

Summary

SI-DRIVE extends knowledge about Social Innovation (SI) in three major directions:

- Integrating theories and research methodologies to advance understanding of Social Innovation leading to a comprehensive new paradigm of innovation.
- Undertaking European and global mapping of Social Innovation, thereby addressing different social, economic, cultural, and historical contexts in eight major world regions.
- Ensuring relevance for policy makers and practitioners through in-depth analyses and case studies in seven policy fields (Education, Employment, Environment, Energy, Mobility and Transport, Health and Social Care, Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development), with cross European and world region comparisons, foresight and policy round tables.

SI-DRIVE is a global project involving all in all 25 partners from all world continents: 15 partners from 12 EU Member States and 10 partners from other parts of the world. The complexity of the topic requires an iterative and cyclic approach characterised by three main pillars and principles:

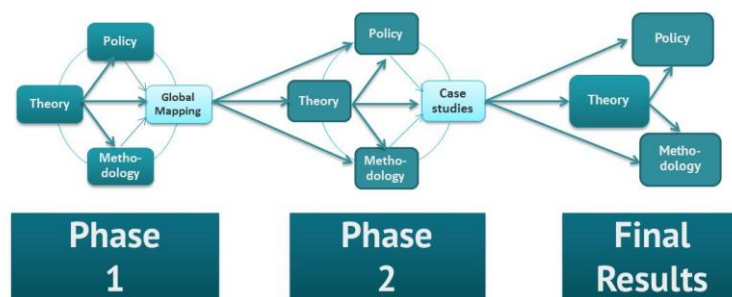
- First, cyclical iteration between theory development, methodological improvements, and policy recommendations.

- Second, two mapping exercises at European and global level. Initial mapping captures basic information about 1,005 actual social innovations from a wide variety of sources worldwide, leading to a typology of SI and using this to

examine the global SI distribution. Subsequent mapping uses these well documented SI, leading to the selection of 82 cases for in-depth analysis in the seven policy fields.

- Third, these case studies will be further analysed, used in stakeholder dialogues (policy and foresight workshops) in seven policy field platforms and in analysis of cross-cutting dimensions (e.g. gender, diversity, ICT), carefully taking into account cross-sector relevance (private, public, civil sectors), and future impact.

Iterative Process: Two Empirical Phases Based on and Feeding Theory – Methodology – Policy Development



The outcomes of SI-DRIVE cover a broad range of research dimensions, impacting particularly in terms of changing society, improving its empowerment, and contributing to the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

In a nutshell, scientific research, interactive communication with relevant networks of stakeholders and communities, the analysis of pertinent policy areas and concluding recommendations for policies and practice, will be guided by the following four objectives and expected outcomes:

- To determine the nature, characteristics and impacts of social innovation as key elements of a new paradigm of innovation (strengthen the theoretical and empirical

base of social innovation as part of a wider concept of innovation that thoroughly integrates social dimensions)

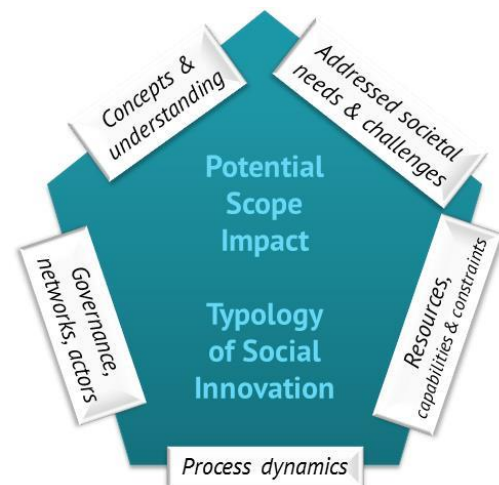
- To map, analyse and promote social innovations in Europe and other world regions to better understand and enable social innovations and their capacity for changing and better acting societies
- To identify and assess success factors of SI in the seven particular policy areas, supporting reciprocal empowerment in various countries and social groups to engage in SI for development, working towards Europe 2020 targets and sustainable development (e.g. Sustainable Development Goals)
- To undertake future-oriented policy-driven research, analyse barriers and drivers for SI; develop approaches for policy interventions (policy recommendations).

Work performed and main results achieved so far

The *theoretical and methodological ground* (Critical Literature Review, Methodology Review) defined the tools for the first empirical phase and indicated the structure of its reporting: seven Policy Field State-of-the Art Reports, cross policy field analysis (Compilation Report), Regional Strategies Report, global mapping of 1,005 cases (Comparative Analysis), policy and foresight round table and workshops (eight EU Policy Briefs).

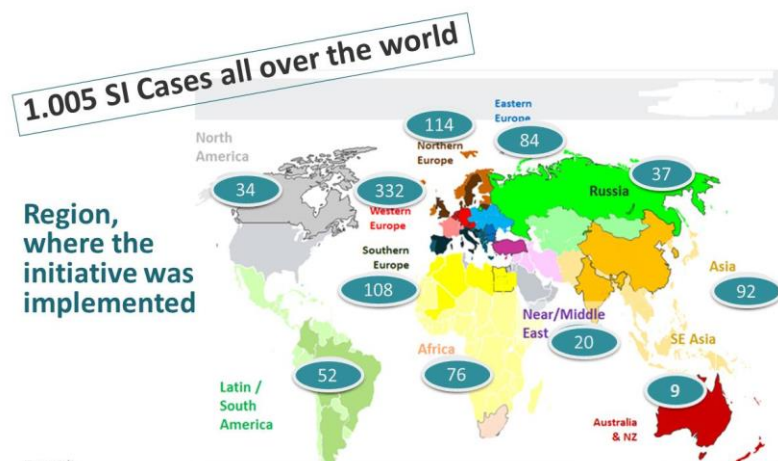
The Critical Literature Review set the theoretical frame for the following empirical research. Keeping in mind that there is yet no sustained and systematic analysis of social innovation and its relationship to transformative social change, this review was an important step to define the research propositions for SI-DRIVE, namely

- a first *comprehensive definition* of Social Innovation going beyond a pure social entrepreneurship orientation
- the elaboration of *five key dimensions* of social innovation that fundamentally affect the potential of social innovations, their scope, and their impact
- the development of *eight research foci*
- the combination of similar initiatives (micro level) in overarching practice fields (meso level).



The Five Key Dimensions of Social Innovation

The **results of the first empirical research phase** demonstrate the need for social innovation to overcome societal challenges and social demands. The Comparative Analysis of the 1,005 mapped social innovations worldwide comprises for the first time a sound empirical ground and gives exciting insights into the highly diverse world of social innovation, the variety of actors and their interaction, and the complexity of the ongoing innovation processes. Social innovation has become a ubiquitous concept driven by problems and complex innovation processes, often depending on individuals but more and more also embedded in social innovation ecosystems.



47 cases N/A

The main results at a glance:

1. Social needs and societal challenges are the focus and driver of Social Innovation
2. Social innovations in a sense of new practices appear in a variety of forms and concepts and high dynamics appear
3. Manifold actors and cross-sector collaborations are the emerging backbone of the initiatives
4. Empowerment and user involvement are a core element
5. Complexity of the innovation processes needs different modes of governance
6. Social Innovation Ecosystems are emerging
7. Different levels of intervention are necessary
8. Practice Field approach helps to combine social innovations
9. Resources and barriers are manifold: Framework conditions and enabling factors still need to be developed
10. Social Innovation Initiatives - driven by problems and depending on individuals!

Social innovations are requiring specific conditions because they aim at activating, fostering, and utilising the *innovation potential of the whole society*. Therefore a *social innovation friendly environment* still has to be developed in Europe and on a global scale, not only referring to *appropriate funding* but also to *new participation and collaboration structures, co-creation and user involvement, empowerment and human resources development*.

Social innovation processes and the underlying resources, capabilities and constraints are also very much related to cross-sector *social innovation ecosystems*. This includes a new role of public policy and government for creating suitable framework and support structures, the integration of resources of economy and civil society as well as supporting measures by science and universities. A flexible and adaptive policy approach is requested, combining bottom-up processes with a limited degree of regulation and support – not keeping sustainable Social Innovation to the responsibility of policy makers alone.

After the first empirical phase the baseline framework was improved and extended by the report *Social Innovation and its Relationship to Social Change* - developing a set of mechanisms of change, which were consequently used as an analysis tool for mapping 2.

Dissemination activities have been ongoing since the launch of the project, on a global, European and national level (see dissemination list). A webpage was designed and published as well as quarterly eNewsletters. SI-DRIVE started its work by cooperating intensively with other relevant SI projects (namely TEPSIE, TRANSIT, SIMPACT, and CRESSI), social innovation platforms (namely SIX, SIE, EUWIN) and SI incubators (BENISI, TRANSITION). Partners of SI-DRIVE are also engaged in the Social Innovation Community (SIC) project. Therefore, SI-DRIVE is not only well connected in the social innovation community but continuously working together with the main actors all over the world. For instance, SI-DRIVE took the chance of a first common conference “SI LIVE bringing together Social Innovation - Research, Incubation and Action” (November 2014 in Lisbon) and conducted its intermediary international conference “Pathways for Social Change” in Vienna 2015 as a joint venture with TRANSIT, CRESSI, SIMPACT and Net4Society, bringing together 320 participants from 44 countries around the world. Theory building forum (see: https://www.si-drive.eu/?page_id=184) and policy platforms (see: https://www.si-drive.eu/?page_id=186) have been started as well.

Expected final results and potential impact and use

The second empirical phase is based on the results of the previous one and the improved theoretical and methodological framework, deepening the theoretical foundation of the concept of social innovation by carrying out case studies in seven major policy areas, covering Europe and eight major world regions. The policy field related analyses and the overarching comparative analysis will inform (additionally to the results of the first global mapping) the final outcomes concerning Theory and Methodology as well as the second

round of Policy and Foresight Workshops and the second International Policy Round Table leading to final Policy Recommendations.

Using the inputs of preliminary studies and our theoretical and empirical results, we will provide a comprehensive architecture for understanding and discussing social innovation concepts, processes and impact. This framework is unique in its explicit consideration of different dimensions of social innovation. It will deliver a typology of social innovations and elaborate a theoretically sound understanding of social innovation. We also will be engaged with leading international scholars in order to compare scaling and learning patterns of social innovation and entrepreneurship in Europe, North and South America, Asia, and Africa.

SI-DRIVE is confident to produce results and outcomes with positive and long-lasting effects, contributing to the EU2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. A clearer perception of social innovation and understanding of its importance will help driving change and shaping future societies. Therefore, SI-DRIVE will cooperate with and help to better connect the world-wide Social Innovation community within a European approach:

1. advance the knowledge base that underpins the formulation and implementation of relevant policies enhancing the sustainable impact of social innovation;
2. achieve a critical mass of collaboration, networking and mobility of researchers;
3. involve relevant communities, stakeholders, and practitioners in the research, with a view to reinforcing inclusive and sustainable growth in line with the goals of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the Innovation Union flagship.

In many respects the work done in SI-DRIVE has direct or indirect implications for (social) innovation policy, esp. for the seven fields which are investigated. Taking into account the many-faceted collaborative environments on which the mapped cases are based, the further theory development feeding into policy dialogue at the EU-level will provide a basis for policy makers in order to develop ‘sound policies’ in the following ways:

- Building blocks for *a new paradigm of innovation*: Theoretical and empirical basics of Social Innovation as part of a wider concept of innovation, moving to a general theory enabling fruitful research and learning in practice across world regions
- *Promotion of social innovation in Europe and world regions*, using Social Innovation and its capacity to change societies through stakeholder networks of scientists, policy makers, practitioners and citizens.
- Guidance to implement conditions of effective Social Innovation, particularly favouring reciprocal *empowerment of citizens of various countries and social groups*. Key criteria of success are the targets of Europe 2020 and sustainable development according to the MDGs (and renewed goals after 2015). Spread of knowledge about success factors will essentially expedite funding, diffusion and up-scaling.
- An overview of the ubiquitous world of Social Innovation gathered in an *Atlas of Social Innovation*. The Atlas will provide a synopsis of various types of social innovation in different world regions and policy areas delivering new intelligence on the diversity of social innovation approaches in different parts of the world used by practitioners, researchers and policy makers; reflecting the systemic character and concept of social innovation.