

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

 *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum.)*

| PROJECT | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Participant: | E35 Foundation for International Projects |
| PIC number: | 924035581 |
| Project name and acronym: | [Citizens Foresight Europe: Shaping the Future Together through Engaging Citizens Debates] — [Citizen Foresight EU] |

| EVENT DESCRIPTION | |
|---|--|
| Event number: | 4 |
| Event name: | “FORWARD-THINKING COMPANIES” AND “SOCIAL ECONOMY AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ON INTERMEDIATE TERRITORIES |
| Type: | Workshop |
| In situ/online: | In-situ |
| Location: | Italy, Reggio Emilia |
| Date(s): | 27/02/2026 – 10/04/2026 |
| Website(s) (if any): | |
| Participants | |
| Female: | 51 |
| Male: | 35 |
| Non-binary: | 1 |
| From country 1 [Italy]: | 84 |
| From country 2 [Poland]: | 1 |
| From country 3 [Ukraine]: | 1 |
| From country 4 [Spain]: | 1 |
| Etc | |
| Total number of participants: | 87 |
| From total number of countries: | 4 |
| Description | |
| <i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i> | |
| In Reggio Emilia 2 events have been organised, dedicated to the topic of social impact economy. | |

The event on February 27th was dedicated to the topic of the social impact economy, with the objective of fostering an open dialogue among citizens and local stakeholders on the economic model to be developed for the territory. The initiative aimed to promote a vision of the economy that goes beyond GDP growth and places quality of life, social value creation, and community well-being at its core.

The event gathered 52 participants representing civil society organisations, private companies, cooperatives and consortium of cooperatives, associations, public administration and agencies, and active citizens. Through participatory methodologies and guided reflection, participants explored concrete experiences and future scenarios for a social impact-oriented local economy, identifying enabling conditions for building an economic system that works for people and the planet.

The first part focused on analysing the social impact of economic models on local communities and territories. With the guidance of an expert and strategic advisor, participants were introduced to international case studies and best practices. The discussion emphasised the role of imagination and collective vision in shaping innovative economic models capable of generating long-term value for communities.

A specific reflection was dedicated to the role of finance and to how financial instruments can support collective action, innovation, and impact-oriented initiatives.

Participants were also informed about the new Italian National Plan for the Social Economy, currently under development through a public consultation process involving citizens and key national stakeholders. This allowed the event to connect local reflection with ongoing national policymaking processes, strengthening civic participation.

The main part of the event consisted of an interactive workshop facilitated by experts from a company working with several Italian cities on social economy development. The laboratory aimed at co-designing elements of a social impact ecosystem for the city of Reggio Emilia. The workshop started from three guiding questions:

- What is the role of companies in developing a high social impact economy for the city?
- Which assets and nodes already exist within the local social economy ecosystem?
- Which actors need to be activated, and who is already working in this field?

Participants worked in groups using flipcharts and visual facilitation tools. They analysed the local ecosystem across several key dimensions: Financial and economic resources, Relationship with the territory, Social and cultural practices, Know-how and skills, Economic activities and services, Social and physical infrastructures, Governance mechanisms.

Through facilitated group work, participants identified strengths and gaps in the local ecosystem and developed recommendations to strengthen collaboration between public authorities, businesses, and civil society actors. Therefore, the event fostered active citizenship, increased awareness on the topic of social impact economy and on its value for local communities and territories, created a shared co-constructed understanding of enabling conditions at local level, and produced concrete recommendations for a stronger and impact-oriented ecosystem.

Working on flipcharts and in groups, and guided by expert facilitators, participants analysed the value of social impact economy on communities and territories, exploring how to create a future economy and what could be the consequences of adopting a new economic model, giving recommendation for carrying on the work to build a strong ecosystem supporting a new economic model for the city. The outcomes of the workshop will contribute to ongoing local reflection processes and future initiatives aimed at promoting a more inclusive, sustainable, and participatory economic model for the city.

Following this event, another one was organised on April 10th, to build on the reflections and dimensions identified in the previous one. The event gathered 38 participants among citizens, people working in social cooperatives and consortiums, representatives of companies and business organisations, and local authorities (only 35 participants have been considered in the total number of participants to avoid double counting).

In the first part of the event, 3 local cases of social economy were presented to participants, highlighting how social economy can be the method and the approach to develop a new framework and new dynamics for the economy of the city, towards a social value for the community and the territory.

In the main part of the event, participants were divided into groups, each one with a facilitator and a rapporteur, and reflected on how to create a local social economy and how it could be developed in a medium and long term, considering the emerging trends and socio-economic challenges.

| HISTORY OF CHANGES | | |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| VERSION | PUBLICATION DATE | CHANGE |
| 1.0 | 01.04.2022 | Initial version (new MFF). |
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