, “It’s something I’ve always wanted to start and as a woman of colour, I too have struggled with my career. I acknowledge my privilege of having lots of guidance when I was starting out and now, having built my expansive network and platform of followers, this is definitely something that’s much needed and my way of paying it forward.”

The Mentorship Program launched February 2021, and has involved Fashion, Beauty and Lifestyle professionals across PR, Digital Marketing, Social Media, Content Creation, Journalism and more. The mission is to widen the accessibility into the UK’s elusive creative industry for BAME individuals. Through the extensive network Trishna is continuously building, she wants to become a part of equipping young creatives with the right advice and connecting them to professionals in the field — who also believe in championing diversity & inclusivity — to

help work towards achieving set goals. She adds, “Hopefully, one day we’ll see more offices and desks, sets and stages, occupied by people who look like you and me.”

### UK SIKE Unit

In Agency has used a variety of the SIKE Unit’s services. They have engaged with the business development support available and they have accessed the range of project management and virtual tools available to them through the Unit.

#### Services provided

- > Business Development Support
- > Virtual training and tools

#### Read more:

<https://www.inagency.co.uk/about>

## Milton Hub

2019

### ABOUT

The Milton Hub is a partnership between multiple stakeholders in Glasgow to set up a community hub where GCU will also be based, along with other stakeholders such as Police Scotland, Glasgow City Council, Milton Community groups, National Health Service, among others.

The area of the city where it is to be based is one of the most deprived areas of the city, with high health inequalities, child poverty, social isolation, and a lack of services, among many other things. The partnership is working together to look at how different services across the partnership; including university research and practice, can benefit the community. The other side of the project, is for the key stakeholders, and GCU staff and students, can learn from the community as well. The aim is that they will work closely together to address challenges in the area, and bring innovative services to an isolated community.

The hub will provide the chance for students from various fields such as community nursing, podiatry, occupational therapy, law and social work to have first-hand experience of the problems that affect people living in deprived areas and will also give researchers greater opportunities to expand “place-based” projects.

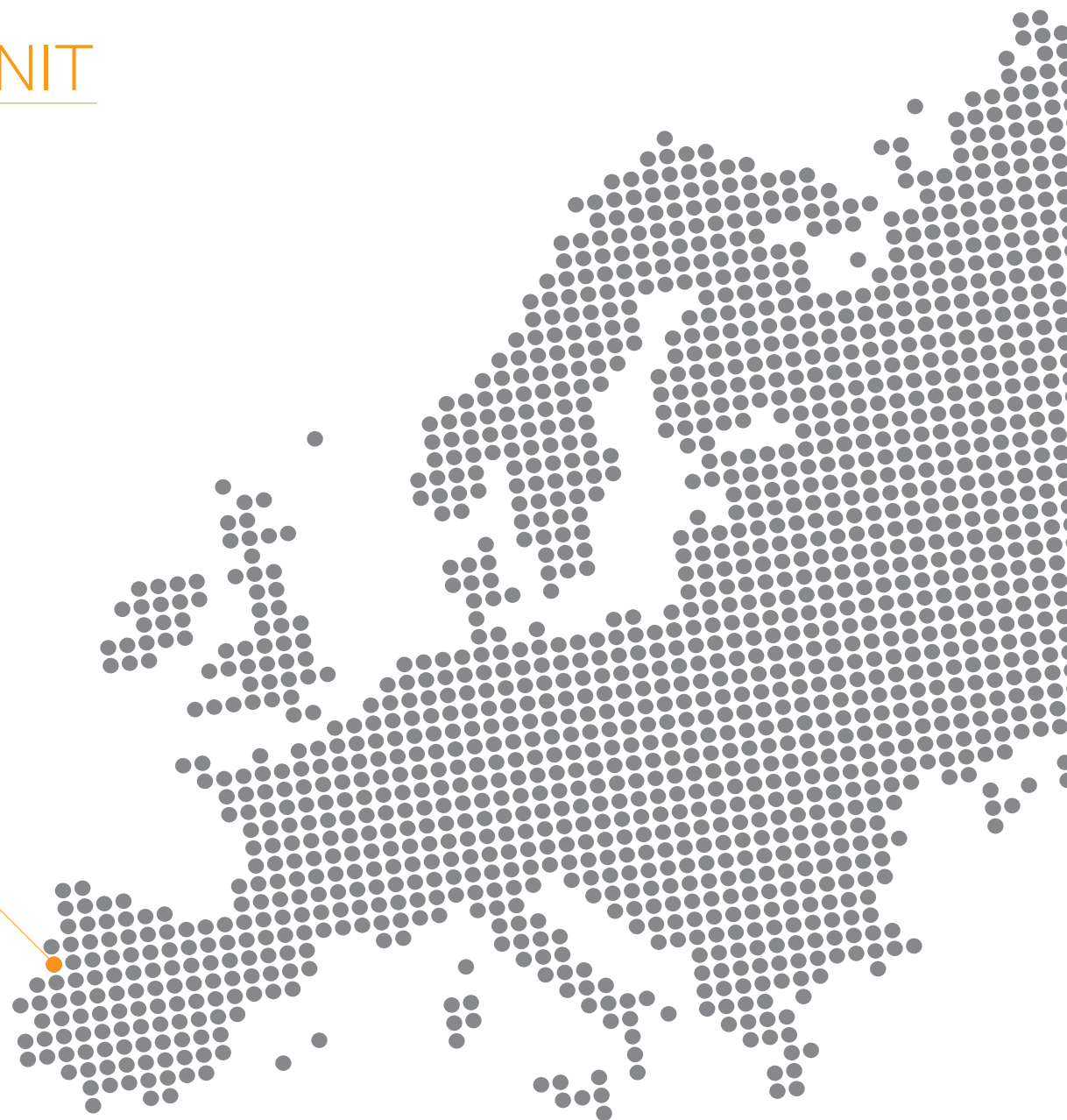
### UK SIKE Unit

The Milton Hub has utilised a number of the SIKE Unit’s services. These have mainly been about forming new networks and partnerships that will benefit the development of the community hub in Milton. The hub has accessed networking opportunities, and then further brokerage and collaboration support to expand the stakeholders involved in the project.

#### Services provided

- > Brokerage + Collaboration
- > Networking

## PT/sikeUNIT



The Portuguese SIKE Unit stands as a result of the effort of two national institutions, the University of Aveiro and Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa, which, integrating the SIKE partner consortium from the beginning, defined its region of intervention as the geographic space between the metropolitan regions of the Porto and Lisbon, which correspond to almost all the north and coast centre of Portugal.

Although geographically distant, these institutions complement each other in operational terms because of their distinct nature, and, although the SIKE unit is located at the University of Aveiro, the accumulated know-how of both will be made available as an aggregate and coherent whole that will seek to ensure an impact all over the country.

With this purpose, several noteworthy figures of the Social Innovation ecosystem in Portugal were invited to the Advisory and Evaluation Committee, such as:

- Liliana Ribeiro: Chief Executive Officer of IRIS – Social Innovation Regional Incubator of Amarante (north of Portugal);
- Liliana Simões: Founder and Coordinator of Microninho – Social Incubator [Coimbra Region – centre region of Portugal];
- Rui Pedroto: CEO of Manuel António da Mota Foundation;
- Katja Tschimmel: PhD in Design and Master in Creativity, Managing Partner at MINDSHAKE Consultancy and Training in Creative Thinking;
- Ângela Fernandes: Activist and co-founder of the Laboratório Cívico de Aveiro (Aveiro Civic Lab) initiative.
- Marlene Amorim: Assistant Professor at the Department of Economics Management and Industrial Engineering of the University of Aveiro. Specialist in innovation, entrepreneurship and social innovation in services, focused on the development, with local municipalities, of tailored education programs for entrepreneurship and social innovation.

The diversity and comprehensiveness of the Advisory and Evaluation Committee members assure that the SIKE Unit potential impact in the Portuguese Social Innovation ecosystem will be transversal to all the main stakeholders and will have a direct impact in specific needs previously identified.

Being based at the University of Aveiro, PT Sike Unit was initially developed through pre-existing knowledge and resources available at the institution.

The topic of Social Innovation has been a regular presence in the centre of the interests of the University of Aveiro, having taken main focus from 2014 with the organization of the Roadmap for Social Economy Sessions (April, May, July 2014).

Since then there has been a significant investment and institutional support in SI, which has been materialized in the organization of various initiatives, such as the Social Innovation Workshops - IERA (<http://ois-iera.web.ua.pt>) and the establishment of the 4iS - Platform for

Social Innovation (integrated and based in the AAAUA – Alumni Association of the University of Aveiro). This particular initiative emerged as a non-profit organization that aimed to boost the development of Social Innovation within the academic community, of UA alumni and of the Aveiro Region, developing projects of transfer of knowledge in areas such as Environment and Active Citizenship, Culture and Creativity, Education and Higher Education, Employment and Social Entrepreneurship and Health and Well-Being.

In the academic field, these initiatives have been supported mainly by members of two Research Units, GOVCOOP and ID +, more specifically by researchers of the REMSI group, based in DEGEIT (Department of Economics, Management, Industrial Engineering and Tourism), ID + Desis Lab, based in DeCA (Department of Communication and Arts) and a group of researchers from DCSPT (Department of Social, Political and Territorial Sciences). The work developed by these researchers, directly related to the topic of Social Innovation, has resulted in cross-disciplinary partnerships between teachers, researchers, students and society, with clear benefits for all the parts involved. These projects allowed us to establish direct connections with regional stakeholders which have been vital in the identification of social needs, projects support and monitorization of results.

Traditionally, the University of Aveiro has been playing an important role in the development of sustainable entrepreneurship projects, focused on tackling issues such as unemployment and human resources qualification. This will continue as a challenge for the future, constituting one of the main focus of the institution.

On the last decade, civic participation and community building have also emerged as relevant topics, mainly dedicated to the generation of answers to some of Aveiro's region contemporary issues, such as abandoned spaces, active mobility, gentrification or sustainable tourism. Taking these new contexts into account, the topic of city making is another issue that University of Aveiro defined as a particular research theme.

### Strategic Position Within the HEI

The University of Aveiro has an important background in Portugal on the development of Social Innovation, being responsible for many national and international research projects in this field.

For a long time this was an effort that was mainly established by individual contributions of some of its departments and researchers. Only in the last couple of years some transdisciplinary initiatives were in progress, with researchers from different backgrounds recognising Social Innovation as a common field of work.

Since the beginning of the SIKE project, the University of Aveiro team recognised that the

project could allow them simultaneously to develop the internal organization of an institutional commitment with the Social Innovation challenges. Accordingly, the blueprint for the Portuguese SIKE Unit is largely the result of the institutional assignment that was taken. The broad analysis of the historical background of UA in this field allowed to identify a cluster of researchers, projects and other resources that were already committed to a large group of initiatives that could be framed under the theme of Social Innovation. As a result of this process, the basis for an internal (re)organization was established with the University of Aveiro administration team. The SIKE Aveiro team was then recognised institutionally as the privileged interlocutor between UA and the local social innovation ecosystem, working closely with the pre-existent cooperation office “UA coopera”. This decision allowed the SIKE Aveiro team to design a SIKE unit that is able to give a broader answer to upcoming challenges and solicitations, but, at the same time, enforced the generation of new solutions that, within the HEI, will permit to gather, communicate and share relevant ongoing activities. The outcome of this internal debate is represented by the following diagram (fig. 1).

## PT SIKE UNIT BLUEPRINT

### OVERVIEW

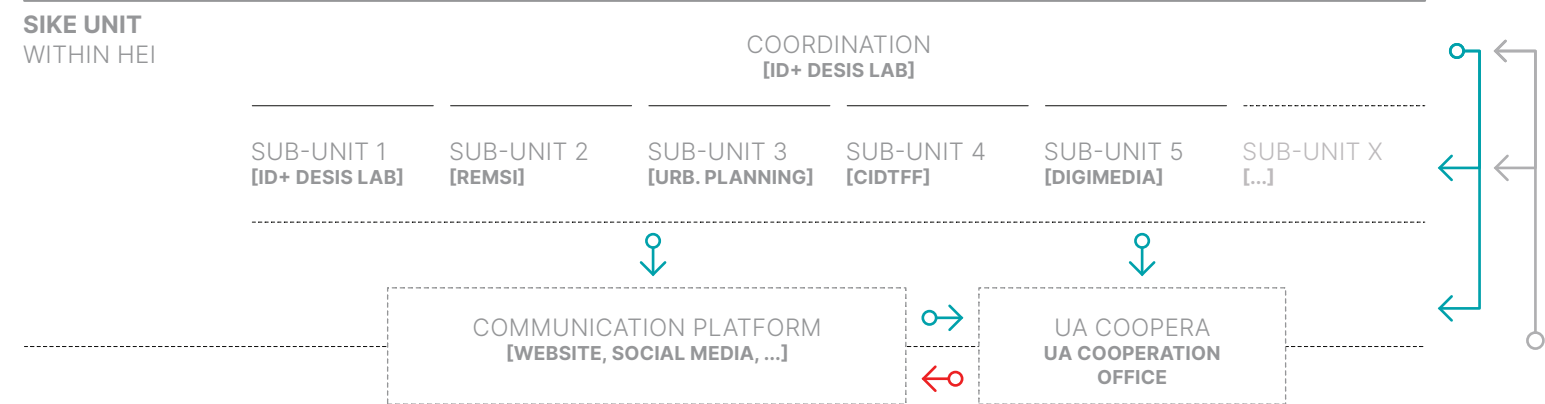


Fig. 1 – Aveiro SIKE Unit internal organization proposal.

### **UA SIKE Unit internal organization**

We consider the PT SIKE Unit as the overall structure that, within our HEI, is operatively and/or scientifically oriented to work in the Social Innovation domain. As shown in the above diagram, distinctive profiles and roles were defined to the different actors identified and also a new communication platform was created to aggregate, organize and disseminate the information flux between these actors and the broader SI ecosystem. Specifically, the above-mentioned profiles are characterized as:

#### **Coordination**

Main responsible for the SIKE unit operational management and scientific coordination. Managed by ID+ Desis Lab, and supported by a scientific board where all the sub-units are represented, this section is the leading entity responsible for:

- Coordination of the HEI scientific expertise;
- Exploration of funding opportunities;
- Managing the internal and external communication of the SIKE Unit (including the management of the communication platform and events promoted by the Unit);
- Promoting initiatives within local ecosystem for testing concepts developed by HEIs.

#### **Sub-units**

Formal or informal research groups established within our HEI, coming from distinct scientific areas, that work in the field of SI. These sub-units are autonomous but compromised with the UA SIKE Unit Coordination to collaborate in SIKE Unit activities. They will constitute the main scientific resources when building interdisciplinary teams to answer the ecosystem requests and, therefore, dynamic configurations that can integrate the UA SIKE Unit (or exit) any time. At the same time, these sub-units include the teachers that work in the field of SI and, therefore, will have a central role in the engagement of students in UA SIKE Unit activities. At the moment, besides ID+ Desis Lab (although coordinating the unit, as an operational agent, is also considered a sub-unit), the SIKE Unit integrates members from the scientific areas of Urban Planning and Political Sciences [GOVCOPP], Economics and Management [REMSI], Education and Didactics [CIDTFF] and also New Media [DIGIMEDIA]. Consequently, these sub-units will be responsible for the subsequent tasks:

- Identify specific SI opportunities and challenges within their scientific area;
- Identify and contribute to the identification of SI best practices focused on their specific scientific area.
- Collaborate in transdisciplinary activities promoted by the UA SIKE Unit with their

expertise, identifying their best fellows and methods;

- Involve students in UA SIKE Unit activities empowering them with SI project development tools in order to create effective solutions.

#### **UA Coopera**

The pre-existing UA cooperation office has a vast experience in the management of interaction between the local community and the HEI. Traditionally committed to work with companies or other institutions, the UA Coopera office is the permanent agency recognised as the “entrance door” of external requests and the workforce for matching external needs with internal solutions. Although their current know-how is based on commercial and/or industrial projects, UA is now committed to extending this expertise to Social Innovation, and close relationship with the UA SIKE Unit coordination is already recognised as a privileged instrument to achieve this goal. The inclusion of the UA Coopera office within the UA SIKE Unit structure is based on the following terms:

- Develop a close relationship with the UA SIKE Unit Coordination and with its sub-units, in order to establish coordinated institutional answers in the SI field of work;
- Promote efforts to gather potential institutional partners to sponsor SI initiatives;
- Deepen the HEI relationship with the local community based on SI activities and events.

#### **Communication Platform**

The most visible section of the PT SIKE Unit is a communication platform that gathers all the information related to the SI activities within the University of Aveiro. This tool includes a website and social media resources that assure a permanent and up-to-date database of projects (previous and on-going), a portfolio of competencies (researcher, teachers and specialists), a repository of online resources and an open channel for bidirectional communication, either internally out HEI or externally with local communities.

As a component where different sources of information converge and are shared publicly, this platform allow the PT SIKE Unit to:

- Make visible the multi and interdisciplinary nature of SI projects and how can the academia contribute to their development;
- Create a communication channel open to the global ecosystem of SI where information exchange can happen, matching needs and offers, difficulties and opportunities, that can lead to a better understanding of both realities.

The above-described plan for the PT SIKE Unit reveals the strategic organization of the HEI competences in SI and the possible relations between all them. These connections will be able to promote numerous and diverse results, namely:



- The service providing of several expertise's in SI;
- The opportunity to understand and examine social innovation projects in action;
- Propose specific support to the several phases of project development in SI, such as:
  - concept oversights;
  - development of projects;
  - monitoring;
  - formal and non-formal educational content;
  - one on one coaching;
  - evaluation support;
  - various learning events;
  - organisation of workshops;
  - space for events and incubation;
  - connection to fellow start-up social innovators and potential partners.

The internal organization of the UA SIKE Unit has been developed to encompass all possible internal stakeholders of the HEI in order to achieve a wide representation of the academic community. The same principle was applied when designing the relation of the unit with the remaining ecosystem of SI.

Working jointly with the national SIKE partners, a number of other organisations and initiatives operating closely with communities where identified. In this sense, the mapping of relations was extended to external elements to the PT SIKE Unit, seeking to identify the best strategies to develop a work of proximity with the final beneficiary of our project: society.

This study allowed us to recognise the importance of establishing a close network of partners that already have their own communication channels, resources, infrastructures and, most importantly, experience in the field, that will assure that SIKE Unit initiatives will reach a broader and more significant audience.

Introducing this dynamic network of partners, where new ones can be added at any time, the SIKE Unit will also guarantee the exchange of knowledge with experts already working in the field and a privileged context to test the tools and methodologies developed internally. Given this framework, we are more capable of setting recommendations about the operation and activities of the SIKE Unit and continually identify the methodologies and approaches which will be used to support the achievement of its main goal – to deliver social benefit and impact through education, research and social innovation, assuring that these activities are:

- Informed by the results of WP1 – Needs Analysis – and particularly in terms of the regional responses (n=30);
- Substantiated in the knowledge exchange transfer that will arise from the partners network;
- Directly linked with the overall aims of the SIKE unit which are, in turn, linked to the underpinning values of the unit. Further, these aims are in-line with UA objectives.

The final outputs of these activities will be expected to generate some or all of the following:

- new social enterprises and projects;
- new social innovations;
- new organisational models – foundations, cooperatives, not-for-profit;
- new models for corporate social responsibility – rethinking how private bodies interact with society;
- new business and funding models, including microcredit and crowdfunding resources;

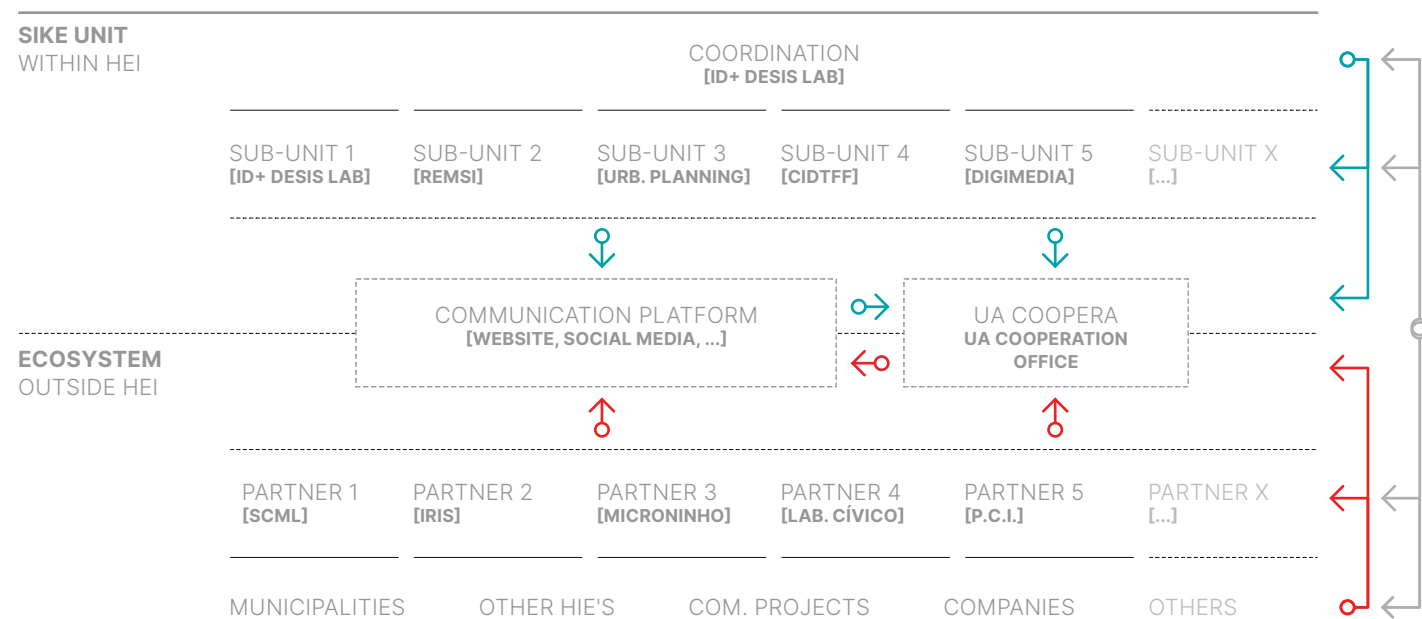


Fig. 2 - Aveiro SIKE Unit relations with the SI ecosystem

- new products and services – produced as a result of new social processes, social patterns, social interactions or social organisations;
- new collaborations between university academics and social programmes;
- new courses, content or projects that seek for a social change.

### **PT SIKE Unit Objectives**

Assuming his regional emphasis but integrated in the global SIKE consortium, the PT SIKE Unit recognizes several general objectives that emerged from both of these contexts and respond to their identified needs:

- Contribute to the establishment of good practices of project development in SI;
- Build and share knowledge among the international SI scientific community;
- Promote local initiatives to sensitise our regional community about the relevance of SI.
- Attract social innovators to start and/or further develop social innovation projects.
- Support social innovators through mentoring and coaching from SIKE staff.
- Test and evaluate methodologies to ideate and launch social innovation projects
- Contribute to the establishment of a bigger and stronger SI community in Portugal.
- Support the use of SIKE certified tools;
- Promote SIKE Glocal Network Community as a virtual space for social innovation networking;
- Contribute to a robust environment where New social enterprises and projects can grow and where new social innovations, new organizational models (foundations, cooperatives, not-for-profit), new models for corporate social responsibility (rethinking the way in which private bodies interact with society), new business and funding models, including microcredit and crowd funding resources, new products and services (produced as a result of new social processes, social patterns, social interactions or social organizations), new collaborations between university academics and social programmers' and new courses content can flourish, be adopted, developed and scaled.

### **Physical Space**

Located in a campus where all the departments are nearly located, the University of Aveiro is well known for interdisciplinary sharing practices that are also promoted by this physical space proximity. The PT SIKE Unit also takes advantage of campus organization, particularly the space sharing practise that already occurs frequently.

This unit is the result of a coordination of new and pre-existing competencies in the HEI that are hosted in different Departments, Research Centres and/or Offices. Each one of these facilities is already equipped with different physical space typologies, like classrooms, auditoriums, media labs, workshops, etc., that can be used in benefit of the proposed PT SIKE Unit initiatives. So, the knowledge sharing practice extends to a physical space sharing that allows “tailored solutions” whenever needed.

Nevertheless, official and permanent SIKE spaces are identified and will perform as physical interfaces of the PT SIKE Unit, operating in synchrony with the virtual space (Communication Platform), offering the possibility of personal assistance, scientific supervision and operational guidance.

The next table (fig. 3) displays the spaces and services that are incorporated in the PT SIKE Unit considering the resources that already exist. Although this is not the optimal SIKE Unit structure, it is a very operative solution. The alternatives to this plan are:

- Minimum Viable Product (MVP) – The UA SIKE Unit can provide a satisfactory answer just with the spaces dedicated to the SIKE Coordination team;
- Optimal SIKE unit – The optimal solution would be a dedicated space with all the services gather in one space and a team full time dedicated to the project. This is something UA can achieve in medium to long-term since they have same spaces available in the campus but we don't have the necessary human resources to accomplish this objective.

The actual solution offers a coordinated answer with multiple “entry doors” related to specific scientific specialities. All these spaces are prepared to promote conditions for dialogue, for innovation, co-design and constitute a hub for connecting people, engaging participants for creative assessment, collaboration with society, open-door policy, mutual-learning process, innovative copyright policy and academic credibility.

In order to foster the Social Innovation and collaboration process within the institution, the spaces are equipped with the appropriate facilities, looking to be attractive to academics, students, representatives from private and public bodies, experts and members of the wider community interested in social innovation and knowledge exchange.

## PT SIKE UNIT BLUEPRINT

### SPACES AND SERVICES

#### SIKE UNIT PHYSICAL SPACES
















COORDINATION [ID+ DESIS LAB]	 PERSONAL ASSISTANCE	 DISTANT ASSISTANCE	 MEETING ROOM	 ACTIVITIES ROOM	 GUIDANCE OFFICE
ACTIVITIES [PCI · DESIGN FACTORY, UA FACILITIES]			 MEETING ROOM	 ACTIVITIES ROOM	
SUB-UNITS [RESEARCH GROUPS]			 MEETING ROOM	 ACTIVITIES ROOM	 GUIDANCE OFFICE
UA COOPERA UA COOPERATION OFFICE	 PERSONAL ASSISTANCE	 DISTANT ASSISTANCE	 MEETING ROOM		
SIKE UNIT VIRTUAL SPACES				 ON-LINE SUPPORT	 VIRTUAL GUIDANCE

Fig. 3 - Spaces and services available to the UA SIKE Unit



Fig 4. PT SIKE Unit – pictures of spaces

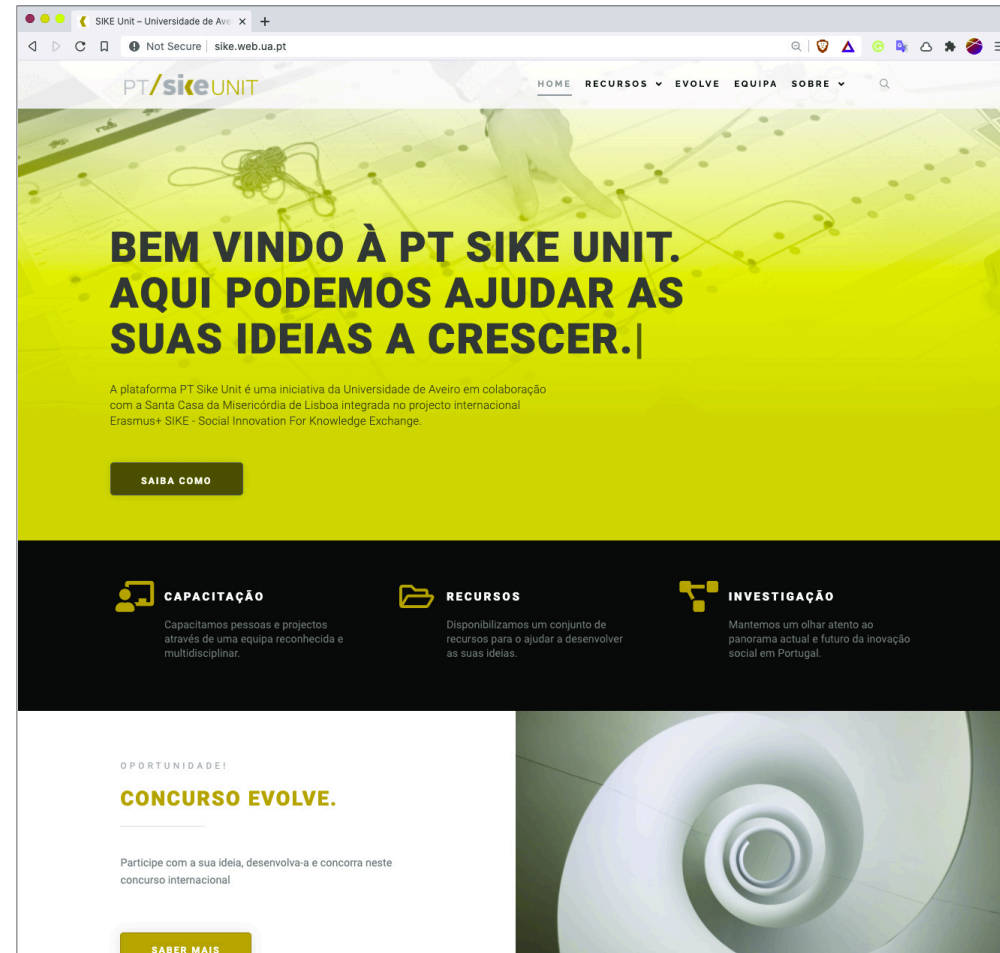
**Communication Platform**

Fig 5. PT SIKE Unit – Homepage



Fig 6. PT SIKE Unit – Resources page

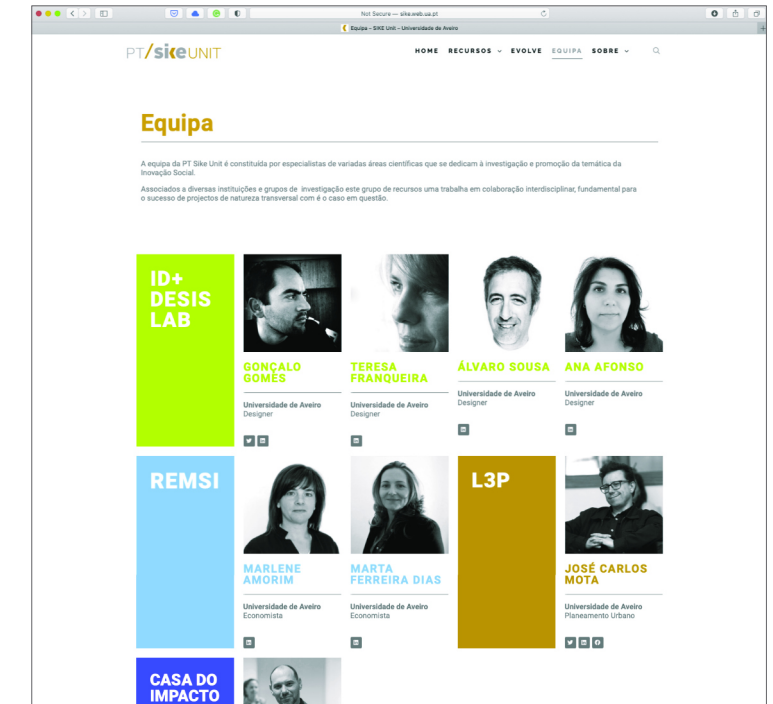


Fig 7. PT SIKE Unit – Team page

# PT SIKE Unit / Supported cases



## REEFOOD

2018-21

## ABOUT

Refood aspires to a new world, where everyone has the food they need; where all food produced goes to feed people first; where citizens actively participate in managing precious community resources, and where everyone assumes the power, right and obligation to make the world a better place.

It is an independent, citizen-driven, 100% volunteer organisation, an eco-humanitarian community charity, working to eliminate food waste and hunger in every neighbourhood. It operates in and for the community, working without wages and avoiding any costs or investments that do not serve its mission.

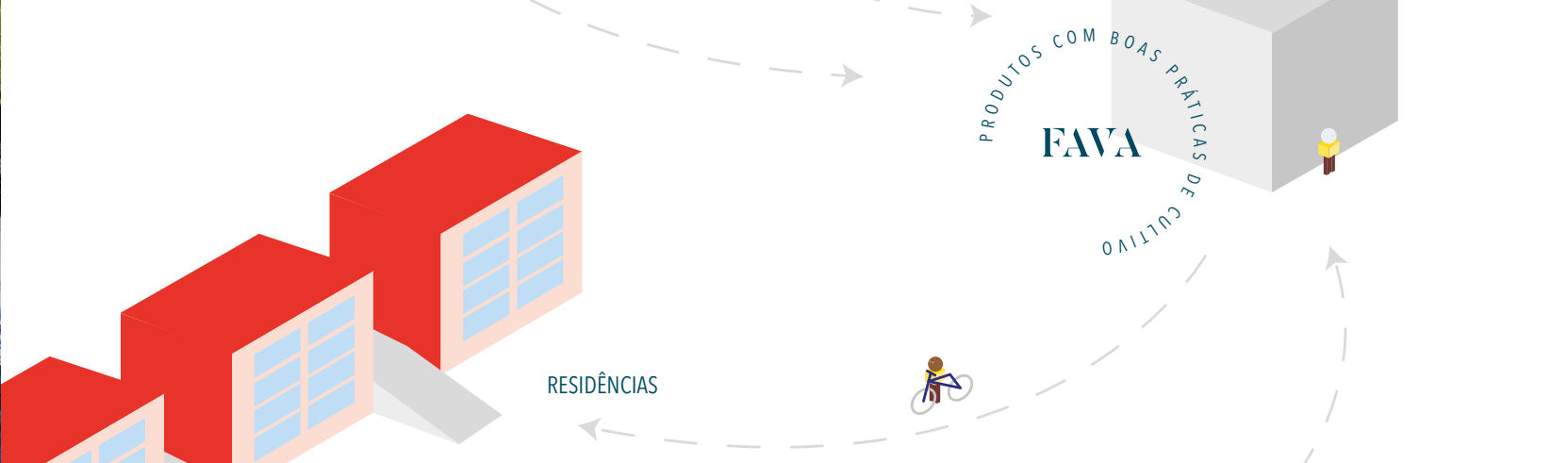
Refood has a low cost / high productivity model that improves the quality of life for people in need, while strengthening the social fabric of the local community.

## PT SIKE Unit

As one of the case studies monitored by the PT SIKE Unit, there was a close relationship throughout the project which enabled collaboration in the strategy for scaling up the Refood initiative, as well as the readaptation of its model to the COVID-19 context.

### Services provided

- > Mentoring
- > Networking & exchange
- > Scaling



## Laboratório Cívico de Santiago

2018-19

### ABOUT

A group of professionals from various fields (urbanism, architecture, design, technology, teaching and research, ...) have come together with the MISSION of promoting collaborative forms of empowerment and resolution of collective problems of communities, in a climate of permanent learning. LAB CÍVICO Santiago is inspired by the experience of Experimenta Distrito de Madrid and the present call follows the structure and contents used by them. A civic laboratory is a space where citizens share common problems and anxieties and experiment with collaborative forms of response through the sharing of ideas, knowledge and wills in a climate of respect and tolerance, and where they "learn" to perfect these same processes with the aim of contributing to improving the lives of the members of their community.

### PT SIKE Unit

LAB CÍVICO Santiago is one of the case studies monitored by the PT SIKE Unit. During this process we maintained a close relationship that allowed us to collaborate in the implementation strategy of the various initiatives deployed. Although this project is over, we also collaborate in the design of a model for future editions of the initiative.

#### Services provided

- > Mentoring
- > Networking & exchange

### FAVA

2018

### ABOUT

FAVA is a food education project whose ambition was to contribute to improving the academic community's diet and to raise awareness of this issue. Being aware of fast food trends and its demand among young people, FAVA wanted to create a system that would enable university students to have quick and appealing access to healthy food. To achieve this, FAVA wanted to develop a market for products with good growing practices and establish an identity that would allow the entire academic community to be closer to products from the outskirts of the city, which are seasonal and national products without the use of chemicals or mass production. It intended to encourage young people to consume fresh products, such as vegetables and fruit, designing motivating menus for them with great nutritional values, such as sandwiches, smoothies and salads. This market would be virtual, where the consumer would access the food available and, likewise, the menus defined for the week. The consumer would pre-order online what he or she would like to receive and the employees would deliver the order to.

### PT SIKE Unit

PT SIKE Unit supported the Fava project since the idea generation phase, stakeholders identification, development of the service system map and business model. The project failed in the implementation phase having been unable to get the necessary logistical and financial support to move forward.

#### Services provided

- > Workshops
- > Mentoring
- > Networking & exchange



À procura de soluções de formação que

## Kimente

2019

### ABOUT

KIMENTE is a company in the social area that aims to become a reference in the provision of differentiating services aimed at the elderly and/or carers. The company has been consolidating itself in the area of cognitive and recreational therapies and, through the use of Virtual Reality, introduces a new look at how to stimulate the elderly in the various dimensions of life. A company focused on the well-being and improvement of the quality of life of elderly people and their families, KIMENTE aims to help close family members by ensuring their role at times when they are unable to be present. Its sole objective is to facilitate, cheer, reassure, stimulate and care for people. KIMENTE's proposal is to maintain and/or stimulate the autonomy of its clients by providing them with services that enable them to enjoy life as long as possible.

### PT SIKE Unit

PT SIKE Unit has collaborated with the KIMENTE project through the 2nd Grow Innovation programme of IRIS - Regional Incubator for Social Innovation. Our experts accompanied the project through mentoring initiatives in order to accelerate the business idea.

#### Services provided

- > Acceleration (in cooperation with IRIS Incubator)
- > Mentoring

## INHERVOICE

2020

### ABOUT

Innervoice - Culture of Coaching is a non-profit association whose mission is to take advantage of the current moment to inspire transformation and move towards more inclusive and sustainable societies and economies, to contribute to the socio-economic reconstruction of the country through the identification, implementation and expansion of social innovations, such as, for example, putting at the service of social action, methodologies and tools from the business world. Also, to make coaching accessible to those who usually do not have access to this type of training due to their background, context, socio-economic origin or life/educational background with fewer opportunities, and to collaborate in the elimination of all forms of discrimination and in the promotion of equal rights and opportunities between women and men. It aims to promote a culture of leadership and affirmation, with a special focus on the female public, through the development of their personal, social and professional skills, as well as stimulating a change in mentalities, encouraging entrepreneurial thinking and experimentation.

### PT SIKE Unit

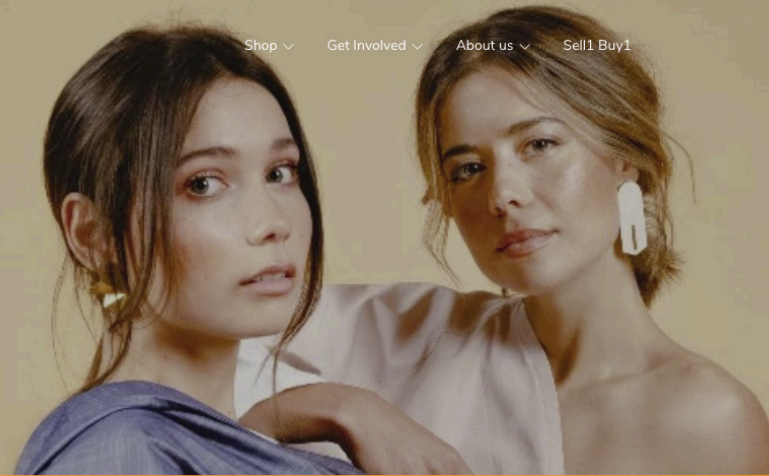
The InHerVoice project was one of the candidates to the Evolve Competition, and the PT SIKE Unit collaborated in the support to the development of the idea and in the definition of the business model to apply for the contest.

#### Services provided

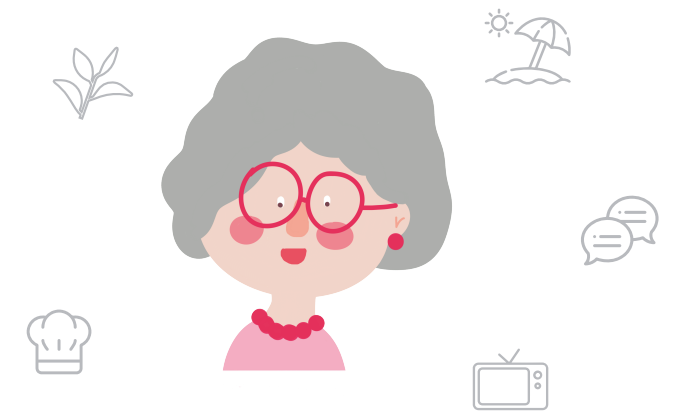
- > Mentoring
- > Networking & exchange

# CALM-A

by Elena Iparraguirre



tea for you.



## Vintage for a Cause

2020



### ABOUT

Created in 2012 by Helena Antonia, Vintage for a Cause design and manufacture the majority of their limited-edition collections by responsible manufacturing partners, in Portugal or abroad, using sustainable methods and materials. They source deadstock and sustainable fabrics incorporating better practices throughout or supply chain to make beautiful vintage inspired styles at a fraction of the environmental impact of conventional fashion. It is their mission to lead and inspire a sustainable way to do fashion.

They want to create clothes with quality that feels antique and unique and that permeates the full form of time, resisting and maintaining its identity.

### PT SIKE Unit

The Vintage for a Cause project was one of the candidates to the Evolve Competition, and the PT SIKE Unit collaborated in the support to the development of the idea and in the definition of the business model to apply for the contest.

#### Services provided

- > Mentoring
- > Networking & exchange

## Tea for You

2019

### ABOUT

The Tea for You project aims to get more elderly nursing home users to interact with each other and allow them to age actively. It aims to make large companies aware that participating in social causes can bring benefits to their brand through advertising and publicity, as well as making people aware of this reality.

It is a service that includes the users of the nursing homes in activities of creation and combination of personalised teas to be produced and commercialised with third parties.

### PT SIKE Unit

PT SIKE Unit collaborated with the Design Master of the University of Aveiro, in the scope of the curricular unit of Design for Social Innovation, under the supervision of Professor Teresa Franqueira, providing the tools and scientific support to the students for the development of their Social Innovation projects. Tea for You was one of these tangible results.

#### Students involved:

- Amable Silveira
- Guilherme Oliveira
- Joana Mota
- Margarida Santos
- Raquel Ribeiro

#### Services provided

- > Coaching
- > Co-design





## Vó Voz

2019

## ABOUT

Vovóz is an initiative that seeks to facilitate communication over the internet through video connections between elderly people from two different institutions. It proposes video calls between elderly people from different homes and day centres, between people of their generation, sharing stories and activities, showing them that, despite their mobility being conditioned and restricted, there are other ways of facilitating social inclusion, reaching out to them, friendship.

The objectives are to promote social support for the elderly by sharing experiences and stories, to stimulate experiences between elderly people from different homes (and/or day centres) in order to improve their mental and physical health, and unite people of the same generation so that they can have access to social integration.

## PT SIKE Unit

PT SIKE Unit collaborated with the Design Master of the University of Aveiro, in the scope of the curricular unit of Design for Social Innovation, under the supervision of Professor Teresa Franqueira, providing the tools and scientific support to the students for the development of their Social Innovation projects. Vó Voz was one of these tangible results.

### Students involved:

Carlos Pires  
 Celina Monteiro  
 Daniela Gomes  
 Mariana Azevedo  
 Miguel Figueiredo

### Services provided

- > Workshops
- > Coaching
- > Co-design

## Os Sabores da Avó

2019

## ABOUT

The Sabores dos Avós is a project that seeks to use the skills and knowledge that nursing home users have to develop activities through a product/service that is an added value and entertainment/entertainment for them.

Its objectives are to get the home's users to become more active and to increase the bonds between home users and young people/family members.

## PT SIKE Unit

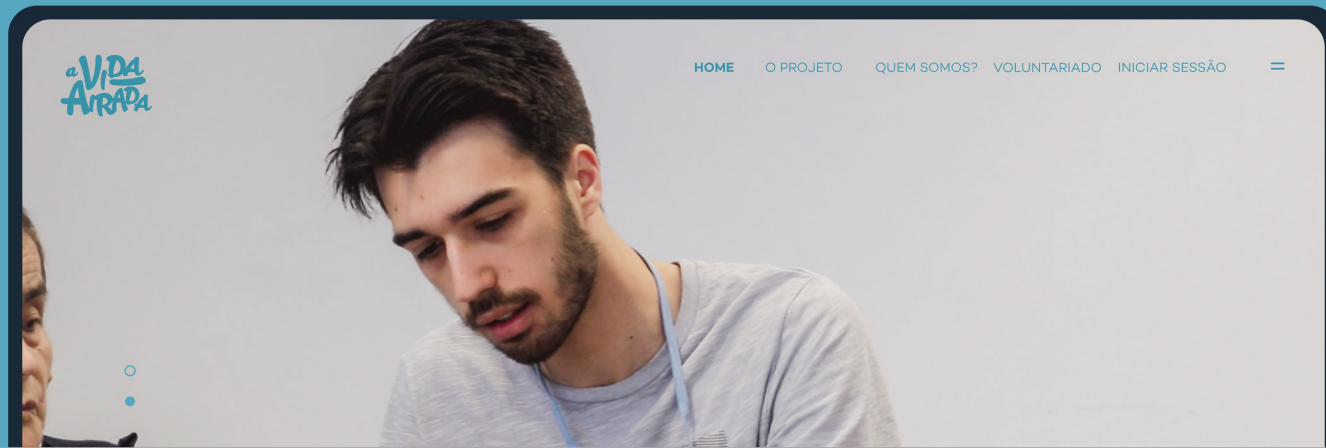
PT SIKE Unit collaborated with the Design Master of the University of Aveiro, in the scope of the curricular unit of Design for Social Innovation, under the supervision of Professor Teresa Franqueira, providing the tools and scientific support to the students for the development of their Social Innovation projects. Os Sabores dos Avós was one of these tangible results.

### Students involved:

Diogo Ferreira  
 Ana Rocha  
 Luis Ferreira  
 Joana Sousa  
 Delfim Azevedo

### Services provided

- > Workshops
- > Coaching
- > Co-design



## A Vida Airada

2019

### ABOUT

The "Vida Airada" project unites students who are interested in working with volunteers and its general objective is to create an online platform to share thematic videos with the elderly population. The specific objectives are to promote contact with new technologies, foster intergenerational relationships, create new experiences, transmit mutual knowledge, develop self-esteem, value the elderly as unique individuals, provide contact with the outside world, involve family members and the academic community and contribute to changing the stigma towards the Homes. This involves a series of actors that include the older people themselves, the University of Aveiro, volunteers and students from the NTC (New Communication Technologies) course but also the animator, director of the home, family members and a team responsible for managing the platform, with various interrelationships.

### PT SIKE Unit

PT SIKE Unit collaborated with the Design Master of the University of Aveiro, in the scope of the curricular unit of Design for Social Innovation, under the supervision of Professor Teresa Franqueira, providing the tools and scientific support to the students for the development of their Social Innovation projects. A Vida Airada was one of these tangible results.

#### Students involved:

Diogo Rosa  
João Lima  
Lívia Câmara  
Maria Vieira  
Mariana Jesus  
Mariana Peixoto

#### Services provided

- > Workshops
- > Coaching
- > Co-design

## Com Vida

2020

### ABOUT

The "Comvida" initiative results from a challenge launched to students of Design for Social Innovation of the Design Master's Degree of the University of Aveiro and seeks to promote actions to improve the quality of life in the pandemic context of COVID-19. The first action took place in conjunction with hospitals of the Aveiro region and flower suppliers of the same region. Due to the cancelled events because of the pandemic, the flower stocks started to accumulate with no outlet. The students designed a service that allowed anyone to pick up flowers (which would otherwise go to waste) and deliver them to nurses, doctors or patients in the nearest hospitals.

### PT SIKE Unit

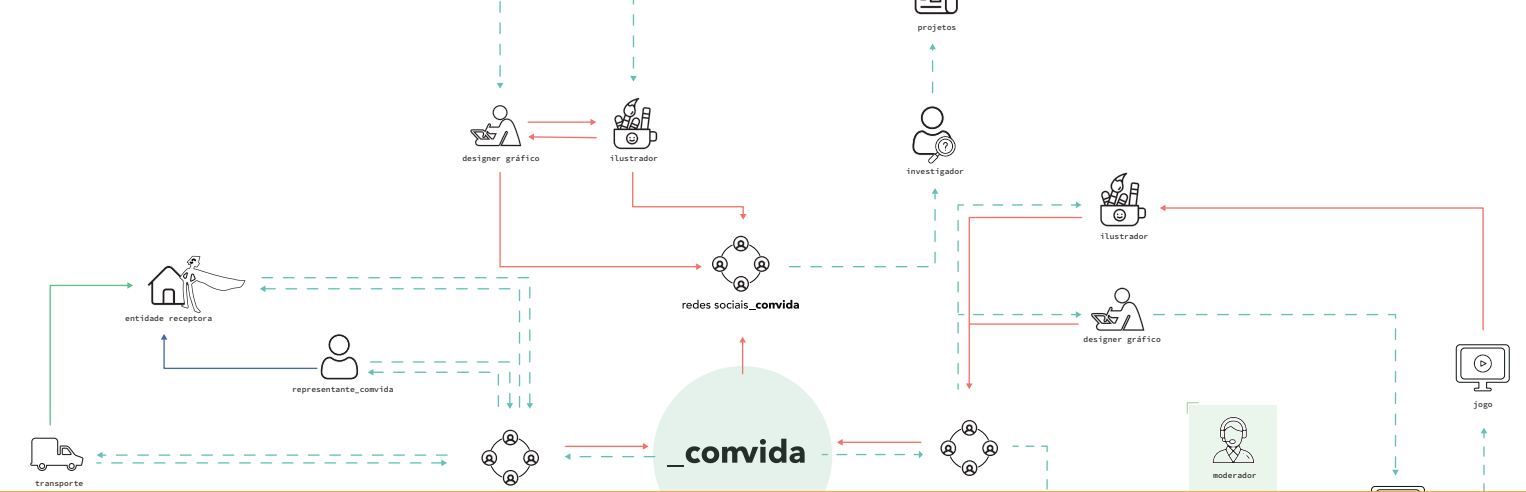
With the emergence of the pandemic context, the PT SIKE Unit challenged the students of the Design Master of the University of Aveiro to develop Social Innovation projects that could contribute to minimise the impact of this phenomenon in people's lives. The projects, under the supervision of Professor Teresa Franqueira, were developed, prototyped and some implemented, being Com Vida one of those results.

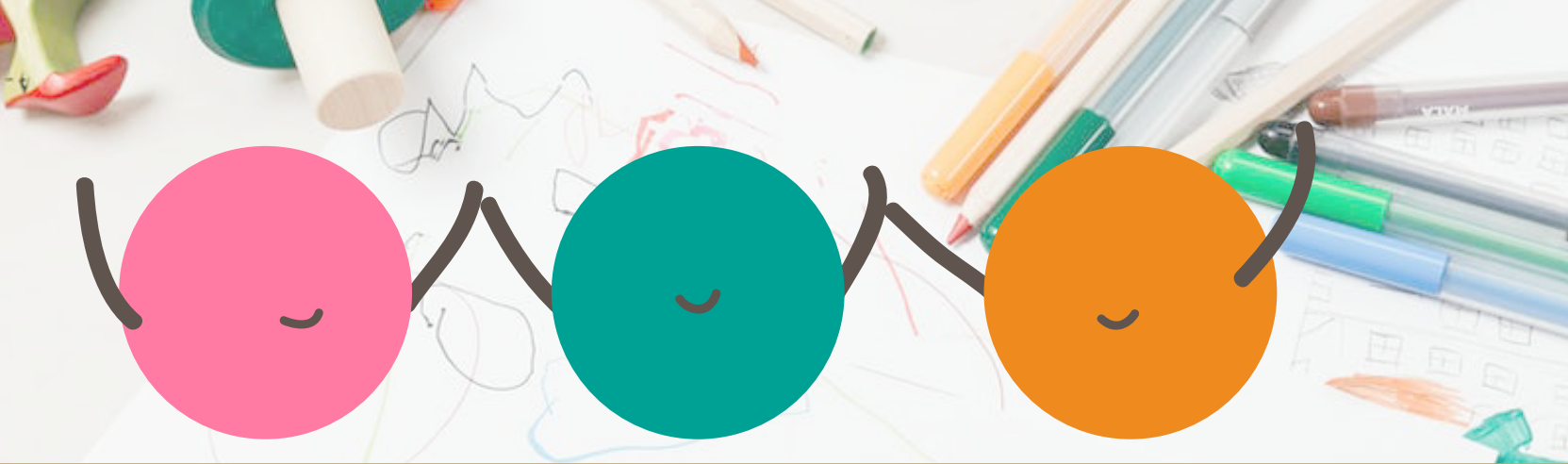
#### Students involved:

Bárbara Cruz  
Elvira Camardi  
Filipe Silva  
Filipa Machado  
Francisco Cardoso  
Hélder Antunes  
Liliana Teixeira

#### Services provided

- > Workshops
- > Coaching
- > Co-design





## Três Pontinhos

2020

### ABOUT

The "3 Pontinhos" project results from a challenge launched to students of Design for Social Innovation of the Master's Degree in Design of the University of Aveiro and seeks to promote actions to improve the quality of life in the pandemic context of COVID-19. In this pandemic context, many guardians have difficulties in conciliating their work with the children's entertainment. The 3 Pontinhos project aims to keep children occupied, with content adapted to the age group of 4 to 10 years. The service's main focus is on entertainment, fun and the development of children's motor and cognitive skills. This content covers several thematic areas, such as cooking, arts, sports, among others, and is created by professionals and non-professionals interested in collaborating. The same content is made available through the website in various formats, such as videos, audios and photography, and also disseminated through social networks. To test the adhesion of users and content creators, the pilot phase was implemented, where access to the content is free and generated by volunteers.

### PT SIKE Unit

With the emergence of the pandemic context, the PT SIKE Unit challenged the students of the Design Master of the University of Aveiro to develop Social Innovation projects that could contribute to minimise the impact of this phenomenon in people's lives. The projects, under the supervision of Professor Teresa Franqueira, were developed, prototyped and some implemented, being Três Pontinhos one of those results.

#### Students involved:

Adriana Candido  
Beatriz Barros  
Francisco Wiechert  
Joana Marques  
Mafalda Santos  
Marta Krippahlz

#### Services provided

- > Workshops
- > Coaching
- > Co-design

## PortàPorta

2020

### ABOUT

The "PortàPorta" project results from a challenge launched to the students of Design for Social Innovation of the Design Master of the University of Aveiro and seeks to promote actions to improve the quality of life in the pandemic context of COVID-19. The project aims to focus on finding new perspectives and solutions to problems arising from the lack of social contact between communities. It brings together two distinct areas of specialisation: Design and Gerontology and their alliance has made it possible to create a project that correlates the projection of a service with human relations. After an investigation and research into various factors and problems arising from this pandemic context, it was realised that one of the age groups that has suffered most from this situation is the elderly. Social isolation has made it difficult not only to access social integration but also to access different needs and services, such as food supply, healthcare and basic needs. This problem was the triggering factor for the implementation of a project to help combat social isolation and facilitate access to food and health care for elderly people with some kind of disability and vulnerability. This gave rise to the PortàPorta project, a home delivery service that operates in three distinct areas: catering, health and product delivery.

### PT SIKE Unit

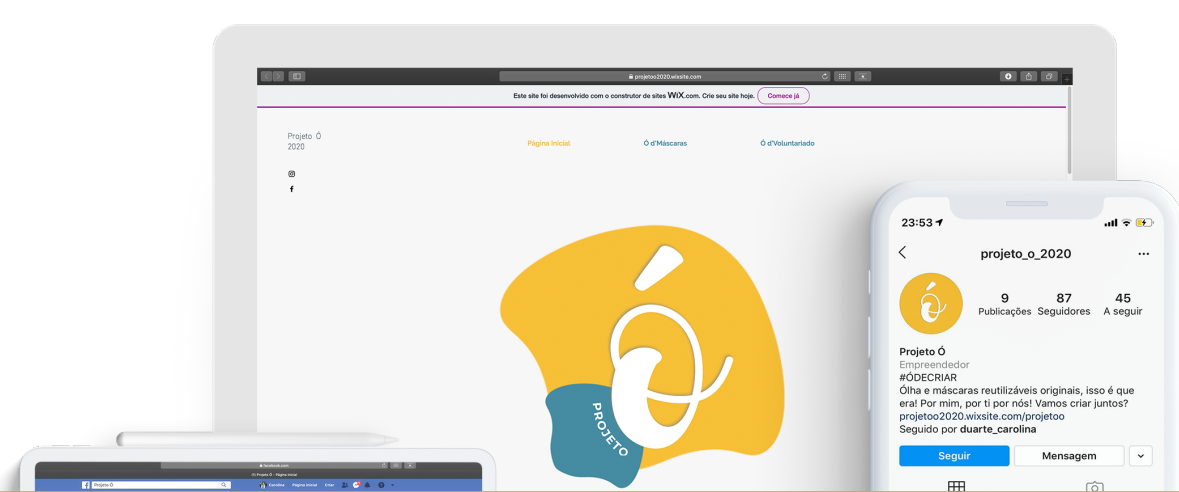
With the emergence of the pandemic context, the PT SIKE Unit challenged the students of the Design Master of the University of Aveiro to develop Social Innovation projects that could contribute to minimise the impact of this phenomenon in people's lives. The projects, under the supervision of Professor Teresa Franqueira, were developed, prototyped and some implemented, being PortàPorta one of those results.

#### Students involved:

Débora Simões  
Gabriel Silva  
Joana Ferreira  
João Nata  
Soraia Jesus

#### Services provided

- > Workshops
- > Coaching
- > Co-design



## Projecto Ó

2020

### ABOUT

The initiative "Ó" results from a challenge launched to students of Design for Social Innovation of the Master's Degree in Design of the University of Aveiro and seeks to promote actions to improve the quality of life in the pandemic context of COVID-19. Its mission is to promote new health habits in order to minimize the risk of contagion from Covid-19, appealing to the production and use of reusable masks, in a safe way. This project seeks to encourage each person to produce their own mask, using fabrics they may have at home and no longer use, or by acquiring one with which they identify. It also intends to reach people with less economic means, putting health in first place, ensuring that they are also properly protected and that they have access to the necessary protective equipment. Finally, it seeks to make people aware that we are all responsible for community health. Me, You and Us.

### PT SIKE Unit

With the emergence of the pandemic context, the PT SIKE Unit challenged the students of the Design Master of the University of Aveiro to develop Social Innovation projects that could contribute to minimise the impact of this phenomenon in people's lives. The projects, under the supervision of Professor Teresa Franqueira, were developed, prototyped and some implemented, being Projeto Ó one of those results.

#### Students involved:

Ana Ferreira  
Ana Lopes  
Carolina Nicolau  
Catarina Amaral  
Maria João Pires  
Mariana Ramos  
Patrícia Bento

#### Services provided

- > Workshops
- > Coaching
- > Co-design

## Maneiras de Sever

2018-20

### ABOUT

Maneiras de Sever is a Design for Social Innovation project, which emerged in 2013 from the partnership between the Master in Design from the University of Aveiro and the Edite Costa Matos - Mão Amiga Foundation, aiming to fix the young population of the Sever do Vouga municipality, by creating a sense of belonging to the territory, with the help of multimedia tools. This initiative intends to show Sever do Vouga to its inhabitants and to the world, through creative and very genuine approaches from those who live in this municipality, resulting in new tactile, visual and auditive experiences. In this process, schools (students and teachers) and other institutions of the region are involved, which, together with the general community, get involved in initiatives to exchange experiences about the territory they inhabit, thus bringing transversal social benefits.

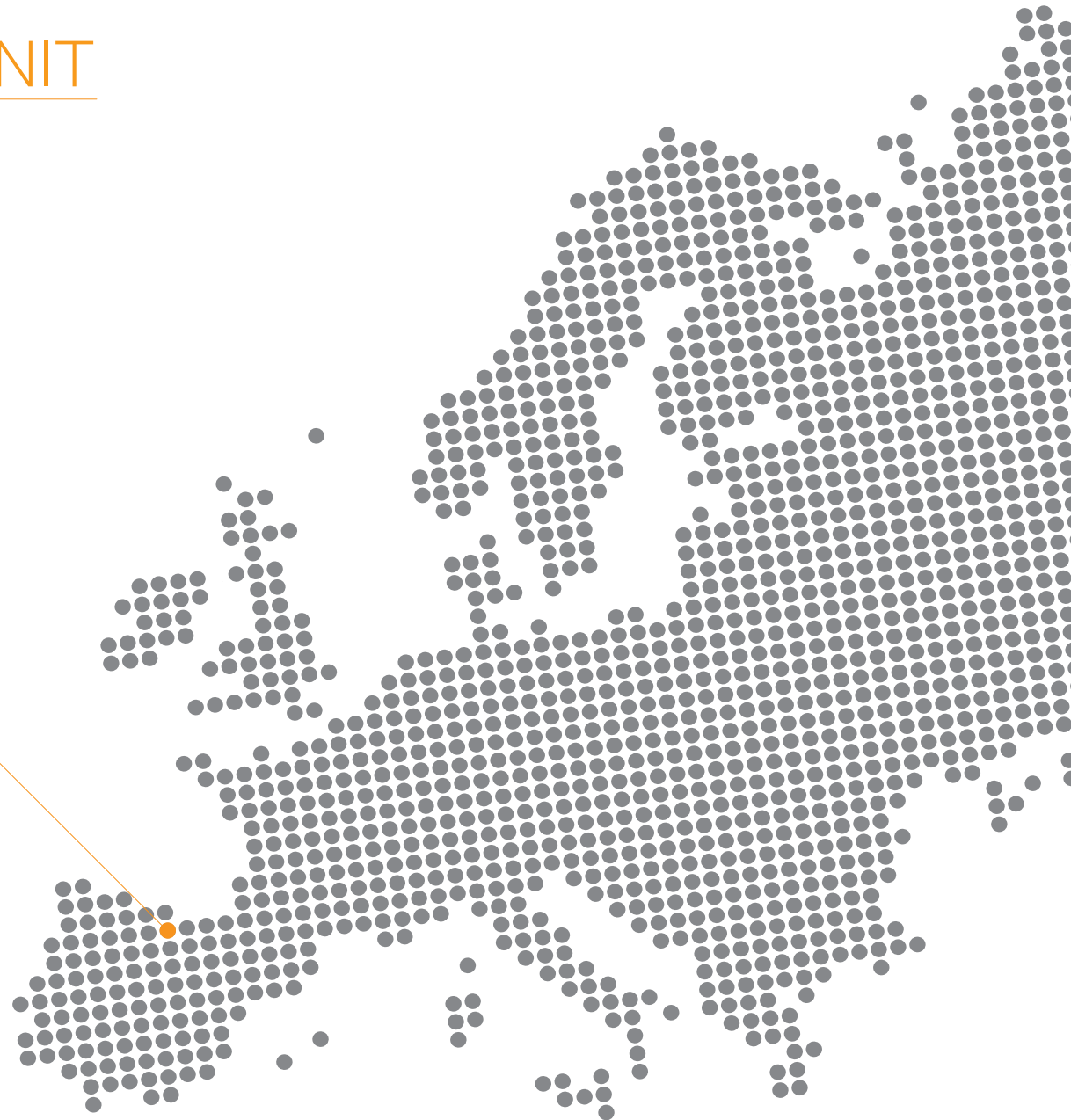
### PT SIKE Unit

PT SIKE Unit has kept supporting the Maneiras de Sever initiative - which is now on its 4th edition - a project born from the work of student Pedro Fragoço Lopes, in the scope of his Master's degree. The SIKE Unit collaborated in recent years in the definition of its scaling strategy and identification of stakeholders.

#### Services provided

- > Scaling
- > Networking & exchange
- > Mentoring

ES / **sike** UNIT



ES SIKE Unit is well placed to adopt a prominent role in the social innovation ecosystem at local, national and international levels. The unit is able to draw on the unique expertise and experience of University of Deusto (as Basque Country's academic partner) and Business Innovation Brokers (as Basque Country's practitioner partner).

### **University of Deusto: Innovation and Entrepreneurship Unit**

The University of Deusto was inaugurated in 1886. It has been at the forefront of education for more than 125 years. The tradition and prestige of Jesuit education is combined with ongoing innovation in methods, systems, resources, tools, facilities... As regards graduate studies, UD offers 83 degrees, divided into 8 specialist areas, 42 of which are official masters degrees adapted to EHEA, 7 Erasmus Mundus degrees, 29 own degrees awarded by Deusto, some of which can be studied online, and 10 PhD degree programs. The main strategic lines are the commitment to academic excellence in Research, Teaching and Knowledge Transfer, a University Community geared towards Innovation and Social Involvement and a quality organization that is motivated, participative and efficient, at the service of individuals and the Project.

Deusto Innovation and Entrepreneurship was created to generate and provide value services and drive the entrepreneurial ecosystem surrounding the University of Deusto.

The mission of this is to generate a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in terms of:

1. Promoting the change that fosters values and attitudes such as creativity, risk assumption, curiosity, entrepreneurial spirit, failure acceptance, collaboration, mediation, etc. And generating, at the same time, engagement from the University community as a whole.
2. Training people on new knowledge and skill patterns that enable their transformation into change agents with a meaningful social value.
3. Transforming knowledge into action through applied research.

In the field of business and SME development, it has two business incubators, one on the Campus of San Sebastian, Innogune Building, and the other one on the Campus of Bilbao, DeustoKabi. Both are conveniently located for working on social, inclusive and conscious entrepreneurship due to both the specialization of the campus in social sciences and the path of the University in the development of the third and fourth sector in the Basque Country. Moreover, it is closely linked to Regional Development Agencies (SPRI) and Business Innovations Centers (BICBerrilan, BEAZ, CEIA and CEDEMI) and nonprofit international organizations (Alboan and Economistas Sin Fronteras for example) that work with people under risk of exclusion. Actually, Deusto Innovation and Entrepreneurship has

previously developed training and mentoring programs for social impact initiatives. Deusto Innovation and Entrepreneurship is also linked to the educational development of young entrepreneurs and University startups, acting as a school incubator, where students learn from, and work with mentor- entrepreneurs during the entrepreneurial process.

### **Business Innovation Brokers**

Business Innovation Brokers is a private not for profit cooperative devoted to develop and apply innovation related methodologies, identify strategic social projects and training and consultancy on innovation issues. BiB was setup in 2008 by a highly-experienced group of professionals previously managing the Innovation Research Centre of MCC – Mondragon Cooperative Corporation (80.000 employees around the globe).

BiB aims to promote comprehensive approaches towards social innovation by identifying emerging social needs and generating new business opportunities incorporating public and private companies, entrepreneurs and civil society. Related to the specific proposal of SIKE, BiB has developed methodologies and tools to support social innovation covering the whole cycle “From the idea to the Market”, starting from identifying new innovative approaches to social needs, conceptualize business ideas and check their feasibility, both from the social and economic point of view, design a self-sustained business model, prototype the new service or product and finally train the new entrepreneurs and/or companies to materialize the product / service to launch the new initiative into the real market.

Business Innovation Brokers, with their unique experience in establishing SI Parks, will lead WP5, overseeing a robust and transferable set of online tools that, as well as supporting the programme’s needs throughout its duration, provide substantial outputs to inform and educate external parties. They will also lend their unique insights in entrepreneurial SI to contribute to the development of face-to-face training materials (WP4).

The mission of SIKE Lab reflects University of Deusto’s Strategy 2022 and overarching vision: ‘transforming our world together’.

### **Humanising Innovation**

The aim of ES SIKE Unit is to put forth solutions to the changes and challenges facing society to contribute to its improvement and work for fair balanced development. This view is based on values and attitudes that centre on people as the key players in all scopes of actions.

We work at the local and international levels, especially in the following fields:

- Social Competence Training
- Transfer Knowledge to Society
- Communicate knowledge to society
- Social Entrepreneurship
- Applied Social Research

We understand Social Innovation as new values and attitudes in a developing world, adapting to a world in transformation.

### **STRATEGIC POSITION WITHIN the HEI**

University of Deusto’s commitment to social innovation is reflected in and inspired by its motto, *Transforming our World Together*. The speed, depth and multidimensionality of change and uncertainty are signs of our time in a global world. These signs are present in all areas, also in the University. The universities that conform UNIJES (Jesuit Universities Network) have identified the future trends, challenges and transformations that will affect our society in the short, medium and long term:

- A deep social transformation, originated in the scientific and technological revolution, and which will affect society’s dominant values, economic and social models, and demographics.
- An accelerated process of internationalisation, globalisation and competition that affects HEIs and their stakeholders.
- The new professional, social, cultural and training demands.
- The new pedagogical contexts; models and learning strategies; formats, spaces and resources.
- The necessary adaptation of teachers to new generations who have been educated and socialised in a very different context.
- The relevance of knowledge generation to answer key questions of humanity.
- The need for collaboration with others in the framework of a shared mission.
- The change in the organisational structures to respond to this set of demands challenges and defies.

Given institutional focus and the support of Deusto Innovation and Entrepreneurship Unit, the SIKE Unit will have a prominent and interdisciplinary role within the UD with clear links

to university strategy, supporting training, guidance, knowledge exchange, business support services and public and community engagement for social impact. The operations and activities of the SIKE Unit are the direct responsibility of the Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Garbiñe Henry.

The main strategic lines of the University of Deusto are: the commitment to academic Excellence in Research, Teaching and Knowledge Transfer, a University Community geared towards Innovation and Social Involvement and a quality organization that is motivated, participative and efficient, at the service of individuals and the Project.

The inclusion of social innovation in the strategic plan of the University, added to the privileged location of the SIKE-Social Innovation Unit at the incubator of the University of Deusto, enables a constant and intense social interaction between the University and the regional community.

The incubator is conveniently located for working on social, inclusive and conscious innovation due to both the specialization of the campus in social sciences and the path of the University in the development of third and fourth sector in the Basque Country. Moreover, it is closely linked to regional development agencies and Business Innovations Centers. Different kind of activities such as “Entrepreneurial Breakfasts” or “Salad Days” will be held at the University to facilitate networking and collaboration between entrepreneurs who are part of the incubator and the regional community.

The SIKE- Social Innovation Unit provides working spaces for social innovation incubation, whiteboards for common use and all kind of office equipment needed for an efficient development of the projects. Implementing the SIKE Lab at Deusto Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre, a transversal service unit of the UD, will ensure maximum impact of the SIKE Lab within the university and its social context, both in Bilbao and San Sebastian Campuses.

To best enable maximum impact, meet stakeholder needs and align with wider institutional goals, the management team of the SIKE Lab explores a range of university-wide strategies and approaches including, but not limited to:

- UD providing scientific expertise (drawing from the schools and centres across the university)
- UD encouraging students to create effective solutions to social challenges
- Connecting social innovators with other SI organisations including Business Innovation Brokers
- Building on and enabling regional linkages with SI organisations to examine social innovation projects in action, further embedding UD in the SI ecosystem
- Enabling students to gain practical experience
- UD providing/ enabling specific support to the SIKE Lab, including:

- concept oversights
- development of projects
- monitoring
- formal and non-formal educational content
- one on one coaching
- evaluation support
- various learning events
- organisation of workshops
- space for events and incubation
- connection to fellow start-up social innovators and potential partners

The management of the ES SIKE Unit works with key stakeholders, including the Advisory and Evaluation committee, to further define the strategic position of the space in the weeks leading up to the launch.

### **SIKE unit Specific aims/ objectives**

The SIKE Unit at the University of Deusto is based on UD values for Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Humanism, Honesty, Humility, Humour, Curiosity, Confidence, Cooperation and Responsibility; whose acronym is HACER (to make, in Spanish; since we believe that innovation is not only about ideas, it's about making ideas happen):

## **H4C3R**

**Humanism:** Deusto is committed with people and their personal and professional development. We want to humanize innovation, focusing on its social impact.

**Honesty:** we are committed to exercise honesty through transparent and correct practices.

**Humility:** we are willing to learn every day, listening to other people with humility, being accessible and accepting constructive criticism as an opportunity to learn and improve

**Humour:** we aim to create a more motivating and dynamic learning environment, emphasizing a more playful and fun learning. Under this perspective, our students will be more motivated towards learning and innovating if they enjoy and have fun.

**Curiosity:** a fundamental value to innovate and discover ways of doing things in a different, surprising, imaginative and creative way.

**Confidence:** forging trust relationships within and out our organization, generating spaces for human connectivity in the workplace and delivering what we promise.

**Cooperation:** working together with external and internal agents to promote the economic and social development of our environment.

**Responsibility:** Deusto renews and concretes its mission of service to society, promoting a responsible and committed citizenship, aware of social problems and their capacity to transform reality: “transforming our world together”.

Finally, these values have to be demonstrated by facts **H4C3R**

As specific aims/ objectives the unit will:

- Sensitise Deusto Community about the relevance of social innovation.
- Attract social innovators to start and/or further develop social innovation projects.
- Provide co-working space for social innovation projects.
- Support social innovators through mentoring and coaching from SIKE staff.
- Test and evaluate methodologies to ideate and launch social innovation projects
- Support the study cases from WP3 in their respective phases from the SI spiral.
- Progressively build a social innovation community in the Basque Country.
- Dynamise the Glocal Network SIKE Community as a virtual space for social innovation networking.

## **PHYSICAL SPACE**

The main strategic lines of the University of Deusto are the commitment to academic Excellence in Research, Teaching and Knowledge Transfer, a University Community geared towards Innovation and Social Involvement and a quality organization that is motivated, participative and efficient, at the service of individuals and the Project. The inclusion of social innovation in the strategic plan of the University, added to the privileged location of the SIKE-Social Innovation Unit at the incubator of the University of Deusto, enables a constant and intense social interaction between the University and the regional community.

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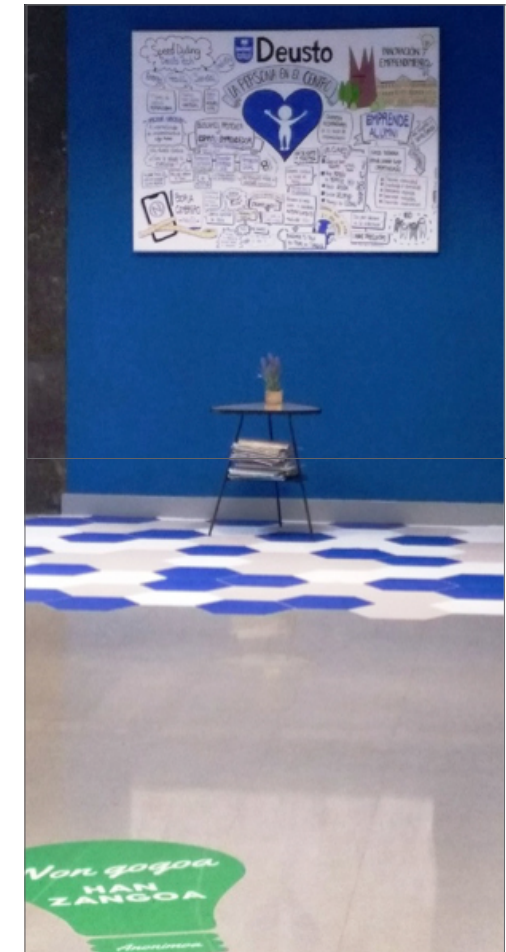


Figure 1. ES SIKE Unit – spaces

# ES SIKE Unit / Supported cases



## OREKA

2019



## ABOUT

Created in 2019 by the entrepreneur Denis de Ugalde, OREKA has developed an end-to-end solution that addresses household food shortages and food waste, which are intrinsically linked problems in urban, developed areas. OREKA mission is clear, to help companies to end food waste and food shortages in their communities, in a simple, safe and profitable way. Thus, OREKA's technology enables companies to safely donate excess food, access tax deductions, and receive statistical data to guide better management and business decisions.

## ES SIKE Unit

OREKA project has erected as one disruptive examples of Social Innovation in the Basque Country and was selected as one of the candidates for the Evolve Competition. Thus, Basque Country SIKE Unit has collaborated with them by promoting visibility to the Social Innovation Community as well as supporting / advising his business model to apply for the contest.

### Services provided

- > Workshops.
- > Training services
- > Networking & exchange

# MUJERES DE CUIDADO

*Osasunak generoa du  
La salud tiene género*



## Mujeres de Cuidado (MDC)

2018

### ABOUT

"MUJERES DE CUIDADO: Health Has Gender" aims to reduce the Gender Gap in Health in the Basque Country, a totally unvisitable gap affecting all women. We believe in the need to MAKE this problem visible, sensitizing society and making political advocacy and CREATE A NETWORK between public and private associations, foundations and agencies working on gender and/or health so that we can share resources, strengthen smaller and unvisitable entities, and provide more social, economic and ecological solutions to gender unrest. Thus, we are designing an ON LINE space as well as an OFF LINE one to provide specialized services in gender focus on health and have a central purchasing of specific products facilitating the economy of scale to make them more accessible.

### ES SIKE Unit

Mujeres de Cuidado was enrolled in the Basque SIKE Unit Training programme and their involvement and business idea was selected as one of the candidates for the Evolve Competition. Thus, Basque Country SIKE Unit has collaborated with them by supporting their journey throughout the EVOLVE contest as well as promoting visibility to the Social Innovation Community.

#### Services provided

- > Workshops
- > Training services
- > Networking & Exchange
- > Physical space

## Entre amigas anda la cosa

2019

### ABOUT

ENTRE AMIGAS ANDA LA COSA (CHAT BETWEEN FRIENDS) arises from our desire to share more experiences, and ultimately more time. We are actively involved in the times and society in which we live, taking a step further in our personal commitment to others. Our Leif motif "THE MORE I KNOW, THE MORE I LEARN, THE MORE I COMMIT" defines perfectly what really moves us, an active, conscious and coherent commitment. Learning from others, giving value to what silently enriches society, contributing resources and knowledge by making available to those who want to listen to us, everything that our professional career has helped us to grow and enrich our lives.

### ES SIKE Unit

SIKE Unit collaborated with Entre amigas anda la cosa's team in the scope of the Training workshops developed to launch the physical space, providing support, tools and scientific support to both entrepreneurs for the development of their project. Entre amigas anda la cosa was one of the participants from Basque Country taking part in the Evolve Contest.

#### Services provided

- > Workshops.
- > Training services
- > Networking & exchange



## AQUADAT

2017

## ABOUT

AQUADAT is a smart water service for a sustainable management founded in 2017 by Jorge Garcia del Arco. Its activity is based on Clean Tech, water quality monitoring and data science, working towards the sixth sustainable development goal: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all.

The basque startup applies predictive analysis for the efficient and sustainable use of the resource. AquaDat aims to offer comprehensive solutions that allow intelligent water management, targeted especially to companies and public institutions.

The startup has also developed a technology consulting service and a platform to measure and analyze water in real time. The objective is to obtain useful information that allows the water resource to be managed more efficiently throughout an entire cycle, either within industrial facilities or in an urban environment.

## ES SIKE Unit

### Services provided

- > Workshops.
- > Training services.
- > Mentoring.
- > Physical Space
- > Networking & Exchange

## Kietoparao

2018

## ABOUT

KietoParao arises from a socially innovative idea that aims to create educational game kits for kids to take anywhere. These kits are formed by 13 games in 200 grammes. The startup's objective is to facilitate the leisure of the youngest generations just as the older ones by providing solutions to entertain both alone and in company. The idea's mission is to educate on the responsible use of mobile phones and offer alternatives to families. The games are designed for their use in social places, such as a bar or a restaurant, where is more preferable to let kids play and create memorable moments than make use of technological devices.

## ES SIKE Unit

### Services provided

- > Workshops.
- > Training services.
- > Mentoring.
- > Physical Space
- > Networking & Exchange



**GOTONGO**

2018

**ABOUT**

Gotongo is formed by a team of nonconformists with the injustices and inequalities of our society. The frustration and the difficulty which can arise when trying to find NGOs local and internationally are the reason why Gotongo was founded in 2008. The main purpose is to connect trustworthy non-profit organizations, with people that would like to volunteer in programmes or projects that are aligned with their personal values and motivations. This process is accomplished through a platform that has been developed. Since Gotongo constitutes a social innovation company the 51% of the dividends are allocated to economically help those projects that receive the best feedback from the volunteers.

**ES SIKE Unit**

- Services provided**
- > Workshops.
  - > Training services.
  - > Mentoring.
  - > Physical Space
  - > Networking & Exchange

**Mugikon**

2019

**ABOUT**

Mugikon leads and implements practical programs for the control, evaluation and advice of physical activity aimed at different social groups. By doing this, substantially improves the quality of life of people, especially in professional groups and the elderly. The multidisciplinary team is formed by physiotherapists, medical advisers and technical specialists in Physical Activity and Health Sciences, with more than 15 years of experience. Besides, own studies and research on physical activity and health are carried out, in order to improve their programs.

**ES SIKE Unit**

- Services provided**
- > Workshops.
  - > Training services.
  - > Mentoring.
  - > Physical Space
  - > Networking & Exchange



## CancerAppy

2019

### ABOUT

CancerAppy is a platform based on Big Data and Artificial Intelligence, specialized in the field of cancer research, developed by and for scientists and drug developers that fill the gap between basic data tools and pharma intelligence tools.

The team of CancerAppy is formed by professionals with different backgrounds, scientific knowledge, and expertise including basic scientists, bioinformaticians, physicians and engineering leaders that form a heterogeneous and dynamic group always open to innovate.

### ES SIKE Unit

#### Services provided

- > Workshops.
- > Training services.
- > Mentoring.
- > Physical Space
- > Networking & Exchange

## Sezzen Mindfulness

2019

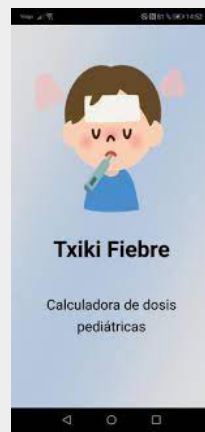
### ABOUT

Sezzen Mindfulness is a mindfulness coaching service that encourages integrating tools to improve lifestyle. Sezzen offers coaching for leadership improvement, mindful coaching, healthcare system, executive professionals, and personal development. It is based in Bilbao.

### ES SIKE Unit

#### Services provided

- > Workshops.
- > Training services.
- > Mentoring.
- > Physical Space
- > Networking & Exchange



# BYTEK

## Inbizi

2020

### ABOUT

Inbizi Healthcare is a technological business that offers tech solutions for the healthcare industry. As passionate about technology and people's wellbeing, they are characterized for their quality, security, and e-health solutions. In regards to the projects that Inbizi has developed, we can mention the followings: "Noa" the drug manager, which schedules the right medicine at the right time by network connections; and "Txiki fiebre", and app to know the right pediatric medicine quantity that the user needs to take.

### ES SIKE Unit

#### Services provided

- > Workshops.
- > Training services.
- > Mentoring.
- > Physical Space
- > Networking & Exchange

## BYTEK

2019

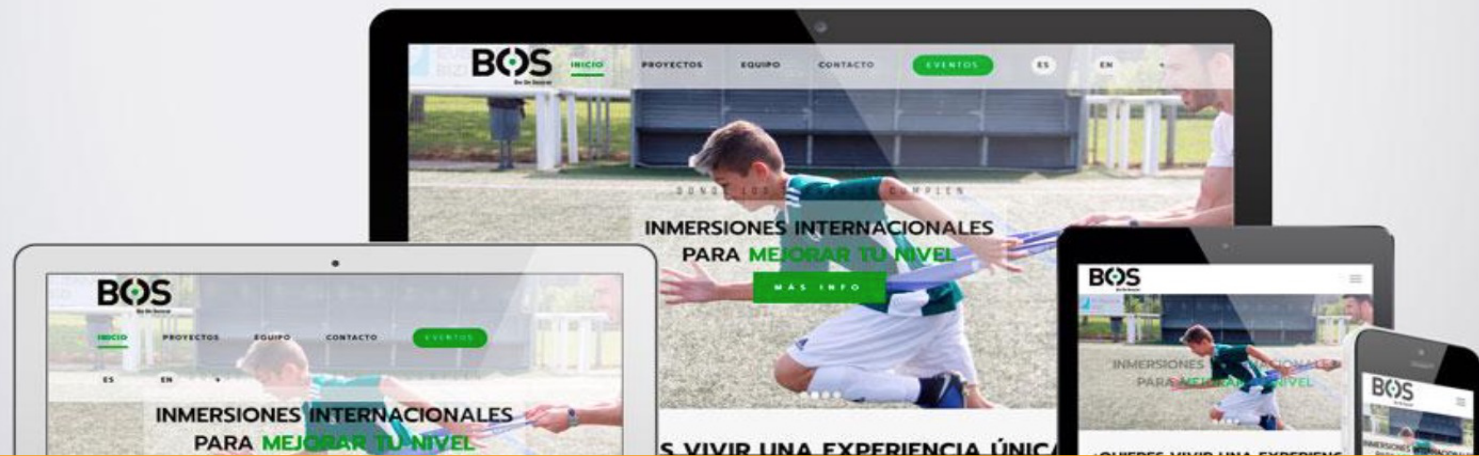
### ABOUT

Bytek offers smart solutions by using their expertise to create IoT ecosystems based on voice assistants and cloud services. They provide comprehensive solutions that include hardware devices, cloud computing and mobile apps. The core of the company is their technological knowledge. Bytek provides solutions for various markets to meet customers' smart product needs. They only use the highest-grade components to produce the hardware products. They offer B2B services in electronic design, firmware, mobile apps, and cloud solutions. Besides, they focus on voice assistance, low power devices, and the Internet of Things.

### ES SIKE Unit

#### Services provided

- > Workshops.
- > Training services.
- > Mentoring.
- > Physical Space
- > Networking & Exchange



## Be on Soccer

2019

### ABOUT

BOS is a company built by a multidisciplinary team with experiences and knowledge about the sport world. They use football as a tool to create, design, and plan projects that promote new experiences and add value to the personal and social development of the people. Realizing the importance that football has on the current society and lives of many people, they contribute to the constant growth of their clients. "Welcome to the place where your passion for football is shared."

### ES SIKE Unit

#### Services provided

- > Workshops.
- > Training services.
- > Mentoring.
- > Physical Space
- > Networking & Exchange

## Materially

2020

### ABOUT

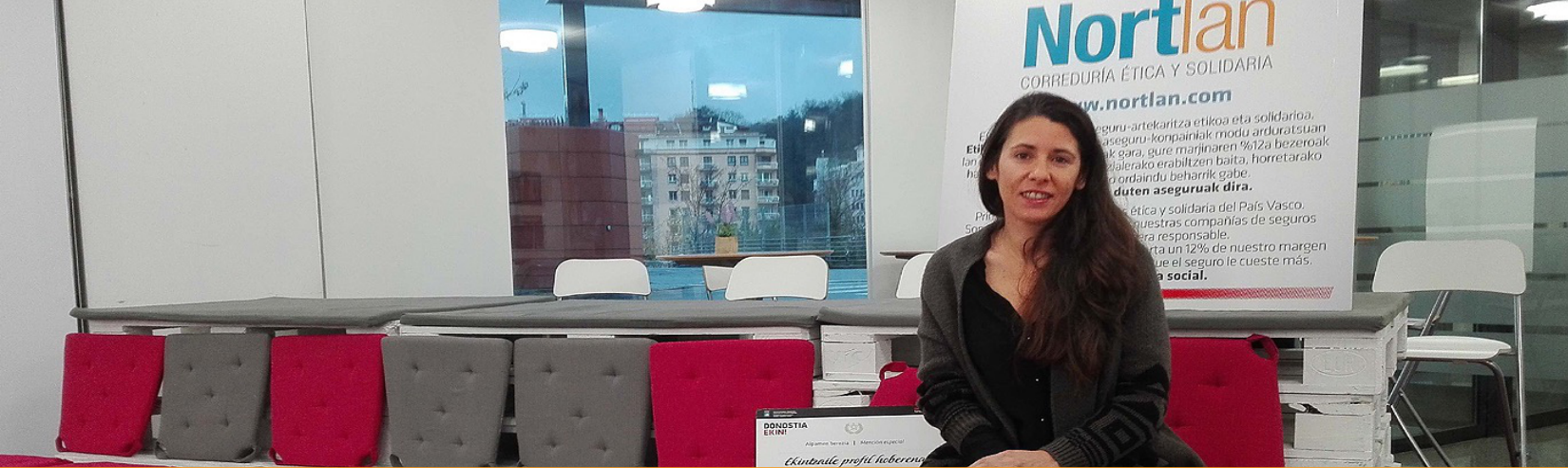
Materially Innovation is expert in materials as well as sustainable and innovative processes of transformation. Their mission is to improve competitiveness by sharing knowledge about materials, in this way letting them create better products and solutions. Their international team of experts contribute a multidisciplinary vision and responses to challenges of materials to implement them in the productive industry. Materially is surrounded by a large network of international contacts. They also execute uninterrupted observations of the material world managing the information for applicable solutions. Finally, they give visibility to new materials and technologies.

### ES SIKE Unit

#### Services provided

- > Workshops.
- > Training services.
- > Mentoring.
- > Physical Space
- > Networking & Exchange





## Nortlan

2018

## ABOUT

Nortlan is an ethical and solidary insurance brokerage that relies on a 4.0 economy model in which benefits are not the centre of decision, letting the benefits of all economical actors (workers, suppliers, the environment) gain importance. This is why Nortlan works on an ethical bank with both socially responsible insurance and renewable resources. The ethical financing, socially responsible investments, and the ethical and responsible insurances are the three pillars of the company.

## ES SIKE Unit

### Services provided

- > Workshops.
- > Training services.
- > Mentoring.
- > Physical Space
- > Networking & Exchange

## Bici sin edad

2021

## ABOUT

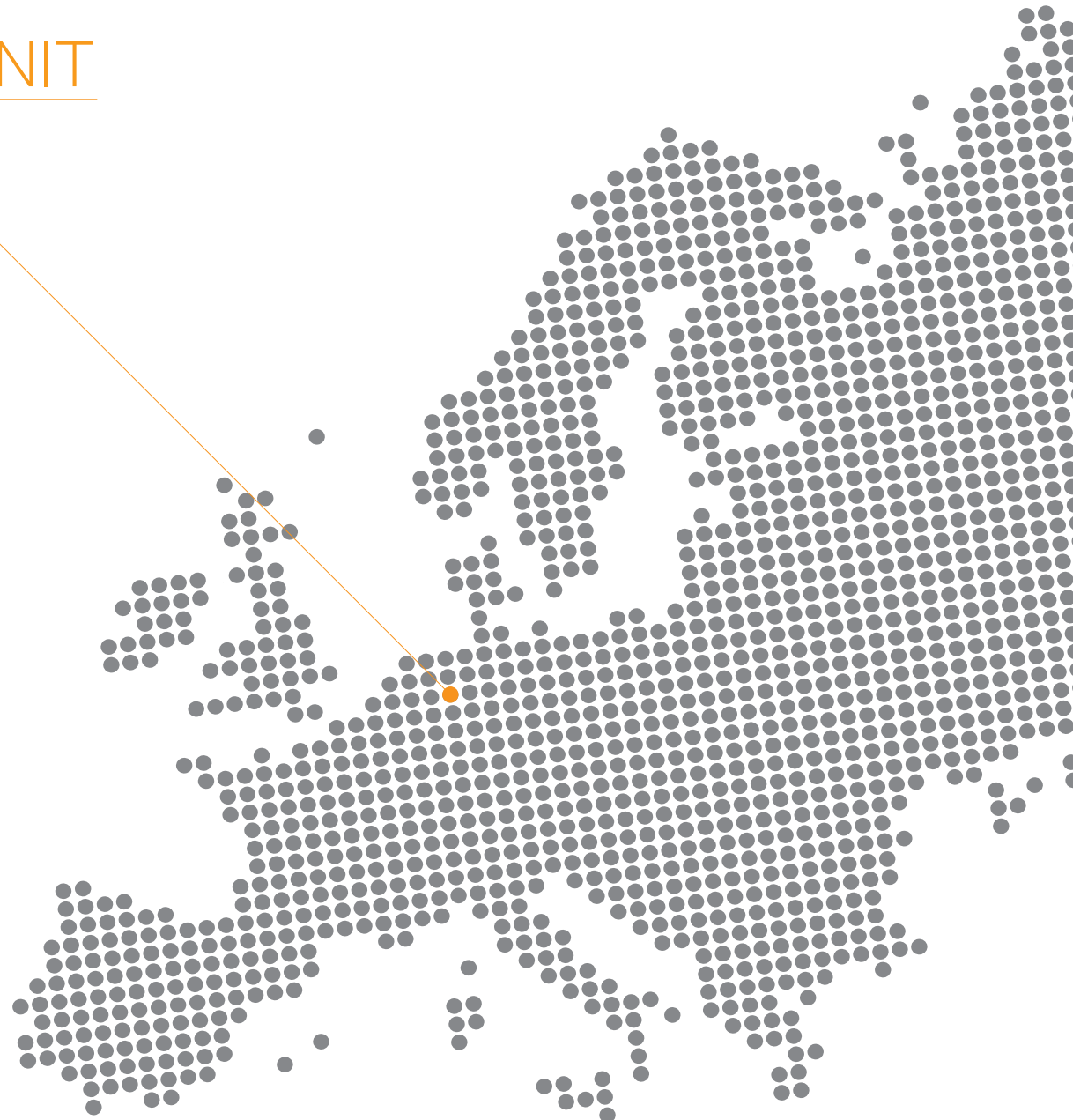
Bici sin edad is a project that helps elders ride the city in a tricycle with no charge. The goal of the project is to reintegrate them in the society and strengthen relationships by storytelling during a relaxing ride around the city. The initiative was born in Copenhagen in 2013 and now it has been spread to more than 200 cities in the world. The main benefits according to the riders are the amazing stories that the passengers tell that make them laugh.

## ES SIKE Unit

### Services provided

- > Workshops.
- > Training services.
- > Mentoring.
- > Physical Space
- > Networking & Exchange

# DE / **sike** UNIT



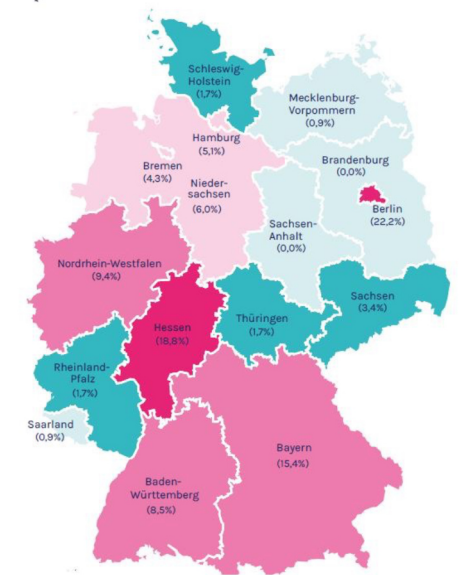
Social innovation and social entrepreneurship is notably on the rise in the Ruhr Valley and the federal state of North-Rhine Westphalia (NRW) in general.

An indicator could be the Website [www.kartevonmorgen.org](http://www.kartevonmorgen.org) (map of tomorrow). This project was developed with the ambition to show people, who want to do something good, where there is something good. The four biggest cities (Dortmund, Essen, Duisburg and Bochum) alone are mentioned over 80 times in this map with different types of entries such as initiatives, events and social/sustainable companies. Other significant centres in North-Rhine Westphalia are Düsseldorf, Wuppertal and especially the area around Cologne and Bonn.

The Social Entrepreneurship Network Germany (SEND e.V.) initiated the first Entrepreneurship Monitor for Germany solely focusing on social entrepreneurs in 2018. The Map on the right shows that 9,4% of all responding social entrepreneurs are located in North-Rhine Westphalia. This puts it at fourth place behind Berlin, Hesse and Bavaria. Even though NRW is the most populous federal state in Germany, it still shows the great potential for the region. Especially if you consider that the Ruhr Valley is known for its heavy industrial past and the challenges of structural change nowadays.

2016 and 2017 the Impact Summit took place in Essen and Dortmund. It was by far the biggest Event for social entrepreneurs in the region and was a sub event of the RuhrSummit, which itself is the biggest fair for start-ups in the Ruhr Area. Furthermore, the GLS Bank has its headquarter in Bochum. GLS is focussing on financing and investing into social and sustainable business operations. The notable Mercator Foundation is located in the region as well as many other civil and public initiatives and organisations. The challenges of the structural change actually can be seen as a form of engine for promoting social innovation. These civil and public initiatives were created out of a need for effectively solving social issues.

The number of Labs and Hubs working in the field of social innovation is an aspect to highlight. The most important are:



- KoSI-Lab Dortmund / Wuppertal
- Impact Hub Ruhr
- PIKSL Lab Dortmund / Düsseldorf
- Social Impact Lab Bonn
- CoWork-Lab Cologne
- GovLab Arnsberg
- Innovation-Lab Bochum (SIKE case study)
- Anthropia / Impact Factory Duisburg
- Centre of Entrepreneurship & Transfer Dortmund (SIKE case study)
- World Factory Bochum

The German SIKE unit cooperates very closely with these Labs, because they are contact points for a variety of stakeholders. As shown above, two of them were selected to become a case study that the SIKE unit will support.

To further develop the ecosystem of social innovation in the area, DE SIKE Unite are building relationship with other initiatives such as Labs, Transfer Centres, and Entrepreneurship Centres in order to work together and learn from each other to support social innovation. The goal is to co-create impact in close cooperation with other protagonists and stakeholder in the region referring to the specific needs instead of pursuing a top-down approach.

### **STRATEGIC POSITION WITHIN the HEI**

More than 10 years ago, the Sozialforschungsstelle (Social Research Center) of the Technical University of Dortmund (in the following referred to as sfs) declared social innovation its main research topic. This decision was based on a long experience in the field of innovation, especially in the areas of labour and education, and the necessity for focusing on innovations, which are not technological, but consist of new social practices. Researchers at sfs are strongly convinced that social innovations are at least as important for societal development as technological innovations, but at the same time, the importance of social innovations in meeting societal challenges is still often underestimated in both innovation research and policy. Therefore, sfs is pushing forward academic research on social innovation and understands itself as an international player in the field of theory and methodology development. Recent works are aiming at understanding the international

dimension of social innovation and its theoretical concepts, investigating social innovation as new social practices and their imitation processes and understanding the role of social entrepreneurship.

Recently, sfs has been involved in several EU-funded projects on social innovation, among others:

- “SI-DRIVE: Social Innovation – Driving Force of Social Change”, a large scale research project coordinated by sfs that aims at developing a global mapping of social innovations and theorizing the concept of social innovation (FP7);
- “SIC – Social Innovation Community”, aims at creating a ‘network of networks’ of social innovation actors (Horizon 2020);
- “Students4Change – Social Entrepreneurship in Academia”, aims at developing a pedagogical method for universities and higher education institutions to teach and train university entrepreneurs to be active players implementing social innovations (Erasmus +);
- “SIKE – Social Innovation through Knowledge Exchange”, has the task to demonstrate the potential of universities to use their knowledge in order to affect social change in a direct way

### PHYSICAL SPACE

The space of the DE SIKE Unit is a space for dialogue, a space for innovation and co-design and a hub for connecting people: a physical place where people can gather together. This space have the following characteristics: Creativity, collaboration with society, open-door policy, mutual-learning process, innovative copyright policy and academic credibility.

In order to foster the social innovation and collaboration process within the institution, the space is equipped with the appropriate facilities. The space needs to be attractive to academics, students, representatives from private and public bodies, experts and members of the wider community interested in social innovation and knowledge exchange.

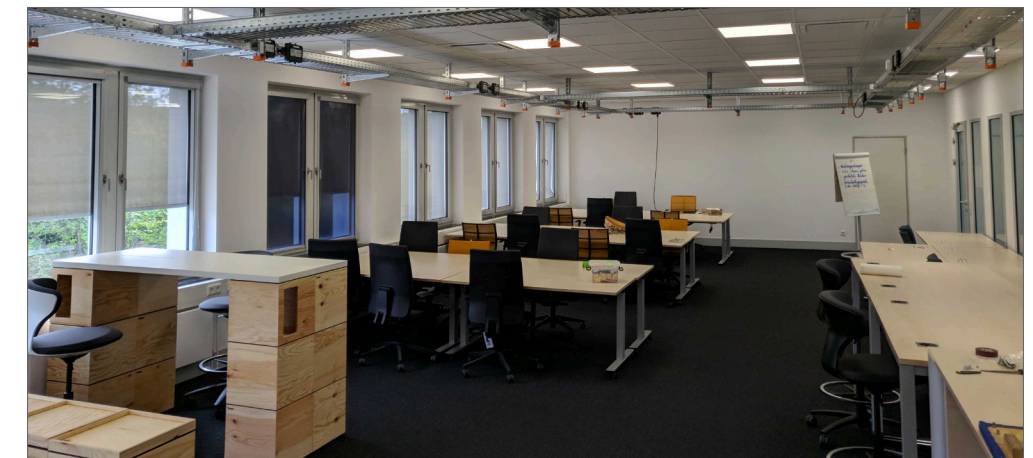


Figure 1. DE SIKE Unit – spaces

# DE SIKE Unit / Supported cases



## Helpteers

2019

## ABOUT

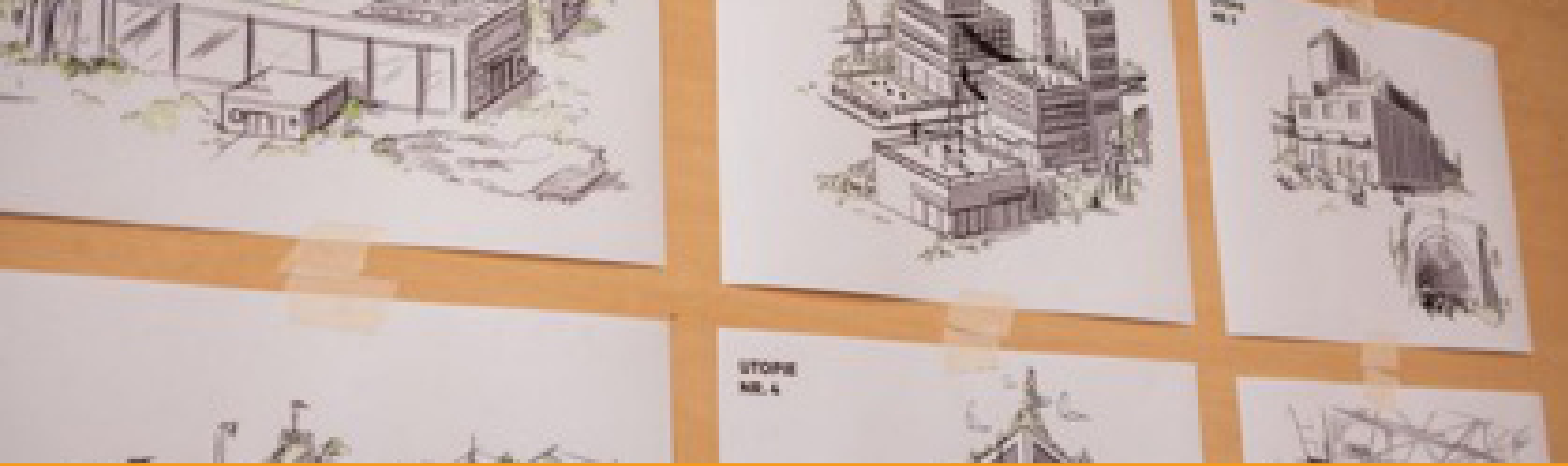
The goal of the social enterprise helpteers is to move the world together with crowdmoving. The initiative provides organisations with knowledge and offer services to activate people through digital channels: Free of charge on helpteers.net or as an individual solution for one's own community with white label software-as-a-service platforms. Helpteers aims at building bridges between technology and humanity. For more engagement in society, in organisations and in companies. The term helpteers consists of the words "help" and the end of the word "volunteers"..

## DE SIKE Unit

Helpteers was identified as an important actor within the social innovation network of the Ruhr valley and North-Rhine Westphalia. Throughout the projects, the founders of the initiative were invited to workshops, gave inputs and exchanged knowledge and ideas with other social innovators of the region, thereby strengthening the local SI ecosystem.

### Services provided

- > Workshops.
- > Networking & knowledge exchange



## Die Urbanisten

2019

### ABOUT

The Urbanists pursue the goal of improving the urban coexistence of local people and creating new perspectives for urban living spaces. Thus, the Urbanists act as impulse givers, project managers and participation platforms - a multifaceted network for the active co-design of one's own city. Public space is at the centre of their work. The vision is to create a modern society in which people take responsibility for shaping their own living space and pool their individual resources: local, creative and lively. In concrete terms, this means the planning and implementation of projects and actions in various thematic areas as well as the participation of citizens, residents and interested parties throughout the process.

## GER SIKE Unit

The urbanists are important players in the field of social innovation and social entrepreneurship, especially with regard to the city of Dortmund. Accordingly, there was a lively exchange between TUDO and the initiative during the SIKE project. The urbanists presented their activities at a SIKE unit workshop, exchanged ideas with other SI actors and managed to establish important networks for themselves.

### Services provided

- > Workshop
- > Networking and knowledge exchange

## Colabor

2019

### ABOUT

Social change towards a socially just and ecologically sustainable world needs pioneers - people who are committed to new models of living and working in a variety of ways. Colabor aims to create space for these pioneers. - as a workplace, hub and platform for NGOs, companies, freelancers and consultants who provide impulses for social change. Colabor's co-working spaces are located in Cologne Ehrenfeld. In a quiet side street, right next to the park and with a beautiful backyard, Colabor offers an inspiring and professional environment for working and exchanging ideas at a wide variety of events.

## DE SIKE unit

Within the framework of SIKE, Colabor was offered the opportunity to get in touch with other actors of the Social Innovation Ecosystem of North Rhine-Westphalia and to build networks. This enabled the relationships of social innovators to be strengthened far beyond the borders of the Ruhr region as experiences and knowledge were exchanged within the framework of SIKE Unit workshops.

### Services provided

- Workshop,
- Networking and knowledge exchange



# Montag Stiftung Urbane Räume



## The Monday Foundation Urban Spaces (Montagstiftung Urbane Räume gAG)

2019

### ABOUT

The Montag Stiftung Urbane Räume gAG is an independent non-profit foundation and belongs to the Montag Foundation Group in Bonn. In line with the guiding principle of the foundation group "Acting and shaping in social responsibility", the Montag Stiftung Urbane Räume is committed to acting as an independent partner to municipalities, associations and civil society initiatives in areas where urban districts are characterised by special social and economic conditions. Neighbourhood development oriented towards the common good is not an individual neighbourhood concern, but a joint social task. The "Montag Stiftung Urbane Räume" is committed to the development of urban spaces and neighbourhoods that open up opportunities and possibilities for all people who live and work there. In partnership with the public sector and the business community, the aim is to create a basis and perspective for local commitment to the common good and, above all, to motivate civil society to help shape their city. With the programme Initial Capital for Opportunity-Oriented District Development, entrepreneurial action and community-oriented district development are combined through an investment in real estate.

### DE SIKE Unit

In its function as a non-profit organisation, the Montag Foundation Urban Spaces takes on a special role as an independent partner of municipalities, associations and civil society and accordingly has a perspective that is characterised by cooperation with social innovation actors from different sectors of society. Participation in SIKE Unit workshops here served knowledge exchange and networking purposes.

#### Services provided

Workshop, Networking and knowledge exchange

### Rogge care clothing

2020

### ABOUT

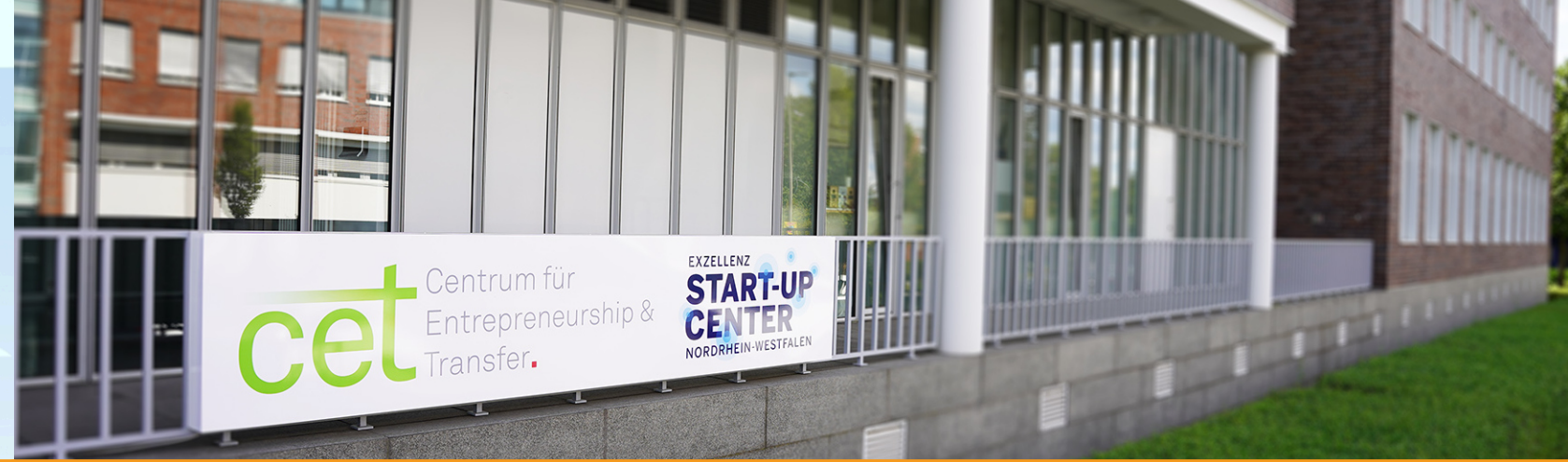
The pants from "Rogge-Pflegebekleidung" are a high-quality garment designed to help people who have a urinary catheter and/or stoma in their everyday lives. This is a social start-up that primarily aims to help pensioners with urinary catheters to have a better quality of life. The family-owned company pursues the goal of giving back a piece of self-confidence to those affected, while the product, the pants, which are also called "Life Pants", focus on both functionality and design. The Life Pants can be described as an innovation, as there are no comparable products on the market.

### DE SIKE unit

The initiators of the social enterprise presented their idea and the implementation of this idea to an audience at one of the workshops. This resulted in a classic exchange of knowledge, while at the same time providing the initiators with the opportunity to get in touch with other social innovators and to network. At the time of the workshop, the social start-up was still in the development phase - in the meantime, the product is available for sale.

#### Services provided

Networking and knowledge exchange



## Heimbridge

2020/21



### ABOUT

Changing life circumstances such as limited mobility and health make the world smaller and smaller as we age. Heimbridge is a multi-sided platform that gives seniors access to new digital opportunities. With its visualization concept, even people without prior knowledge can participate in the web.

### DE SIKE unit

Heimbridge was founded by students of TU Dortmund University. They have been supported by programmes of the Universities Centre of Entrepreneurship & Transfer and worked closely with the SIKE Unit. They introduced their business idea on SIKE workshops and got the opportunity to exchange knowledge with other actors in the regional ecosystem.

#### Services provided

Workshop, Networking and knowledge exchange

## Centre of Entrepreneurship & Transfer (CET)

2019/21

### ABOUT

The main goal of the CET is to support research-based start-up projects from all faculties at TU Dortmund University. Social and ecological sustainability are taken into account within all consultations and offerings, thus CET tries to enable all founders to take societal impact into account. In addition, the Centre organizes events specifically in regards of social innovations (networking and qualification) by cooperating closely with the SIKE project of "Sozialforschungsstelle" (sfs) of TU Dortmund university.

### DE SIKE unit

CET and SIKE worked together closely during the last three years whereby they developed workshops together, organised start-up consultings and exchanged ideas on how to make progress in the field of Social Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship at TU Dortmund University. This cooperation provided much knowledge exchange. SIKE got deeper view into CET's incubation programmes and supported CET by workshops and inputs on Social Innovation.

#### Services provided:

Workshops, Networking and knowledge exchange, Consulting





## Innovation-Lab Bochum

2019/21

### ABOUT

The Innovation-Lab Bochum belong to the Transfer Network „s\_inn“ and it´s focus lies on the topics Disability and Diversity. They are dealing with challenges regarding inclusion of people with disabilities and people with refugee background. By providing support and transfer, the Lab wants to ensure social cohesion. The Innovation-Lab works closely with the departments of social work, education, diaconia, curative education and healthcare of the Protestant University of applied sciences Bochum. The Innovation-Lab Bochum also focuses on the topic of Social Innovation. Thereby, one main objective is to foster forward-looking ideas and projects in order to enhance transfer between the university and the civil society.

### DE SIKE unit

SIKE has collaborated closely with the Innovation-Lab Bochum. Since the Innovation-Lab´s main aim is similarly to the work of the SIKE project, the cooperation created many opportunities to exchange ideas and knowledge und to develop workshops to bring together stakeholders of the SI ecosystem in Dortmund and Bochum and reach out to students of TU Dortmund University and the Protestant University of applied sciences Bochum.

#### Services provided

Workshops, Consulting, Networking and knowledge exchange

## Nordwärts

2019

### ABOUT

The idea behind the project Nordwärts (Northbound) is to draw the public´s attention on the Northern districts of the city of Dortmund and tackle social and economic problems in these areas. The initiators of Nordwärts aim at a further development of these districts. Thereby the project´s overall objective is the harmonisation of living conditions in Dortmund by developing and implementing projects in cooperation with Dortmund´s citizen. An advisory committee helps to manage the project. This board of trustees consists of high-level personalities from the fields of politics, economy and science/research.

### DE SIKE unit

Nordwärts was one of SIKE´s Best Practice examples and is a very big and important Social Innovation Initiative in Dortmund. SIKE had the opportunity to visit the initiative during the German Site visit to exchange ideas and knowledge with the international SIKE partners.

#### Services provided

Network & Exchange



**PIKSL**

2018/19

**ABOUT**

PIKSL is an organization that reduces digital barriers and decreases complexity of everyday life by using competences of people with and without disabilities. PIKSL aims at creating collaborative learning and working spaces and also at making digital participation accessible for everyone. The first PIKSL Lab opened in 2011 in Düsseldorf and the second in 2015 in Bielefeld. Meanwhile there are seven PIKSL labs in Germany. Dortmund's PIKSL Lab focuses on the potential of Virtual Reality. People with disabilities are working as experts in the PIKSL Labs in matters that affect them personally. The PIKSL Team is interdisciplinary, inclusive and focuses on the users perspective.

**DE SIKE unit**

In 2019 the first SIKE Workshop focused on evaluation and scaling. Together with the PIKSL Team we discussed on how to measure impact and how to use this knowledge to scale and grow the initiatives.

**Services provided**

Workshop, Networking and knowledge exchange

**Beyond Divides**

2019/20

**ABOUT**

The Beyond Divides program was developed to explore approaches to solving these problems. The Robert Bosch Foundation, in collaboration with Impact Hub, has designed and implemented this program as an innovative co-creation process with the goal of developing communities that respect and appreciate each member while respecting diversity. It supports social cohesion in four different regions in Europe (Bukarest, Istanbul, Madrid and the Ruhr Area in Germany). The local part of the project is aimed at developing projects against exclusion and for better understanding within the community of the city district Essen-Altenessen.

**DE SIKE unit**

Together with the Beyond Divides Programme and the Impact Hub in Essen, SIKE developed workshops with the aim of bringing together actors in the field of social innovation with people and groups from society to foster social cohesion in the region.

**Services provided**

Workshops, Networking and knowledge exchange



## Movimentos Autenticos

2021

### ABOUT

The aim of the association (located in Coasta Rica) is to strengthen equality in many ways. A strengthening of equality means in the sense of the association: a strengthened perception of one's own body and a self-confident and self-emphasized strengthening. The project spurs confidence in yourself and the associated mental health. To help people to improve their self-confidence and thereby to enhance self-love and to initiate healing movements inside one's mind and soul by means of mindful movements on the outside. Perceiving what is there without evaluating it in the same breath. It is much more a matter of becoming aware and grounding: through mindfulness, especially in movement, we can learn to deal more lovingly with the body and our inner world and recognize states of discomfort and tension more quickly without feeling the pressure to want to eliminate them immediately. Methodologically the project approaches its goals mostly through bodywork. To initiate and implement personality development with the body and a direct transformation. One of the core tools here is dancing. Whether in choreographic dance or improvisation: Through rhythmic

movement, the human being uses the body to gain a different access to the many facets of himself, and in doing so the project wants to be a guide and support.

### DE SIKE unit

During SIKE's workshop on 12.01.2021, the Germany unit worked together with Movimentos Autenticos to elaborate how to grow social businesses and build a career in social innovation. The workshop aimed at facilitating an exchange between universities and social innovators about their projects and life trajectories and to develop ideas how to further facilitate the founding process of social enterprises.

#### Services provided:

Workshop, Networking and knowledge exchange

## Miriam Smidt

2021

### ABOUT

Once Miriam Smidt was diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2016 leaving her with a diminished eyesight, she changed her career trajectory and pursued her true passion: painting. She gave up her work as a social scientist and an author to follow her artistic path. Smidt invented her own method of fluid painting with watercolour inks and paste that she calls liquid light painting. The paste dries invisibly. The colours themselves shine, and the canvas shines through the colours. For Smidt, there is no answer to the heavy and grim facts of life but to oppose them with levity – with the transparency and brightness of the watercolour inks she uses. The enterprise offers, inter alia, action painting workshops in Berlin.

### DE SIKE unit

During SIKE's workshop on 12.01.2021, the Germany unit worked together with Miriam to elaborate how to grow social businesses and build a career in social innovation despite a purportedly handicap. The workshop aimed at facilitating an exchange between universities and social innovators about their projects and life trajectories and to develop ideas how to further facilitate the founding process of social enterprises and to inspire students to pursue such paths in lieu of various thresholds.

#### Services provided:

Workshop, Networking and knowledge exchange

# enterability

selbstständig ohne behinderung



**S E**  
**N D**

**Social  
Entrepreneurship  
Netzwerk  
Deutschland**

## Enterability

2021

### ABOUT

Enterability supports people with severe disabilities in developing a tailored start-up with advice and specialist knowledge in the Berlin region. Enterability, a project sui generis, consolidates initial ideas and puts them through their paces. And even after the establishment of an enterprise, Enterability supports its founders with network and expertise.

### DE SIKE unit

During SIKE's workshop on 14.01.2021, the SIKE unit collaborated with Enterability in further honing their consulting process through a critical exchange concerning their work and expertise.

#### Services provided:

Workshop, networking and knowledge exchange

## SEND e.V.

2019

### ABOUT

SEND is the network for Social Entrepreneurship in Germany. Its main objectives and activities include building and strengthening a vibrant community of social entrepreneurs as well as advocating for suitable political and economic framework for social entrepreneurs and social innovation. What is more, SEND helps to build bridges between different stakeholders from different sectors involved in the field of social innovation.

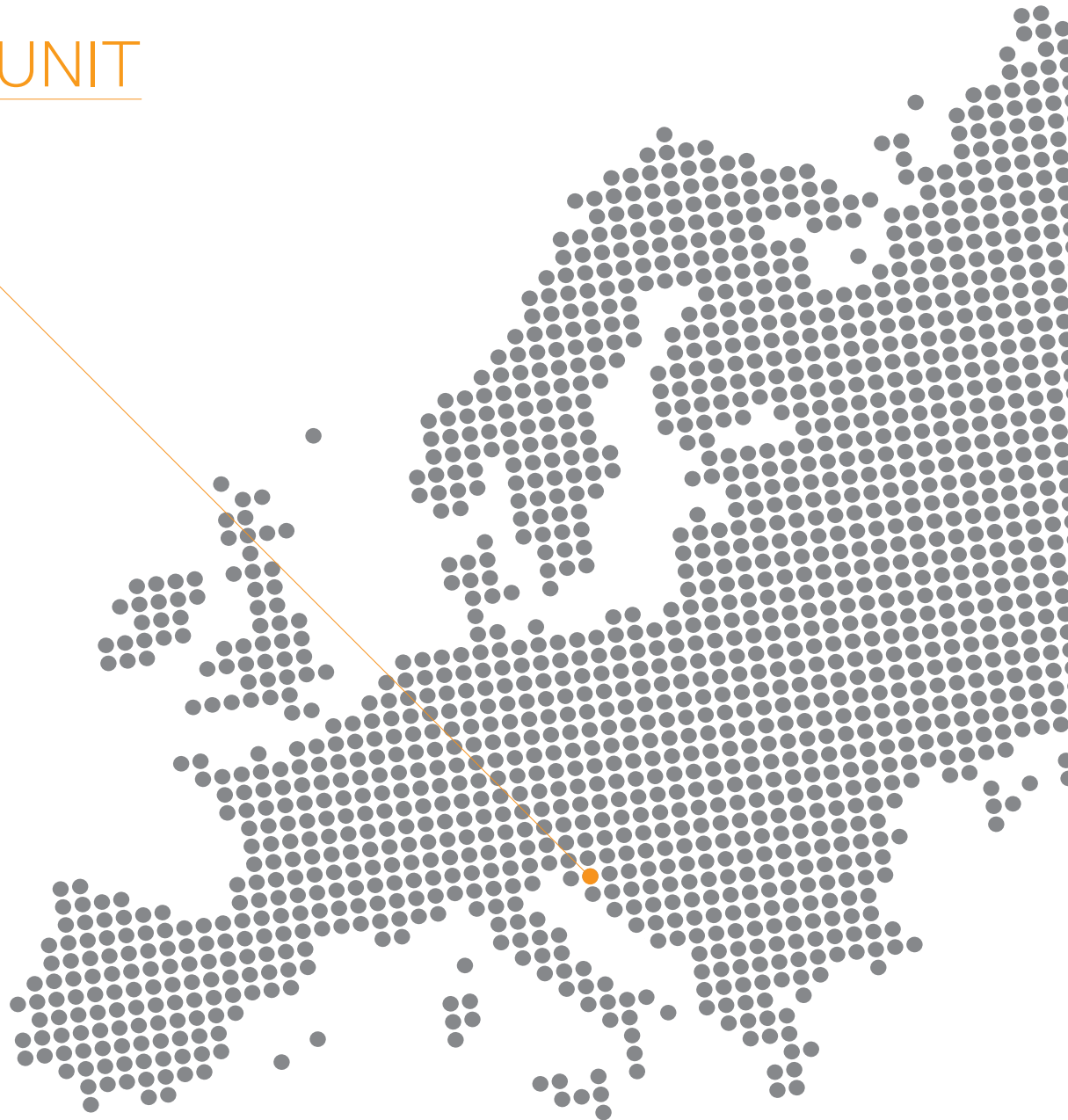
### DE SIKE unit

During the SIKE Workshop "Austauschforum" on 20.11.2019, SEND's Melanie Dahl joint to learn more about regional actors and to connect with the wider ecosystem. Thus, the workshop and SIKE unit helped in widening local partnerships and facilitated networking among like-minded organisations.

#### Services provided:

Workshop, networking and knowledge exchange

## CRO/sikeUNIT



The Croatian SIKE UNIT is established by two Croatian institutions, VERN' University of Applied Sciences and Social Innovation Lab. By joint efforts of these two organisations and their shared knowledge and expertise will be offered and shared with the whole SI eco system in Croatia and all stakeholders with a goal to enhance, promote and develop the ecosystem of social innovation in Croatia.

It is based at the University of Applied Sciences VERN' and it is based on collaboration with Social Innovation Lab and pre-existing resources and knowledge from the institution. VERN' universities' vision is "Educated, entrepreneurial and socially responsible people are the carriers of sustainable development and community wellbeing" since the founding of the University, and in that spirit the topic of Social Innovation has been a presence for some time.

As a first high education in Croatia to offer courses in SI, VERN' has had formal and informal training within its institution; starting with an elective course "Social Entrepreneurship and Social Innovations" and following with the MA program. The course was designed to help students to understand the concepts of Social Innovation, how to form new strategies, ideas, processes, services, business models, tools, methodologies and policies or the combination of these factors that contribute to addressing social needs and to understand the difference between SI and Social Entrepreneurship as research has shown there was a misunderstanding of these two in Croatian society.

In addition to this course, VERN' has established an MA Program called "Managing Sustainable Tourism Development" aimed for students to acquire knowledge and skills that are necessary to carry out the leading and highly expert functions in the field of tourism and hospitality based on the principles of sustainable development. A unique quality of this study program are the elective courses related to the management of certain types of tourism specific for Croatian tourism contributing to the sustainability and quality of the development of Croatian tourism.

The result of these elective courses and MA program has shown the interest that students have expressed in SI and in enhancing their ideas, which resulted with VERN' mentoring students for HULT competition, the world's largest student competition for social good. VERN's team won 1st place in 2014 and by 2017 our institution had more than 10 teams that participated with excellent ideas such as Software Defined Radio (SDR) USB stick- device which encourages society to monitor energy consumption and plan savings both for the environment and budget wise.

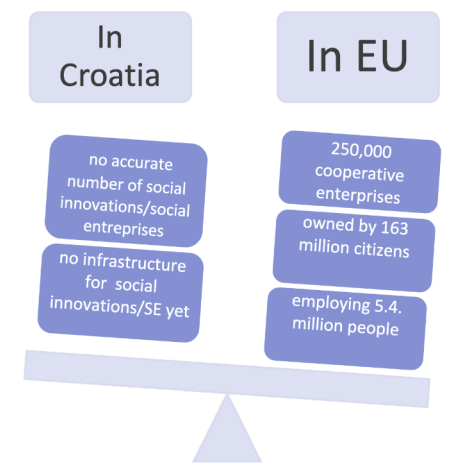
Other informal training includes OBRAD platform that was established by VERN' as a social responsibility initiative; a platform for communication between education and economy/ labour market. It was launched to develop the kind of education that will set in motion mechanisms of economic growth and sustainability, searching and offering innovative and

effective solutions to increase the employability of the young. To further our social actions even more, we have started a VERN' Island Initiative by setting up International University Centre at the Island of Vis. The island itself is one of the Croatia's' most beautiful, preserved but it is also the furthers and remote island from the shore and faces a lot of problems during off season which results in depopulation and mass tourism during seasonal time. By establishing International University Centre there, island resources are utilized outside summer season through summer schools, elective courses that are held on the island, international workshops and conferences and other activities.

In practical sense of research, University participates and is involved in several other EU funded project that deal with Social Innovation. One of them being project SILICE- Social Innovation for Local Indian and Israeli Communities and graduate Entrepreneurs; this is a project that aims to develop open source platform that promotes social innovation ideas and international cooperation at regional level between the EU, Israel and India thorough establishment of SinnoLABs (Social Innovation Labs) which will contribute to the development of social economy enterprises in their diverse forms. Other project is OP-UP Rural social –innovative hubs – goal of the project is development of local rural communities through launching social innovative and long lasting micro entrepreneurship activates by using local resources. Project aims to stop the migration from rural to urban areas and to revive local economies by educating students about social innovation and giving them skills for solving local problems and problems of communities and it is especially meaningful to University as it deals with national and local needs.

The goal of Croatian SIKE unit is to enhance, promote and develop ecosystem of social innovation in Croatia. The specific need in Croatia lay in the fact that there is a lack of understanding of what SI actually is and therefore a lack of systemisation and infrastructure as shown in the picture on the right.

Through UNIT, social innovation stakeholders are invited to participate and to network amongst each other as well as University in order to meet the UNIT's goal. As only University in Croatia which offers education in areas of social innovation,



VERN' has a goal to inform and educate students and teachers (through UNIT especially) about social innovation concepts and possibilities with cooperation with SIL who have experience in work on promoting, mapping and supporting social innovation for years.

### STRATEGIC POSITION WITHIN the HEI

VERN' University of Applied Sciences has had a social commitment since the beginning of its existence which is highlighted in the vision: Educated, entrepreneurial and socially responsible people are the carriers of sustainable development and community wellbeing and it has been put into action with courses, initiatives, and projects Universities has either started or supported. Having in mind VERN' institutional strategy, the SIKE Unit will have full support of the University and an important role which is planned to be sustainable and active even after the official end of SIKE project. By giving two locations for SIKE Unit at the heart of the University, UNIT is enabled to work constantly and have an ongoing interaction between the academy and overall community. University supports UNIT also by providing additional work space for workshops, meetings or gatherings, and all office equipment that are possibly needed. Students are offered expertise in order to create effective solutions the opportunity to examine social innovation projects in actions as well as to gain practical experience. It is a plan that the curricular will be adjusted after all the workshops and feedback has been collected. One on one coaching is also be available for those who are interested.

### PHYSICAL SPACE

Croatian SIKE Unit is located at University of Applied Sciences VERN' at the second floor where all classrooms are located.

It consists of 2 parts- it is a part of a Library and IT classroom that is right next to the library which allows a space for research, work and collaboration.

Each of the rooms is already equipped with all needed equipment such as computers and projectors as well as books and space for workshops.

It is a goal to attract external stakeholders as well as students who see this space in everyday life and to attract also academics, representatives from private and public bodies, experts and members of wider community and all interested in social innovation knowledge exchange.



Figure 1. CRO SIKE Unit – spaces

# CRO SIKE Unit / Supported cases



## HUMANA NOVA

2018/19

## ABOUT

Humana Nova is social cooperative with the mission to employ disadvantaged persons in the labour market through recycling and redesigning of the discarded textile. Weaving more human enterprise started with ESCO project and organization ACT. The project provided initial funding for the purchase of the sewing, ironing, washing and drying machines as well as computer and office equipment. Moreover, one of the project activities was requalification training enabling gaining sewing skills and accompanying certificate for eight disabled persons.

## CRO SIKE Unit

Humana Nova is one of the case studies monitored by the Croatian SIKE Unit. During this process we maintained a close relationship that allowed us to collaborate in various new initiatives and remain in contact in all those years.

### Services provided

- > Mentoring
- > Networking & exchange
- > Promotion and dissemination of good practices
- > Case studies

### Read more

[www.humananova.org](http://www.humananova.org)





## NOVA ISKRA

2018/20

### ABOUT

Nova iskra, a hybrid, transdisciplinary platform and a fully independent venture that connects the creative community, links it to the potential businesses and supports the realization of their ideas on the market, is a unique place with both organizational and service innovations. The initiative has been shaped by the detected needs of new and emerging young professionals, particularly in creative industries, and some other factors: new and emerging occupations and changing market demands, a lack of networking and opportunities for affirmation as well as the lack of accessible programs for skill development and knowledge improvement for both young professionals/ entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized businesses (locally and globally). NOVA ISKRA addresses lack of economic opportunities and sustainable jobs, and brain drain as well as gaps between education outcomes and labor market requirements.

### CRO SIKE Unit

Nova Iskra is one of the case studies monitored by the Croatian SIKE Unit. During this process we maintained a close relationship that allowed us to collaborate in various new initiatives and remain in contact in all those years.

#### Services provided

- > Mentoring
- > Networking & exchange
- > Promotion and dissemination of good practices
- > Case studies

#### Read more

<https://novaiskra.com/en/>

## PRIPOVJEDAONICA

2018/19

### ABOUT

Pripovjedaonica was the first project in Montenegro focusing on anti-bullying education for preschool children through storytelling that has included parents and families, teachers, and volunteers but also children through acting, dancing, drawing and other activities. The project has implemented a new learning methods in a form of "storytelling" rather than more traditional approaches for a preschool rather than school children.

### CRO SIKE Unit

Radiona is one of the case studies monitored by the Croatian SIKE Unit. We have been following the project closely and provided monitoring in various phases of its development and implementation.

#### Services provided

- > Mentoring
- > Networking & exchange



## RADIONA

2018/20

### ABOUT

Association for Development of 'do-it-yourself' Culture was founded to enhance the visibility of makers' open source culture and self-sustainable production, and was aimed at connecting all possible fields of art, science and technology. Radiona.org focuses its activities on education, research processes, artistic projects, curatorial practices, international and domestic inter-sector collaborations, renewable systems and social awareness related issues.

### CRO SIKE Unit

Radiona is one of the case studies monitored by the Croatian SIKE Unit. During this process we maintained a close relationship that allowed us to collaborate in various new initiatives and remain in contact in all those years. We have also provided support and mentoring in different phases of their project development and implementation.

#### Services provided

- > Mentoring
- > Networking & exchange
- > Promotion and dissemination of good practices
- > Case studies

#### Read more

<https://radiona.org/>

## FIERCE WOMEN

2018/2019

### ABOUT

Fierce Women is an inspiring card game that familiarizes its players with women's contributions in the fields of culture, politics, science, feminism, human rights and art. Fierce Women is the first Croatian social game dedicated to women, which offers a subtle opportunity to bring the topic of gender equality into our social circles. It is also an opportunity to get our closest ones off gadgets and spend our free time together in a way that is fun, educational and socially engaging.

### CRO SIKE Unit

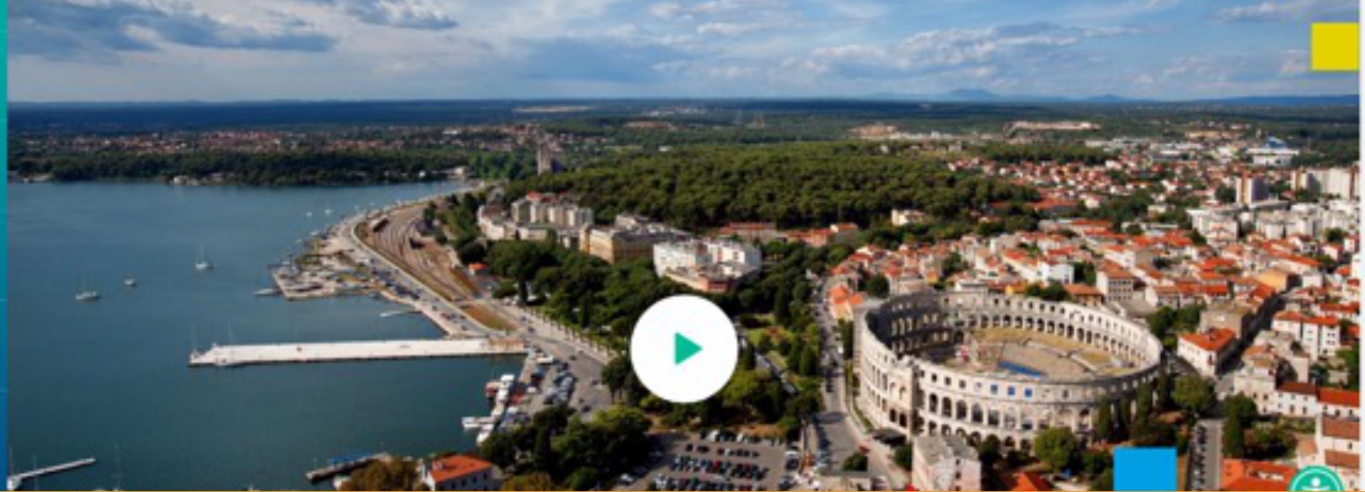
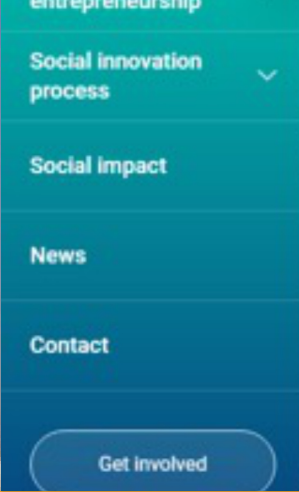
Fierce Women is one of the case studies monitored by the Croatian SIKE Unit. Our experts accompanied the project through mentoring initiatives in order to accelerate the business idea.

#### Services provided

- > Mentoring
- > Networking & exchange
- > Promotion and dissemination of good practices
- > Case studies

#### Read more

<http://fierce-women.net/>



**Green Energy Cooperative (ZEZ), project “On the sunny side”**

2018/2019



**ABOUT**

Local Community Development Initiatives towards Creating Climate Neutral Cities 2030. The cooperative gathered proven Croatian equipment manufacturers and local installers and designers on the project. In cooperation with them, it offers citizens professional support at every step until the realization of a small solar power plant.

**CRO SIKE Unit**

ZEZ was involved in one of the workshops within the WP4 and was also one of the competitors at the EVOLVE competition. Their project has received SIKE award.

**Services provided**

- > Networking & exchange
- > Promotion and dissemination of good practices

**ReCeD'Istria**

2020/21

**ABOUT**

The Regional Center for Social Innovation Istria (ReCeD'Istria) is a place for designing and creating new social innovations, creating and launching social services and new social programs, all in order to address the needs of society through the creation and implementation of new ideas in various social areas; social, sports, cultural, environmental, tourism, health, etc.

**CRO SIKE Unit**

Our experts accompanied the project through mentoring initiatives in order to accelerate the business idea.

**Services provided**

- > Mentoring
- > Networking & exchange
- > Promotion and dissemination of good practices
- > Case studies

**Read more**

<https://recedistria.com/en/>



udenata i lokalnog stanovništva u konkretnim ruralnim zajednicama Međimurske Splitsko-dalmatinske županije razvija, testira i validira inkluzivni i participativni program društveno-korisnog učenja u području održivog ruralnog razvoja. Uz zvienu replikabilnu metodologiju i alate, projekt inicira i daje podršku novim i postojećim društveno-inovativnim mikropoduzetničkim pothvatima, generatorima društveno-ekonomskog razvoja lokalnih zajednica.

- mikropoduzetničkih aktivnosti korištenjem lokalnih resursa
- pokretanje lokalne ekonomije i zaustavljanje migracije iz ruralnih u urbane krajeve
- razvoj održivog partnerstva visokoobrazovnih ustanova i organizacija civilnog društva
- osnaživanje kapaciteta organizacija civilnog društva iz lokalnih zajednica
- osnaživanje kapaciteta studenata koji će kroz razvijenu metodologiju pop-up ruralnih društveno-inovativnih hubova poticati održive razvojne aktivnosti

#### Područje obuhvata:

- Međimurska županija - Općina Štrigova, Općina Mala Subotica
- Splitsko-dalmatinska županija - otok Vis



#### Mobilni pop-up ruralni hubovi

Mobilni pop-up ruralni hubovi su model društveno-korisnog učenja koji funkcionira

#### Ciljane skupine

- Lokalne organizacije civilnog društva i njihovi zaposlenici/članovi
- Studenti iz ruralnih krajeva s partnerskih visokoškolskih ustanova
- Nastavnici/zaposlenici visokoškolskih ustanova
- Alumni partnerskih visokoobrazovnih ustanova
- Ostali studenti
- Društveni inovatori i poduzetnici

## NextBike

2018/2020

## ABOUT

Nextbike public bike sharing system is the first and largest system in the region operating in 15 Croatian cities. As the first Croatian city with a public bicycle system, Zagreb now has 21 stations. Although technically a franchise, it also has all the components of a social enterprise actively working on promoting green and sustainable urban mobility among all generations.

## CRO SIKE Unit

Our experts accompanied the project through mentoring initiatives in order to accelerate the business idea from its very beginnings.

### Services provided

- > Mentoring
- > Promotion and dissemination of good practices

## MOBILE POP UP RURAL HUBS

2019/2020

## ABOUT

The project POP-UP rural socio-innovative hubs is approved within the Open Call "Support to the development of partnerships of civil society organizations and higher education institutions for the implementation of socially useful learning programs" funded by the European Social Fund. The project aims to develop, test and validate an inclusive and participative program of socially beneficial learning in the field of sustainable rural development. The project will stimulate the development of local rural communities through the launch of socio-innovative sustainable micro-entrepreneurial activities by using local resources to drive the local economy and stop migration from rural to urban areas. Main result: developed and tested methodology and models of pop-up rural hubs for social innovation and (micro) entrepreneurship.

## CRO SIKE Unit

VERN' was one of the project partners, collaborating in all phases of the project development and implementation especially on the Island of Vis. There were ten different projects developed and implemented by students through the project.

### Services provided

- > Mentoring
- > Networking & exchange
- > Promotion and dissemination of good practices
- > Case studies

### Lead partner

LAG Međimurski bregi i doli Partners:  
ACT Group  
LAG Škoji  
VERN University  
Križevci College of Agriculture  
Faculty of Organization and Informatics

### Read more

[www.ruralhubs.net](http://www.ruralhubs.net)  
[www.facebook.com/RuralniHubovi](https://www.facebook.com/RuralniHubovi)



## TASTE OF HOME

2018

## ABOUT

The Taste of Home has brought specific cooking and gastronomic as well as language skills of refugees in creating environment for their economic emancipation as a part of their social inclusion and integration. The whole project aimed at presenting specific cooking and gastronomy as well as language skills of refugees in creating environment for their economic emancipation as a part of their social inclusion and integration. The activity has been built as a follow up of previous show-kitchen activities in public and cooking workshops with refugees resulted in initiating cooking social cooperative to be specialized in catering and aiming at opening a restaurant in a near future. Due to a lack of local government support as well as both legal and financial constraints, the project that has raised great public attention had to be closed.

## CRO SIKE Unit

### Services provided

- > Mentoring
- > Networking & exchange
- > Promotion and dissemination of good practices
- > case studies

## DOMAČI VRT (HOME GARDEN)

2018/2019

## ABOUT

Social agricultural cooperative Domači vrt includes Roma and other marginalized groups to labor market through production of ecological vegetables and grains. Promoting participative business models; providing social initiatives with unused public ownership (land, buildings, etc.), equality in job opportunities. We aim to develop a society of tolerant and just relations, conscientious and responsible behavior towards nature and people in the local community. Social cooperative is the ownership of its members and is organized on the basis of participative decision-making; we envisage that the companies of tomorrow will be organized in this way contributing to the systemic changes in the organization of economy and society in general.

## CRO SIKE Unit

Home garden is one of the projects monitored by the Croatian SIKE Unit. During this process we maintained a close relationship that allowed us to collaborate in various new initiatives and remain in contact, also informing them about social innovation competitions, e.g. the Sozial Marie SI Award.

### Services provided

- > Mentoring
- > Networking & exchange
- > Promotion and dissemination of good practices
- > case studies



**PARKING-SPOT – VERN’ students ideas**

2018

**ABOUT**

Innovative solution- a mobile application that would allow its users to find a parking space in the closest possible environment and in the shortest possible time. The app would regulate the problem of overcrowding in parking lots and would contribute to creating more organized and efficient traffic, but also raising awareness about traffic culture of the population. Advantages of this app - makes it easier to find parking inside and outside the neighbourhood; provides quick and easy contact with parking space owners, saves time and money (we know in advance where we can park, cheaper parking spaces than city parking spaces), it provides a possibility of comparing prices of various providers and existing parking spaces. It would also track and remember our movements, thus providing suggestions where you can park before reaching the destination.

**CRO SIKE Unit**

This idea was co-designed and co-created using human-centered approach methodology during the SIKE WP4 workshop. SIL and VERN’ provided coaching and facilitated co-design of the prototype.

**Services provided**

- > Coaching
- > Co-design

**Mobile app for refugees – VERN’ students ideas**

2018

**ABOUT**

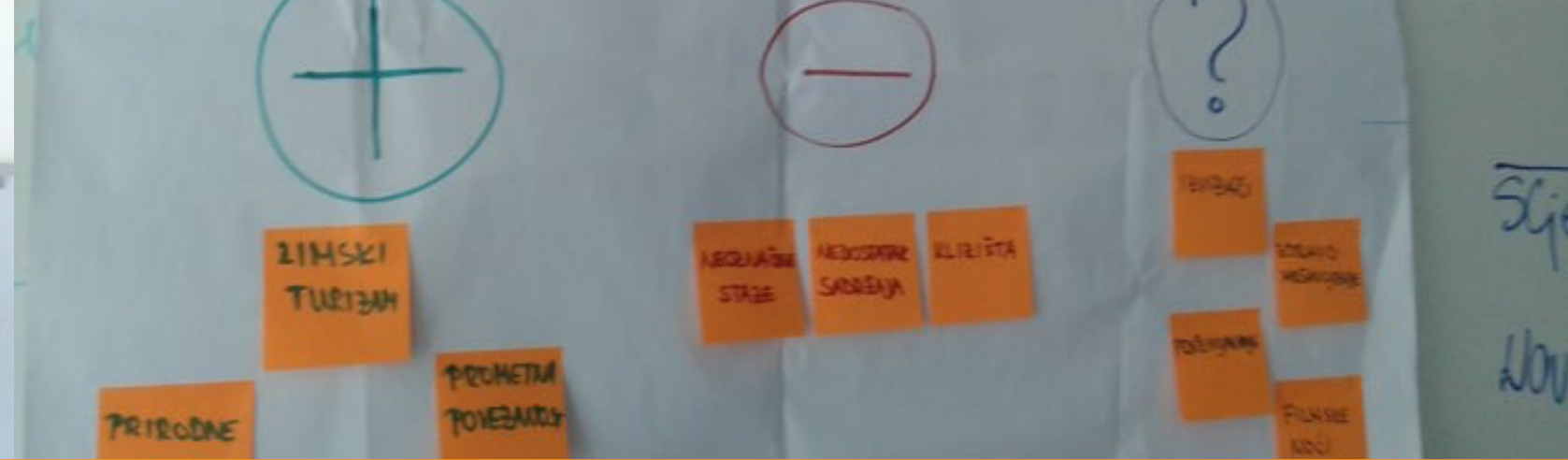
Innovative solution- The application for refugees and migrants in the City of Zagreb who are lacking even basic information that would make their life in the city more livable. Information would be in five languages and would provide information on different opportunities, for example: where to learn Croatian and other languages, food offerings, help with administration and bureaucratic problems, retraining and education, job offers etc.

**CRO SIKE Unit**

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**Services provided**

- > Workshop
- > Coaching
- > Co-design



Pop-up Ilica – Vern' students ideas  
2018

### ABOUT

Innovative solution to the question 'How to increase the use of business premises, start cooperation between entrepreneurs and landlords?' The solution is to establish a non-profit association or an office at the city level that would connect space owners and entrepreneurs/social entrepreneurs. This organization would function in different ways - for private spaces, it would actively work on connecting space owners who actually have no benefits from spaces that 'just stay empty' and only create an ugly image of the city, and young entrepreneurs who have ideas but unfortunately insufficient funds to pay rent or start a business. In such examples, this organisation would facilitate and look for common interests of the mentioned parties and find a way for both parties to be satisfied. As for publicly owned space, those could be rented under favourable conditions, Furthermore, as far as state spaces are concerned, those could be used as 'exhibition' spaces for young entrepreneurs (pop-up store model). This would be a window for them to enter the market on favourable terms. These spaces could also become galleries for young freelance artists but also pop-up stages for musicians or actors.

### CRO SIKE Unit

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#### Services provided

- > Workshop
- > Coaching
- > Co-design

### Mobile app "Sljeme track" - VERN' students ideas

2018/2019

### ABOUT

Innovative solution - How to enable athletes, mountaineers, recreationists and nature lovers in a simple way to navigate and move around Sljeme (Nature Park Medvednica in the vicinity of the City of Zagreb), and at the same time give them useful and interesting information? The solution is a mobile app – Sljeme track. The application would contain georeferenced maps that would use GPS to show the current location in real time. The maps would be classified thematically into different categories, depending on the content marked on them. The categories are for example, hiking trails, cycling paths, mountain lodges and houses, hunting lodges and lodges, sacral objects, caves and springs etc.

### CRO SIKE Unit

This idea was co-designed and co-created using human-centered approach methodology during the SIKE WP4 workshop. SIL and VERN' provided coaching and facilitated co-design of the prototype.

#### Services provided

- > Workshop
- > Coaching
- > Co-design





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