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Dipartimento Territorio e Sistemi Agro-forestali

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Corso di laurea magistrale (MSc)

in Forest Science

“PUBLIC ACTORS IN SOCIAL INNOVATION INITIATIVES IN RURAL AREAS: a preliminary overview with focus on Mediterranean countries”

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Abbreviations and acronyms

BEPA	Bureau of European Policy Adviser
CTC	Conservation Tillage Club
EPSIS	European Public Sector Innovation Scoreboard
EU	European Union
FDCs	Forest-Dependent Communities
FIRA	Trust Funds for Agriculture
INIFAP	National Institute of Forestry, Agricultural, and Livestock Research
PA	Public Actors
SAGARPA	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food
SI	Social Innovation
SIE	Social Innovation Europe
SIMRA	Social Innovation in Marginalized Rural Areas

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RIASSUNTO

In tempi recenti, l'innovazione sociale è stata riconosciuta come uno strumento importante che aiuta ad affrontare una miriade di problemi e sfide della società, in particolare nell'ambito dello sviluppo rurale. Le diverse iniziative intraprese dall'Unione Europea ribadiscono che l'innovazione sociale, tra le varie alternative, è quella che più aiuta a soddisfare in modo efficace le esigenze sociali e promuovere nuove collaborazioni e relazioni sociali tra gli attori. Per quanto riguarda le aree rurali, l'Innovazione Sociale può innescare l'instaurarsi di nuove relazioni, l'emergere di nuovi attori, nuovi mercati e nuovi accordi di governance che alla fine contribuiranno a risolvere problemi complessi come lo spopolamento delle aree rurali, la indisponibilità delle risorse, l'abbandono della terra, l'uso insostenibile delle risorse naturali, eccetera. Sebbene diversi attori pubblici siano spesso coinvolti in iniziative di Innovazione Sociale, supportate dall'impegno fondamentale della società civile, la ricerca attuale non ha investito molti sforzi nell'esplorazione sistematica dei ruoli e dell'influenza delle pubbliche amministrazioni nelle iniziative di innovazione sociale nelle aree rurali marginali. Nella presente tesi è stato adattato un approccio sistematico alla revisione della letteratura, concentrandosi su aspetti e parole chiave come l'innovazione; l'innovazione nelle aree rurali nei settori dell'agricoltura, silvicoltura e nell'ambito dello sviluppo rurale; la capacità degli attori pubblici ad esempio statali nel sostenere l'innovazione nelle aree rurali; il tipo di relazione che esiste tra gli attori pubblici statali o locali e le popolazioni rurali. Questi aspetti sono considerati nell'analisi di una serie di esempi. La metodologia adottata nell'approccio a questo studio e nel fornire risposte alle domande di ricerca include: a) una revisione sistematica della letteratura, basata sull'uso di una serie di combinazioni di parole chiave cercate sul database SCOPUS; tale ricerca è stata anche arricchita con alcune interessanti documenti derivanti dalla letteratura grigia; b) un'analisi qualitativa del contenuto dei siti web delle iniziative di innovazione sociale situate nei paesi del Mediterraneo, così come elencati nel database validato del progetto SIMRA su iniziative di innovazione sociale distribuite in Europa, Nord Africa e Vicino Oriente. Dai risultati, pochissima letteratura ha esplorato i ruoli che gli attori pubblici hanno assunto nelle iniziative di innovazione sociale nei paesi del Mediterraneo. Quanto finora disponibile risulta principalmente incentrato sulla partecipazione degli attori privati (in particolare della società civile), sulle implicazioni delle politiche pubbliche e sull'imprenditoria sociale. Inoltre, è apparso evidente che gli attori pubblici appartenenti a livello internazionale, nazionale, regionale e locale svolgono ruoli diversi nelle diverse fasi delle iniziative, ad esempio come promotori di alcune iniziative, oppure nel networking e nella diffusione di conoscenze.

ABSTRACT

In recent times, social innovation (SI) has been recognized as an important tool that helps to tackle a myriad of societal problems and challenges, especially rural development. The different initiatives taken by the European Union reiterates that Social Innovation among other alternatives helps to more effectively meet social needs and foster new collaborations and social relationships. With respect to rural areas, Social Innovation can trigger the establishment of new relations, the emergence of new actors, markets, and new governance arrangements that eventually contributes to solving problems such as, depopulation of rural areas, unavailability of resources, land abandonment, unsustainable use of resources, et cetera. Even though, different actors are often involved in Social Innovation initiatives, supported by the pivotal engagement of civil societies, current research puts less effort in systematically exploring the roles and influence of public actors in social innovation initiatives in marginalized rural areas. A systematized approach to literature review was adapted, focussing on key issues like innovation; innovation initiatives in the rural areas as relating to Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Development; public or state actors' capacities in supporting innovation in the rural areas; the kind of relationship that exists between the state agents and the rural people, and combining them with case study analysis. The Methodology adopted in approaching this study and to provide answers to research questions included; a) a systematized review of literatures found after applying series of keyword combinations on the SCOPUS database, which was also enriched with some interesting Grey literatures; b) a qualitative content analysis of the websites of Social Innovation initiatives located in the Mediterranean countries as listed on the SIMRA validated database of Social Innovation initiatives in Europe and North Africa. From the findings, there were very few literatures that have explored the systemic roles Public Actors have undertaken in the initiatives in the Mediterranean countries. Most focused on the participation of civil actors, impact of public policies and social entrepreneurship. Also, it was discovered that public actors belonging to International, National, Regional, and local levels play varying roles in the different phases of initiatives, with the most profound being promoters of initiatives.

1. INTRODUCTION

The most prevailing view of innovation considering the dominant role of firms in most societies and economies, is one that overwhelmingly focusses on one organizational form, which is the for-profit organizations. This view sees innovation as the processes through which value (economic value) is created and appropriated by firms in the climate of unmet market needs (Jacobides et al., 2006). But it is safe to say that this view is a very narrow one because there are different facets to the problems of the society and therefore different approaches to solving them, which then brings us to the concept of social innovation.

The concept of social innovation describes a phenomenon that is as old as human history itself, but not until about two decades ago did the term begin to receive more attention and hence studied (Pol, 2009; Hochgerner, 2012). Nowadays, there is a growing attention being given to Social Innovation by policy makers, research community, as a way to cope with the significant challenges that societies are facing now and will face in the future. Such attention is being driven by new projects, joint actions, initiatives, and efforts to establish innovation (Howaldt et al., 2014). Examples are the European Union initiatives; Social Innovation Europe initiative (SIE), European Public Sector Innovation Scoreboard (EPSIS) and Innobarometer. Over the years the concept of social innovation and its practical applications have continued to develop and take various approaches.

In whatever approach to social innovation, there seems to be a system of new relations that is developed, the emergence of new actors, markets, and new governance arrangements that could eventually contribute to solving problems. New relations and governance arrangements between the rural areas and public actors can help to tackle major issues being faced by these rural areas. Social innovation fostering collaborations between the public bodies and the citizens concerned have contributed to a significant decrease in the traditional command and control approach to social policy making and implementation, and increase in the participatory governance (bottom-up) approach in tackling social issues. This means we see more changes from “government to governance” which for example is evident in the public management reforms of most European countries, such as, agencification, competition, decentralization, subsidiarity, and citizens empowerment” (Kjær, 2004, pp. 19–58). Most often, SI initiatives in the society are supported by public bodies or actors and companies, NGOs and other actors of civil society (Pradel et al, 2014). This obviously is in different capabilities and scales, which also depends on the target groups. Different roles of actors have been conceptualized as seen in Terstriep et al., (2015), but we should note that there is a thin line between the different categories of actors and their roles, and depending on the SI initiative and scope, it is possible for actors to have more than one role which is subject to change over time.

Background findings point to the fact that most current research put less effort in the systematic exploration of the roles of public actors in social innovation initiatives in rural areas, which then created a justification for carrying out this study. Exploring the roles and influence of public actors in social innovation will go a long way in helping us to understand how effective their involvement has been, how their involvement has affected the success of such innovation, and in what capacities they act or have acted. In this case, public actor is defined as a person (i.e. regional forester, a local politician, civil servant, etc.) or an

organization working in behalf of a governmental body (e.g. state forest service, municipality, public enterprise, etc.).

Notwithstanding, reviewing relevant literatures by a systematized approach, and analysing the information collected from initiatives' websites, this work will try to delineate and show the different public actors and the roles can undertake and their influence in the processes of social innovation as it relates to forestry, agriculture, and rural development. Agriculture and forestry being important sources of livelihood for rural communities, social innovation tends to be the bridge that connects these two with rural development, by advancing the efficiency of rural development initiatives that ensures collective participation in rural areas. Therefore, it is important that we put these into perspective.

1.1 General Objectives

This thesis aims to explore the roles of public actors in social innovation initiatives in rural areas, with focus on Mediterranean countries.

1.1.1. Specific Objectives

SQ1: To identify the public actors that are mostly involved in SI initiatives in rural areas.

SQ2: To investigate the roles of public actors in social innovation initiatives in rural areas.

1.2. Research Questions

The following questions were considered in order to be able to reach the research objectives:

RQ1: Which public actors are involved in the social innovations initiatives?

RQ2: What levels of influence do public actors have over the different SI initiative phases?

1.3. Thesis Structure

This part contains the logical thesis structure, and a brief explanation of the contents of each section. The thesis contains 5 main sections:

Preceding the first chapter was an abstract, which gave a short summary of the study. It showed the justification, focus of the study, and the main analytical tool used.

Chapter 1 contains an introduction into the study. It highlights the importance of social innovation and why it is necessary to try to delineate the specific roles, and influences of public actors on social innovation initiatives. This is followed by the objectives of the study, (general and specific objectives), and the research questions.

Chapter 2 presents the literature review which gives insights into development of the term innovation, and hence social innovation according to the different studies that were recognized to be relevant to the objectives of this study via SCOPUS search, and therefore selected. This will help to identify the state of research work in the sphere of this study, and

a justification of why it is important to investigate the specific roles of public actors in social innovation.

In chapter 3, the research methodology is presented. It contains information about the data used, methods used for data collection, and the tools used to generate results.

Chapter 4 presents the results of analysis and a discussion of the implications, bearing in mind the specific objectives highlighted in Chapter 1. This allows to know the importance and possible contributions of this study. Chapter 5 contains conclusion and recommendation.

Following Chapter 5 is the list of references and annexes. Annexes were created for list of selected literatures (from both Scopus and grey literatures) used for Chapter 2, and information collected from content analysis.

2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

This chapter consists of three subdivisions. Firstly, the need for social innovation, the much-contested concepts of social innovation, and various definitions from different schools of thought are presented

Secondly, the Stages of Social Innovation are briefly discussed. This was necessary because the roles that actors perform could be stage-specific and also overlapping. Thus, presenting a precursor in understanding and seeing clearly how the roles of Public Actors affect the outcomes of Social Innovation initiatives.

Thirdly, the roles and influence of public actors in Social Innovation initiatives in rural areas (in relation to Agriculture, Forestry and Rural development) as have been explored by selected literatures (Scopus and grey literatures) are discussed. Research gaps are also identified. Included in this section is a brief discussion on how forestry and agriculture can be interwoven and beneficial in the process of social innovation, which eventually leads to development in the rural areas.

2.1. Concept of Social Innovation

Numerous schools of thought exist when it comes to defining innovation, with each of them giving special importance to different aspect and use of the term. The concept of innovation research takes its root from the Schumpeter “Theory of Economic Development” publication (Schumpeter, 1964). Innovation was seen as main function of the entrepreneur, which entails a new combination of factors of production to achieve economic development which in turn establishes a new production function.

Over the years, the concept of social innovation has gained more attention in the academic community due to increasing political and economic interests and its importance in discovering new possibilities for addressing social problems and much needed social change. (Franz, Hochgerner and Howaldt, 2012; Moulaert et al., 2013).

In the view of Caulier-Grice et al., (2012), the concept of social innovation is different across all fields, and therefore multidisciplinary and is embodied with a diversity of meanings. After a review of different streams of literatures that tied to capture the different perspectives through which social innovation is viewed, Choi and Majumdar (2014) came up with the following; ‘sociological perspective, creativity research perspective, entrepreneurship perspective, welfare economics perspective, practice-led perspective, community psychology perspective, and territorial development perspective’.

Choi and Majumdar (2014), favoured the sociological perspective due to its importance in advancing the concepts of social practices that eventually leads to social evolution or change. Social change in this context is seen as a way to achieve “far-reaching changes in the society that can either be socially desirable or not, rather than focussing on the economic well-being and improvement of the standard of living of people”

In the recent past, attempts have been made to consolidate the different views and concepts, and examples of social innovation. This is evident in the work of Murray, et al., (2010), called the “Open Book of Social Innovation”. This work has had a dominant impact in the discussion

of social innovation in Europe. There are criticisms expressed by some authors about the unclear definition of the concept of 'social'. Hence, a lack of consensus regarding the meaning and understanding of the concept of social innovation (Pol and Ville, 2009: 878). There have been recent efforts to find an overarching definition of the term 'social' while taking cognizance of the different 'social issues' in different parts of the world (Anderson et al, 2014). And this is based on the recognition of the fact that these terms might likely not have the same meaning across continents and cultures (for example; Native Indians, or even Africa). This then calls for efforts to define universal indicators of social challenges that will allow for a near application of same approaches of social innovation to similar social problems across continents and cultures. Notwithstanding, an innovation can generally be viewed as social when it is socially desirable and its advantages can be spread throughout the society, for the benefits of all (Howaldt et al., 2016).

The Open Book of Social innovation, as well as the Bureau of European Policy Adviser (BEPA, 2010) described social innovation as new products, services, and models which helps to meet social needs, and at the same time establishes new social cooperation. These innovations are considered beneficial for the society and they improve the society's ability to find solution to their needs.

As described by Polman et al., (2017) for the SIMRA project, "Social innovation is the reconfiguring of social practices, in response to societal challenges, which seeks to enhance outcomes on societal well-being and necessarily includes the engagement of civil society actors". New governance arrangements are expected to develop in the SI process (Polman, 2002). And this according to Secco et al. (2017; D4.2) refers to the roles public authorities undertake to support local stakeholders in the reconfiguration process of social practices that results from Social Innovation, thus becoming a part of both internal and external networks.

Furthermore, Phills et al., (2008) described Social Innovation as "the process of inventing, gaining support for, and implementing unique solutions to social needs and problems", such unique solutions could be "new products, processes of production, modern technologies, or social movements", it is also possible that a single innovation combines all such unique solutions.

While European Union policy perspective see the concept as what is instrumental in responding to the need for cohesion of a society, which is an objective for public policy as well as civil society initiatives (European Commission, 2013).

Having established the fact that social innovation initiatives are most often directed towards solving societal needs and challenges, instead of focusing on monetary gains, the Bureau of European Policy Advisers (2010: 26) tried to delineate levels of the society on which SI output can be imparted. Following their lines of thought,

- Social Innovation should benefit vulnerable groups of a society whose social needs are ordinarily not addressed by the existing market structures and institutions. Examples of such vulnerable groups are; minorities or local indigenous people groups, women, People with intellectual and physical disabilities, Long-term unemployed (low qualified local residents and migrants), Offenders (local people with criminal records and are finding it difficult to reintegrate with the society, Elders (old people with difficulty in mobility), et cetera (Secco et al, 2017; D4.2)

- Social Innovation makes it possible to solve societal problem that are closely linked with economic challenges and, by establishing new relations among social actors.
- Social Innovation enables participatory atmosphere, where knowledge is imparted for the purpose of educating members of the society on the need to improve their overall well-being.

At this juncture, it is important to note that social innovation should be ‘intentional and goal-oriented’ (Caijaba-Santana 2014, p. 44). Intentional in the sense that an unplanned or by-chance change, would not qualify as social innovation even if it is beneficial, and such intentions should be accompanied by broad impacts or change.

2.2. Stages of Innovation

The stages involved in social innovation usually involved different stakeholders, among which are public actors. The SIMRA Evaluation Framework by Secco et al., (2017) as presented under Deliverables 4.2 (D4.2) categorizes the stages of SI into 3, and the kind of interaction that ensues among different network of actors. These are; a) Social Innovation Process, b) Social Innovation Project, c) Social Innovation Effects.

- a) **SI Process:** it starts with the emergence of social ideas based on individual or collective social needs (perceived context dimension), followed by the conglomeration/cooperation of actors and stakeholders otherwise referred to as agents (agency dimension), and then formation of certain kinds of social networks around common ideas in finding solutions to the previously identified needs or problems which eventually leads to the reconfiguration social practices (i.e. new governance arrangements). As pointed out by Secco et al., (2017; D4.2), the unfolding of SI process as a whole is usually conditioned by sectors, geographical characteristics, policy and socio-economic situations (Polman et al., 2017, D2.1; Kluvánková et al., 2017, D2.2; and Ludvig et al., 2017, D6.1).
- b) **SI Project:** After the above initial process comes the project implementation stage itself, which involves the use of inputs, carrying out activities, and getting the results i.e., outputs. Such inputs and activities can include the use of both tangible and intangible resources, example; seeds, training, renovation of building, information dissemination, academic research, provision of raw materials, et cetera.
- c) **SI Effects:** This stage has to do with the impacts that outcomes of innovation have on both direct and indirect beneficiaries, as it affects the economic, social, environmental contexts. Such impacts could either be negative or positive, which in turn determines the sustainability of the initiative. Direct beneficiaries most often involve the participants of the projects or the immediate locality within which the initiative was implemented. Indirect beneficiaries can exist both within and outside the locality where the initiative took place, and they get involved once advancement and expansion of the Social Innovation has taken place (Secco et al., 2017; D4.2).

To further examine the position of other authors, the stages of innovation have been divided into different phases, these are; innovation generation, innovation adoption, and innovation diffusion.

- **Innovation Generation:** can be defined as a series of actions or steps taken, resulting into an outcome which is new to an organization (formal or informal) or a population of people (Damanpour and Schneider, 2009: 497).
- **Innovation Adoption:** is a process in which an organization uses an innovation knowledge to form its perception towards such innovation and consequently decides to adopt or reject it, if accepted, then it is implemented (Rogers, 2003: 20).
- **Innovation Diffusion:** occurs by a process of communicating innovation ideas among members of an organization or a community through certain mediums over a period of time (Rogers, 2003: 5)

2.3. Roles of Public Actors in Social Innovation Initiatives in Rural Areas: Forestry, Agriculture, and Rural development

Due to an increase in institutional and political support for bioeconomy, and the realization that forests play important social and ecological roles in forest-dependent communities (FDCs), forest resources now have greater potentials for innovations and businesses that are socially desirable and profitable. (Winkel, 2017; Živojinović et al., 2017; Ludvig et al., 2017). Even though, forest sector innovation most often focusses on the technological and business processes, and less on social activities (Rametsteiner and Weiss, 2006), social innovation still serves as the bridge that connects agriculture and forestry with rural development, because these two elements serve as important sources of livelihood for forest-related rural communities (Elands and Wiersum, 2001). Therefore, it is expected that there be a strong influence of public actors in forestry-related innovation initiatives in the rural areas.

With regards to rural development, rural communities have in the recent past been faced with much difficulties in coping with evolving economic and financial crises, vis-à-vis climate change (Di Iacovo et al. 2014). Many literatures have then focussed on the fact that the process of development in the rural areas is dependent on local resources (forest and agriculture) and cultural resources (social cooperation, strong social and communal fabrics) exploitations, while taking environmental issues into cognizance (van der Ploeg et al., 2002; Ray 1998; Lowe et al., 1995).

To achieve sustainability in social innovation, emphasis have been placed on encouraging deliberate involvement of actors in socio-ecological transformations as a way to tackle the increasing threats from global changes in the environment and climate (O'Brien 2012, Future Earth 2014). Social innovation often times brings transformative changes that are socio-ecological and are considered radical breaks from the previously considered normal ways of doing things (status quo). This kind of disruptive social innovation can successfully thrive and grow when supported by institutional resources and relevant stakeholders, thereby helping to strengthen the initiatives and achieve desired societal changes (Westley et al. 2011, Moore et al. 2014).

Schmitz and Scoones (2015), as well as Newell (2015) also agree on the need for alliances of public actors and stakeholders because dominant changes in current systems are greatly influenced by powerful actors and institutions who controls a wide resource base, thus making coalition the easier road to alternative pathways that are functionally attainable.

To show the different roles that public actors can play in an agricultural social innovation initiative, a look at the Conservation Tillage Club (CTC) in the Chiapas area of Mexico is in order. This was a farmers' organization formed for the purpose of responding to vulnerabilities they are being exposed to as a result of changing Agricultural Policies in Mexico (Díaz-José et al., 2018). It sought to encourage Sustainable Agricultural practices among members and to seek support from different actors that helps to expand production capacity. The actors involved with this initiative were government departments, universities, research institutes, and private organizations, which served the roles of providing agricultural inputs and financial supports to the farmers. Díaz-José et al., (2018) also pointed out the group's activity was coordinated by an extension agent who served as the guide in knowledge creation, and also as liaison between the group and the external public actors. Also, trust and active participation between group members, as well as with external actors was the pillar of their organizational model.

The table below (own summarization) is presented in order to further delineate the specific roles of public actors in the Conservation Tillage Club initiative as highlighted by Díaz-José et al., (2018).

Table 2.1. Roles of Actors in CTC Initiative of Chiapas, Mexico (Díaz-José et al., 2018)

Actors	Kind of Support	Motive for Support	Method
National Institute of Forestry, Agricultural, and Livestock Research (INIFAP)	Transfer of new technologies and knowledge	Testing of maize varieties	Field days, diagnostic studies, and use of experimental plots
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA)	Cash incentives to encourage mulching of farm residues instead of burning	Conservation and minimum tillage	Participatory workshops and seminars
Trust Funds for Agriculture (FIRA)	Loans and Credits	To financially support the advancement of Agricultural Production	Field day visits
Seed Businesses/Private Sector	Provision of free seed samples	Encouraging farmers to use hybrid seeds	Field demonstrations

Similarly, social innovation in the parlance of forest governance is defined as “the process in which the relationships between state actors, market actors, civil societies and science are reconfigured, which then facilitates a shift from authoritative state to participatory forest governance to better meet the concerns of local people on the use of ecosystem services”

(Sarkki et al., 2019). Thus, it further reinstates the fact that social innovation creates new systems of relation and governance capacity among actors

The kind of actors that are mostly involved in social innovation of the forest-dependent communities in the rural areas include; the local community members, land owners, farmers, and public actors such as forest commissions or agencies, national, regional or municipal development agencies, government financial institutions, research institutions, et cetera (Kluvánková et al., 2018). Their roles and influences are mostly affected by the institutional framework within which they operate, which could be formal, semi-formal, or informal institutions (Fairbairn, 2017).

In the work of Kluvánková et al., (2018), the development trajectories of SI in rural areas, especially the forest-dependent communities were analysed. This was done by the empirical analysis of the validated Social Innovation initiatives in the SIMRA database, which mostly contains over 200 Social Innovation examples in the rural areas of Mediterranean countries and other parts of Europe (Bryce et al., 2017). The roles of actors are determined by formal or informal institutional framework within which they operate. According to Kluvánková et al., (2018), most public actors belonged to formal institutions, which with their cooperation and participation in rural areas social innovation leads to capacity building of local participants, networking, knowledge transfer, social practice adoption in other areas, and connection of local initiatives to higher programs.

In the work of Wilkes-Allemann and Ludvig (2019) the focus was on the use of forest resources in two selected rural areas of Switzerland for recreation purposes; such as making biking trails and hunting. Social innovation helped to bring about a lasting conflict resolution between stakeholders such as forest owners, farmers, bikers association, hunting organization, et cetera. In these processes of social innovation of both case studies, the public actors involved were forest departments, environmental protection agency, hunting department, spatial planning department, municipalities, representatives of local district offices, and transportation agency. Their roles aside from being landowners and in conflict resolution facilitated by municipal authorities included, facilitating a conducive environment for negotiation between public and private stakeholders, funding of trail construction projects and its maintenance, trail construction and inspection, et cetera.

In exploring SI and actors' involvement in forest-dependent communities, Sarkki et al., (2019) preferred to take the approach of Socio-Ecological Systems (SES) and how the people involved serve as the catalyst for Social Innovation and are also responsible for its success. Because values that people associate with SES is determined by ecosystem services, SI should concurrently meet both social and economic interests. In their view, forest-dependent communities are areas not only dependent on forest resources for their survival or benefits received from forest ecosystem, but also living within it and having access and property rights to it. Sarkki et al., (2019) presented rural case studies, in which how public actors were involved in SI initiatives could be explored by inductive reasoning. Due to conflict that often arises between local stakeholders and public actors in how resources are managed, co-management (new form of governance relation) is sometimes adopted in SI in rural areas, which inherently improves the level of trust among actors. Such was the case of Muonio, Northern Finland. Co-management arrangement between the local stakeholders and state forestry enterprise (public actor) in the management of recreational activities initiatives (SI)

in their forests. Under this arrangement, decision-making is done by participatory approach through argumentation and planning is the sole responsibility of the state forestry enterprise. It is important to note that even though the state owns the majority of forests in Northern Finland, the people have strong usage claim to forest resources (Sarkki and Karjalainen, 2015), unlike other European countries where the state or government has more power and influence on the public goods. Another example that involved co-management in SI initiatives was the case of Lochcarron community in Scotland. The SI emerged as a way to create employment and housing opportunities, skill enhancement and cultural heritage for the local people. Due to the large number of private ownerships of woodland in Lochcarron (Wightman, 2013), such management plan was agreed upon between the community and Forestry commission (public actors).

In the last few years, global attention to environmental sustainability has significantly increased, which in turn is leading to a growing interest in innovations that promote sustainable development, and with much more emphasis on governance initiatives based on the involvement of communities Rover et al., (2016). Furthermore, Neumeier (2012) reiterated that the absence of social innovation inhibits the vitality and further development of rural areas, and that “social innovation is the foundation of sustainable rural development”.

3. METHODOLOGY

A systematized approach to review (Literature review) was utilized in this study. This allowed for a comprehensive and focussed search while bearing the element of systematicity. Also, it allowed one to demonstrate an awareness of the whole process and technical proficiency in the component steps (Maria and Andrew, 2009). This kind of review can be used as a steppingstone for a more extensive research work or project.

Systematized review mostly bears the elements of a systematic review process, but with certain flexibilities (Maria and Andrew, 2009). Which includes the options of; doing a comprehensive search or not, doing a quality assessment or not, presenting a narrative of search results either with tabular representations or not, et cetera. The methodology in this section included incorporated such elements of systematic review.

Scopus database was searched for relevant publications/papers/books/journals on certain keywords and combinations.

3.1. Scopus Search Strategies

For the purpose of reviewing literatures and researching how the elements of the topic of interest have been previously researched in the academic and scientific sphere, the Scopus data base search was carried out between the months of June - July 2019. The Scopus platform contains an extensive amount of scientific publications, articles, papers, reports and journals. Specific keywords combinations were selected while including a moderate number of synonyms for public and actors. The second combinations of keywords were developed due to the fact that if all the string of keywords had been used only in the first combination, the search platform would have cut at it at some point (too long combinations). This was to ensure that the search was not streamlined, also making sure that the possibility of missing out on important literatures where different synonyms have been used was avoided. Additionally, the search was not limited to the Mediterranean context but worldwide. To develop the list of keywords and synonyms, these important base elements were used:

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \bullet \text{ Agriculture} \\ \bullet \text{ Forest} \\ \bullet \text{ Rural Development} \end{array} \right] + \text{Public Actors} + \text{Social Innovation}$$

The Boolean operators (AND, OR) which allows for combining different search queries were used, with double quotation marks and wild cards (*) around the root words in order to ensure the inclusion of approximate phrases and different word context.

Using the above base elements and synonyms of public and actors, the following keywords combinations were developed and were inputted on Scopus:

First Combination

- "Social* Innovat*" AND ("Public" OR "State" OR "Government*") ("Actor*" OR "Agen*" OR "Bod*" OR "Official*" OR "Emplo*" OR "Worker*" OR "Representative*" OR "Bureaucrat*" OR "Organi*" OR "Enterprise*" OR "Department*") AND "Agricultur*"
- "Social* Innovat*" AND ("Public" OR "State" OR "Government*") ("Actor*" OR "Agen*" OR "Bod*" OR "Official*" OR "Emplo*" OR "Worker*" OR "Representative*" OR "Bureaucrat*" OR "Organi*" OR "Enterprise*" OR "Department*") AND "Forest*"
- "Social* Innovat*" AND ("Public" OR "State" OR "Government*") ("Actor*" OR "Agen*" OR "Bod*" OR "Official*" OR "Emplo*" OR "Worker*" OR "Representative*" OR "Bureaucrat*" OR "Organi*" OR "Enterprise*" OR "Department*") AND "Rural Develop*"

Second Combination

- "Social* Innovat*" AND ("Public" OR "State" OR "Government*") ("Institut*" OR "Stakeholders*" OR "Admin*" OR "Partners*" OR "Advocate*" OR "Player*") AND "Agricultur*"
- "Social* Innovat*" AND ("Public" OR "State" OR "Government*") ("Institut*" OR "Stakeholders*" OR "Admin*" OR "Partners*" OR "Advocate*" OR "Player*") AND "Forest*"
- "Social* Innovat*" AND ("Public" OR "State" OR "Government*") ("Institut*" OR "Stakeholders*" OR "Admin*" OR "Partners*" OR "Advocate*" OR "Player*") AND "Rural Develop*"

3.2. Eligibility Criteria

The criteria for selecting literatures from the search results were based on 4 factors:

- Language – only studies written and published in English were selected.
- Year of publication – all years option was chosen so as to allow the possibilities of capturing a wide array of relevant studies.
- Disciplines chosen – studies belonging to the following disciplines in the search criteria were selected; Social Sciences; Economics, Econometrics and Finance; Environmental Science, Agricultural and Biological Sciences.
- the abstracts were read to determine whether their contents were applicable and relevant to the study. If a study was not providing enough information for the purpose of this work, it was excluded. Further thinning of the selected literatures was done after reading through the text. In doing this, the elements that were looked out for includes;

presence of the word social innovation, public actors and/ its synonyms, contribution, influence, and involvement of public actors and/ its synonyms to social innovation. In addition, duplicates were removed, as some literatures appeared in more than one keywords combination search.

Although this study was based on a systematized review, the 'Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses' (PRISMA) approach (Moher et al., 2009) summarily presents the outcome of the Scopus search as follows:

The results of the Scopus search yielded 57 Journals/articles in total. After applying the fourth eligibility criteria, the total selected literatures equalled 20.

3.3. Data Collection

To be able to answer the research questions, a deductive approach and quantitative survey method was initially planned to be used

Information/Data was collected from the Social Innovation in Marginalized Rural Areas (SIMRA) database on social innovation initiatives (<http://www.simra-h2020.eu/index.php/simradatabase/>) which contains examples of SI in Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Development in Mediterranean countries.

From 212 previously identified initiatives on SIMRA database, the contact emails of 205 initiatives were obtained. It is important to note that the SIMRA database initially did not contain the emails and direct contact information of the initiatives due to privacy protection regulations. Because of this reason, it took about 6 weeks to complete the emails and contact search of the initiatives. Other information that were acquired were telephone contacts, physical addresses, alternative web addresses, fax numbers, and year of initiatives. To be able to do this, each initiative was searched on the World Wide Web, Research Gate, and social media platforms like Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter.

The initiatives database was developed and validated by Bryce et al., (2017; D3.2), and published in spring 2017. The initiatives were validated as "as fitting the definitions of Social Innovation and Marginalised Rural Areas, and assessed by members of the Social Innovation think Tank" (Górriz-Mifsud et al., 2018; D5.1). The list of these initiatives was provided by Perth College, UK, which was in charge of the creation and maintenance of the SIMRA database within the SIMRA project. These initiatives were developed in different European countries and parts of North Africa, and by implication, different languages. In searching through the websites of initiatives not in English, Google Translator was used in translating them into English so as to allow for adequate information extraction.

A short, structured questionnaire with closed-multiple choice and open-ended questions was used for additional data collection (find attached in annex 3). This work was done in conjunction and collaboration with Todora Rogelja and Ivana Zivojinovic as part of their respective PhD thesis work. The questionnaire contained five parts. The first part was the introduction, where a short description of the research was presented, as well as information about the research team. The next part contained questions (7) about the particular initiative and public actors. These include; name, origin, and phase of initiative, et cetera. The third

part was the involvement of public actors and contained questions (8) about level, sector, and public organization actors belonged to; importance of public actors' involvement; communication; trust; and level of influence of public actors, et cetera. The fourth part covered questions (6) regarding whether initiatives had any contribution to ecosystem services. This part on ecosystem services although very important, it is not relevant to the present study on public actors in Social Innovation initiatives in rural areas. Fifth part, which is the ending section contained only 2 questions asking the respondent to share additional comments or opinions, and to indicate whether they were interested in receiving the results of the research. The questionnaire was developed in English language and then translated into Italian, French, Spanish, Slovenian, and German languages, this was to ensure that respondents from different countries were able to respond in their native languages. With the help of Survey Monkey platform, the questionnaire was disseminated to the contacts of the initiatives via email. Due to the nature of the study, data expected to be obtained were nominal (what public actors are involved in Social Innovation) and ordinal (the level of influence, trust and control public actors have over Social Innovation initiatives). These kinds of data require Non-parametric test for analysis.

After the questionnaire had been sent to respondents, a late and limited response rate was recorded; out of the 186 contacted initiatives, only 12 late response was gotten- i.e., 12.4% of the total contacted initiatives. And therefore, the initially planned analysis was not possible. This necessitated the shift into another type of analysis called the "Qualitative Content Analysis". Some of the possible reasons for this kind of response rate can be due to the following; request for filling in the online questionnaire sent out in holidays months (summer period), low capacities of the Social Innovation initiatives of providing feedback due to a deficiency in the way they were structured, expired initiatives' website domain/non-functional emails, limited interest in the research process, biased interest in the results of the initiatives, et cetera.

3.4 Content Analysis

The process employed here is called qualitative 'content analysis'. Taking a cue from Mayring (2000), qualitative content analysis is a research approach for systematically analysing texts from sources that contains not only direct information, but also includes useful core ideas and themes which might have been passively presented (latent content). This allows one to make valid references and inferences from texts (Krippendorff, 2004, p. 18).

To be able to answer the research questions, a deductive approach and content analysis of the websites of initiatives was used. A framework in the form of a table was developed by investigating Social Innovation initiatives in the Mediterranean countries already identified in the SIMRA database, during which 111 initiatives were identified in total. The websites of these initiatives were critically explored to be able to extract from them; name of initiative, public actors involved in the initiatives, number of public actors, year of initiative, country of initiative, information about involvement/categories of public actors (level, sector, and organization), short description of the initiative, roles that public actors undertook, funding mechanism of the initiative, and website of initiatives (see results in annex 2). These headings were selected because they were important and mostly had direct implications for answering the research questions, and as a consequence, meeting the objectives of the study. The

categories of public actors included in the framework were divided by Level in which they operate, Sector they belonged to, and Organization they belonged to. Level (International/ Regional/ National/Local); Sector (Forestry / Agriculture and food / Rural development / Tourism / Energy / Nature protection / Social services / Public administration / Other; Organization (Ministry / Municipality / Inspectorate / Public agency / Public enterprise / Public institute / Public university / Public school).

To shed more light on the categories of public actors by organization, the following short description of the terms are presented.

A) Public Agency - In the SIRMA evaluation framework done by Secco et al., (2017; D4.2), agency "refers to the capacity of Social Innovation-agents to effect transformative change" (Haxeltine et al., 2016:23), which is determined by their abilities to "modify, eliminate, or create new institutions, and ultimately a new social system" (Cajaiba-Santana, 2014:47). Public agency then refers simply to capacity of Social Innovation-agents to effect transformative change which is backed by governmental authority. Following the line of thought of Sewell (1992:20) and as cited by Secco et al., (2017: D4.2), public agents backed with governmental authorities are empowered in such a way that they can either "act with or against others by structures", and they have access to varying degrees of human and non-human resources (such non-human resources can either be tangible or intangible).

B) Public Enterprise – Simply put, it is a business organization wholly or partly owned by the state and controlled through a public authority. Examples of such includes; electricity generating enterprise, television or radio broadcasting services, telecommunications, et cetera.

From the available information on the websites of initiatives, the different kind of roles public actors played were identified and put into 6 different categories:

- PLANNING
- IMPLEMENTATION/ADMINISTRATION/COORDINATION
- ADVISORY/REGULATORY SUPPORT
- INFRASTRUCTURE/RESOURCES/KNOWLEDGE
- NETWORKING/PROMOTION/KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER
- FUNDING

3.5. Study Area

The study focussed on the Social Innovation initiatives in the Mediterranean countries. These includes countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea and the ones having the Mediterranean climate. The Mediterranean has specific features, which includes: a climate of hot dry summers and humid, cool winters, a generally hilly landscape, and very rich biodiversity with some not existing anywhere else. The SIMRA database study area focussed on both the Mediterranean basin and Northern European countries, but attention was only given to initiatives in the Mediterranean regions in this study.



<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Mediterranean+Sea/>

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The table attached in annex 1 shows the result of systematic Scopus research using six (6) combinations of keywords and synonyms:

4.1. Scientific Interest in the Topic

From the results of the survey of scientific articles, there were lots of research done in the sphere of social innovation in relation to rural development between 2016-2017, as can be seen by the high number of citations of literatures that talked about social innovation and rural development (46 citations in 2016 and 10 citations in 2017). This could have been as a result of increased realization that social innovation plays a vital role in development in the rural areas, which is also supported by the inculcation of social innovation strategies in policies and funding geared towards rural development in Europe (Caulier-Grice et al., 2012), vis-à-vis South America.

In the time period of 2016-2019, a steady increase can be seen in the number publications exploring Social Innovation in rural areas, with predominant attention to Agriculture, Forestry, and rural development. The keyword combinations with "Agriculture" and "Forestry" yielded more results than rural development, and represents more than half of the total number of the articles selected. It is worthy of note that SIMRA project has played a very important role in helping to increase the literatures on the theme of this topic. This is evident in the fact that many of the papers available on Social Innovation in MRAs and/or on forestry come from a Special Issue of the Journal Forest Policy and Economics published between 2018 and 2019 with contributions based on the Horizon2020 SIMRA project.

Most of the publications in these periods paid more attention to the involvement of local stakeholders, civil society organizations and the fact that the institutional frameworks within which actors operate usually have significant influence on their level of involvements in Social Innovation initiatives in the rural areas. Additionally, it is important to note that the specific roles public actors that were involved in the initiatives identified by Bryce et al., (2017) were not properly delineated by Kluvánková et al., (2018). Also, more emphasis was laid on the civil societies being the central nodes of the Social Innovation initiatives of the forest-dependent communities Kluvánková et al., Pp. 5, (2018). Even from the approach of Polman et al (2017) used in the SIMRA project, the reconfiguration of social practices and relations in SI is seen to mainly revolve around civil society actors as the key players, and less on public actors. This in essence seems to be a not so broad view when development in rural areas is the focus of SI, which ultimately requires the involvement of public actors. So as to allow for such innovations to be viable and sustainable enough, for the benefits to reach the whole of the society or communities. It is then worth mentioning that social innovation in the rural contexts is much more important than urban context for the promotion of development, because rural areas are characterized by "higher socioeconomic vulnerability" Rover et al., (2016). Notwithstanding, empirical studies on social innovation in urban and rural areas are still limited. Their effort in delineating the roles and influences public actors on SI initiatives in the European context was significantly minimal, while clear examples were found in the South American context. Example can be seen in the work of Díaz-José et al., (2018) which focussed on Social Innovation initiatives in Chiapas rural area of Mexico. It is worthy of note that many of the publications laid more emphasis on the impacts of public policies on Social Innovation and how such initiatives can prosper if adapted into government programs and funding

schemes. This is supported by the report published by Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA) in 2010, titled “Empowering people, driving change: Social innovation in the European Union”. This report reiterated the importance, and how Europe should provide supports and integration for social innovation initiatives in its policies geared towards social change. Additionally, the focus of the literature was on the role of public actors as providers of policy and policy support. They include decision-makers who can define legal, institutional and policy frameworks. However, in the web sites explored this role did not clearly appear (and only “funding” can be probably considered a proxy of policy support by public actors).

4.2. Application and Use of Social Innovation Concept, vis-à-vis Methodological Approaches

The growing interests in social innovation in most ramifications have mainly centred around strategies, road maps, and motives for creating social innovation, as well as finding a common approach to be used in Social Innovation processes, rather than the roles and influence of public actors. This claim is supported by the widely referenced publication of Murray, et al., (2010), called the “Open Book of Social Innovation”. This work presented many approaches to describing social innovation and also to give a road map to designing and developing social innovation processes which can be used worldwide.

T. Rogelja et al., (2018) pointed out that in trying to understand Social Innovation as reconfiguring of social practice, Social Enterprise (SE) is often seen as synonymous with Social Innovation, even though it is actually an organizational form of social innovation. This is because most developed economies including the EU often times emphasizes the economic features of SI (Chalmers, 2012) more than social ones in the bid to improve the standard of living of the people. In a similar manner, many authors agreed that social entrepreneurship and Social innovation are many times a mirror of each other in the process of development, especially in rural areas. Thereby, emphasizing more the need for involving powerful individuals, institutions and stakeholders that controls important resources in order to achieve desired positive and lasting change (Schmitz and Scoones, 2015); Newell, 2015).

In finding the interrelationship between public actors and SI initiatives in rural areas, the institutionalization of such Social Innovation often involves different modes of government intervention which in turn determines what roles public actors can undertake in the proliferation of SI initiatives and its outputs. Gordon et al., (2017) argues that the assumption about the dominant role of the state in Social Innovation as submitted in the BEPA report could be problematic because public policies that are not fundamentally geared towards Social Innovation can serve as constraint to networks and movements that foster transformative social change.

The issue of sustainability of transformative changes brought about by social innovation in forestry and agricultural sectors was emphasized in quite a number of the literatures. This according to Van Zwanenberg et al., (2018) can significantly be achieved by allowing the plurality of perspectives and cooperation, and consensus among actors and institutions who may have different objectives and approaches to sustainability. Thereby, allowing all stakeholders to agree on strategies to be employed and desired end points.

Considering the methodological approaches used, most of the publications reviewed used qualitative methods, such as expert consultation, interviews, and empirical knowledge gathered from secondary data such as was found in Kluvánková et al., (2018), where the authors depended on the SIMRA SI database which contains information about SI initiatives in marginalised rural areas of Europe and countries south and east of the Mediterranean (Bryce et al., 2017). Other authors referred to it as qualitative deductive approach by focusing on the content of policy documents and carrying out content analysis. Case study approach was also used by some authors, which in the work of Yin (2009) and Lijphart (1999) as cited by Wilkes-Allemanna and Ludvigb. (2019); allows for in-depth exploration and descriptiveness in analysing the topic or theme under consideration. It is worthy of note that few of the studies considered in the review adopted mixed qualitative-quantitative methods in exploring the social innovation theme according to their objectives.

4.3. Content Analysis of Website Information of Social Innovation Initiatives in Mediterranean Countries

4.3.1. Classification of Initiatives Based on Sector and Country of Origin

The Social Innovation initiatives presented in the Mediterranean countries as found in the table 4.1 (find attached in annex 2) were analysed and elements to help provide answers to research questions were identified and hereby presented:

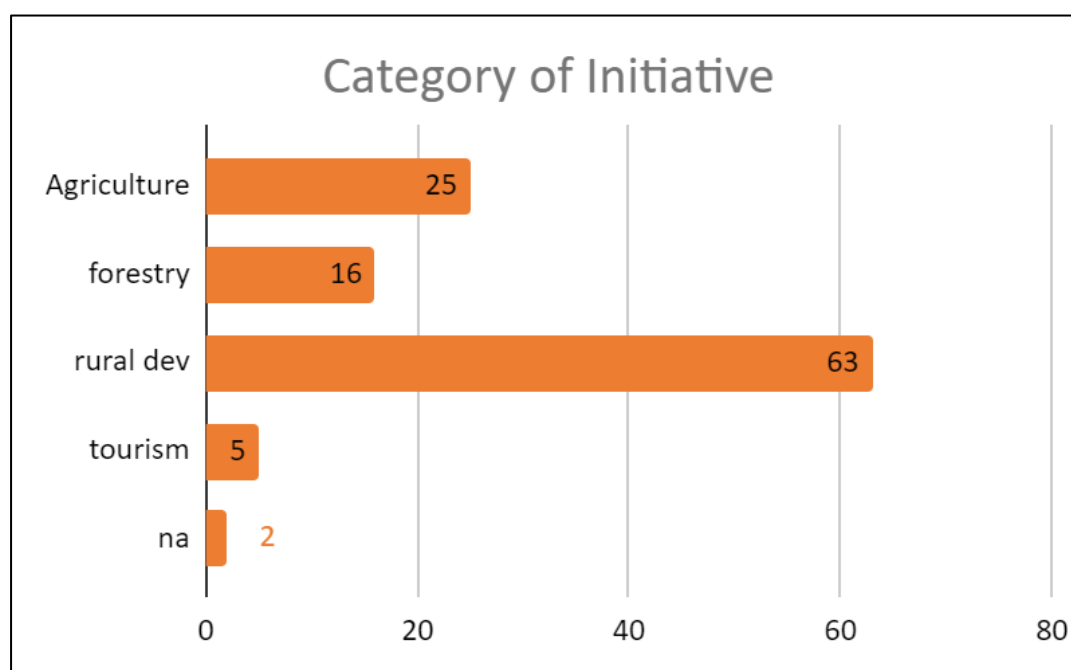


Figure 4.1: Sector Category of Initiatives (Source: own elaboration)

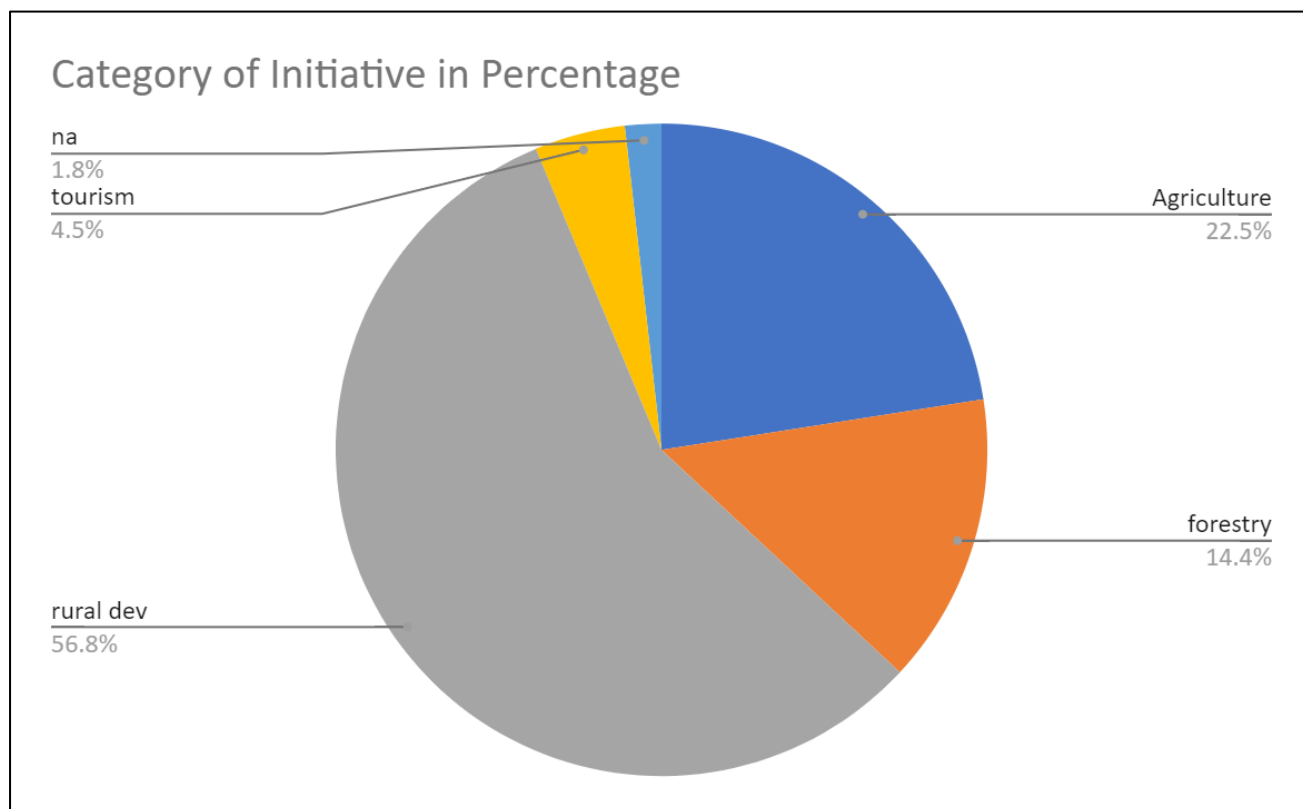


Figure 4.2: Sector Category of Initiatives by percentage (Source: own elaboration)

The above figures present a clear picture of the sectors into which Social Innovation initiatives found in the Mediterranean countries can be classified. The highest number of initiatives belonged to the rural development category (56.8%), which is 63 rural development initiatives. This is followed by Agriculture sector having 25 initiatives (22.5%), then 16 initiatives belonged to the forest sector (14.4%). While tourism has the lowest number of initiatives (4.5%), i.e., 23. During the course of the content analysis, information about the sector of 2 initiatives could not be ascertained (1.8%). It is important to note that some of the initiatives whose objectives were geared towards rural developments had various elements of agriculture and eco-tourism. The above result then supports the fact that social innovation serves as a platform upon which agriculture, and forestry connects with the development of the rural areas, because these two elements serve as important sources of livelihood for forest-dependent rural communities (Elands and Wiersum, 2001).

Figure 4.3 below presents the distribution of initiatives by countries in the Mediterranean. The countries that had the most initiatives were Italy with 36 initiatives, followed by Spain, France, Slovenia, Croatia, Portugal respectively. This could be due to the increased consciousness in the country about the need to salvage the ever-reducing rural population, land abandonment, managing migrant population, proper integration of people with disabilities, forest management, et cetera. It could also be as a result of how the database was built – i.e., voluntary communication of examples of SI made by SIMRA project partners in the countries of initiatives to the database managers.

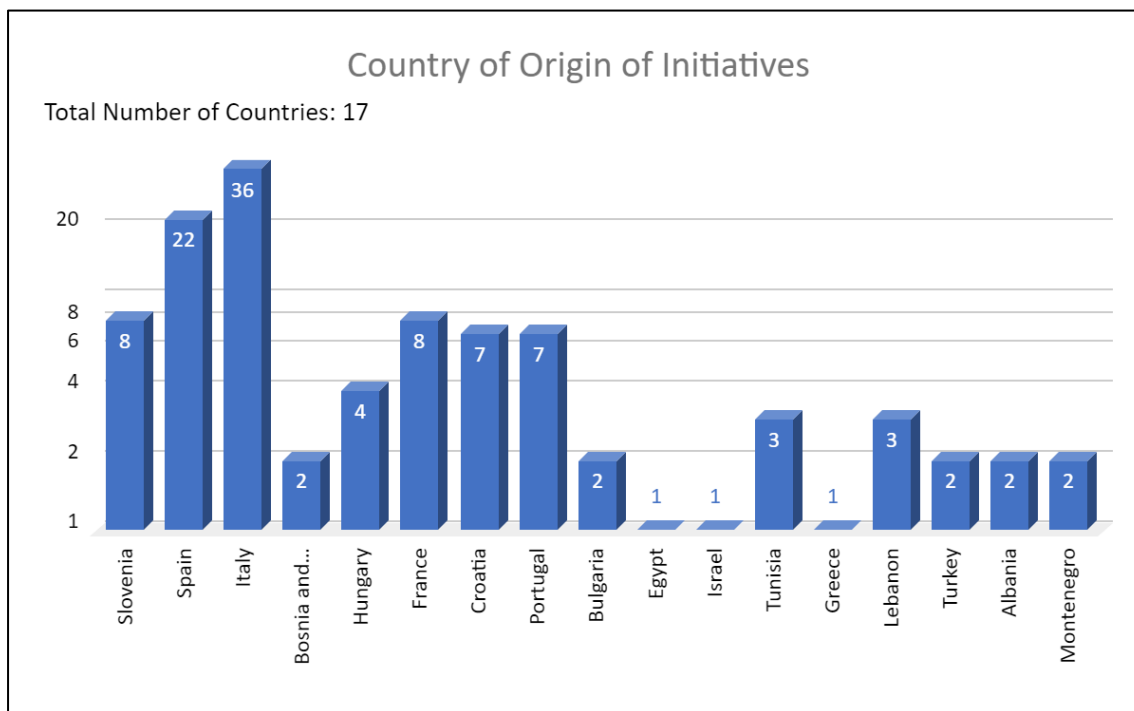


Figure 4.3: Country of Origin of Initiatives for which information were available (Source: own elaboration)

Thus, different levels of communication imply different number of cases reported in one country when compared to another. Although, this information cannot be considered representatives of the real situation in the field, but rather it can be seen as a trend – i.e., indicative and not representative! Therefore, further research to recognize and enlarge the number of cases is needed.

4.3.2. Which public actors are involved in the social innovations initiatives?

To help in providing answer to research question one, knowing how many of the initiatives that public actors were involved in is important, before discussing the kind of public actors that were found to be involved according to the content analysis carried out. Figure 4.4 below presents this finding in percentage. 85 (76.6%) of the total initiatives had the involvement of public actors, while 2 (1.8%) did not have the involvement of public actors. 24 (21.6%) of the total initiatives fell under NA (Not available). Not available in this case refers to the inability to get information about the public actors involved from the websites of initiatives. This inability resulted from three distinct cases which were; expired website domains and hence no information, no information about the involvement of actors, and no proper website presenting the details of the initiatives- except for few information on blog news.

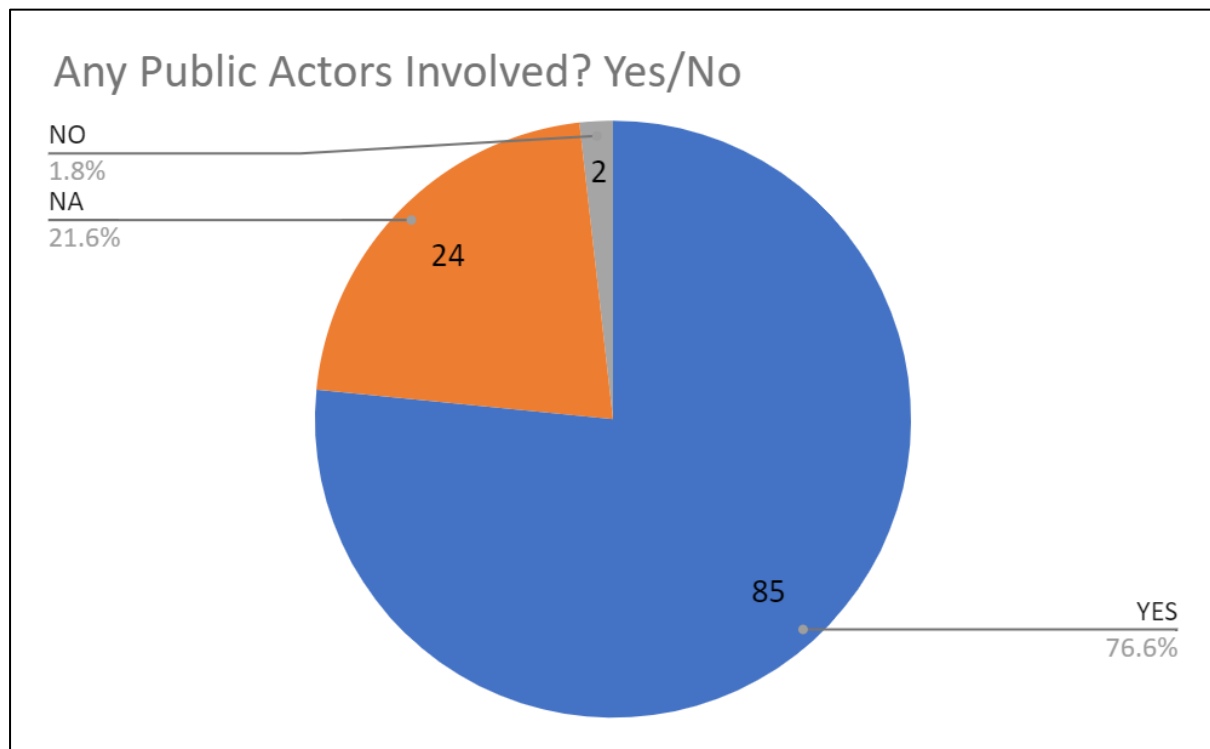


Figure 4.4: % of initiatives with at least one public actor involved (Source: own elaboration)

Figure 4.5 below gives a percentage representation of the public actors' involvement by level in the initiatives where information was found. It is clear from the analysis that local public actors were the most involved in Social Innovation initiatives with 30% distribution. Local public actors can mostly be public agencies, municipal governments, and inspectorates. It is expected that they immediately share the visions of these initiatives and work to advance the proliferation of such, thereby having more influence than other levels of actors. This is not to say that the involvement and by default, influence of other levels of actors were not high. In fact, regional level actors also were highly involved at 28% and international level actors at 21%

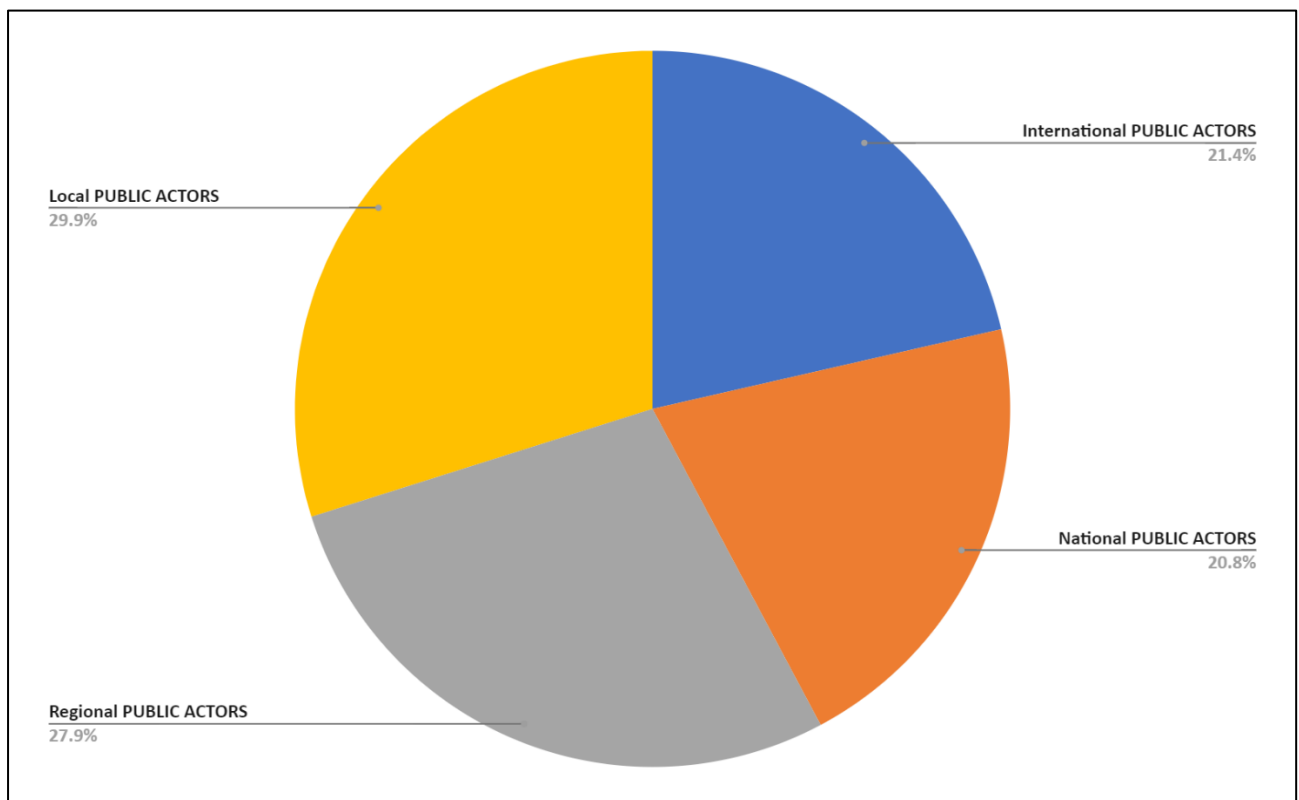


Figure 4.5: Levels of actors involved in Social Innovation in which information were available (Source: own elaboration)

were closely trailed by national level actors at approximately 21%. This can be explained by the fact that most international interventions are mostly carried out through national bodies or agencies, and so national level actors will have to be involved in one way or the other.

Below is a chart giving an insight into how public actors by organization were involved in the Social Innovation initiatives under consideration. Public agency had the most level of participation with a wide

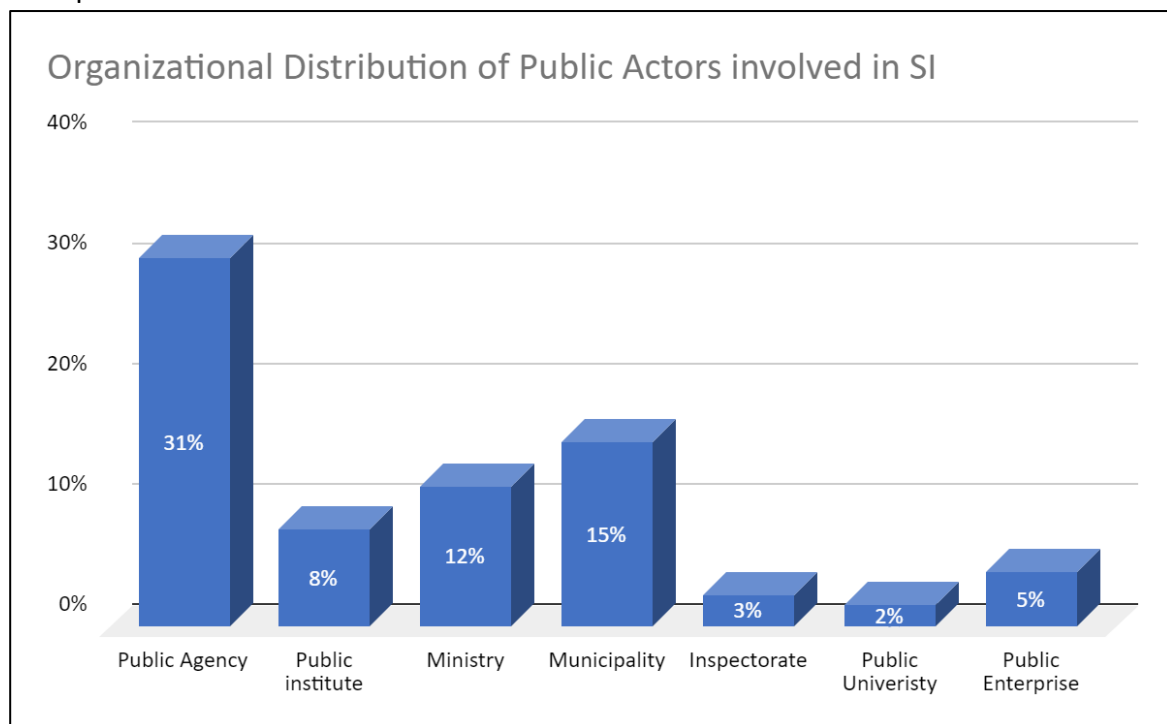


Figure 4.6: Distribution of Public Actors by Organization in Social Innovation for which information were available (Source: own elaboration)

difference between the next organizational forms of actors i.e., municipality standing at 15%, ministry at 12%, and public institute at 8% respectively.

To further look at the level of involvement of public actors in the Social Innovation in Mediterranean countries, the table below is presented:

Table 4.2: Number of Actors Involved in Initiative (Source: own elaboration)

Total Number of Actors involved	Number initiative	Percentage
1	15	18%
2	36	43%
3	26	31%
4	5	6%
5	2	2%

It can be summarily stated that a total of 69 (Sixty-nine) of the initiatives for which information were available had ≥ 2 (greater or equal to 2) public actors involved in the initiatives, while 15 (Fifteen) initiatives were recognized to have had the involvement of 1 (One) public actor. It is worthy of note that the involvement of other actors such as civil societies, individual volunteers, etc., were present, but again the focus of the study was on public actors in SI. The relatively low number of public actors typically involved (less than 3 in the high majority of the cases $18\%+43\%+31\%$) seems to demonstrate that the role of civil society organisations is significant with respect to the public organisations. Notwithstanding, we cannot be accurate as this is just a speculation (not representative) as we did not get the number of the civil society organisations and cannot compare how many private and community organisations and how many public organizations took part in the initiatives. And this can also be a recommendation for future research.

4.3.3. What levels of influence do public actors have over the different SI initiative phases?

The level or kind of influence that public actors have in Social innovations are mostly connected to the kind of roles they play in the life span of the initiatives. Also, both roles and influences are always conditioned by the institutional framework within which they operate, which could be formal, semi-formal, or informal institutions (Fairbairn, 2017). Whether formal, semi-formal, or informal institutions, they can as well be categorized by levels into local, regional, national, and international actors, as was done in the content analysis. Moving forward, figure 4.7 below gives a concise and presentable information about the different roles and number of initiatives from the Mediterranean countries that had specific kind of roles being performed by public actors. Part of the roles identified in the literature was that of policy making and support, which includes the building of institutional and legal frameworks that fosters social innovation and allows other actors to have an enabling environment under which to operate in working towards the objectives of the initiative. It is important to note here that this kind of role/influence on social innovation was not evident from the analysis of the information obtained on the websites, thereby constituting a gap.

The figure below then shows the number/percentage of the initiatives that had the public actors performing roles that falls within the category roles identified from analysis of initiatives' websites. Again, please note that it only represents the initiatives for which information were available. 28 of the initiatives had public actors (PAs) involved in provision of infrastructure (renovation of buildings, office space, etc.), resources, (funding, provision of manpower, seeds, materials, equipment, etc.), and knowledge (training, education, etc.). This being the highest number is reasonable because, initiatives thrive, grow and achieve the desired results when supported with institutional resources (Westley et al. 2011, Moore et al. 2014). And also, institutions within which public actors operate usually controls a wide resource base and knowledge, thus making coalition an important step to functionally attain the goals of the initiatives (Schmitz and Scoones (2015), Newell (2015).

The position of the above authors also supports the findings that 17 initiatives had public actors involved in planning, while 16 initiatives had public actors involved in implementation/administration/coordination. This is also reasonable because Pas are in the best position to help make sure that initiatives are operating within what is applicable by law and helping to go through bureaucratic red tapes. Even though civil society actors were also found to be involved, the focus of this study was only on public actors.

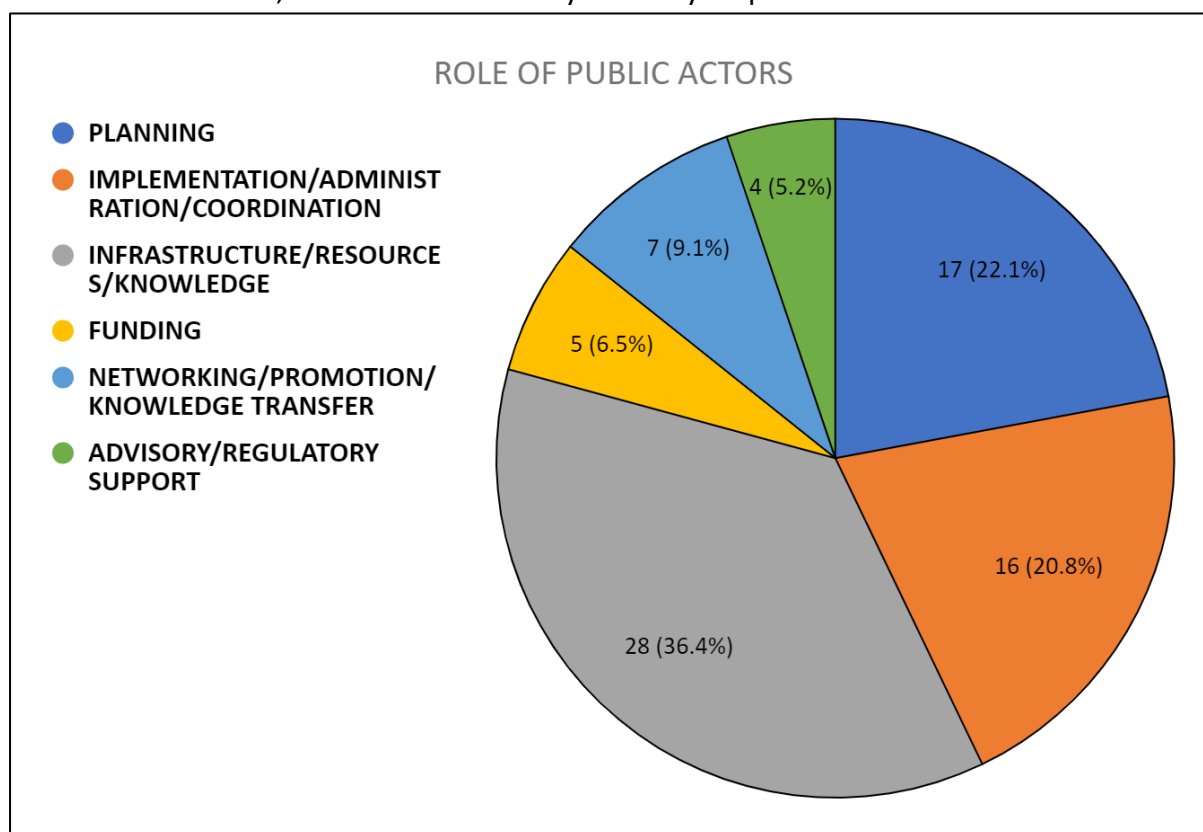


Figure 4.7: Roles of public actors (Source: own elaboration)

The initiatives found to have had Public Actors involved in networking, promotion, and knowledge transfer were 7. Example of PAs that took on these roles were Universities, Research centres, Public institutes, et cetera. Initiatives that had Public Actors to be involved only in funding were 5; funding in this sense refers to instances where the funding mechanisms and sometimes the amount were expressly stated. Only 4 initiatives had public actors involved those advisory/regulatory support. This being the lowest number can be attributed to inadequate reporting of such roles by the initiatives, civil societies undertaking

such roles on behalf of the initiatives, et cetera. Again, more research will have to be done in investigating and bringing clarity to this aspect. There were 3 main categories of funding mechanism; government funding(local, regional, national and international bodies), funding from private organisations (cooperative bodies, private and public enterprises, philanthropic organizations), and individual donations. Even though the roles of actors in policy support was not clearly obtained from the websites, funding and advisory/regulatory support can also be considered a proxy for policy support roles. These in no doubt have had some influence on the success of social innovation initiatives in rural areas.

From the above result we can say that public actors in any stage or phase of Social Innovation are always involved, and thereby have certain levels of influence on the proliferation of Social Innovation in rural areas. With reference to Rogelja PhD thesis (2019) as presented at the Innovation Action SIParte final workshop in Belluno, 19th of September 2019 – even the survey of the PhD work was preliminary and had few responses (16 answers), some considerations can still be made. In the initiatives that indicated public actors participating in networking and promotion, they often had positive influences on the initiatives. When compared to the analysis of this study, only 9% of the cases reported public actors performing this kind of role. This means that notwithstanding the low number of initiatives where public actors performed this role, they had a significance level of positive influences on the social innovation. Also, public actors involved in provision of infrastructure (renovation of buildings, office space, etc.), resources, (funding, provision of manpower, seeds, materials, equipment, etc.), and knowledge (training, education, etc.) having the highest percentage of participation (36.4%) can be said to have had significant amount of positive influence on Social innovation. This is supported by Rogelja's PhD thesis where the combination of actors providing infrastructures, and other resources had high levels of positive influences.

4.4 Final Remarks

The aim of this study was to serve as a preliminary overview of the roles, involvement, and influence of public actors in the social innovation processes that eventually contributes to development in the rural areas. Available literatures have not properly focused on public actors' involvement in social innovation initiatives in rural areas. But rather, public policies effect on the sustainability and impact of social innovation have been more explored. Thereby, making this work an important basis upon which this topic can be further explored for in-depth and extensive analysis of public actors' involvement and impacts. The content analysis done showed many of the initiatives were geared towards empowering and integrating vulnerable groups of the society whose social needs are ordinarily not addressed by the existing market structures and institutions. Thus, confirming the position of the Bureau of European Policy Advisers (2010: 26).

4.5 Limitation of Study

This study had to rely on the review of literatures and content analysis of the websites of the initiatives. The selection of literatures based on English criterion cannot be considered exclusive and all-encompassing. This is because other literatures done in the French, Spanish, Portuguese, German, or Slovenian languages could have been useful, and by excluding them, relevant papers might have been left out of consideration. The selection of English was based on the fact this study was done and presented in English language, which was the objective

limit. Additionally, the websites that had other languages other than English had to be translated using Google Translator application. This could be a limitation due to the fact that Google Translator is not 100% accurate in its translation

While review of literatures gave an insight into the direction and how much available literatures had explored the theme of the topic, website content analysis can hardly be equated to case study analysis of the initiatives. This is because case study analysis would have given a more in-depth information for meeting study objectives. Quite a number of the initiatives had non-functional websites, while some had not well-developed websites, and no websites at all. In these cases, the few information that were found were only few descriptions as presented on the SIMRA database for validated SIs in rural areas. These initiatives were then represented as 'not applicable' if information were not available for the columns used in presenting results above.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The roles and influence of public actors in social innovation initiatives in rural areas being the objectives of this study were examined by exploring the research work of different authors through a systematized review. It helped in a long way in understanding the extent of the work done so far in this sphere and research gaps. Even though there was an increase in research work (from 2016 – till date) covering the theme of social innovation, public policy, social entrepreneurship, and the engagement of civil society which gives rise to new governance relations, less work have been done in identifying the roles that public actors play in the proliferation and continued success SI initiatives in rural areas. This is due to the fact that much is being done to adopt participatory governance in trying to find solutions to social problems, especially in rural areas. Therefore, encouraging a bottom-up approach to policy making and implementation, negotiation, conflict resolution and sustainability in the use of natural resources (Forest). Civil society actors and local stakeholders are then seen as the core around which the above objective can be attained. This is not to say that public actors are not actively involved, it's just that less research has been done in this aspect. Needful to say, and from the results of literature review, there were few examples of initiatives in the South American context, where roles and influences of public actors can be clearly seen. As it has become more evident that public actors and the institutions within which they operate usually have more influence and involvement in the success of social innovation in rural areas, it is important that future research work pays more attention to this research topic.

The qualitative content analysis done on the initiatives gave useful information in helping to reach the first objective of this study which was to identify the public actors that are mostly involved in Social Innovation initiatives in rural areas. The results showed that local and regional public actors are mostly more involved; national, and international public actors also playing significant roles in the whole process and phases of social innovations in rural areas. Additionally, public agencies and municipalities had a very high level of involvement/participation, while gap between the levels of participation of ministries and public institutes and public enterprises was minimal. It is important to note that it is possible in many cases to have an overlap of functions carried out by public agencies, inspectorates and municipalities, which greatly depends on the location (example: countries) and style of governance being used. The last objective was meant to investigate the roles of public actors in social innovation initiatives in rural areas. From the results presented, it showed most public actors were involved in infrastructure/resources/knowledge category of roles, followed by planning implementation/administration/coordination roles respectively. Other category of roles that actors were found to have performed were advisory/regulatory support, networking / promotion / knowledge transfer, funding. Additionally, funding and advisory / regulatory support can also be considered a proxy for policy support roles that normally should have significance influence on the success of social innovation initiatives in rural areas.

The results therefore show that public actors are most involved as promoters of initiatives, and with considerable involvement in ideas development, promotion and networking. Even though, this work was a preliminary overview, it could help to fill an important gap in the literatures. Also, the findings and concepts presented hold potentials that can provide insights for policymakers, funders, researchers, et cetera.

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Annex 1: List of publications selected for literature review

Keywords Combination	Selected Articles	Title	Year	Journal/Source	Author (s)	Number of Citations
"Social* Innovat*" AND ("Public" OR "State" OR "Government*") ("Actor*" OR "Agen*" OR "Bod*" OR "Official*" OR "Emplo*" OR "Worker*" OR "Representative*" OR "Bureaucrat*" OR "Organi*" OR "Enterprise*" OR "Department*") AND "Agricultur*"	7	Seeking unconventional alliances and bridging innovations in spaces for transformative change: The seed sector and agricultural sustainability in Argentina	2018	Ecology and Society 23(3),11	van Zwanenberg, P., Cremaschi, A., Obaya, M., Marin, A., Lowenstein, V.	1
		Vulnerability, innovation and social resilience in the maize (Zea mays L.) production: The case of the conservation tillage club of chiapas, Mexico	2018	Tropical and Subtropical Agroecosystems 21(3), pp. 399-408	Díaz-José, J., Guevara-Hernández, F., Rodríguez-Larramendi, L.A., (...), Ley-De Coss, A., Aguirre-López, J.M.	0

Keywords Combination	Selected Articles	Title	Year	Journal/Source	Author (s)	Number of Citations
		Potentialities and constraints in the relation between social innovation and public policies: Some lessons from South America	2017	Ecology and Society 22(4),2	Gordon, A., Becerra, L.D., Fressoli, M.	3
		RAIFFEISEN AS SOCIAL INNOVATOR	2017	Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics 88(3), pp. 425-448	Fairbairn, B.	1
		Transition Management and Social Innovation in Rural Areas: Lessons from Social Farming	2014	Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension 20(3), pp. 327-347	Di Iacovo, F., Moruzzo, R., Rossignoli, C., Scarpellini, P.	15

Keywords Combination	Selected Articles	Title	Year	Journal/Source	Author (s)	Number of Citations
“Social* Innovat*” AND (“Public” OR “State” OR “Government*”) (“Actor*” OR “Agen*” OR “Bod*” OR “Official*” OR “Emplo*” OR “Worker*” OR “Representative*” OR “Bureaucrat*” OR “Organi*” OR “Enterprise*” OR “Department*”) AND “Forest*”	7	Human values as catalysts and consequences of social innovations	2019	Forest Policy and Economics 104, pp. 33-44	Sarkki, S., Ficko, A., Miller, D., (...), Soloviy, I., Nijnik, M.	1
		Beyond participation! Social innovations facilitating movement from authoritative state to participatory forest governance in Ukraine	2019	Landscape Ecology	Sarkki, S., Parpan, T., Melnykovych, M., (...), Voloshyna, N., Nijnik, M.	1
		Implications of policy framework conditions for the development of forestry-based social innovation initiatives in Slovenia	2018	Forest Policy and Economics 95, pp. 147-155	Rogelja, T., Ludvig, A., Weiss, G., Secco, L.	3

Keywords Combination	Selected Articles	Title	Year	Journal/Source	Author (s)	Number of Citations
		Social innovation in the Welsh Woodlands: Community based forestry as collective third-sector engagement	2018	Forest Policy and Economics 95, pp. 18-25	Ludvig, A., Wilding, M., Thorogood, A., Weiss, G.	4
		Environmental grassroots partnerships and potential for social innovation (Book Chapter)	2017	Environmental Sustainability from the Himalayas to the Oceans: Struggles and Innovations in China and India pp. 145-163	Srinivas, N.	0
		Social Innovation: Fields, definitions and theoretical scope [El concepto de innovación social: Ámbitos, definiciones y alcances teóricos]	2016	CIRIEC-Espana Revista de Economia Publica, Social y Cooperativa 88(1), pp. 165-199	Hernández-Ascanio, J., Tirado-Valencia, P., Ariza-Montes, A.	5

Keywords Combination	Selected Articles	Title	Year	Journal/Source	Author (s)	Number of Citations
		Forestry crisis and territorial roots: The case of the Coopérative des travailleurs forestiers de McKendrick in New-Brunswick [Crise forestière et ancrage territorial : le cas de la Coopérative des travailleurs forestiers de McKendrick au Nouveau-Brunswick]	2014	Geographie Economie Societe 16(3), pp. 315-338	Leclerc, A., Chouinard, O., Simard, M., Simard, D., Brideau, M.	0
"Social* Innovat*" AND ("Public" OR "State" OR "Government*") ("Actor*" OR "Agen*" OR "Bod*" OR "Official*" OR "Emplo*" OR "Worker*" OR "Representative*" OR "Bureaucrat*" OR "Organi*" OR "Enterprise*" OR "Department*") AND "Rural Develop*"	4	A model to promote sustainable social change based on the scaling up of a high-impact technical innovation	2018	Sustainability (Switzerland) 10(12),4532	Cuéllar-Gálvez, D., Aranda-Camacho, Y., Mosquera-Vásquez, T.	0

Keywords Combination	Selected Articles	Title	Year	Journal/Source	Author (s)	Number of Citations
		Implications of policy framework conditions for the development of forestry-based social innovation initiatives in Slovenia	2018	Forest Policy and Economics 95, pp. 147-155	Rogelja, T., Ludvig, A., Weiss, G., Secco, L.	3
		Social innovation and sustainable rural development: The case of a Brazilian agroecology network	2017	Sustainability (Switzerland) 9(1),3	Rover, O.J., de Gennaro, B.C., Roselli, L.	10
		Rural Marginalisation and the Role of Social Innovation; A Turn Towards Nexogenous Development and Rural Reconnection	2016	Sociologia Ruralis 56(4), pp. 552-573	Bock, B.B.	46
"Social* Innovat*" AND ("Public" OR "State" OR "Government*") ("Institut*" OR "Stakeholders*" OR "Admin*" OR "Partners*" OR "Advocate*" OR "Player*") AND "Agricultur*"	2	Social entrepreneurship in rural development of Lithuania: Potential of young entrepreneurs (Book Chapter)	2017	Advances in Business and Management 14, pp. 207-23	Greblikaite, J.	0

Keywords Combination	Selected Articles	Title	Year	Journal/Source	Author (s)	Number of Citations
		Technology and innovation for social change (Book)	2015	Technology and Innovation for Social Change pp. 1-208	Majumdar, S., Guha, S., Marakkath, N.	2
"Social* Innovat*" AND ("Public" OR "State" OR "Government*") ("Institut*"OR "Stakeholders*" OR "Admin*" OR "Partners*" OR "Advocate*" OR "Player*") AND "Forest"	2	The role of social innovation in negotiations about recreational infrastructure in forests – A mountain-bike case study in Switzerland	2019	Forest Policy and Economics 100, pp. 227-235	Wilkes-Allemann, J., Ludvig, A.	1
		Understanding social innovation for the well-being of forest-dependent communities: A preliminary theoretical framework	2018	Forest Policy and Economics	Klůvanková, T., Brnkařáková, S., řpaček, M., (...), Szabo, T., Gežík, V	5
TOTAL	20					

Annex 2: Content Analysis of Website Information of Social Innovation Initiatives in Mediterranean Countries

S/N	SI NAME	Country	Year	Linkage to Forestry/Agriculture/Rural Development	Public Actors Involved	Number of Actors	Roles of Public Actors	Level of Involvement Public Actors (International/Regional/National/Local)	Sector PA belonged to (Forestry/Agriculture and food/Rural development/Tourism/Energy/Nature protection/Social services/Public administration/Other)	Organization PA belonged to (Ministry/Municipality/Inspectorate/Public agency/Public enterprise/Public institute/Public university/Public school)	Funding/Funding Mechanism	Website
1	Land Sharing for food and social good: Integration and empowerment of disadvantaged groups for local food production	Slovenia - Maribor	2013	Aim: to establish a socio-cooperative platform to foster new business opportunities in rural areas and improve the social status of members. Young unemployed people from cities and rural areas are connected with elderly landowners in the rural areas. The unemployed people are empowered for local production of organic food on derelict land or overgrown areas. Elderly owners of agricultural land establish new social contacts, and transfer their knowledge about traditional farming practices to younger generations.	Agricultural and Forestry Institute. Employment Service of Slovenia	2	Implementation stage and Funding	National	Agriculture and food; Social services	Public agency	Government funding	http://instituteintecr.org/en
2	Apadrina un Olivo (Adopt an olive tree)	Spain (Oliete)	2014	The recovery of abandoned community forest spaces through a collective ownership initiative, thereby contributing to economic diversification, modernization and improving the quality of life of the rural environment .	Regional Government of Andorra-Sierra de Arcos. Diputación de Teruel (Provincial Council of Teruel)	2	No information	Regional	Public administration	Public agency	Information not available	https://apadrinaunolivo.org/en/oliete/
3	Montes de Socios (Partners' lands)	Spain	2010	The recovery of abandoned community forest spaces through a collective ownership initiative managed by constituted boards and working groups. Thereby contributing to economic diversification, modernization and	Forestry Association of Soria; National Rural Network; European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)	3	Funding, Planning, setting up of a management board comprising of representatives from all stakeholder categories and backed by the	International, National and Local scale		Public institute	subsidized by the Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs up to the amount of 731,929 euros, out of the budget of 813,254.45	http://www.montesdesocios.es

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				improving the quality of life of the rural environment.			Forestry Law, and monitoring done by periodic national meeting of researchers, experts and representatives of the Autonomous Communities.				euros. Also supported by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)	
4	Terra Madre	Italy	2004	An international movement for change in agricultural production that encouraged and supported those who strive for sustainable agriculture, fishing, and breeding, and preservation of biodiversity, all in ways that protects the environment and communities.	Italian Ministry for Agricultural, Food, and Forestry Policies; Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Piedmont Regional Authority; City of Turin; Slow Food Organization	5	Organize and Finance International gatherings and initiatives; Coordinate all partners	National; Regional; and Local	Forestry; Agriculture and food; Rural development; Public administration	Ministry; Public Institute	Information not available	https://www.terramadre.info/en/
5	Pueblos en arte (Villages in art)	Spain	NA	Using art and culture to reactivate depopulated territories by providing linkages between the art of cities with rural areas and the people with the artist.	Actors were not expressly mentioned, but projects were developed in collaboration with institutions, entities and cultural agents.	NA	Planning and Funding	Local	Information not available	Information not available	By Voluntary contributions of people as low as (5 euros), Funds by Patrons of the projects	https://www.pueblosenarte.com/#acerca
6	Apiform Beekeeping	Bosnia and Herzegovina	NA	This initiative was developed to create a platform for bee keeping and opportunities for people in wheelchair and with less mobility to do organic production of beehives.	National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA)	1	Planning; Developing; Testing; Implementation; funding; Monitoring	National	Educational Institution	Public Institute	NESTA funding	https://www.nesta.org.uk/

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7	My forest mobile cooperative	Slovenia	NA	Cooperation of small forest owners for the purpose of collective co-management in a democratic manner, by investing relatively small amounts of money into forest	National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA)	1	Planning; Developing; Testing; Implementation; funding; Monitoring	National	Educational Institution	Public Institute	NESTA funding	https://www.nesta.org.uk/
8	Integra Todos - Costurizate	Spain	2014	Training people at risk of social exclusion to develop general labour skills. Costurizate was the first productive project started and it was oriented to train women in dressmaking skills.	Ministry of Social Welfare; Local Action Group of the Sierra del Segura	2	Training; Provision of Manpower; Finance	National; Local	Social services	Ministry	Funding by Local Action Group	http://asociacionetretodos.org/project/costurizate/
9	The 'Adopt a terracing' project. Now Social Promotion Association (APS) since 2018	Italy (Brenta)	2010	Aim was to strive towards recovery and reuse of abandoned terraces. An arrangement was made between the owners of the terraces, now emigrated abroad or unable to take care of them, and the mountain lovers available to support their maintenance.	Municipality of Valstagna (VI); the Italian Alpine Club; Department of Geography of the University of Padua	3	Planning; Linkage with forest owners	Regional; Local	Public administration; Educational Institute	Municipality; Public University	Information not available	http://www.adottauterrazzamento.org/pagine/chisiamo
10	Responsible Amiata	Italy	NA	Aim was to practice and encourage sustainable forest management. Thereby, bringing the quality and value of local products to people's notice.	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC); Amiata Forest Consortium	2	Planning; Implementation; Monitoring; Evaluation;	Local	Forestry	Public Institute	Information not available	http://www.monte-amiata.eu/english/amiata_health_home.asp
11	Hiking Routes in Balaton Uplands	Hungary	2008	Digitalizing the historical hiking routes and made accessible on smartphone applications for tourist.	Cooperating Balaton Uplands Association; New Hungary Rural Development Programme (NHRDSP);	2	Website development; Interregional cooperation	National; Local	Rural development	Public agency; Public enterprise	Information not available	http://balatonfelvidekultura.hu/en/we-have-organised-it-for-you-organised-experiences/
12	BioSzentandráss	Hungary	2010	Creation of a community-based, owned and cultivated organic vegetable garden and the	Hernádszentandrás County	1	Management of the whole process	Local	Public administration	Inspectorate	European Union Grant	http://www.bioszentandras.hu/gazdasagunk/

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				associated processing, short supply chains and marketing environment, in order to fight poverty and social exclusion in the village.								
13	Mezőcsát	Hungary	NA	Implementation of projects to enhance good practices that ensures sustainable development. Projects include: a cycling map indicating local products, producers and services; a 'Digital bridge' programme to introduce the use of IT in agriculture and administration; a 'Media school' for local youth; and a workshop on renewable energy	Mezőcsát City Council	1	Planning; Implementation; Monitoring; Evaluation;	Local	Public administration	Inspectorate	Funding provided by City Council	http://www.mezocsat.hu/?module=news&fname=koszonto
14	Noszvaj Folktale Route	Hungary	NA	Development of a "folktale" route as a driver to local tourism	Municipality of Noszvaj		Management of the whole process	Local	Public administration		Municipality	http://noszvaj.hu/index.php
15	L'Olivera	Spain	1974	A social integration and farming Cooperative that provide work in vine and olive farming. They also provide occupational therapy for people by developing the personal and social skills of people with difficulties.	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	http://www.olivera.org/php/index.php
16	Forest Territory Charte	France		A "Forest territory charte" is a consortium of various local actors and state agencies agreeing together to carry out a forest programme on a specific territory	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	http://www.fncofr.fr/
17	Hack my town	Italy	2014	Workshops organized by Universities in the form of a challenge (Hackathon) to find practical solutions to the problems of "smart	Free University of Bozen-Bolzano (Unibz); Glurns/Glorenza	2	Provision of intellectual manpower; Training; Planning;	Local	Public Administration; Rural Development	Public University; Municipality	Funding provided by Unibz	http://hackmytown.unibz.it/

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				villages and territories”, in terms of learning technologies and systems	Municipal Administrators		Coordination; Knowledge transfer					
18	SylvaMED	France; Catalonia; Slovenia; Greece; Liguria	2010	An European territorial cooperation project aiming to facilitate innovative integration of forests environmental services into regional policies, ensure both environmental and economic sustainability in Mediterranean rural communities, providing for both long-term conservation of natural resources and additional income for local populations.	Forestry Sciences Center of Catalonia; Slovenia Forest Service; European Forest Institute Mediterranean Regional Office; Forest Ownership Center of Catalonia; Foresters Association from the Mediterranean Arc; Environmental Department of Liguria Region	6	Provision of intellectual manpower; Training; Planning; Implementation ; Communication Coordination; Knowledge transfer	International; National; Regional; Local	Forestry; Nature Protection; Rural Development	Public Institute; Public Agency	Funding Mechanism was Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) and Market-Based Instruments (MBI)	http://www.sylva-med.eu
19	Rise Hub	Italy	NA	Worked towards social advancement and community resilience in response to the local needs of new inhabitants. Main activities include; socio-cultural and territorial animation, informal education, the promotion of youth international mobility, legal advice and intercultural mediation, the promotion of social entrepreneurship and eco-sustainable lifestyles, promotes the development of personal skills, social inclusion, sustainable territorial development and the creation of social ties	Borghi Artistici Impresa Sociale; Abruzzo National Park; European Union; National Agency for Youth; Lunaria association; International Alliance of European Voluntary Service network	6	Provision of intellectual manpower; Training; Planning; Implementation ; Communication Coordination; Knowledge transfer; Funding	International; National; Regional; Local	Social Services; Rural Development; Personal Development	Public Institute; Public Agency	Financed by Erasmus +, the European Union Program for Education, Training, Youth and Sport 2014-2020	http://www.risehub.org/#contatti

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20	Gorgona Agricultural Penal Colony	Italy	2012	The establishment of organic farms on the Island for the purpose of farming for prisoners. The farm has two hectares of vineyards for winemaking which is commercialised and sold by a private company, and they also produce honey, olive oil, bread, and cheese from goats, sheep, and cows. The animals that are raised on the farm are all cared for by homeopathic methods	Italian Prison Authority; Lamberto Frescobaldi Wine-making family	2	Provision of Training and Manpower	National	Social Services; Rural Development; Personal Development	Public Agency	Financed mainly by the private owners	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gorgona_Agricultural_Penal_Colony
21	Fishermen's Cooperative Komiža (Braniteljsko ribarska zadruha)	Croatia	2000	The fishing cooperative Komiža specializes in the catch and wholesale of fresh fish, the most prevalent being white fish, cod fish and lobster catches. Within the scope of activities, Fishery Cooperative Komiža also has a mobile fish market / fish tank with which it sells in the town of Komiža, the City of Vis, the villages of the island, and also direct our fish to the address of the client, on the island of Vis.	Information not available	NA	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	https://www.facebook.com/pg/Ribarska-Zadruga-Komi%C5%BEEa-350319505167786/about/?ref=page_internal

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22	Iniciativa Comunes (iComunes)	Spain	2013	A state-wide association, formed by communities that govern water, land, property and rights in a communal way. Their goal was to support and recognize communal governance systems, with particular attention to promoting their social, environmental and economic values	Forestry Association of Soria; Platforms Rural; Local Community Conserved Areas (ICCA) Consortium; Universities; SEO Birdlife; Mancomunidad de Montes Vecinales en Man Común de Castrove-Salnés; MANCOMUNIDAD DE DE MONTES VECINAIS EN MAN COMÚN DO MORRAZO; Comunidade de Montes de Vilar de Triacastela; Grupo de Estudos da Propiedade Comunal; Federación Estatal de Pastores (FEP)	10 or more	scientific research; nature conservation; education; law and communication	International; National; Regional; Local	Rural development; Nature protection; Social services; Public administration	Municipality; Public agency; Public enterprise; Public institute	Information not available	http://www.icomunes.org
23	Projecto Querença	Portugal	2010	It focused on low-density rural areas, villages, village groups or even municipalities of varying geometry. using an innovative territorial approach, efforts were made to widen the range of possibilities of these territories in a critical state and, at the same time, to promote the employment of young graduates in	Loulé City Council; the Institute of Employment and Vocational Training; Parish Council of Querença; Viegas Guerreiro de Querença Foundation; and the University of Algarve	5	Promotion; Scientific research; Implementation of research results; New technology	Regional; Local	Agriculture and food; Rural development; Tourism	Municipality; Public agency; Public institute; Public university	Provided by The Manuel Viegas Guerreiro Foundation, up to € 883,500	http://www.projetoqueirenca.com/en

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				precarious professional situations, all by using an innovative territorial approach.								
24	Platform for Extensive Livestock Systems and Pastoralism	Spain	2013	A network which coordinates social, scientific and technical support for pastoralism and grazing livestock systems. The platform is configured as a forum that brings together organizations and individuals	European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism; Transhumance and Nature Association;	2	Coordination; Promotion of Initiative; Provision of Manpower and Resources; Training; Funding	International; Regional; Local	Agriculture and food; Rural development	Public agency; Public Institute	EU Life-NGO operating grants	http://www.ganaderiaextensiva.org/about-us/
25	Cooperative Biopenyagolosa	Spain	2015	A Farming cooperative that uses the principles of agroecology and traditional farming to cultivate truffles. The participation of a lot of people resulted in the formation of an agricultural and forestry cooperation with a variety of different products and sections. The cooperative also participates in several local projects including an online learning community 'Penyagolosa e-duca'.	BIOPENYAGOLOS A Cooperative; Vistabella del Maestrat Municipality	2	Coordination; Funding	Regional; Local	Agriculture and food; Rural development	Municipality; Public Enterprise	Cooperative Funding	http://chil.es/agroindustria/group/biopenyagolosa
26	Baba Residence	Bulgaria	Not Available	An initiative meant for bringing together urban youth and elderly people in depopulating villages in Bulgaria. It creates the platform for a truthful exchange of knowledge and care between youth and elderly through design thinking and ethnological approaches. The result is a new quality of human relations between	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	http://www.novinite.com/articles/167937/NGO+Project+Residence+Baba+to+Save+Bulgarian+Villages+from+Depopulation

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				generations, documentation and creative utilisation of local folklore and social entrepreneurial projects that help the villages flourish again.								
27	Libera Terra	Italy	2006	The objective of the Organization is to consolidate and support the economic-entrepreneurial development of those cooperatives that employ assets confiscated from mafia bosses, using shared know-how and particularly through organic production in confiscated lands. Libera Terra and other social cooperatives sharing the same principles make up a non-profit consortium called Libera Terra Mediterraneo.	Italian cooperative movement; Agency for Cooperative Development and Legality.	2	Coordination; monitoring compliance; sharing of business development plans; training	National; Regional.	Agriculture and food; Rural development; Social Service	Public enterprise	Information not available	https://www.libera-terra.it/it/mondo-libera-terra/agenzia-cooperare-libera-terra.php
28	Casa dei Giovanni	Italy	1983	NGO and therapeutic community run by the priest Padre Lo Bue running a social farming programme on land confiscated from Matteo Messina Denaro (mafia killer). It helps to rehabilitate drug addicts and produces and sells high quality olive oil.	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	http://www.casadeigiovani.it/vecchiosito/index.html
29	Lavoro e Non Solo	Italy	2000	The Project proposes, through the use of assets confiscated from the Mafia in the Municipalities of the Consortium, on the one hand, to develop a series of production chains in the agro-food sector (cereal,	Ministry of the Interior - Department of Public Security; European Union; Prefecture of Palermo; Italia Lavoro SpA;	6	Selection; Training; Tutoring; Transfer of knowledge; Meetings; Conferences; Funding	Supranational; National; Regional; and Local	Agriculture and food; Rural development; Social Service	Ministry; Municipality; Inspectorate; Public agency; Public enterprise; Public institute	European Union Grant	http://www.sviluppolegalita.it/

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				horticultural, wine-making productions, etc.). Also promoted is a farm holiday network that offers tourists the opportunity to enjoy the goods produced and the environment.	Sudgest Consortium; The "Free" Association of Don Luigi Ciotti.							
30	Badaweya Women's Handicraft Initiative	Egypt	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available
31	Masar Ibrahim Al-Khalil	Israel	Information not available	Masar Ibrahim Al-Khalil (MIAK) is a non-profit community-based tourism initiative developed in and around different Palestinian localities as a hiking trail that runs through the West Bank from the Mediterranean olive groves. It leads deep into the memory and heritage of Palestinian people, inviting to discover the family life of the villages, the proud ways of Bedouin tribes, and the age-old traditions of hospitality that lie at the heart of Palestinian life.	Palestine Wildlife Society; Rozana Association; Siraj Center for Holy Land Studies; Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities; Institute for Community Partnership (ICP)-Bethlehem University; Network for Experiential Palestinian Tourism Organizations - NEPTO; World Bank	7	Promotion; Provision of Manpower; Collaboration with stakeholders; Funding	International; National; Regional; Local	Rural development; Tourism; Nature protection;	Ministry; Municipality; Public agency; Public institute; Public university	World Bank funding	https://masaribrahim.ps/about/the-organization/
32	Italy Heartland	Italy	Information not available	Association dedicated to developing a model for eco-tourism in central Italy using the lands at the edge of each municipality as a green park. The idea is that at the heart of each of those green areas there is a small tourist operator (a campsite, an organic farm or a b&b) and to slowly	Municipality of Abruzzo	1	Promotion; Provision of Manpower; Collaboration with stakeholders; Funding	Regional; Local	Agriculture and food; Tourism	Municipality	Information not available	https://spiritsintert.com/about-us/

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				develop the old roads into a sort of responsible tourism attraction, creating a network of walks in nature.								
33	Integrated Ecosystemic value-enhancement of the Guadeloupe Forest Agrodiversity	France	Information not available	This initiative promotes the efforts of Forest dependent farmers in achieving the objectives of diversified agricultural production and forest conservation in order to improve their livelihoods. They operate in a context which is characterized by:	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	http://syaprovag.org/ver-blog.com/
34	Learning-growing-living with women farmers	Italy	2006	The initiative offers day care for children on farms with the objective of providing childcare by women farmers or other family members and encouraging interaction with nature. By using direct integration of agricultural resources and the environment as teaching elements, the farm aims at stimulating the curiosity of children in learning, as well as developing their awareness for environmental, sustainable and rural resources	None	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	https://www.kinderbetreuung.it
35	Eco village Čadrg	Slovenia	Information not available	Transformation of mountain agriculture in a village to ecological farming with a revitalisation effect on the village and development of sustainable tourism. Also, the establishment of a drug abuse rehabilitation centre Don Pierino in a former	Municipality of Tolmin; National Park Authorities	2	Provision of Infrastructure	National; Local	Tourism; Nature protection; Public administration.	Municipality; Public Agency	Not applicable	https://www.cipra.si/en/good-practice/eco-village-cadrg

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				schoolhouse. All these to stop the trend of people moving to urban areas by repopulation of rural areas								
36	Carbon-smart forestry	Slovenia		Objective was to arrive at an integrated picture of carbon sink and source and to adapt forest management for different climate and forest management regimes. To be achieved by developing carbon smart forest management systems for adaption and mitigation in the view of climate change.	Technische Universität München (TUM); Università degli Studi di Padova (UP); Bern University of Applied Science (BFH); Libera Università di Bolzano (UNIBZ); Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW); National Institute for Agricultural and Food Research and Technology, Spain (INIA); Universidad de Valladolid (UVA); Forest Enterprise Traunstein (FETS); Landesbetrieb Wald und Holz, NRW; föra - fora forest technologies SLL (FORA); Bialowieza National Park (BPN); Agresta (AG); Province Bolzano, Forest management (PB); Forstbetrieb Bürgergemeinde	17	Empirical research; Data evaluation; Knowledge integration; Statistical and Mechanistic Modelling; Model applications; Forest Management; and Forest harvesting; Promoting Intercultural Interaction; Funding	International; National; Regional; Local	Forestry; Agriculture and food; Rural development; Social services; Public administration	Public agency; Public enterprise; Public institute; Public university;	European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant	http://www.care4c.eu/index.html

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					Bern (FBB); Stellenbosch University (SU); Merensky Timber (HM); European Union							
37	Scattered hotel Vrbanj initiative	Croatia	Information not available	It involved the coordination of high-quality private accommodation and local cuisine using the local farm products. Also, to invest in the renovation of a central building for reception purposes. Ultimately, they sought to ensure that organisational structure and operational management are in line with sustainable development principles	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	http://www.poslovni.hr/startup-i-vase-price/difuzni-hotel-vrbanj-nudi-drukciji-dozivljaj-hvara-290611
38	Dora Farm	Italy	2011	The aim was managing a medium-sized olive grove by adopting eco-friendly agricultural practices, for the production of extra virgin olive oil of high quality. They ensure traceability of their products, conservation of biodiversity, protection of the traditional landscape and local cultural traditions. Thereby,	Rural Development Programme, Sicily; Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies; European Union	3	Research; Environmental education; Funding	International; Regional	Forestry; Agriculture and food; Rural development	Ministry; Public agency	Information not available	https://www.donidinatura.com/azienda

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				becoming a model of authentically sustainable and multifunctional agriculture.								
39	Terre de Liens	France	2003	A network of convergence of several movements linking popular education, organic and biodynamic agriculture, ethical finance, solidarity economy and rural development. they invented new tools to stop the disappearance of land and facilitate access to agricultural land for new farmer facilities . These tools are available to everyone, so that everyone can get involved in the future of our farms and agriculture.	Ministry of Agriculture, Agri-Food and Forestry; Ministry of Sports, Youth, Popular Education and Community Life with the Fund for the Development of Community Life; Ministry of Sustainable Development; European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD); CGET General Commissariat for Territorial Equality; European Social Fund (ESF); Avise; ERASMUS +; FRENCH RURAL NETWORK; Seine-Normandie water agency.	10	Funding	International; National; Regional; Local	Forestry; Agriculture and food; Rural development; Nature protection; Social services; Public administration	Ministry; Inspectorate; Public agency; Public enterprise; Public institute	Funding by Public actors involved	https://terredelien.s.org/organismes-publics.html

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40	Les Centrales Villageoises	France	2010	The Village Centrals are local companies with citizen governance that carry projects in favour of the energy transition by following a logic of territory. They bring together citizens, local communities and businesses and contribute to energy objectives by taking into account territorial issues transversal (local economic development, landscape integration, social ties, etc.). The Village Centrals operate as a network within an Association and share a common model, based on the sharing of a large number of tools and services. This model is now implemented in several French regions	Regional Agency for Energy and the Environment in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes; European Union	1	Development of tools and shared services; Strengthening the professionalization of projects; Aimed at the creation of local jobs; Innovative experiments; Funding	Regional; International	Energy; Nature protection	Public Agency	European Union Funding	http://www.centralesvillageoises.fr
41	Superquinqu	France	2015	A cooperative supermarket belonging to its customer-members who can make choices about products and vote for important decisions. Aim was to contribute to the development of sustainable agriculture that respects the environment and the peasants. It works with a model of active participation in which each member devotes 3 hours per month of volunteer work to ensure the supermarket works (shelving, boxes, packaging	The European Metropolis of Lille; HAUTS-DE-FRANCE Region	2	Provision of Manpower; Funding	Regional	Public Administration	Municipality	Private Organization Funding	https://superquinquin.fr/qui-sommes-nous/

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				of products, etc.) and that allows to reduce costs, and thus prices.								
42	La Bêle Solution	France	Information not available	La Bêle Solution offers an economic and ecological solution for the maintenance of green spaces: the use of sheep for mowing large stores. The work is completed by disabled workers of Adapei 60 ESAT.	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	http://labellesolution.fr/solutions
43	Forum Nazionale Agricoltura Sociale	Italy	2011	Established with the aim of representing and promoting the values and principles of Social Farming (SF) both in Italy and Europe. It has brought together associations, farms and people in a common space that advocates for the improvement of services for disadvantaged groups, people with a disability, youth, women and elderly, in the agricultural sector.	European Union	1	Funding	International	Agriculture and food; Rural development; Social services.	Public Agency	European Union funded Think Tank	http://www.forumagricolturasociale.it

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44	SIMBIorti	Italy	2008	A project carried out by the cooperative Cadore – to provide employment and services to the mountain communities and to the territory of Cadore- which has seen the introduction of the cultivation of the mountain artichoke, supervised by local farmers. It served as a way to engage people with disabilities and refugees. The focus was to bring different projects together like; disability, immigration, land-based employment opportunities, sustainable cultivation and territorial development. So, SIMBIorti is synonymous with social agriculture and attention to quality agriculture respectful of nature, to enhance and not spoil the rural mountain area. The cultivation of mountain artichokes becomes a means to give agriculture a strong social value.	Municipality of Valle di Cadore; Municipality of San Vito di Cadore; Municipality of Auronzo di Cadore; Municipality of Lozzo di Cadore; Municipality of Pieve di Cadore; Municipality of Cortina d'Ampezzo; Municipality of Calalzo di Cadore; Municipality of Santo Stefano di Cadore; Municipality of Alleghe; Municipality of Cibiana di Cadore.	10	Provision of Manpower; Training Funding	Local	Public Administration	Municipality	Cooperative Funding	http://www.cadorestcs.com/portfolio-item/p17/
45	Casa dei Beni Comuni (Home of the commons)	Italy	2012	An active citizenship project that helped to gain access to an abandoned military building and adjacent green space, with the idea of converting it into a multi-functional space for use of the community and local associations.	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	http://casadeibenicomuni.it/

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46	Coltivare Condividendo	Italy	2009	It is a seed sharing initiative which focuses on the participatory selection of local and traditional seed varieties, organises a seed sharing event yearly, and promotes activities in the schools. It joined the movement against the introduction of GMOs in Europe and Italy.	Province of Belluno; Province of Trentino	2	Provision of Manpower; Training Support	Regional	Public Administration	Municipality	Cooperative Funding	https://coltivarecondividendo.it/chisiamo
47	Movimento Terra Bellunese	Italy		A movement in the province aiming to secure municipal protocols and policing against the use of synthetic pesticides, and more specifically the use of glyphosate in agriculture. It is a group of citizens, associations and farmers born spontaneously as a result of the increased pressure on the territory of the province of Belluno from large companies that want to establish intensive crops treated with pesticides.	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	http://terrabellunese.blogspot.it/
48	Associazione Montagnaterapia Italiana ONLUS	Italy	2009	Intended to define an original methodological approach of a therapeutic-rehabilitative and / or socio-educational nature , aimed at the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of individuals with different problems, pathologies or disabilities; it is designed to take place, through work on group dynamics, in the cultural, natural and artificial environment of the mountain .	National Health Service; Italian Alpine Club	2	Management of projects and activities; Awareness creation; Training.	National; regional	Social services; Public administration	Inspectorate; Public enterprise	Information not available	http://www.amionlus.it

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49	Intercultural community garden 'I murazzi di Longarone'	Italy	Information not available	The municipality of Longarone decided to transform terraces that were abandoned after a landslide in the sixties into “urban gardens”, offering the locals – mostly immigrants - the opportunity to cultivate vegetables. The garden is provided for three years and is subject to a small fee to residents of the municipality who do not have access to other pieces of land in the municipality. The initiative provides an avenue for social inclusion.	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available
50	Rural Hub - Incubator for agriculture - based initiatives	Italy	Information not available	It was established to be the main node of a network of researchers, activists, scholars and managers interested in identifying new models of economic development to find solutions to social and market needs emerging from the world of new rural businesses. It was born as a research collective to foster the connection between new innovative realities, investors and trade associations linked to the lack of a business incubator that could really offer services to trigger an entrepreneurial, technological and sustainable renewal also in the agri-food sector.	The Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari; Libera Terra; Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group	3	Scientific research and planning of interventions; Training; Creation of networks and enhancing relationships.	National; Regional	Agriculture and food; Rural development; Social services	Public enterprise; Public university	Research project funded by MIUR cod.PAC02L3_00026	http://www.ruralhub.it/progetto/

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51	Slow Food	Italy	1986	Slow Food is a large international non-profit association committed to restoring the right value to food, in respect of those who produce, in harmony with the environment and ecosystems. They work in over 150 countries and rely on a dense network of partners, friends and supporters around the world.	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	https://www.slowfood.it
52	CampiAperti - OPEN FIELDS	Italy	2000	Open Fields is an association of producers and citizens that supports peasant organic farming and the right of communities to decide on the production of their own food, nutrition and territorial management. They seek a path to food sovereignty that passes through the creation of a direct relationship between those who produce and those who consume, through the organization of self-managed markets.	Camilla emporio di comunita	1	Promotes social cohesion and networking	Local	Rural development; Social services	Public enterprise	Information not available	https://www.campiaperto.org
53	Outdoors Education Educare all'aria aperta	Italy	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available
54	Forest management Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme	Italy	Information not available	In the Fiemme valley - which is characterised by forests which span over a surface of about 25,000ha and it is administrated by 12 Municipalities- there is the historical institution of the Magnifica Comunità di	Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme		Redistribution of revenues; Forest management; investments.	Local	Public Administration	Public agency	Funding from Forest Resources	http://www.mcfiemme.eu

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				Fiemme. It is an ancient institution, which is a customary socio-political-administrative institution. The Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme plays a key role, accepted by local population, in the management of the commons.								
55	Del Monte de Tabuyo	Spain		The creation of an environment of commercial exchange, which allows the emergence of entities that supply each other, promoting the development of the region and, of the province. This economic growth favours the creation of employment and therefore the fixation of population in an environment that without new and innovative projects would tend to total depopulation based on a massive exodus towards the larger population centers.	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	http://www.delmontedetabuyo.com/quienes-somos.html
56	Vazapp	Italy		A rural hub designed to accommodate young people sharing knowledge, ideas, projects, and passions about agriculture and tourism. Creates a young farmers' community so they can experience technological and organisational innovation adopted at a social level. A typical Vazapp's modus operandi is the promotion of events called "conta-	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	https://vazapp.it/?lang=en

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				dinner" (a neologism derived from the terms "contadino", that is the Italian word for 'farmer', and "dinner") for relationships creation.								
57	I'Innesto social cooperative	Italy	1999	The social cooperative provides therapy assistance to disabled and disadvantaged persons and provides employment opportunities to residents in the valley. This helps to consolidate social capital and supports the local community.	Lombardy Region; European Union	2	Project promoter; Coordination; Funding	International; Regional	Public Administration	Public Agency	EU ERDF Environment, Culture and Sustainable Tourism	http://www.innesto.org/linnesto/#insfida
58	Association Cita' Futura	Italy	1999	The programme seeks to rebuild (a new) social capital in the community and rediscover traditional artisanal processes and products by supporting handicrafts labs, educational activities, and the redefinition of public spaces. This was further achieved by enabling the social inclusion and integration of newcomers (including refugees) who migrate from different developing countries to the local community. The programme recreates a new multicultural society based on re-launching of local traditions and products. The initiative benefited different types of persons: poor people arriving from abroad,	Municipality of Riace	1	Sourcing of funds for the project; Training; Social integration.	Local	Public Administration	Municipality	Individual donations	https://www.riacecittafutura.org

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				women, local elders, youth (all disadvantaged groups)								
59	Mouth River Contract 'Delta del Po'	Italy	2012	The growing interest of stakeholders in creating new strategies and priorities for sustainably managing land and water resources in their territory, led to the development of "Mouth river Contract" specific to the characteristics of the Po River Delta. A mouth river contract is a new type of agreement that can be co-constructed and agreed among several different stakeholders interested in the use and management of water resources in the river-sea interface. This project allowed the creation of new networks among stakeholders and actors engaged in an action-research that implemented participatory approaches in local development planning.	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (FEASR); Emilia Romagna Region	2	Funding; Liaison between stakeholders; Conflict resolution	International; Regional	Agriculture and food; Rural development; Public administration.	Public agency	FEASR funding	http://www.parco.deltapo.it/pages/en/institution.php

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60	Montagne Fiorentina Model Forest (FMMF)	Italy	2009	Located at Tuscany (province of Florence), it aims to create new multi-actor and multi-sector networks which aim at providing a new governance instrument for forest resources as well as agriculture and rural lands. These instruments are based on the active involvement of local actors in the forest-based economy, including tourism, recreation, culture, and sharing of know-how. It seeks to incorporate local actors interested in management that takes into account environmental, economic and social aspects.	Agricultural companies and cooperatives; Research Center for Silviculture - CRA; Municipality of LONDA; Municipality of PELAGO; Municipality of PONTASSIEVE; Municipality of REGGELLO; Municipality of RUFINA; Municipality of SAN GODENZO; Municipality of RIGNANO SULL'ARNO; Union of Municipalities Valdarno and Valdisieve; Metropolitan city of Florence; Tuscany region	12	Improving the integration and sustainability; Social revaluation of the forest sector; Promotion and development of participation by the local community; Optimization and enhancement of the wood-wood supply chain; Training; Communication.	Regional; Local	Agriculture and food; Rural development; Public administration	Municipality; Public agency; Public institute	Information not available	http://www.forestamodellomontagnEFILORENTINE.ORG/64/it/
61	Positive migration: novel relationship for wellbeing and sustainability of Adriatic islands	Croatia	Information not available	This initiative supports the re-integration of Croatian migrants that are retired back into the Island to live on the island, and renovating and cultivating abandoned land and settlements.	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available
62	Recartografías	Spain	2013	Recartografías is an association of land stewardship, which aims to study, and map abandoned rural heritage. The key project is "Mas Blanco" geared towards the restoration of abandoned	University of Valencia; Center for Studies of the Mastership	2	Funding; Research; Mapping; Provision of manpower	Regional; Local	Education and Research	Public institute; Public university	Self-funded	http://recartografias.es/

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				rural equipment in San Agustín in an ecological and sustainable way. Their objectives are to restore the main municipal buildings of the neighbourhood to set up an eco-village and a technical school focused on traditional knowledge (Universidad Libre de Las Masías).								
63	EOLPOP - Viure de l'aire	Spain	Information not available	EOLPOP is a small private company responsible for developing the installation and setting up of a wind turbine of shared ownerships among voluntarily interested citizens. EOLPOP was launched through the local branch of Eurosolar (European association for renewable energies) and its initiative "Living from the air of the sky".	Greenpeace; World Watch Institute; World Wind Energy Association;	3	Monitoring of environmental impacts of activities; Funding	International	Energy; Nature protection	Public institute	Donor Sponsored	http://www.viuredelaire.cat/en/the-project/citizenship-wind-power.html
64	Cooperativa 2147 MANS	Spain		This initiative works with disadvantaged groups like young unemployed and people with mental illnesses and disabilities. They serve as social cooperative that works in the agri-food industry with the aim of producing local, quality and ecological products. dedicated to the production, transformation and commercialization of organic fruit and vegetables. dedicated to the production, transformation and commercialization of	Fundació Catalunya La Pedrera; European Union and the European Social Fund; Horts de Sant Benet council	3	Provision of Manpower; Seeds; Funding	International; Regional; Local	Social services; Public administration	Public agency; Public Institute	EU Funding	https://www.mans.coop/qui-som/

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				organic fruit and vegetables.								
65	Associació de Gestors Forestals de les Gavarres	Spain	1998	The consortium was created with the aim of protecting and managing the Area of Natural Interest of les Gavarres.	County councils of Baix Empordà and Gironès; The Diputació de Girona; The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Food and the Natural Environment		Advisory and proposal functions; Environmental education; Forest management; et cetera	Regional; Local	Forestry; Agriculture and food; Rural development; Public administration	Ministry; Municipality; Inspectorate; Public agency.	Funding from Diputació de Girona (€ 8,000)	www.gavarres.cat/ca/el_consorci.html
66	ENERBOSC - Federació d'Agrupacions de Defensa Forestal (ADF) del Bages	Spain	1998	The Federation of Forest Défense Groups (ADF) of the Bages is a non-profit organization, this was created with the objective of supporting and coordinating the ADF's of the region with tasks of prevention, training for new volunteers, Coordination of voluntary work on extinction tasks and also to provide technical and administrative advice	Government of Catalonia; Diputació de Barcelona; Consell Comarcal del Bages	3	Improve collaboration between administrations in fire prevention; Support training sessions for new volunteers; Technical and administrative advice.	Regional; Local	Public administration	Public agency	Information not available	http://www.federacioadfbages.org/
67	Plataforma Forestal Valenciana	Spain	Information not available	The Valencian Forestry Platform Association (Plataforma Forestal Valenciana) was conceived to be a participative space for knowledge-sharing and the creation of synergies.	Official Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Navigation of Valencia; UNIVERSITAT OF VALENCIA;	4	Information sharing; Research; Training; Generation of environmental	Regional; Local	Public administration; Education and Research	Public agency; Public University	EU Funding	http://www.plataformaforestalvalenciana.com/plataforma-forestal-valenciana/

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				The forestry sector in the valencian region has traditionally been scattered, and the recognition of the forest owner is key to promote the development and structuring of the sector. Environmental and socioeconomic value, as well as rural development are also part of the platform's concerns.	MIGUEL HERNÁNDEZ UNIVERSITY; POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF VALENCIA; European Union		and socio-economic value					
68	Blue Bees	France	Information not available	Crowdfunding platform to promote and facilitate the implementation of projects working for a sustainable agriculture and food, i.e. ecological, economically viable source of employment and social ties in the territories. It helps to finance projects by facilitating the connection between the promoters of innovative projects, in order to enable them to find the funding and support they need; and Internet users, offering them the opportunity to participate in the realization of virtuous projects. Besides, Blue Bees connects manufacturers and distributors, thus creating business opportunities for project promoters.	Bio Agency; International Solidarity for Development and Investment; The nave; Mutual credit	4	Funding; Networking	International; National	Agriculture and food; Financial Institutions	Public enterprise; Public institute	Crowdfunding; Individual donation	https://bluebees.fr/

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69	Supporting dairy producers organizations through a public private partnership programme	Tunisia	Information not available	Pilot project implemented by FAO as per the official government request to promote small scale dairy sector and improve the livelihoods of small farmers, consisting in the implementation of the Tunisian livestock strategy based on the public private partnership, an enabling environment to strengthen capacities of producers' organizations (POs) was created.	Food and Agriculture organization; Ministry of Agriculture; European Investment Bank	3	Technical and managerial capacity building; Networking with Pos; Funding	International; National	Agriculture and food; Financial Institutions	Ministry; Public agency; Public enterprise	European Investment Bank; FAO	https://www.eib.org/en/infocentre/publications/all/femip-med-5p.htm
70	Hortas Sociais do Bispo - Social Agriculture @ESAC	Portugal	2008	The bishops' Urban Social Agriculture experience started in October 2008, in a partnership between the Coimbra Agrarian School (ESAC) and the S. Martinho do Bispo Parish, Coimbra. They are located at one end of the ESAC campus and have 11 plots, 5 of which are assigned to women. The production model is based on the most basic rules of the Organic Production. They support the productive activity in principles and practices of social technologies and in the use of traditional varieties. Each plot has an average area of 75 m2 and has a composter. There is a water outlet for every two plots. They have collective collection disposal (adapted from an old disabled pigeon), where they keep seeds and agricultural tools. The	Coimbra School of Agriculture; Coimbra City Council; International Food Security Network (IFSN)	3	Organizing seminars, visits and exchanges; Scientific Research	International; Local	Agriculture and food; Public administration	Municipality; Public institute; Public university	Information not available	http://webgrau.webly.com/projects.html

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				production is mainly for domestic consumption, although they provide some products to family and friends and exchange between them.								
71	Korenika - organic social farm	Slovenia	2006	This is an eco-social farm that focusses on social entrepreneurship, employing people with disabilities and other vulnerable social groups, as well as sheltered employment. They have a system of organic food production and processing on over 20 hectares of land. Also, they offer workshops based on experiential learning to schools and tourists	Korenika Institute; European Union	2	Provision of Manpower and equipment; Education; Funding	International; Regional	Agriculture and food; Rural development	Public agency; Public Institute	EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND	https://www.korenika.si/o-koreniki
72	Agricoltura Capodarco Società Cooperativa Sociale	Italy	1978	Agricoltura Capodarco is a type B Social Cooperative oriented to the promotion of a social, sustainable and inclusive economy. The road is that of Social Agriculture, which bases its bases on the riches of the territory to build	BIOsolidale; National Social Agriculture Forum; Capodarco Community of Rome onlus.	3	Educational training; Job placement; Territorial animation; Promotion of responsible consumption; Protection of	National; Local	Agriculture and food; Public administration	Public agency; Public enterprise	Information not available	http://www.agricolturacapodarco.it/home/chi-siamo/

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				welcoming and supportive communities. Built around a small group of members of the Capodarco Community of Rome, over the years it has become an integral part of the social and productive fabric of the territory".			the landscape heritage-environmental, etc.					
73	The consortium of social cooperatives NCO (Nuova Cooperazione Organizzata/New Organized Cooperation)	Italy	2012	The consortium aims to contribute to a civil growth of the territory, supported by the culture of inclusion and legality, through the creation of sustainable social economy activities that create decent work for people in need. The activities are aimed at involving the community, for the socio-cultural change of the territory and to make the assets confiscated and / or common symbols and resources of communities free from the Camorra more and more. Furthermore, all activities are carried out with the aim of providing quality products and services in respect of the ecosystem .	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Cooperative funding	http://www.ncocooperazione.com/ncco/referer/112/idPage/100/lang/it/Noi-amiamo-le-persone-che-cadono.html
74	A box of sea	Greece	Information not available	The project "A Box of Sea" brings together low impact fishermen and citizens who want to take action against overfishing. The aims of this coalition are to create a fairer market which protects the marine environment, rewards those who fish in more	Greenpeace International	1	Networking; Market creation; Information dissemination	International	Nature Protection	Public agency	Greenpeace funding	http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/news/Blogs/makingwaves/low-impact-fishing-greece/blog/57413/

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				moderate ways, supports small fishing communities and provides better information to consumers regarding the seafood that ends up on their plates. Supporters receive fish caught daily by low impact fishermen to their doorstep. Those who receive the boxes help to test out different tools and logistic details in order to establish a distribution system that will be operated exclusively by the fishermen in the future.								
75	EconoMountain	Portugal	Information not available	The social innovation is a new technique of grazing, which uses goats for mountain devastation/fuel control. It is intended, therefore, to control the intensity, period and timing of grazing. This management include the partnership with a shepherd to optimize the work. The project has also an information and communication component - kitchen workshops -, aiming to change the habits of consumption towards a responsible consumption, valuing the most sustainable productions (mushrooms, honey, ...) and exploring niche markets.	European Union; Ministry of Agricultural forestry rural development	2	Networking; Funding; Manpower provision	International; National	Public administration	Public agency; Ministry	Information not available	http://www.rederural.gov.pt/component/content/article/22-leader/191-tres-projetos-de-cooperacao-dinamizados-pela-adrat

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76	Oficina agricola - Agricultural workshop	Portugal	Information not available	The "Agricultural Workshop" promotes the personal development of young people with disabilities through regular professional activity in the area of agriculture. This initiative is based also focusses on occupational therapy, professional training and use of an agricultural farm.	Institute of Social Entrepreneurship ; Boticas City Council	2	Training; Education	Regional; Local	Social services; Public administration	Public agency; Public institute	Information not available	http://misericordia.boticas.pt/?s=agricola
77	Transhumance and Nature Association	Portugal	2000	Owning more than 1600 ha among the various Nature Spaces or EPN's, ATNature's management includes the Faia Brava Reserve, the first and only private protected area in Portugal, located within the SPA (Special Protection Zone). Côa Valley (part of the Natura 2000 network) and the Côa Valley Archaeological Park (UNESCO World Heritage Site). The main objective of this project is the establishment and management of a set of natural areas at a regional level, where an autonomous and sustainable effort can be developed for the conservation of the unique biodiversity of the Douro river basin	European Commission LIFE Program; Endangered Landscapes Program - run by the Cambridge Conservation Initiative	2	Networking; Funding	International	Agriculture and food; Nature protection	Public agency; Public institute	European union funding; Personal donations	https://www.atnatureza.org/pt/atn/organizacao

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78	Brotas - An undiscovered village: CULTURAL HISTORICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL BROTAS PROACTIVE ASSOCIATION	Portugal	2009	Initiative was formed to energize together with its associates, population and Brotas visitors, through all legal ways, working towards the development of the historical, cultural and environmental heritage directly related to Brotas. Also, to promote the development of the village and ensure its sustainability and the preservation of its local heritage and to combat isolation and depopulation with the promotion / publicity of the village	Government of the Republic of Portugal; European Union	2	Coordination and networking; Funding	International; National	Nature protection; Social services; Public administration	Public agency; Public Institute	European Social Fund	http://abrottea.pt/en/quem-somos-en/
79	Strategy for the Development and Promotion of the Mycological Resources in the Lower Alentejo	Portugal	Information not available	In the Alentejo, abundance, tradition associated with mycological resources and their high gastronomic value, led the Association of Defense of Mértola Heritage (ADPM) to invest in the structuring of an organized marketing circuit for these exceptional products. To this end, actions for the dissemination of resources, actions for concentration of supply, training for gatherers and a certification protocol are being promoted to ensure its quality	Association of Defense of Mértola Heritage (ADPM); Alentejo Regional Development Agency (ADRAL); National Coordinating Committee of the National Program to Combat Desertification; Alentejo Regional Center to Combat Desertification - NRCD; IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature; European Information Centers Network - EUROPE DIRECT	6	Scientific Research; Information dissemination; Education	International; National; Regional	Rural development; Nature protection; Social services; Public administration	Public agency; Public Institute	Funded by INALENTEJO 2007/2013	http://adpm.pt/oque-fazemos/projetos/recursos-micologicos-estrategia-para-o-desenvolvimento-e-pr/

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80	Improving Lebanese forests areas' governance through the implementation of participatory approaches	Lebanon	2011	The social innovation is about implementing participatory approaches to engage stakeholders in the management of the forest and its resources and decision-making process. A governance structure is proposed highlighting the necessity to involve all direct and indirect beneficiaries based on their shared interest. This is essential in strengthening social cohesion and community development. This initiative was implemented in the reserve of Bentael (Bentael Nature Reserve (BNR) located in a rural area in Mount Lebanon, and is one of the oldest nature reserves in Lebanon)	Lebanon Ministry of Agriculture; Scientific committee; Mediterranean Regional Office of the European Forest Institute (EFIMED); United Nations Environment Programme (UNFP)	3	Adoption of good participatory practices; Networking and engagement with community members; Advisory roles; Funding	International; National; Regional	Forestry; Agriculture and food; Rural development; Public administration	Ministry; Public institute	UNFP funding; Philanthropic donations	http://planbleu.org/en/publications/mediterranean-foreststowards-better-recognition-economic-and-social-value-goods-and
81	Economic Empowerment of Women in rural areas (WEEP)	Lebanon	2000	The programme is based on an understanding of rural women's multiple, vital and yet invisible roles and economic contributions and the need to promote both women's work, voice and leadership. Moreover, WEEP is also shaped by the overarching aim to contribute to widening women's choices and supporting them to attain their rights. The WEEP programme strategies involve capacity building, networking, knowledge and fact finding, policy dialogue and access	Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA); UN Women Regional Office; The British Embassy in Lebanon; International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas	6	Knowledge and Research; Information Dissemination; Funding	International; Regional	Forestry; Agriculture and food; Rural development	Public Agency; Public Institute	Funded by CIDA	https://www.weep.ortal-lb.org/about-us

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				to market. To scale up this initiative, an autonomous marketing cooperative called Namlied and RUWOMED were created. They are composed of rural women cooperatives and which aimed to facilitate a sustainable internal and external market access to women, and which seeks to promote economic sustainability amongst rural Lebanese women as well as Palestinian women and youth in Lebanon.	(ICARDA); Canada Fund for Local Initiatives							
82	Nallihan Tourism Volunteers Association	Turkey	2005	Focus of initiative was to develop the region in the areas of tourism, history and culture. They gave importance to establishing organizations in rural tourism. The region includes Nallihan Bird Sanctuary and two thousand years of Juliopolis Ancient city. Nallihan Tourism Volunteers Association linked those activities to their rural tourism projects. Guest houses and cultural centers were established in 9 villages. The association also focused on rural women empowerment projects, leading to financial stability of the women.	Ankara Development Agency; Turkey Environment Foundation; Ankara University	3	Information dissemination; Training; Development projects;	National	Rural Development; Educational Institution	Public agency; Public University	Government funding	http://www.naltud.org.tr/?SyfNmb=1&pt=Anasayfa

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83	Women Branch of the Vakıflı Village Cooperative	Turkey	2004	To combat population loss in the Armenian village of Vakıflı, the women of the Vakıflı village came together in 2002 to establish the women branch of the church in the village. Their purpose was to sell their home-made organic products (jam, liquors, pomegranate syrup, olive oil etc.) to the tourist visiting the church and make a living out of this. The men in the village were inspired by the success of women and in 2004 Vakıflı Cooperation was founded. The women, who are the sources of inspiration, started to work as the Women Branch of the Cooperative.	European Centre for Ecological and Agricultural Tourism (ECEAT)	1	Promotion of sustainable travel; Training	International	Tourism	Public agency	Information not available	http://www.tatuta.org/?p=1&lang=en
84	GWAD' AMAP - DOT SOLEY Community supported organic agriculture	France	Information not available	Community supported organic agriculture project with a wider educational project to reconcile people with nature. The organic producers' association: GWADAMAP is supported by a Consumers association: Dot Soley. The aim of the Dot Soley association is to maintain and develop a healthy agriculture that respects Humans and Nature. It's goals are to foster organic agriculture and fair trade between consumers and producers. It also aims at sensitizing as many people as possible (citizen	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	http://www.dotsoley.asso.gp

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				education and citizen science) to healthy and local food via the use of agricultural practices that are sustainable. The association covers educational creole gardens, shared gardens, debates around movie projections (that fit with the goals and spirit of the association), a bee sanctuary and counts with the support of voluntaries and farmers.								
85	Call of the Earth (community recycling scheme)	Lebanon	1998	Community recycling scheme carried out by an all-woman rubbish collection team set up because waste collection has been neglected by authorities. The innovator - Zeinab Mokalled- called on the women of the village to help going door-to-door. Volunteers pay for the service themselves (each of 46 members puts about \$40 each year). At the beginning, they used Mokalled's back garden as storage area for recyclable waste, and one of her friends -Khadija Farhat- bought a lorry. After 3 years, they received a piece of land from the local authorities which enabled Mokalled to get her garden back; and they started renting a lorry to work alongside Farhat's. After 10 years they received a grant from the Italian embassy to build a warehouse.	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); The Italian Embassy; The German Embassy; local municipality.	4	Funding; Construction of operation site; Provision of power supply; Provision of manpower and land	International; Local	Rural development; Public administration	Public agency; Public Institute	UNFP funding; Individual donations	https://resource.c/o/article/call-earth-residents-lebanon-leading-recycling-efforts-12237

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86	Catalan Integral Cooperative and its eco-networks	Spain	2010	The Catalan Integral Cooperative (CIC) is a transitional initiative to create a grassroots civil movement based on self-management, self-organization and direct democracy. Practices economic and political self-management with the equal participation of all its members. It brings together all the basic elements of an economy such as production, consumption, funding and a local currency. One of their projects are the “eco-networks” (ecoxarxes in catalan). An eco-network is a place of exchange that promotes the development of the self-management activity in a specific region. An eco-network encourages economy and local human relations, based on proximity, in order to meet their basic needs “outside capitalism” or without using the euro as currency. Among their work to recover the ethical and human dimensions in economic activities, and launching an economy based on trust, reciprocity, solidarity and ecology.	Municipality	1	Creation of enabling environment for civil movement to thrive	Regional	Public administration	Public agency	Crowdfunding; Donation of social currency	https://cooperativa.cat

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87	School of shepherds (Escola de pastors)	Spain	2009	The school of shepherds is an education project that proposes a new model of peasantry. Located in the Pyrenees, they incorporate and educate new generations of shepherds, who often have no family tradition of peasantry. The school also participates in projects promoting good forest management in other areas (e.g. using animals to clear forests for fire prevention), which although has been a common practice in the past, is currently not extended in Catalonia.	Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Food and the Natural Environment; Agrarian School of Pallars	2	Training; Access to land; Advisory roles	National; Regional	Agriculture and food; Rural development; Nature protection	Public agency; Public school	Partner and Membership fees	https://www.escoladepastorsdecatalunya.cat
88	Dar El Ain	Tunisia	2015	The objectives of the Dar El Ain initiative are the creation of ecotourism tours, and the establishment of an ecotourism centre where ecotourism activities are a source of income for the local population. Aims to develop the ancestral know-how of rural women and the local heritage and cultural specificities, the company now combines a quarantine artisans and local producers, and also around a cottage with a capacity of 16 people.	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	https://darelain.wordpress.com/accueil/

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89	ADM Market development approach	Tunisia	Information not available	The project was managed by the General Directorate of Forests (DGF) for the creation and development of Forest Micro-enterprises (MEF) based on the exploitation of NWFPs. The aim of this approach is to increase the income of forestry population, their participation in measures of sustainable management of forest resources. Also, to strengthen the capacity of micro-enterprises and their involvement in the management of forest resources through the sustainable and rational exploitation of forest products in their area of influence. Furthermore, this project is based on a participatory approach involving stakeholders and has also supported the development of communication and dialogue capacities between GDAs, women foresters and national institutions.	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available
90	Mosaico project	Spain	Information not available	Project aimed to prevent megafires by promoting agro-silvo-pastoral practices and products. Mosaico intends to stimulate, advise and consolidate small or large initiatives that generate cultivated land, grazing land or extraction of forest products (productive	Junta De Extremadura; European Union	2	Training; Information dissemination; Funding	Local; International	Forestry; Agriculture and food; Rural development;	Public agency	EU Funding	https://www.mosaicoextremadura.es/en/home-en/

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				firebreaks). The team holds informative sessions, acts as a bridge with local and regional institutions, and works as a network including local entrepreneurs.								
91	Amazing waste	Albania	Information not available	A recyclable waste collection initiative that organises recyclers in a cooperative and establishes a collection system by door to door actions. Collectors receive a voucher for each kilo of waste they collect. Vouchers can be used in supermarkets, restaurants, etc. Waste management in Albania is at a low level, and this initiative was developed to combat the issue of rural waste collection and recycling.	Social Education and Environment Protection (SEEP); Local Economic Development Agency of Vlore; Regional Environmental Center	3	Networking; Environmental education	Regional; Local	Rural development; Nature protection	Public agency; Public Institute	Information not available	https://amazingwasteproject.wordpress.com/the-project/
92	Youth for Everyone in the Community	Montenegro	2002	Focus was on sustainable development of rural area and preservation of traditional and cultural values in Montenegro. They are active in the field of environmental protection, ecological issues promotion of organic food production, and community mobilization around issues of common concern. The project aimed to create space for meaningful leisure time activities for children and young people, in a rural area of Niksic municipality, where there were almost no cultural or	Municipality of Niksic; Local community Zupa; Montenegro Chamber of Commerce; Ministry for sustainable development and tourism; Directorate for youth and sports; EU Delegation to Montenegro; EU/Trag Foundation; Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF); Charles	9	Renovation of buildings; Active participation in initiative; Provision of recreation equipment; Funding	International; National; Local	Rural development; Public administration	Ministry; Municipality; Public agency; Public enterprise	International, National, and local Sponsors and donations	http://eng.faktcg.org/2010/02/healthy-food-production-niksic/

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				sports events for the young. The organization's young activities mobilized the community to adapt an old building into a youth centre, and provide the space for organizing cultural and sport manifestations. Their long-term objective is to prevent further depopulation of youth from this rural area.	Stewart Mott Foundation							
93	Pro Permet Consoritum	Albania	Information not available	A voluntary organisation among active Albanian entities in the sectors of regional products and hospitality and service with the goal of sustainably developing tourism in Permet District. Members are collaborating to promote the territory and its products, develop tourism and tourism infrastructure, and preserve the environment. The Consortium gives members the tools to develop and increase their own capacity and promote their products as a united group instead of relying on outside help or working alone. It also encourages them to share their best practices and improve the quality of their services and marketing of products. Through the Pro Përmet website and Facebook page, the area is promoted as a destination for good	National Tourism Agency; Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso Transeuropa	2	Internationalization of tourism; Information dissemination	National	Tourism; Mass media	Public agency; Public enterprise	Information not available	http://www.visitpermet.org

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				food and outdoor experiences.								
94	Mozaik Foundation	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2002	Mozaik is a national-level foundation with the aim of encouraging development of rural communities. They are dedicated to encouraging an army of young, enterprising people to create jobs, stimulate the economy and act as role models for others. Because young people always want to leave, Moziak Foundation aims to provide them with opportunities and financial supports to improve their prospects in their own country, and develop local communities in the process. Mozaik Foundation's Social Business Incubator provides intensive mentoring for prospective social entrepreneurs, creating an ecosystem of support around them. Social entrepreneurs who establish their business and are successful will be invited to join M-club, the alumni network of Mozaik's strategy, and are	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; European Venture Philanthropy Association; The Balkan Trust for Democracy; Rockefeller Brothers Fund	4	Funding	International	Rural Development	Public agency; Public enterprise	International Sponsors	https://mozaik.ba

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				encouraged to inspire the next generation of young social entrepreneurs.								
95	Network for Rural Development of Montenegro	Montenegro	2012	The Montenegrin Network for Rural Development (MNRD) currently consists of 22 NGOs aimed at rural development. Through its activities and newly created partnerships, Network for Rural Development of Montenegro mobilises all existing capacities on the ground and directs them towards a better understanding of the concept of rural development in Montenegro and the EU. The objectives are: strengthening the awareness of all actors in rural areas, particularly civil society organizations and contributing to the overall sustainable development of rural areas of Montenegro; strengthening activism of rural populations through initiatives of civil society; and creating an environment for interactive relationship of the rural	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; Balkan Network for Rural Development (BNRD); Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development	3	Cooperation and Mutual support; Networking with civil societies; Creation of awareness	National	Rural Development	Ministry; Public agency	Information not available	http://ruralportal.me/

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				population with the local and state administration and strengthening their bargaining power and influence on policy-makers and decision-makers								
96	Model Forest 'River Mirna Basin'	Croatia	2008	A Model Forest is a voluntary association of people that live in a particular territory, and are interested in discovering, defining, enhancing and guarantying its sustainability; and in sharing their experiences and their knowledge to contribute to global environmental goals.	The regional government Istria; Regions Castilla y Leon and Murcia from Spain; Provence and Azure coast; Corsica from France; Sardinia from Italy; and two Greek regions Magnesia and Western Macedonia.	7	Cooperation and Mutual support; Networking with all stakeholders; Funding	Regional	Public administration	Public agency	Non-wood forest products and budgetary allocation from regional governments	http://www.rivermirnabasin.org/en
97	TERRAVIVA: economic and environmental restoration of terraced landscapes in Antrona Valley	Italy	Information not available	TERRAVIVA tackles the widespread problem of fragmentation of land properties. TERRAVIVA proposes an innovative form of association which engages land owners as well as local public authorities (Borgomezzavalle Municipality, Ossola Protected Area Management Body), in order to: gather small, abandoned and fragmented properties together and make them available for farmers and	Society of Natural Sciences of the VCO; Ossola Protected Areas Management Body; Municipality of Borgomezzavalle; University of Milan	4	Information dissemination; Training; Development projects;	Regional; Local	Forestry; Nature protection; Public administration	Municipality; Public institute; Public university	Information not available	http://terraviva.scienzezenaturalivco.org/

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				other stakeholders; directly engage the civil society in taking good care of the territory, fostering a collective approach which relies on recognition of mutual rights and duties; promote a sharing economy initiative, in order to give new life to abandoned terraces. The TERRAVIVA association makes the land available at no cost and project proposes a participative approach via public private partnerships								
98	Artel 13: Encouraging local agricultural produce and local services consumption through revitalizing old houses in a depopulated rural mountain area	Bulgaria	Information not available	This initiative consists in bringing back social life in a small isolated village in the Rhodope Mountains, close to the border with Greece, where local residents are only 14 and suffer basic social services like medical care at the spot, no local shops for daily needs, and most important - total social isolation. Artel 13 Association was set up to work for revitalization of Kiselchovo village, where the youngest local resident is 62 years old. All started with the renovation of an old traditional style Rhodope house from ruins to full restoration. The restoration and renovation was completed with the contribution of 69 volunteers from all over Bulgaria, who besides	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	http://www.artel13.com/index.html

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				working have visited natural and cultural sightseeing in the Upper Arda River Valley region when the renovation was completed setting the premises for the activities of Artel 13 Association								
99	Riuverd	Spain	Information not available	The objective of Riuverd is the social and occupational insertion of people at risk of social exclusion, performing productive tasks and developing individualized training itineraries inside and outside the cooperative, stopping for their incorporation into the ordinary labour market	European Union Social Fund; Department of Work, Social Affairs and Families of the Generalitat of Catalonia	2	Training; Funding	International; Regional	Rural development	Public agency	Eu funded	https://www.riuverd.cat/?page_id=1609
100	Bolet Ben Fet Cooperative	Spain	Information not available	It is a special centre of work of the Teb Verd SCCL cooperative. They are part of the TEB Cooperative Group (A group of cooperatives working with people with disabilities) specialized in the social and labour insertion of people with intellectual disabilities. Currently, the TEB attends and employs about a thousand people. The way of working is fully inclusive, offering a full feasibility between the job well done and the people who are part of the cooperative.	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	http://www.boletbenfet.com/#quison

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101	Sopotniki (cotravellers)	Slovenia	Information not available	Sopotniki (meaning: Cotravellers) is an organisation for intergenerational solidarity which was established to help elders get involved in active social life. Through intergenerational solidarity they work to prevent the state of isolation and loneliness of elderly people from small remote villages, who almost never leave their homes due to remoteness, lack of transport means or poor traffic connections. They provide free transport service enabling elders to attend cultural events, visit friends, go to the doctor, go shopping etc. In this way they can run their errands independently and carefree as well as make new acquaintances and keep social contacts with the wider environment, which would otherwise be out of reach. We drive them around to run errands, go for a visit, attend cultural events or just take a trip. They are volunteer drivers of different ages and occupations, who have adapted their work and study obligations in such way that they can in turn provide the service six days a week, from morning and until the last passenger arrives home safely.	Municipality of Hrpolje-Kozina	1	Funding	Local	Public administration	Municipality	Funded by private, corporate and government donations	https://www.sopotniki.org/home.html

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102	Sbrighes!	Italy	Information not available	Sbrighes! is a project that wants to regenerate the economic and social involvement of the specific territory and fight against aging and the decline of an isolated territory. Developed in Tirano, the project aims to transform 12 municipalities in this mountain area into a live, active place where inhabitants can build their own future, an attraction point for young people and under 35-families, stimulating opportunities for self-employment and favouring work-family reconciliation. The idea is to transform unused spaces into places where to find common solutions to widespread needs, encouraging families to adopt shared solutions and forming young people in the area to cover figures that can help the community in their nursing needs. The project combines a local hub to promote co-factoring, co-working and alternative businesses.	Local government	1	Participation and support in organizing events; Support in the regeneration of common goods	Local	Public administration	Municipality	Individual and Volunteer supports	http://www.sbrighes.it
103	Sollievo verde (green relief)	Italy	2008	It designs and organizes targeted educational programs for people in situations of social hardship through the mountains and its disciplines. "Sollievo verde" project has the goal of promoting the personal	Research Center on Education and Experiential and Outdoor Training of University of Bologna; Italian Alpine Club	2	Educational Training	Regional	Educational Institution; Social services	Public university; Public enterprise	Individual and Volunteer supports	https://www.equilibero.org/chi-siamo/

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				autonomy of disabled people through life experiences in nature and to relieve families from caring tasks.								
104	LAMO - New ideas for marginal mountain areas. Participation labs of students and community.	Italy	2017	LAMO has introduced social innovation by bringing together 24 university students from different disciplines (engineering, philosophy, nutritionists, economics, international studies, etc.) and local communities to design innovative proposals for the development of two marginal mountain areas in Trentino: Vederne in the northeastern part (within Primiero valley) and Boniprati in the southwestern part (Giudicarie valley). LAMO is an opportunity to encourage the development of ideas in an open dialogue between different local actors, public administrations and young people with multidisciplinary training. The objective is to develop concrete, innovative and strategic proposals, that is, economically, socially and environmentally sustainable in the short and long term.	Municipality of Primiero San Martino di Castrozza; Municipality of Prezzo	2	Provision of accommodation ; Training; Funding	Local	Public administration	Municipality	Government funding	http://www.provincia.tn.it/LAMO_lab_oratorio_montagna/

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105	Zdrav Šolar - Enhancing sustainable mobility for children going to school	Slovenia	Information not available	CIPRA Slovenia, aims at promoting soft mobility solutions that can be adopted in urban and rural areas alike. The idea is quite simple, and it has been already used elsewhere on completely informal bases. Three schools have been identified as pilot sites. Within these pilot sites children are collected at "bus" stops by an adult. They are then taken to school and back home by feet or bicycle. The route as well as the shift and the timetables are planned by the parents. Along the way children have the possibility to talk, exercise, socialize and get to know each other.	Institute for Spatial Policies and the association for sustainable development focus	1	Implementation and Monitoring of project	Regional	Sustainable Development	Public Institute	Information not available	http://www.cipra.org/sl/novice/hoja-smehin-medsebojno-ucenje?set_language=sl
106	Casa Cantoniera Aperta	Italy	2015	In Castelnuovo Bocca d'Adda the reception of 12 asylum seekers triggered a larger initiative involving different institutional, public and private actors as well as the local community. While ensuring the reception of migrants, their inclusion and integration has been achieved and further promoted by the organization of courses on the cultivation of vegetables open also to the local residents who had different exchanges with the asylum seekers. The vegetables cultivated in the	The Municipality of Lodi; Consortium for the Social Services to the Person of Lodi; Agricultural College Tosi	3	Financial support; Management the reception centre; Implementation of garden restoration plan	Local	Agriculture and food; Rural development; Public administration	Municipality; Public agency; Public School	Communal Foundation of Lodi Sponsor	http://www.fondazione.org/recupero-casa-cantoniera-di-castelnuovo-bocca-dadda/

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				garden of the reception centre are consumed by the asylum seekers and donated to the needy people of the local community. The asylum seekers have already been involved in different local events, initiatives and festivals.								
107	Study Circles	Slovenia	Information not available	The study circle represents an organized infrastructure for independent adult learning, for which a typical process of voluntary creative and democratic cooperation takes place with a respectable fruitful debate. It begins with socio-cultural animation and ends with the action. It is originated and driven by the need and interest of individuals to do their best and to have the willingness to take an active part in the learning process and the work of the study circle. The participants in a study circle decide on the what, where and how they will learn. They plan their work themselves; they learn as long and as in-depth as they want. The democratic exchange of knowledge, skills, and experience provide fertile ground for intellectual growth, the establishment and strengthening of the relationships between people and importantly	Slovenian Andragogy Center; Ministry of Education, Science and Sport	2	Training; Educational activities; Information dissemination	National	Public administration	Ministry; Public agency	Information not available	https://sk.acs.si/so delovanje

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				contribute to the quality of life in one's community.								
108	Lika Women's social cooperative	Croatia	Information not available	The Lika Women Social Cooperative is a social enterprise that manufactures natural and unique handmade products using natural and recycled materials available from the surrounding area, with the brand name Curly Sheep. The products consist of fashionable clothing accessories, souvenirs and products which are used for practical purposes. Emphasis is given to branding the traditional handmade nature of the products. The social cooperative provides opportunities for women and their families to earn income. By using some of the forgotten trades, women are passing knowledge to the next	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available

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				generation thus preserving local traditions.								
109	PRI RUCI (Program Innovative Rural Center for Inclusion)	Croatia	Information not available	This project is focused on the education and integration of persons with disabilities and on the new opportunities for their employment and approach to the labour market. It pilots a program for the development of a social farm in the countryside near Križevci which will include members of marginalized groups. By organizing inclusive volunteering and cooperation with various stakeholders, the project improves the quality of life in a community, develops social services, creates new job opportunities, reduces unemployment and reduces the risk of poverty and risk of social exclusion for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available

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110	ASSOCIATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF CROATIA (UZOR HRVATSKE)	Croatia	2009	Founded by enthusiasts in sustainable development, initiating a network of responsible community members whose actions contribute to sustainable economic, environmental and social development of the community. Created innovative and sustainable systems for the separate collection of useful waste in the local community, the city of Koprivnica. The system is based on cargo bicycles that have a capacity of up to 100 kg of paper waste, which are used for free delivery and discharge in eco boxes "on the doorstep". The cargo bicycles do not waste energy and do not emit greenhouse gasses; thus the scheme can be implemented anywhere in the world and delivers measurable environmental, social and economic performance.	Local utility company Komunalac	1	Preparing paper waste to be delivered to customers; Use of storage space	Local	Energy; Nature protection	Public enterprise	Individual donations	http://www.uzorhrvatske.hr/
111	Empenta Artieda	Spain	2016	Empenta Artieda is a Participatory Research-Action project that seeks to provide solutions, from municipalism and self-management, to the problem of depopulation that affects the entire rural environment, aggravated in the case of Artieda by the condition he suffers as a result of growth of the Yesa reservoir. In this sense, emphasis is placed on the	Government of Aragon and the Ministry of Labour; Regional economic development;	3	Funding	Regional	Public administration	Ministry	€ 5,261.21 grant from Government of Aragon and the Ministry of Labour	http://www.artieda.es/portfolio/empenta-artieda/

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				need to carry out a thorough diagnosis of the situation, which is materialized in concrete actions to favour employment and economic revitalization of the people. Based on a horizontal and participatory methodology, Empenta Artieda aims to make the community itself an active part of the process of reflection and search for solutions.								

ANNEX 3: Questionnaire for data collection (Initially proposed method of data collection)

Roles of public actors in social innovation initiatives

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for deciding to take part in this European wide research based on European Horizon 2020 project “Social innovation in marginalized rural areas (SIMRA)” (www.simra-h2020.eu).

As social innovation initiatives are based on participation of civil society, research until now paid little attention to public actor’s involvement in social innovation initiatives. But public actors do play important roles in the development of social innovation initiatives, so they can have strong or weak, positive or negative influence on the initiative’s development and success. This research aims to analyze in-depth the roles and influences of public actors on specific social innovation initiatives.

The survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete. Your identity will stay anonymous, and statistical results will be presented in an aggregated form. Results of this study will be communicated to you via e-mail.

Research team (*tbc.*)

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ABOUT YOUR INITIATIVE AND PUBLIC ACTORS

1. What is the name of your initiative in
 - a) your native language? _____
 - b) English? _____
2. In what country is your initiative based?

3. In which sector is the focus of your initiative?
 - Forestry
 - Agriculture and food
 - Rural development
 - Tourism
 - Energy
 - Nature protection
 - Social services
 - Public administration
 - Other (please add)
4. When you think about the whole development of your initiative (from its beginning to the current day), **in what phase is your initiative now?**
 - Preparatory phase includes initial steps of your initiative (i.e. development and spreading of the ideas, mobilization of other actors) necessary to start with activities
 - Implementation phase includes implementation activities (i.e. project preparation and implementation)
 - Ended
5. A public actor is a person (i.e. regional forester, a local politician, civil servant, etc.) or an organization working in behalf of a governmental body (e.g. state forest service, municipality, public enterprise, etc.). When you think about the whole development of your initiative, were public actors anyway involved in your initiative at any time?
 - Yes
 - No
6. How many public actors are or were involved in your initiative, at any point of its development (from the beginning of an initiative to the current day)?

PUBLIC ACTOR

7. Who is (or was) Public actor?

INVOLVEMENT OF PUBLIC ACTOR

8. In what public organization, sector and level does Public Actor 1 belong primarily?

Organization:

- Ministry
- Municipality
- Inspectorate
- Public agency
- Public enterprise
- Public institute
- Public university
- Public school

Sector:

- Forestry
- Agriculture and food
- Rural development
- Tourism
- Energy
- Nature protection
- Social services
- Public administration

Level:

- International
- European Union
- African Union
- National
- Regional
- Local

If you could not find a suitable Organization or Sector, please, add it here

9. Involvement is the act of taking part in the initiative activities. **According to your experience, how often was Public Actor involved in your initiative?**

During preparatory phase

During project phase

1 – Never

2 – Rarely (<10% of the activities)

3 – Occasionally (approx. 30% of the activities)

4 – Sometimes (approx. 50% of the activities)

5 – Frequently (approx. 70% of the activities)

6 – Usually (approx. 90% of the activities)

7 – Every time

10. Communication is the act of exchanging of information by speaking, writing, or using some other medium. **According to your experience, how would you describe the quality of communication between Public Actor and your initiative?**

1 – Poor

2 – Fair

3 – Good

4 – Very good

5 – Excellent

11. Importance is the significance of actors' involvement for the initiative development. **According to your experience, what is (or was) the overall importance of Public Actor for your initiative?**

1 – Not at all important

2 – Low importance

3 – Slightly important

4 – Neutral

5 – Moderately important

6 – Very important

7 – Extremely important

12. Trust is believing in the reliability, predictability, goodwill, knowledge, truth, honesty or ability of an actor. **How would you describe your trust towards Public Actor?**

1 – Very low trust/very high distrust

2 – Low trust/high distrust

3 – Equally trust/distrust;

4 – High trust/low distrust;

5 – Very high trust/no distrust

Reason for your trust (please, explain)

13. How did your trust towards Public actor change in the last five years?

1 – Decreased greatly

2 – Decreased slightly

3 – No change

4 – Increased slightly

5 – Increased greatly

Reason for the change of trust (please, explain)

14. Influence is an overall ability of public actor to have an effect on the development of the initiative.

According to your experience, what is (or was) the overall influence of Public Actor on your initiative?

1 – No influence

2 – Strong negative

3 – Moderate negative

4 – Weak negative

5 – Weak positive

6 – Moderate positive

7 – Strong positive

15. Public actors can influence the development of social innovation initiatives through their involvement in various activities, thus having different roles. **In what activities of your initiative is (or was) Public Actor involved in?** For each activity in which **Public Actor** is (or was) involved, evaluate how his or her involvement influenced the initiative. If actor is (or was) not involved in particular activity, select *no role*. If actor is (or was) involved in particular activity, but was without influence, select *no influence*.

Activity	Role of public actors
Initiating	The actor is/was involved in raising the action to start the initiative
Creating Contacts & Networking	<i>The actor is/was involved in interacting and developing contacts for the initiative..</i>
Persuading & Lobbying	<i>The actor is/was involved in trying to influence the community members, influential persons, and officials with respect to the initiative</i>
Planning	<i>The actor is/was involved in making plans about the activities required to achieve the goal of your initiative</i>
Coordinating & Organizing	<i>The actor is involved in organizing people, groups, or organization to work together in the initiative activities</i>
Advising	<i>The actor is/was offering suggestions about the best course of action for the initiative</i>
Administrating	<i>The actor is/was involved in administrative procedures needed for managing the initiative (e.g. registration documentation)</i>
Financing	<i>The actor is/was providing funding for the initiative</i>
Providing Infrastructure	<i>The actor is/was providing basic structures and facilities (e.g. buildings, mechanization) to the initiative</i>
Providing Other Resources	<i>The actor is/was providing natural (e.g. land, forests) or human resources needed for the initiative</i>
Awareness Raising & Informing	<i>The actor is/was involved in communicating information to increase levels of awareness about the initiative</i>
Marketing & Promoting	<i>The actor is/was publicly supporting or actively encouraging and promoting the activities of the initiative</i>
Regulating & Monitoring	The actor is/was involved in overseeing the initiative's activities by means of laws and regulations
Other (please, specify)	

- 1 – No role
- 2 – Strong negative
- 3 – Moderate negative
- 4 – Weak negative
- 5 – No influence
- 6 – Weak positive
- 7 – Moderate positive
- 8 – Strong positive

YOUR INITIATIVE AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

1. Ecosystem services are those goods and services provided by the ecosystems and that are benefited by people. Does your initiative also have innovations related to the provision of ecosystem services?
 - Yes, it has
 - No, it has not
2. What kind of ecosystem service innovations your initiative developed?
 - **New ecosystem service provided** (e.g. wild forest eggs, burial forests)
 - **New technology** (e.g. for extracting resin, use of ATM to sell permits)
 - **New way to capture value** (e.g. new certification standard)
 - **New or more sustainable management** (e.g. new thinning regime for growth of mushrooms))
 - **New internal organization** (e.g. organizing auctions for high-quality timber)
 - **New communication strategy** (e.g. new web service to offer forest playgrounds)
 - **New ecosystem services suppliers** (e.g. new organization for courses on foraging)
 - **New users of ecosystem services** (e.g. forest adventure park for kids)
 - **New networks** (e.g. new contractual agreement among local actors)
 - **New landscape approach** (e.g. partnerships aimed to manage ecosystems at landscape level)
 - **New transboundary project** (e.g. sustainable tourism project in transnational area)
 - **Other** (please add)
3. Please describe your innovation in more details.
4. Please, choose the statement that is true for your initiative
 - Our ecosystem services innovation builds-upon improvement of our own previous experiences
 - Our ecosystem services innovation already exists in other place, but is new to our local or regional area
5. What is the geographical scale of your innovation?
 - local
 - municipal
 - regional

- interregional
- national
- international

6. Where (or how) you learned about this type of innovation?

ENDING SECTION

16. Please share with us your general opinion about involvement of public actors in your initiative or add any comment you think will be of importance for this research.

17. Would you like to receive the results of this research?

Yes

No

Thank you for your time and collaboration!