WHITE BOOK – RSC PROJECT

Agenda 2030, Doughnut Economics, Intelligent Territories, Responsible Citizenship, and other healthy recipes.

Responsible Smart Citizenship against Poverty and Social Exclusion

Co-funded by
the European Union

WHITE BOOK – RSC PROJECT

Agenda 2030, Doughnut Economics, Intelligent Territories, Responsible Citizenship, and other healthy recipes.

Responsible Smart Citizenship against Poverty and Social Exclusion

INSTITUTO EUROPEO
DE ESTUDIOS PARA LA
FORMACIÓN Y EL DESARROLLO

WHITE BOOK – RSC PROJECT.

Agenda 2030, Doughnut Economics, Intelligent Territories, Responsible Citizenship, and other healthy recipes.

Responsible Smart Citizenship against Poverty and Social Exclusion.

Project Number: 2021-1-ES01-KA220-ADU-000033525 (Erasmus+)

This book has been elaborated entirely by Instituto Europeo de Estudios para la Formación y el Desarrollo, DOCUMENTA. 2024

© Authors: Javier Farto López & Ana Santamaría Vázquez

Design: DOCUMENTA

Edition: DOCUMENTA

Index

0. Introduction

The RSC White Paper is part of the Project “Responsible Smart Citizenship against Poverty and Social Exclusion” (RSC against P&SE, Erasmus+ 2021), and we will return to it with the final conclusions and contributions, but not before going a long way through the foundations and theoretical bases that animated it: because knowledge of them is as important as the final conclusions themselves; because we believe that “best practice is also a good theory.”

There is no better way to introduce this document than to answer those eternal questions: who we are, where we come from and where we are going.

And so we will, starting with who we are, presenting in **Chapter 1: “A humble proposal from the local: RSC against P&SE”** our Project: its objectives and the expected results, as they were initially written; the partners from the different countries that make up the Consortium, and some administrative vicissitudes that conditioned its development from the beginning. A “humble proposal from the local”, for our ardent defense of that “Think global, act local”, for our determined commitment to the use of participatory methodologies, the creation of Local Collaborative Learning Communities, and an approach from the local that contributes to forming an Intelligent and Responsible Citizenship (IRC); a commitment to social and cultural diversity that reminds us, once again, the EU motto: “Unity in diversity”.

Four European organizations working on a common Project, through a Consortium formed by four countries (Spain, Italy, Greece, Cyprus). It seems evident that we cannot adequately present ourselves without establishing the framework in which our Project fits, as well as its close relationship with the objective of Poverty reduction (SDG 1); and that is what we will do in **Chapter 2, “The EU Policy Context: Agenda 2030, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Poverty reduction”.**

European policies, commitments and foundational values of the EU, so often little and poorly known, that contextualize, inspire and frame our Project; which we want and must help disseminate because we share those founding principles, and we can contribute to raising citizens' awareness about the themselves; because we also believe that we contribute with our “grain of sand” to the fulfilment of these great commitments (SDGs, Agenda 2030); and we also feel part of something much bigger (EU Policy context), which in some way also identifies and defines us. . Therefore, in this second chapter, as part of our presentation, of our DNA, we will dedicate enough space to synthetically explain some of the European policies from which we draw (for example, the Action Plan of the European Pillar of Social Rights), as well as the EU's commitment to the 17 United Nations SDGs; and a European 2030 Agenda in which the commitments acquired and the priorities of the European Commission are reflected.

Without ever deviating from the central objective of our Project, which we share with SDG 1, END OF POVERTY: “calls for the eradication of poverty in all its manifestations. It envisions shared prosperity, a basic standard of living and social protection benefits for people everywhere, including the poorest and most vulnerable”.

Once the presentations have been made, we can address the second question, where we come from - **Chapter 3: Intelligent and Responsible Territories** -, which will immediately refer us to the Model of Intelligent and Responsible Territories (Farto, 2006), a local development model that provides the theoretical fundament of all our interventions and projects, and in turn is built on five strategic pillars: Sustainable Local Development; Knowledge Management and Social Capital Management in the Territory; Territorial Social Responsibility; Governance, social participation and citizen empowerment.

A local development model that puts people and nature at the centre of economic thinking, which conceives Development as a process of expansion of the real freedoms that individuals enjoy (Sen, 1999), which encourages us to recover the lost relationship between ethics and economics, to overcome the divorce between society and nature; a Model that forces us to rethink and redefine the relationships between society/economy/nature; that encourages us to work for an Intelligent and Responsible Citizenship.

Now that we know who we are, and where we come from; now that the path seems set, both by our past trajectory and experience (IRT Model), and by the future commitments acquired (European Agenda 2030), we need a compass to guide us, and that is what we will find in **Chapter 4, "The Doughnut Economics: a Compass for the 21st Century".**

A "Compass for the 21st Century" (Raworth, 2018) that shows us both the "Ecological Ceiling" above which we are contributing to a critical (and perhaps irreversible) degradation of the Planet, and the "Social Foundation" below which the many deficiencies suffered (food, water, health, education, etc.), also lead us to critical human deprivations; a "Compass for the 21st Century" that delimits the "safe and fair space for humanity", within the framework of a "Regenerative and Distributive Economy"; a Compass for the 21st century that allows us to identify when the economy lost its objective ("satisfy the needs of society"), and at the same time shows us new ways of thinking about the economy of the 21st century, putting it at the service of society and nature.

We have reached the end of our journey, and in **Chapter 5** we will extract and synthesize the lessons learned to build our **European Strategy for Education and Social Participation against Poverty and Social Exclusion** within the framework of the RSC Project (Erasmus+), which we will recognize by the acronym **RSC-ESESP**.

And we will put special emphasis on two aspects.

On the one hand, the synthetic definition of the main structuring elements of the Strategy: the context and the detected needs that motivated its emergence; the Theoretical Framework that bases it; the Methodological Framework and the participatory methodologies on which it is supported; the tools developed and tested for their implementation in the territory; and finally, a dissemination, transfer and sustainability Strategy aimed at replicating the process and guaranteeing the continuity of the RSC Project.

A second aspect, no less important, is the importance we attach to the graphic representation of our RSC-ESESP and its foundations, since like Kate Raworth we are aware of the "power of images": "…there is something that we should not forget: the most powerful stories in history have always been those that have been told with images. If we want to rewrite economics, we must also remake its images, because we will have very little chance of telling a new story if we stick to the old illustrations…."images cling to the imagination and reconfigure our vision of the world without the need for words".

"In other words, the analytical effort is necessarily preceded by a pre-analytical cognitive act that provides the raw material for said effort. In this book we will call this preanalytical act "the vision." …….preanalytical vision, worldview, paradigm, framework: they are all related concepts."

For this reason, in this last chapter of lessons learned, we have also wanted to put effort into the parallel graphic story that undoubtedly helps to better visualize and understand the effort to systematize the process, and will actively contribute to its dissemination and transfer to other organizations and territories of the EU, thus facilitating its future continuity and sustainability.

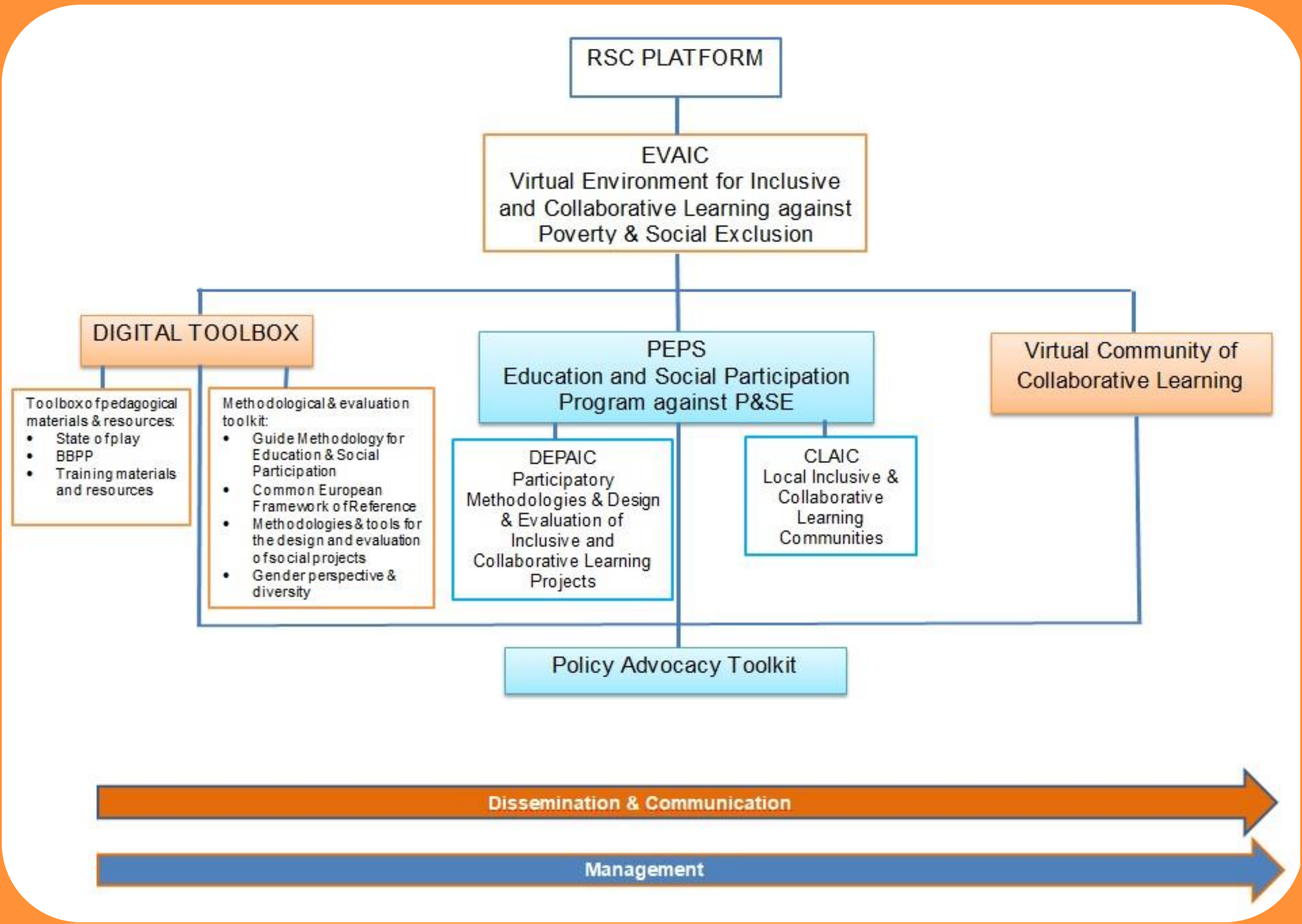
They call us utopians, but we know that if we can imagine this New Economy, we can also help to build it.

And as the poet said (Cavafy), after this long journey through the RSC White Paper, you will now understand what the Ithacas mean:

Ithaca has given you the beautiful voyage.
Without her you would have never set out on the road.
She has nothing more to give you.

And if you find her poor, Ithaca has not deceived you.
Wise as you have become, with so much experience,
you must already have understood what Ithaca means.

A humble proposal from the local: RSC against P&SE



1. A humble proposal from the local: RSC against P&SE

1.1 The project: context and detected needs

The UN World Institute for Development Economics Research "warns that the economic consequences of the global pandemic could increase poverty throughout the world, affecting 500 million more people, or what is the same, 8% more than the total world population. This would be the first time that poverty has increased worldwide in 30 years, since 1990".

One of the main innovations brought by the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, adopted in 2010, was a new common goal in the fight against poverty and social exclusion: to reduce the number of Europeans living below the national poverty line by 25% and lift more than 20 million people out of poverty.

The number of people at risk of poverty and exclusion increased between 2009 and 2012, but began to decline thereafter. In 2019, 21.1% of the EU population, equivalent to 92.4 million people, was at risk of poverty or social exclusion" (European Parliament).

In the case of the countries that make up the partnership (ES, EL, IT, CY), the state of affairs and the diagnosis reveal dramatic overtones that are higher than the EU average. The considerations of the report "The State of Poverty" for Spain (EAPN, 2020) are conclusive and extend to Greece, Italy and Cyprus:

- It is not possible to know exactly by how much poverty and vulnerability have increased as a result of the crisis generated by covid-19, whose immediacy, speed and severity is still extreme.
- Traditional strategies for the protection and fight against poverty are insufficient. Thus, the increase in GDP, employment and educational level do not generate, each one of them by itself, a reduction in poverty.
- There is an accentuation of the main characteristics that define the new profile of poverty that emerged as a consequence of the 2009 crisis, and which is radically different from the classic perception, very close to misery (increase the% of boys, girls and adolescents; people with higher education; urban areas; retired and inactive, and those who have a job).

The **main conclusion** obtained from this new profile is that unemployment does not define poverty and that, on the contrary, within it, the largest group is that of the employed. The RSC against P&SE consortium shares and assumes the main conclusion of the report: **"the need to design new, more effective tools in the fight against poverty and social exclusion" (EAPN, 2020).**

The RSC against P&SE proposal responds to this need by proposing an Education and Social Participation Strategy against P&SE (ODS, European 2030 Agenda) adapted to the current situation. To achieve this objective, the RSC Project tries to cover the following needs initially **identified** by the partners:

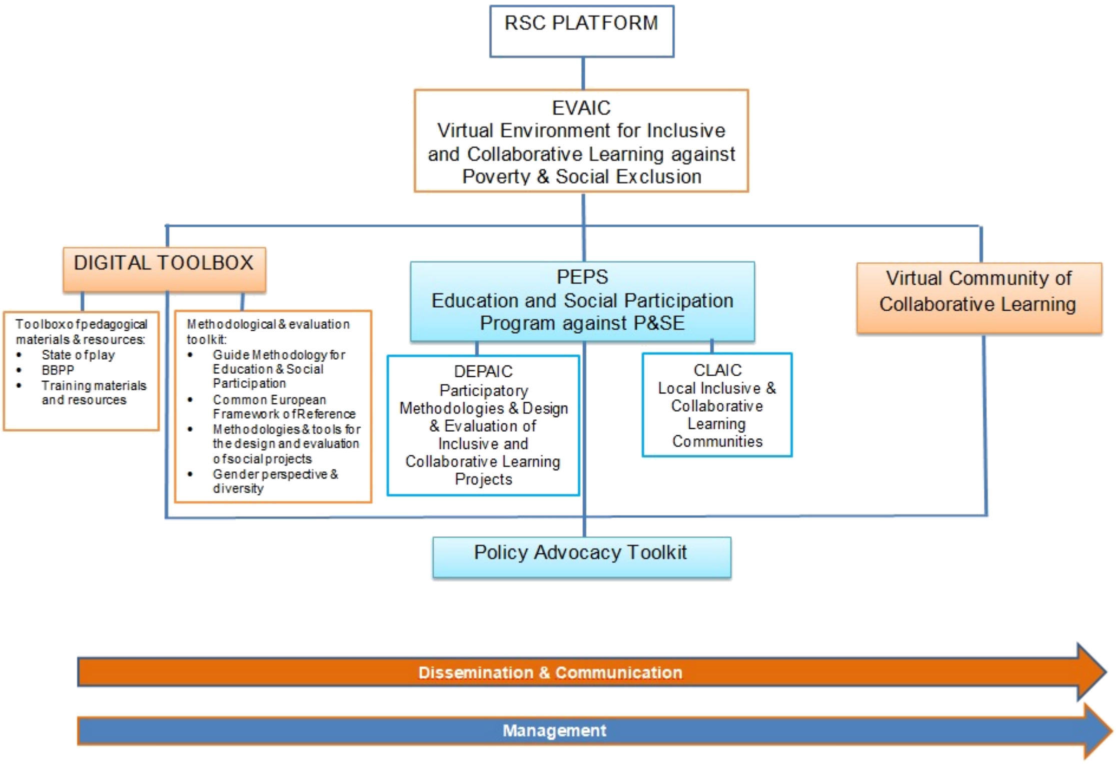
- Need for updated information, pedagogical materials and adequate training resources, collaborative learning methodologies, and for the design and evaluation of social projects, acquisition of key competences, etc.
- Need to build a quality, accessible and functional Virtual Learning Environment: technological platform, virtual learning community and online learning tools.
- Need for an Education and Social Participation Program, aimed both at improving the qualification of professionals (methodologies and key competences), as well as at the creation of CLAICs, and at the empowerment and involvement of an Active, Intelligent and Responsible Citizenship.
- Need to systematize the process, and build the appropriate tools, for its transfer and implementation in the EU, as well as for future sustainability.

1.2 Objectives

The **general objective of the Project** is to contribute to the reduction of P&SE in the EU (European 2030 Agenda), through the design, testing and systematization of a European Strategy for Education and Social Participation (EEEPS) against P&SE, innovative and effective, based in the construction of an "Inclusive and Collaborative Learning Ecosystem", and in the creation and networking of Local Inclusive and Collaborative Learning Communities, aimed at: building capacities and acquiring key competences (ERF) for the promotion of inclusion, participation and social cohesion; the design and evaluation of Inclusive and Collaborative Learning Projects against P&SE; and the empowerment and involvement of an Active, Intelligent and Responsible European Citizenship.

Among the **specific objectives**, we highlight:

a) Design, develop and keep updated a **Digital Toolbox** that covers the pedagogical needs and deficiencies related to both, the lack of pedagogical materials and adequate teaching resources, as well as the lack of knowledge and management of innovative learning methodologies, aimed at promoting inclusion and social participation, and promote the exercise of active citizenship.
b) Design, build and dynamize a **Virtual Environment** of Inclusive and Collaborative Learning (Technological Platform and Virtual Community of Collaborative Learning) for the correct functioning, operability, transferability and sustainability of the RSC Strategy Against P&SE.
c) Design, test and validate an **Education and Social Participation Program** aimed at: 1) improving the technical (methodological) qualification and acquisition of key competences of workers and volunteers from entities involved in the fight against P&SE; 2) favour the creation of Collaborative Learning Communities, through the design and evaluation of Collaborative Projects against P&SE, in local learning environments (workers and volunteers, political decision-makers and social leaders, people in a situation and / or risk of exclusion, citizens).
d) Systematize the entire “RSC Against P&SE” Project / Process (management, communication, training process and social participation, Platform, Community and tools), and prepare a **White Book**, a **Toolkit** for its transfer and implementation in the EU, and a **networking and sustainability Strategy**.



Roadmap of the Erasmus+ project "RSC against P&SE". Own elaboration, DOCUMENTA.

1.3 Results

The **main result** of the "RSC against P&SE" Project will be the design, testing and systematization, for its subsequent transfer and sustainability, of an **European Strategy for Education and Social Participation (EEEPS) against P&SE**: innovative and consistent with the current conjuncture (triple crisis and new profile of poverty); which contributes to the reduction of poverty, social exclusion and discrimination, and the achievement of the of the European Agenda 2030 objectives.

The achievement of this result entails the achievement of other important **operating results**:

R1. Design, development and continuous updating of a Digital Toolbox for the construction of an Inclusive and Collaborative Learning Ecosystem against Poverty and Social Exclusion.

The main objective of the Digital Toolbox is to cover the needs expressed by the partners in the preparatory phase of the project: need for updated information on poverty and social exclusion (data and sources); of pedagogical materials and teaching resources; and participatory methodologies for the design of Inclusive and Collaborative Learning Projects, in Local Learning Communities.

R2. Design, construction and dynamization of a Virtual Environment for Inclusive and Collaborative Learning against P&SE.

The Virtual Environment will offer the necessary tools and technical support, both for the correct delivery of the Education and Social Participation Program, and for the development of other key functions of the project related to the creation of Networking, Transfer and Sustainability Strategy.

R3. Design, testing and validation of an Education and Social Participation Program for the creation of Local Communities of Inclusive and Collaborative Learning against P&SE.

The main objective of this Program is to improve the qualification, both of professionals and volunteers from the social organisations involved (participatory methodologies, acquisition of key competences, project design and evaluation), and of the participants in the learning communities (implementation of collaborative learning projects, networking, communication, intercultural skills).

R4. Development of a Toolkit for Advocacy (White Book), Transfer and Sustainability.

The general objective of the Toolkit is to facilitate the transfer and replicability of the "RSC against P&SE" Project in other EU territories, incorporating new partners, learning communities and stakeholders, and laying the foundations for its expansion and future sustainability.

1.4 The Consortium

RSC Project
Responsible Smart Citizenship against Poverty & Social Exclusion

CONSORTIUM

documenta
INSTITUTO EUROPEO DE ESTUDIOS PARA LA FORMACIÓN Y EL DESARROLLO
COORDINATOR

abn network sociale

Center for Social Innovation

KEΘEA
THERAPY CENTER FOR DEPENDENT INDIVIDUALS

The EU Policy Context: Agenda 2030, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Poverty Reduction

2. The EU Policy Context: Agenda 2030, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Poverty Reduction

2.1 Sustainable development, Agenda 2030 and SDGs

“Development which meets the needs of the current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. This is the definition of sustainable development that was first introduced in the Brundtland report by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) in 1987, and it is the one most widely used nowadays. Following the Brundtland report were several important milestones in the international pursuit of sustainable development: the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992), the World Summit for Social Development (1995), the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) (1994), the Beijing Platform for Action (1995), the Millennium Declaration (from which the Millennium Development Goals were derived), the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002), the 2005 World Summit and the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012. Together, they paved the way for the 2030 Agenda.

In September 2015, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the “**Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”** document.
The 2030 Agenda is the current global sustainable development agenda. At the core of the 2030 Agenda is a list of 17 SDGs (see Figure I.1) and 169 related targets to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity and peace.
The Agenda also calls for a revitalised global partnership to ensure its implementation. The SDGs are unprecedented in terms of significance and scope by setting a wide range of economic, social and environmental objectives and calling for action by all countries, regardless of their level of economic development.
The Agenda emphasises that strategies for ending poverty and promoting sustainable development for all must go hand-in hand with actions that address a wider range of social needs and which foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies, protect the environment and help tackle climate change. Although the SDGs are not legally binding, governments are expected to take ownership and establish national frameworks for achieving the 17 goals.

Figure I.1 The UN Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable development is not only a core principle for the European Union but also an overriding political priority for the von der Leyen Commission, which is reflected in the six headline ambitions for Europe announced in the Political Guidelines (see Figure I.2) and the investment priority areas of the Global Gateway strategy.

Figure I.2: The European Commission Priorities

Each Commissioner is responsible for ensuring that the policies under his or her oversight reflect the Sustainable Development Goals, while the college of Commissioners is jointly responsible for implementing the 2030 Agenda. The President has set out a 'whole-of-government approach' towards implementing the SDGs (next Figure).

Figure I.3 Whole Government Approach

Several major policy documents have shaped the EU's approach to implementing the SDGs.

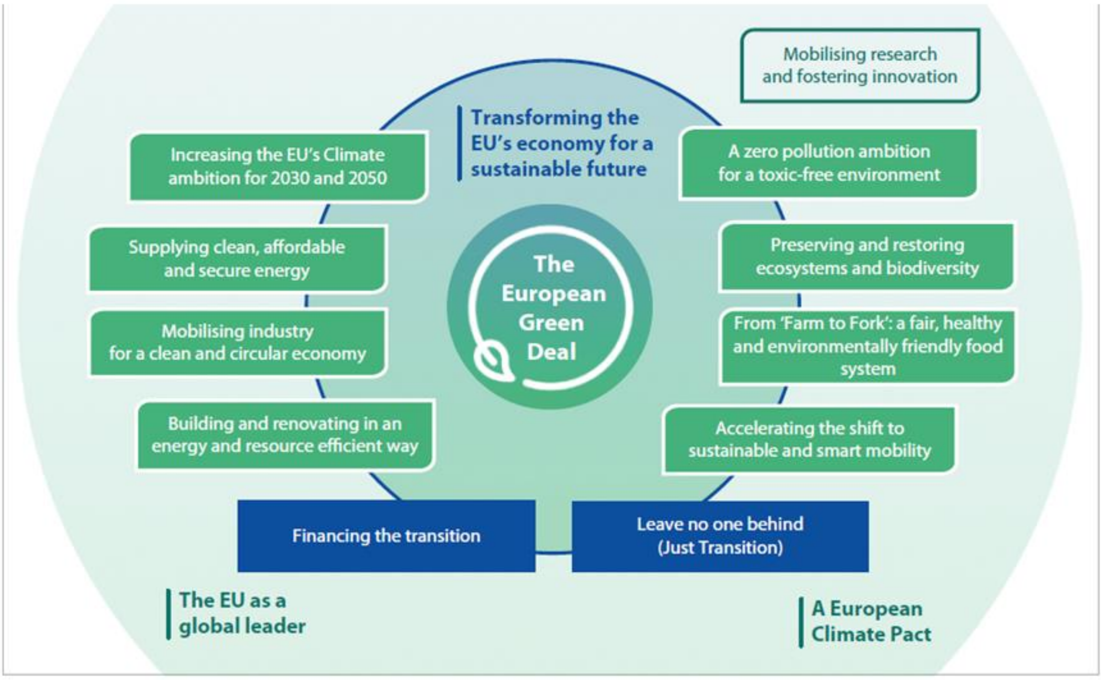
A communication from 2016 **"Next steps for a sustainable European future: European action for sustainability"** announced the integration of the SDGs into the European policy framework. As a consequence, the EU has been monitoring the implementation of the SDGs since 2017 via annual SDG monitoring reports.

In addition, a reflection paper **"Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030"** from 2019 highlighted the complex challenges the EU is facing and identified the competitive advantages that implementing the SDGs would offer the EU. Since late 2019, the von der Leyen Commission has presented many transformative policies aimed at delivering on the different aspects of sustainability in the EU and beyond.

The EU's approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda is briefly summarised below and described in detail in a staff working document (SWD) **"Delivering on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals — A comprehensive approach"**. For a complete overview of the European Commission's activities related to SDG implementation, you can consult the Commission's website on the EU's holistic approach to sustainable development.

The **European Green Deal**, adopted in December 2019, is the EU's new growth strategy and aims to transform the Union into a climate neutral society while leaving no one behind (see Figure I.4).

Figure I.4 The European Green Deal



It aims to create a modern, resource-efficient, competitive and fair economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use. It also aims to protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital and to protect the health and well-being of citizens from environment-related risks and impacts. It is considered an integral part of the Commission's strategy to implement the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

In March 2020, a new **Circular Economy Action Plan** was adopted by the European Commission, introducing measures along the entire life cycle of products. The new Plan focuses on design and production for a circular economy, with the aim of ensuring that the resources used are kept in the EU economy for as long as possible.

The **EU Bioeconomy Strategy** provides a crosscutting framework to enable transformative innovations with regards to the use of biological resources, and to ensure that the supply of biomass for food and bio-based products fully respects the finite planetary boundaries. A sustainable circular bioeconomy contributes to the European Green Deal objectives, by mitigating against climate change through renewable products and energy, substituting fossil fuels and other carbon-intensive materials, and contributing to carbon storage in products and ecosystems.

In May 2020, another important initiative that lies at the heart of the European Green Deal was adopted — the **Farm to Fork Strategy.**

The strategy aims to make food systems in the EU fair, healthy and environmentally friendly by ensuring sustainable food production, processing, distribution and consumption, and by minimising food loss.

The **EU Biodiversity Strategy** for 2030, also adopted in May 2020 as a part of the Green Deal, aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments, such as establishing a large EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, launching an EU nature-restoration plan and introducing measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge.

The **2030 Climate Target Plan** from September 2020 envisions reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to at least 55 % below their 1990 level by 2030 and sets Europe on a responsible path to becoming climate-neutral by 2050. This ambition was legally enshrined in July 2021 with the adoption of the **European Climate Law.**

Under the heading of "**Delivering the European Green Deal"**, the Commission put forward several legislative proposals, actions and targets for making Europe the first climate-neutral continent. These relate to the necessary transformation of our economies and societies, sustainable transport, clean energy, renovation of buildings, enhancing natural carbon sinks, and boosting global climate action.

The **Council Recommendation on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality** aims to ensure that the Union's transition towards a climate neutral and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050 is fair and leaves nobody behind. It sets out specific guidance to help Member States devise and implement policy packages to address the employment and social aspects for promoting a fair transition across all policies, notably climate, energy and environmental policies, as well as for making optimal use of public and private funding.

The aforementioned initiatives are complemented by: the **Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy** (2020); the **Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability** (2020); the **Zero Pollution Action Plan** (2021); **the EU's new Industrial Strategy** (2021); the **Green Deal Industrial Plan** (2023); **the Communication "Long-term competitiveness of the EU: looking beyond 2030"** complements the Green Deal Industrial Plan with a long-term and comprehensive approach to the competitiveness of the EU..

Building on the European Green Deal, the **8th Environment Action Programme (EAP)**, adopted in March 2022, anchors the Member States' commitment to environmental and climate action until 2030, guided by a long-term vision to 2050 of well-being for all, while staying within the Earth's planetary boundaries. The 8th EAP has six priority objectives related to climate neutrality, climate adaptation, circular economy, zero pollution, protecting and restoring biodiversity, and reducing environmental and climate pressures related to production and consumption. In addition, the programme sets out an enabling framework and a monitoring framework to measure progress towards the required systemic change.

Over the past few years, the EU has adopted numerous other policies covering topics related to the SDGs. The **European Consensus on Development**, adopted in 2017, defines the EU's shared vision and action framework for development cooperation. **Global Gateway** is the EU's strategy to support its partner countries in boosting smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport sectors, and to strengthen health, education and research systems. Global Gateway is fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as well as the Paris Agreement, and brings together the EU, its Member States and their financial and development institutions as Team Europe.

Figure I.5 Global Gateway and its key areas of partnership

The **Team Europe approach** was initially launched in early 2020, as a package to support partner countries in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, and to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive response between the EU and its Member States. The approach has quickly become the backbone of Global Europe (the main financial tool for EU international cooperation from 2021 to 2027) and its programming. It notably includes the conception of Team Europe Initiatives, which are the flagships of the Team Europe approach.

The **European Democracy Action Plan** was adopted the same year to empower citizens and build more resilient democracies across the EU. Furthermore, EU cohesion policy, including the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund+ (ESF+), the Cohesion Fund and the Just Transition Fund (JTF), is also strongly aligned with the SDGs. It contributes to strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU and correcting imbalances between countries and regions. It delivers on the Union's political priorities, especially the green and digital transitions.

The EU research and innovation programme **Horizon Europe** aims to support researchers and innovators to drive the systemic changes needed to ensure a green, healthy and resilient Europe.

In line with the Political Guidelines, the SDGs have also been progressively integrated into the European Semester. This year, the SDG monitoring report is for the second time published at the same time as the Spring Package. Moreover, each European Semester country report includes an annex discussing the country's status, compared to the EU average, and progress in each SDG. The publication of the **Annual Sustainable Growth Survey (ASGS) 2023** in November 2022 launched the 2023 European Semester cycle. This ASGS outlines an economic policy agenda to mitigate the negative impacts of energy shocks in the short term and to keep up efforts to support sustainable and inclusive growth and increase resilience in the medium term, while maintaining flexibility to tackle new challenges.

The national **Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRP)** are structured around six thematic pillars to which they contribute, as mentioned in the Regulation on the Recovery and

Resilience Facility: green transition; digital transformation; economic cohesion, productivity and competitiveness; social and territorial cohesion; health, economic, social and institutional resilience; and policies for the next generation.

In doing so, they also cover the four dimensions of competitive sustainability outlined in the 2023 ASGS: (1) environmental sustainability, (2) productivity, (3) fairness and (4) macroeconomic stability. Each of these dimensions relates to a set of SDGs and therefore the reforms and investments in the RRPs are also expected to contribute to progress towards them. In the context of Europe's climate ambitions and of the digital transformation, all RRPs need to focus strongly on both reforms and investments supporting the green and digital transitions. Each plan must commit a minimum of 37% of the allocated funds to climate action and 20% to digital spending. The plans approved have gone even beyond this and, on average, dedicate around 40% of resources to climate-related measures and more than 26% to the digital transition.

2.2 The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan

The **European Commission Agenda** for the period 2019-2024 contains 6 priorities, which complement the United Nations 2030 Agenda:

1. A Green Deal.
2. A Europe fit for the digital age.
3. An economy that works for people.
4. A stronger Europe in the world.
5. Promoting our European way of life.
6. A new push for European democracy.

On the other hand, **the European Council has its own Strategic Agenda for 2019-2024**, as a general framework that allows it to respond to new challenges and opportunities in this current context characterized by increasingly pressing instability and complexity.

This Strategic Agenda explains 4 axes consistent with the priorities of the European Commission:

1. Protecting citizens and freedoms;
2. Developing a strong and vibrant economic base;
3. Building a climate-neutral, green, fair and social Europe;
4. Promoting European interests and values on the global stage.

The crisis generated by COVID-19 has meant a new approach: the year 2020 could be the beginning of a historic period in the conception of the EU as a true Union, because this serious crisis has been faced as a European problem, and systematically combated the centrifugal tendencies of the Member States (MS).

The relaxation of the saving clause of the European Stability and Growth Pact so that Member States can take on more debt, coordination on medical and health protection aspects, coordination in the search for mass vaccination, the application of measures financeable employment protection and social protection schemes (employment maintenance systems are implemented in most Member States), coupled with an unusual flow of new funds that establishes a high level of protection. The exit has been proposed as "**Building Back Better**".

In March 2021, the **European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan** was adopted, and a set of social objectives for 2030 were proposed, endorsed by EU leaders at the Porto Social Summit.

The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan outlines concrete actions to further implement the 20 principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights as a joint effort of Member States and the EU, with the active participation of social partners and civil society. The revised Social Scoreboard, which is also linked to the SDGs, was presented as part of the Action Plan to monitor progress towards the implementation of the Social Pillar principles within the European Semester. The Action Plan also proposes employment, skills and poverty reduction as main objectives that the EU must achieve by 2030. The new main objectives for 2030 are consistent with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and establish the common ambition of a strong social Europe.

The objectives are:

- At least 78% of the population aged 20 to 64 should be in employment by 2030.
- At least 60% of all adults should be participating in training every year by 2030.
- A reduction of at least 15 million in the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 2030.

Figure I.6 The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan

In order to further strengthen equality in the European Union, the Commission proposed **measures to intensify the fight against racism and discrimination on the grounds of gender and sexual orientation**, while increasing efforts to enable citizens with disability participate fully in society. Firm measures were also taken to defend and strengthen the rule of law, protect the fundamental values of the Union and strengthen democratic resilience, as set out in the **European Democracy Action Plan.**

Together with the Member States, the Commission has sought to alleviate the social and economic impact of the pandemic through a series of ambitious and far-reaching programs and instruments. The combined capacity of the Union's long-term budget and NextGenerationEU will deliver €2,018 trillion to boost the economy and rebuild a greener, fairer, more digital and more resilient post-COVID-19 Europe. **The issue that must be guaranteed is that this reborn Europe also reaches the population in multidimensional poverty and that suffers disadvantages and inequality.**

The activation of the general saving clause of the Stability and Growth Pact and the Temporary Framework for state aid measures allowed Member States to provide support to the economy amounting to 6.6% of GDP in 2020 and 7.1% of GDP in 2021, which has contributed to safeguarding stability and a strong economic recovery. It aims to ensure that EU budget spending is carried out in line with the principles of good financial management and fully protecting the financial interests of the EU. Furthermore, €21 billion has so far been mobilized from cohesion policy funds to provide emergency support to the health sector and protect jobs, while €50 billion under REACT- EU have served as a bridge in the use of recovery instruments.

The work of the European Union in favour of recovery is bearing fruit, **but there are serious trends to observe and negative results of several indicators.**

Currently, the Recovery and Resilience Facility, which forms the core of the Next Generation EU instrument and whose value amounts to more than €800 billion, offers the opportunity to pave the way towards a sustained and inclusive recovery. The transformative impact of the Facility will continue to develop and increase in the coming years, as the planned reforms and investments are carried out, in full respect of fundamental EU rights and value.

During the II European Congress Against Poverty and Social Exclusion, Antonio López Peláez, Executive Director of the International Council of Social Welfare (ICSW), stated that these objectives are ambitious and difficult to achieve. He stressed that the fundamental problem is not so much the definition of the objective itself, but the procedure that is established to achieve the established objectives. In this regard, the group of public administrations in Spain has severe problems in being able to manage the set of benefits. For this reason, **it is essential to define the procedures and include all the actors involved in all stages**, from definition and design to evaluation. It has to be **a participatory and co-design process in favour of democratic legitimacy**.

On the other hand, the global general document, **the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which the European Commission has signed will require meticulous attention to ensure that its ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are achievable.** According to some estimates, two-thirds of the SDGs are unlikely to be met to date.

Below are six trends to observe that may negatively impact the realization of the principles of the European Pillar, the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the planned goals:

a. **Persistence and diversification of poverty**
b. Persistent gender inequality and refeminization of carework

c. Increasing deterioration of health, especially mental health
d. Demographic ageing, impoverishment and Covid-19
e. Multidimensional housing crisis
f. Potentially “unfair” transitions

2.2.1. Persistence and diversification of poverty

The main social challenge is the poverty and social exclusion of a fifth of the European population and a quarter of the Spanish population. EAPN is concerned that, as has been proven, inequality has worsened during the pandemic. Without having returned to 2008 levels, income inequality had been slowly reducing in the last 3 years until 2020, but this trend was interrupted by the pandemic.

Those who lose the most are the working people. Eurostat estimates a loss in average employment income of around -7.2% at EU level, mainly due to the unprecedented increase in the number of people working outside of work or with reduced schedule. These losses are distributed very unevenly between countries and are particularly serious for the most vulnerable subgroups of the active population, such as the female and up to 29-year-old working population.

Poverty shows **high heterogeneity between countries, regions and sociodemographic groups.** Using data from 2020, there has been a statistically significant increase in cases in Spain, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia and Greece. A more in-depth analysis of different subgroups shows substantially different patterns between age groups and other characteristics: affecting childhood and youth more (around one in five boys, girls and adolescents (18.5%) are at risk of poverty in Europe, with Spain being the third country in the EU with the highest rates of child poverty with 27.4%, only behind Romania and Bulgaria), to people of foreign origin, with disabilities and ethnic minorities, as well as single-parent households. Discrimination and racism are linked to poverty processes.

Within the framework of reconstruction, the emerging trend is that of new forms or routes to poverty, some of which are analysed in more detail below:

1. People in a situation of digital exclusion, also called “digital poverty”, who are usually affected by sociodemographic conditions, such as advanced age, low level of formal education, low income, or live in areas rural.
2. People expelled from the labour market due to the closure of activity and companies as a result of COVID-19, but also those affected by the transition to a green and digital economy, who cannot jump on the bandwagon of the new sources of employment.
3. Children and adolescents who have interrupted their studies or reduced their opportunities due to educational difficulties (compared to others who were able to take advantage of them), many of whom also suffer from the digital gap.
4. People with mental and physical illnesses generated or enhanced by the pandemic and health care problems, which chain problems of a social, work and residential nature.
5. Households increasingly affected by energy poverty and high housing prices, due to the constant increase in costs from 2017 onwards, including new forms of residential exclusion and new profiles of homelessness.
6. Groups of people with vulnerable situations who are not participating in recovery and/or social/labour insertion processes, because these have been interrupted by the pandemic, or they cannot do their itineraries remotely, due to lack materials and digital.

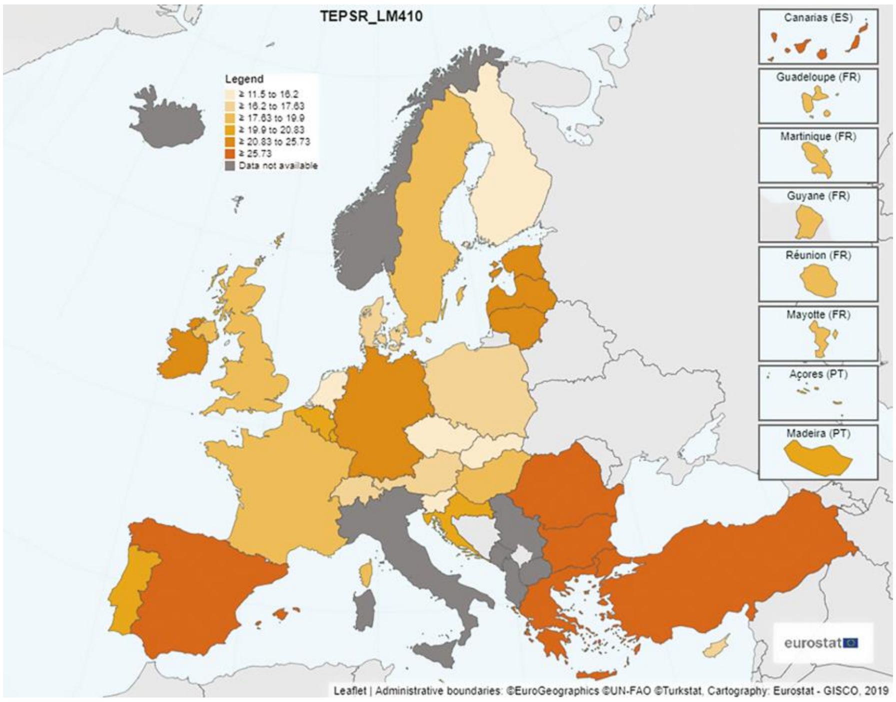
7. Populations affected by climate change and air pollution in large cities, who are increasingly exposed to extreme weather phenomena, which squander their heritage, safety and health.

2.2.2. Risk of poverty and/or social exclusion rate – AROPE

Approximately one in five people in the EU-27 were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2020. It was estimated that 96.5 million people in the EU-27 were at risk of poverty or social exclusion, which is equivalent 21.9% of the total population. In the case of Spain, the rate reaches 27%. Other countries with very high rates, above 22%, are Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Germany. Those with the lowest rates are Czechia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Finland.

The number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, which can be abbreviated as AROPE, corresponds to the sum of people who are (i) at risk of poverty (as indicated by their disposable income); and/or (ii) face severe material deprivation (based on their ability to purchase a predefined set of material items or services); and/or (iii) live in a home with very low work intensity. After reaching a peak of 108.7 million in 2012, the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU-27 fell for seven consecutive years. There has been a decrease of 16.3 million in the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion since the spike in 2012. The number of people in the EU-27 at risk of poverty or social exclusion was 8.4 million lower in 2020 than in 2015. 44 million people would still need to be lifted out of poverty to achieve target 1.2 to reduce poverty by half, established by the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Figure I.7. Risk of poverty and/or social exclusion rate, AROPE by country, in 2020



Source: EUROSTAT, European Pillar of Social Rights, People at risk of poverty or social exclusion by sex, in https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/ tepsr_lm410/default/map?lang=en (the worst result represented by the dark brown colour and the best with the light beige colour)

2.3 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

SDG 1 calls for the eradication of poverty in all its manifestations. It envisions shared prosperity, a basic standard of living and social protection benefits for people everywhere, including the poorest and most vulnerable.

Poverty harms people's lives and hampers social cohesion and economic growth. Monitoring SDG 1 in an EU context involves tracking aspects related to multidimensional poverty and basic needs. Over the assessed five-year period, the EU has made quite strong progress in all aspects of poverty monitored here. The share of the population affected by different forms of poverty, such as monetary poverty or material and social deprivation, has decreased. However, while the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion has fallen, stronger progress will be necessary to meet the 2030 target to lift at least 15 million people out of poverty or social exclusion, along with the complementary ambition that at least 5 million of these should be children. With regard to basic needs, significant progress has been made for all indicators, with fewer people now overburdened by housing costs, reporting an unmet need for medical care or living in an overcrowded household.

2.3.1. Policy context

Multidimensional poverty

The European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) promotes upward convergence towards better living and working conditions in Europe. The EPSR Action Plan set a target to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 15 million by 2030, with the complementary ambition that at least 5 million should be children.

The reinforced Youth Guarantee strengthens prevention and activation of young people from vulnerable groups and will help reduce their poverty or social exclusion.

The European Child Guarantee helps to ensure that in Europe every child in need has effective and free access to quality early childhood education and care, education, school meals, healthcare, adequate housing and healthy nutrition.

The Directive on adequate minimum wages in the European Union from 2022 aims to improve living and working conditions, including through addressing in-work poverty.

The Council Recommendation on minimum income ensuring active inclusion from 2023 aims to combat poverty and social exclusion, and to pursue high levels of employment by promoting adequate income support, including by means of minimum income.

The Council Recommendation on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality from 2022 provides policy guidance for addressing relevant employment and social aspects in the context of the green transition.

The Commission Communication on better assessing the distributional impact of Member States' policies calls for Member States to make the impact of planned measures and investments on the income of various groups more transparent.

The Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021–2030 aims to reduce the risk of poverty for persons with disabilities through measures, for example in the field of employment, health, accessibility or education.

The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) is a key financial instrument for implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights. It supports the most deprived people and marginalised communities, addresses child poverty and supports the social integration of people at risk of poverty.

Basic needs

The Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived supports EU countries' initiatives to provide food, clothing and other essential goods as well as non-material social inclusion measures, to the poorest in society. In 2020, amendments to the fund's Regulation introduced specific measures for addressing the COVID-19 crisis.

The affordable housing initiative is part of the Commission's renovation wave strategy for Europe, which aims to promote greener buildings, create jobs and improve lives. The initiative should ensure that social and affordable housing facilities also benefit from the renovation wave.

2.3.2. Sustainable development in the EU. Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context (2023 edition)

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the United Nations (UN) in September 2015, is the world's roadmap for achieving sustainable development in this decade. The European Union (EU) has fully committed itself to delivering on the 2030 Agenda, and the SDGs form an intrinsic part of the European Commission's work programme and the Political Guidelines of Commission's President Ursula von der Leyen. In this context, the EU will also present its first Voluntary Review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the United Nations' (UN) High Level Political Forum in July 2023.

Monitoring is an essential component in realising the 2030 Agenda's vision, both globally and in the EU, by assessing and visualising the progress made so far towards the 17 SDGs. Since 2017, Eurostat has been preparing annual reports monitoring the progress towards the SDGs in the EU context. This 2023 edition is the seventh report in this series, analysing the EU's progress towards the goals based on the official EU SDG indicator set.

Reflecting the timespan of the 2030 Agenda, this report aims to present an objective assessment of whether the EU — according to the selected indicators — has progressed towards the SDGs over the past 15-year period. Additionally, short-term trends over the most recent five-year period of available data are presented to provide an indication of whether a trend has been persistent or has shown a turnaround at a certain point in time. The report consequently focuses on the trends over the past five- and 15-year periods. Given the time lag of the available data, these mainly refer to the periods up to 2021 or 2022. While the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are thus largely visible for most of the indicators, more recent developments such as those caused by Russia's military aggression against Ukraine are only partly reflected in the available data.

The figure on the next page shows the pace at which the EU has progressed towards each of the 17 goals over this short-term period according to the selected indicators.

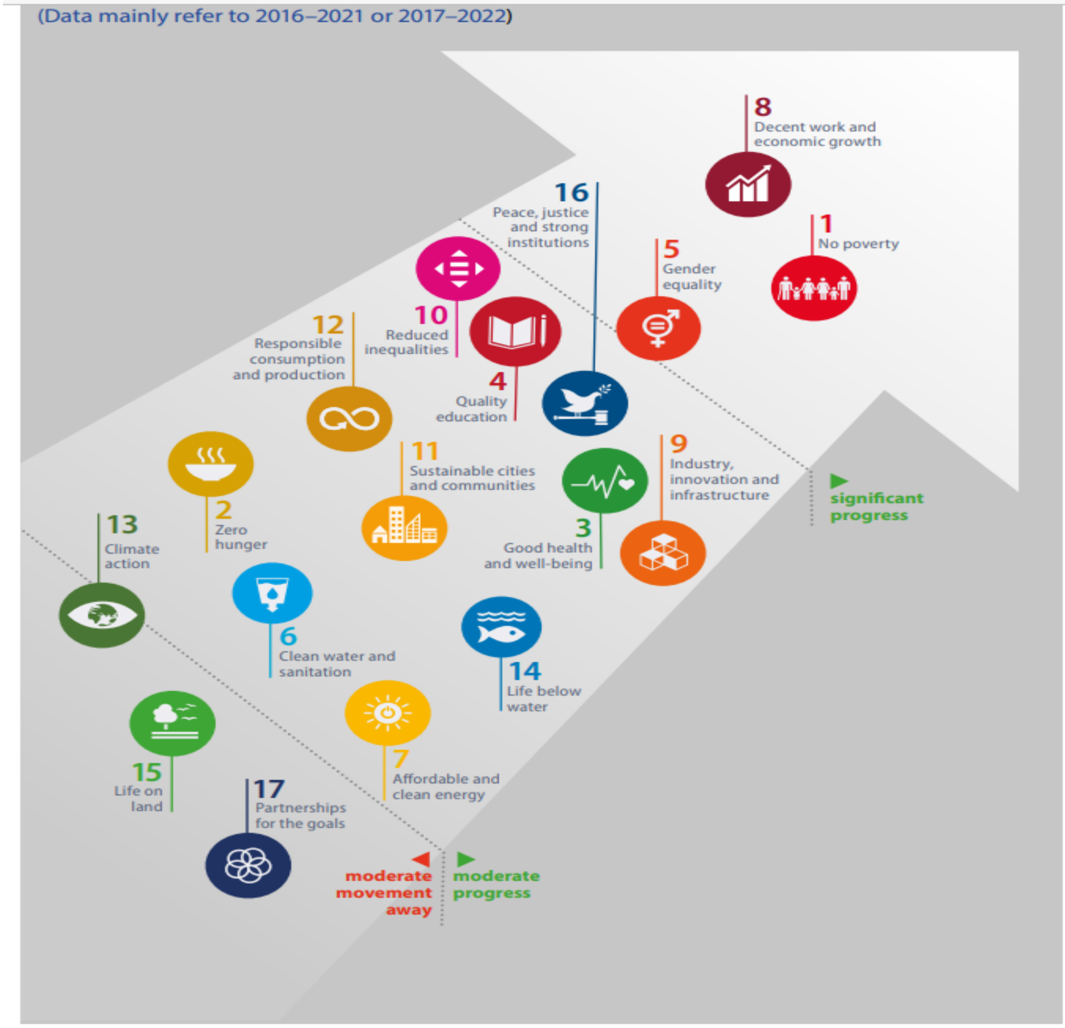


Figure I.8 Advancement of the SDGs

Over the five-year period assessed, the EU has made significant progress towards ensuring decent work and economic growth (SDG 8) and reducing poverty (SDG 1), as well as towards improving gender equality (SDG 5). Good progress has also been achieved towards reducing inequalities (SDG 10), ensuring quality education (SDG 4) and fostering peace and personal security within the EU's territory and improving access to justice and trust in institutions (SDG 16). The EU has also seen good progress towards the goals on health and well-being (SDG 3), despite setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and on innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9).

Progress towards the remaining goals was less significant, as shown in the figure on the next page. Overall, the goal-level assessment in this year's SDG monitoring report shows that the EU has progressed strongly towards many socioeconomic goals over the most recent five-year period of available data, while trends in the environmental domain have been less favourable.

More progress is expected for three goals — climate action (SDG 13), life on land (SDG 15) and global partnerships (SDG 17). Regarding climate action (SDG 13), the EU has set ambitious and unparalleled climate targets for 2030, which, as compared with past trends, will require more efforts. The EU has already put in place the policy measures to deliver these additional efforts, notably via the 'Fit for 55' package. In the area of energy, the EU has also set more ambitious targets for 2030. This implies that stronger progress is expected to be visible in the coming years in the area of energy efficiency and renewable energies in the EU. Concerning life on land (SDG 15), even though terrestrial protected areas have increased since 2013, additional efforts are needed to reverse the degradation of ecosystems. Regarding partnerships for the goals (SDG 17), the trend partially reflects cyclical effects, notably the increase in public debt resulting from the COVID-19 crisis.

2.3.3 No poverty in the EU: overview and key trends

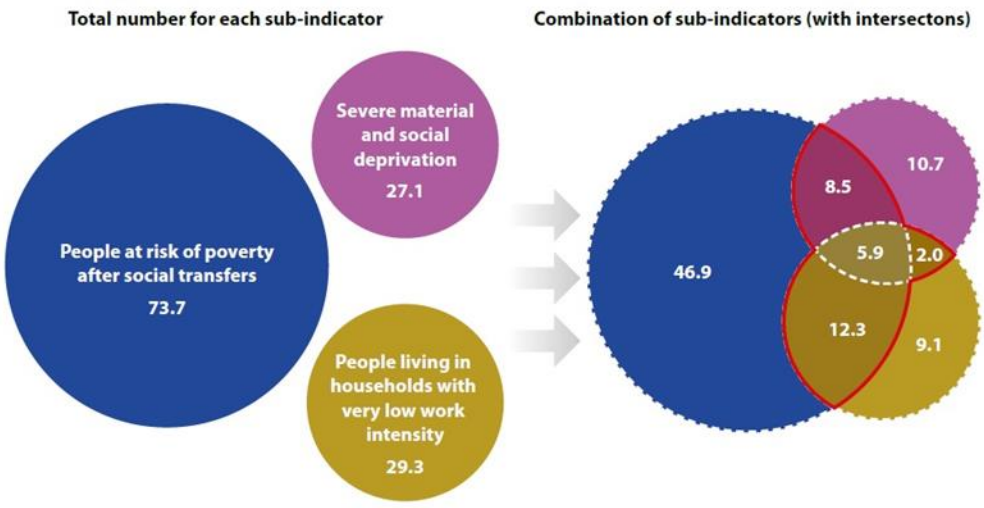
The EU's situation regarding SDG 1 'No poverty' is characterised by considerable improvements in all poverty dimensions monitored in this report as well as an increasing share of people being able to meet their basic needs. Most of these improvements took place in the period up to 2019, while poverty rates have remained rather stable in 2020 and 2021 (3). In the area of multidimensional poverty, trends in the five-year period assessed show that fewer people were affected by monetary poverty, suffered from severe material and social deprivation or lived in (quasi-)jobless households. This resulted in a marked improvement concerning the overall risk of poverty or social exclusion across the EU, even though stronger progress will be necessary to meet the target of lifting at least 15 million people out of poverty or social exclusion by 2030. In the area of basic needs, the share of people overburdened by their housing costs or facing severe housing deprivation has fallen since 2015. Additionally, the proportion of people reporting unmet needs for medical care was lower in 2021 than five years earlier, even though the rate has risen slightly since 2017.

As in chapter 2, in the section on the persistence of poverty, we highlighted new forms or routes of arrival into poverty to take into account, below we also highlight some of the **key trends** that derive from the report carried out by the EU (2023).

Multidimensional poverty

SDG 1 does not only call for the eradication of extreme poverty but also for poverty in all its dimensions to be halved by 2030. This global goal has a universal approach to reducing poverty. The EU also employs a multidimensional measure of poverty and in its European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan has set a target to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by at least 15 million by 2030 compared with the situation in 2019. A complementary ambition states that of these 15 million people, at least 5 million should be children. The EU's at-risk-of-poverty-or-social-exclusion (AROPE) indicator is based on three components: monetary poverty; severe material and social deprivation; and very low work intensity. Through this multidimensional approach, the indicator shows which share of the population is at risk of exclusion and marginalisation from economic and social activities.

Figure I.9. Aggregation of components of "People at risk of poverty or social exclusion", EU, 2021 (million people)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_pees01n)

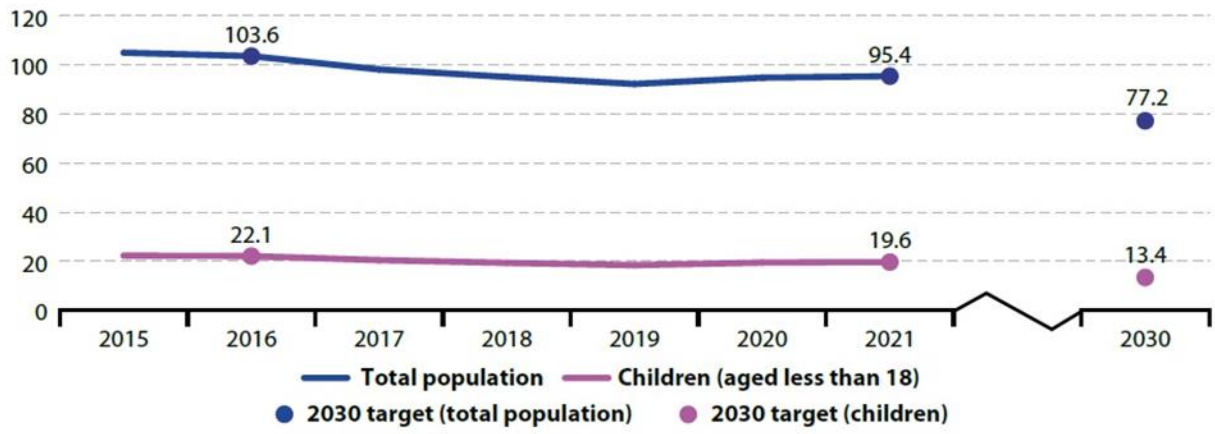
Stronger progress is necessary to meet the 2030 target to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion

In 2021, 95.4 million people, equalling 21.7% of the EU population, were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This represents a 7.9% decrease since 2016, when 103.6 million people (or 23.7% of the population) had been at risk. Nevertheless, the rate would need to fall more strongly in the next few years in order for the EU to meet its target of lifting at least 15 million people out of poverty or social exclusion by 2030.

It is worth noting that the trends for many poverty-related indicators are affected by methodological changes in the data collection from 2020 onwards in a number of Member States, in particular Germany and France.

The number of children aged less than 18 who were at risk of poverty or social exclusion amounted to 19.6 million in 2021, corresponding to 24.4% of the population of this age group. This is an 11.3% decrease compared with five years earlier, when 22.1 million children (27.1%) were at risk of poverty or social exclusion across the EU. However, in order to meet the complementary ambition of lifting at least 5 million children out of this situation by 2030, the pace of this development would need to speed up over the next years.

Figure I.10. People at risk of poverty or social exclusion, EU, 2015-2021 (million people)



Note: Break in time series in 2020. Source: Eurostat (online data code: sdg_01_10)

Figure I.11. People at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by country, 2016 and 2021 (% of population)

(¹) Break(s) in time series between the two years shown.
(²) No data for 2021.
(³) 2020 data (instead of 2021).
(⁴) 2017 data (instead of 2016).
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sdg_01_10)

Monetary poverty is the main form of poverty or social exclusion in the EU

Monetary poverty was the most prevalent component of poverty or social exclusion in the EU in 2021, affecting 73.7 million people or 16.8% of the population. This means that after social transfers (excluding pensions) these people had an equivalised disposable income of less than 60% of the national median equivalised disposable income. The equivalised disposable income is the total income of a household — after tax and other deductions — that is available for spending or saving, divided by a specific scale which takes into account a household's composition and size.

Very low work intensity, referring to people living in (quasi-)jobless households where the adults worked equal to or less than 20% of their total work-time potential during the past year, affected 29.3 million people (equalling 8.9% of the population) aged less than 65 years in 2021.

In the same year, 27.1 million people (6.3% of the EU population) were affected by severe material and social deprivation, which meant they were unable to afford seven or more items out of a list of 13 elements of material goods, services or social activities considered by most people to be desirable or necessary for an adequate life.

The three components of the at-risk-of-poverty or-social-exclusion indicator — monetary poverty, very low work intensity, and severe material and social deprivation — are related but distinct concepts that can overlap. This means that some people might be affected by two or even all three dimensions at the same time.

According to its definition, monetary poverty is a relative measure and strongly depends on the median income level in a given country. This means that even during times of increasing median income, the relative poverty rate may remain stable or even increase, depending on changes in income distribution across the population.

Rates of people living in households with very low work intensity (jobless or quasi-jobless households) and severe material and social deprivation (indicating a lack of resources to cover certain material and social needs) are likely to decrease during economic recoveries when people are generally better off financially and the labour market situation has improved.

Of all of the 95.4 million people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU in 2021, 28.7 million (30.1%) were affected by more than one dimension of poverty, and 5.9 million (6.2%) were affected by all three forms. To reduce poverty, governments provide a wide range of measures, such as income support though various benefits (for example, unemployment benefits, sickness and invalidity benefits, and minimum income benefits), tax policies and provision of enabling, social and employment services. The impact of the transfers can be assessed by comparing the at-risk-of poverty rate before and after social transfers, excluding pensions. In the EU, social transfers (excluding pensions) reduced the share of people at risk of monetary poverty in 2021 from 26.7% to 16.8%, which corresponds to a reduction by 37.1%.

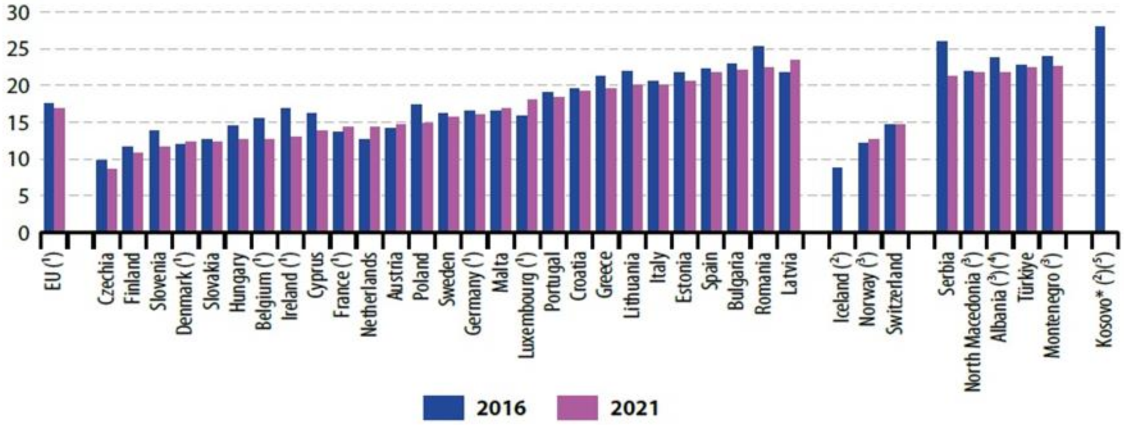
Figure I.12. People at risk of monetary poverty after social transfers, EU, 2010-2021 (million people)

Note: 2010-2018 data are estimated; break in time series in 2020.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sdg_01_20)

Considerable differences in poverty rates exist within the EU

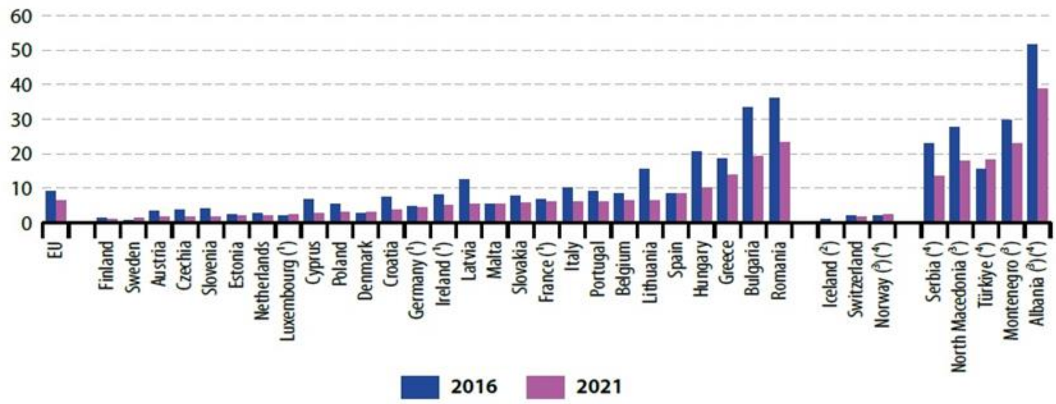
The multidimensional risk-of-poverty-or-social-exclusion rate differs considerably between Member States. In 2021, national rates for this indicator ranged from 10.7% in Czechia to 34.5% in Romania in 2021. While Czechia ranked among the best performing countries for all three components, other countries show striking differences in their situation in terms of monetary poverty, severe material and social deprivation, and very low work intensity, illustrating that good performance on one indicator does not necessarily go hand in hand with a similar performance on another. Romania, for example, had the second highest share of monetary poverty after social transfers and the highest share of severely materially and socially deprived people in 2021, while at the same time its share of (quasi-)jobless households was the lowest across the EU. Hungary is another example with striking differences with regard to the three components. It was among the best third of countries for monetary poverty after social transfers and share of (quasi-) jobless households, but had the fourth highest rate of severe material and social deprivation. These examples show that the drivers behind the Member States' at-risk-of-poverty-or-social-exclusion rates can vary, depending on the national context.

Figure I.13. People at risk of monetary poverty after social transfers, by country, 2016 and 2021 (% of population)



(1) Break(s) in time series between the two years shown.
(2) No data for 2021.
(3) 2020 data (instead of 2021).
(4) 2017 data (instead of 2016).
(5) 2018 data (instead of 2016).
(*) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sdg_01_20)

Figure I.14. Severe material and social deprivation rate, by country, 2016 and 2021 (% of population)



(1) Break(s) in time series between the two years shown.
(2) No data for 2021.
(3) 2020 data (instead of 2021).
(4) 2017 data (instead of 2016).
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sdg_01_31)

Children and young people are particularly affected by poverty and social exclusion

Children and young people are generally more affected by the risk of poverty or social exclusion than other age groups. People aged 20 to 24 were most likely to be at risk in 2021, with 27.6% of this age group living in households that were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This figure is 5.9 percentage points higher than the rate for the total EU population (21.7%). Children aged 0 to 17 were also more affected than the overall EU population, with 24.4% living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

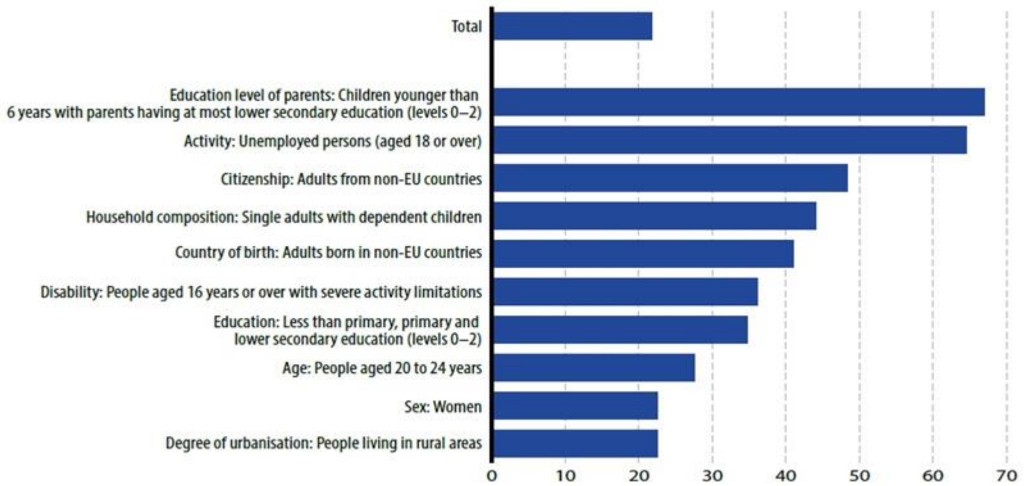
In line with the overall EU trend, the poverty or social exclusion rates for both groups have decreased since 2016. Children aged 0 to 17 shows a similar pattern for the three poverty dimensions as the total population, with monetary poverty being the most prevalent form, followed by quasi-joblessness and material and social deprivation. In 2021, 19.5% of children aged 0 to 17 were living in households affected by monetary poverty after social transfers, 8.3% were living in (quasi-)jobless households, and 7.5% were living in households affected by severe material and social deprivation.

Children's risk of poverty or social exclusion is largely determined by the situation of their parents. Two major factors are education and household composition: parents with a lower level of education usually earn less. In 2021, 62.5% of children aged 0 to 17 whose parents had at most lower secondary education were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Very young children aged 0 to 5 were the most affected, with a rate of 67.0%.

Children with more highly educated parents fared significantly better. 28.5% of children aged 0 to 17 and 29.8% of children aged 0 to 5 whose parents had a mid-level education were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. The rates were 9.8% for children aged 0 to 17 and 10.1% for children aged 0 to 5 with highly educated parents.

Similarly, households of (mostly female) single parents with one or more dependent children had a much higher at-risk rate (44.1% in 2021) than any other household type.

Figure I.15. People most at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by sub-group, EU, 2021 (% of population)



Note: Estimated data; data by disability not yet adjusted to new 2030 target definition.
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: ilc_peps01n, ilc_peps02n, ilc_peps03n, ilc_peps04n, ilc_peps05n, ilc_peps06n, ilc_peps13n, ilc_peps60n and hlth_dpe010)

Poverty is more likely to affect people who are unemployed or have a migrant background, a low level of education or a disability

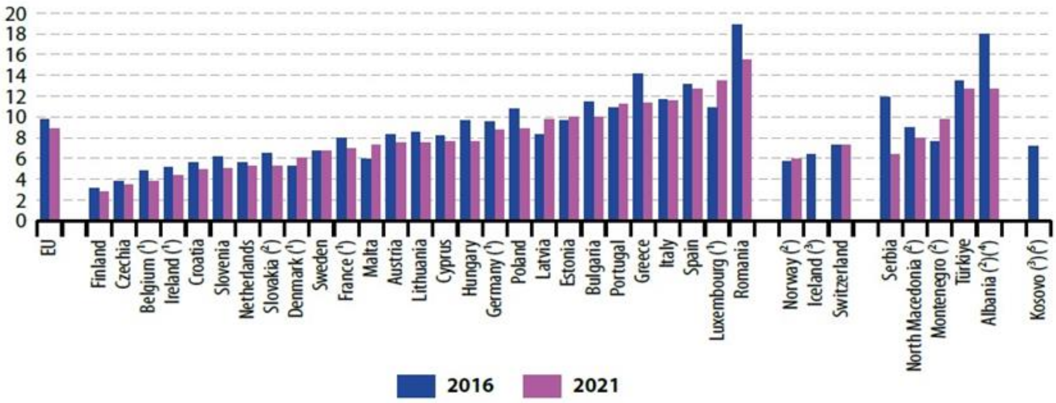
Identifying situations that can make people more vulnerable to being at risk of poverty and social exclusion is important for designing sound policies that prevent and fight poverty. Figure 1.4 shows which subgroups of people were most at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2021. In addition to the case of children and young people discussed previously, other characteristics — such as unemployment, a migrant background, low education levels or disabilities — were also key risk factors. Not surprisingly, the group with the highest at-risk-of-poverty-or-social-exclusion rate were unemployed people, of which two-thirds (64.5%) were in this situation. Nearly half (48.4%) of non-EU citizens living in the EU were at risk of poverty and social exclusion, far more than EU home-country nationals (19.5%)

The situation was similar when looking at country of birth, with 41.0% of adults born in non-EU countries being in that situation, compared with only 19.0% of those born in the reporting EU countries. Moreover, more than one third of people with severe disabilities (36.2%) or low education levels (34.7%) were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. People living in rural areas (22.5%) were slightly more affected than those in urban areas (21.9%). Women (22.6%) were more affected than men (20.7%).

Figure I.16. In work at-risk-of-poverty rate, EU, 2010-2021 (% of population aged 18 or over)

Note: 2010–2019 data are estimated.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sdg_01_41)

Figure I.17. In work at-risk-of-poverty rate, by country, 2016 and 2021 (% of population aged 18 or over)



(¹) Break(s) in time series between the two years shown.
(²) 2020 data (instead of 2021).
(³) No data for 2021.
(⁴) 2017 data (instead of 2016).
(⁵) 2018 data (instead of 2016).
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sdg_01_41)

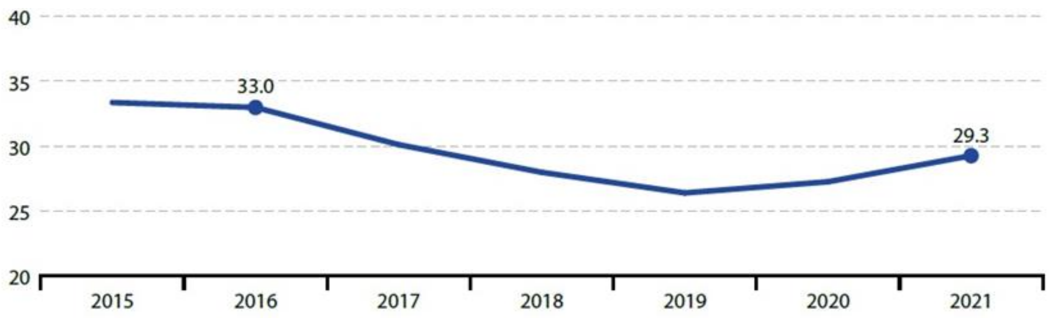
The poverty gap has widened in the past decade, but the situation has improved in recent years

The poverty gap measures the 'depth' of poverty and is defined as the distance between the median income of people at risk of poverty and the poverty threshold (set at 60% of the national median equivalised disposable income after social 24.4% median distance that those at risk of poverty were from the poverty threshold in 2021 Sustainable development in the European Union 45 No poverty 1 transfers). In 2021, this gap amounted to 24.4% in the EU, which means the median income of those below this poverty threshold was 24.4% lower than the threshold itself. While this represents a 1.0 percentage point improvement compared with 2016, it is 1.3 percentage points above the level recorded in 2010, when the poverty gap amounted to 23.1 %.

In-work poverty has increased in the past ten years, with a peak in 2016

Having a paid job does not necessarily prevent people from being at risk of poverty. The share of people at risk of monetary poverty among the employed, the so-called working poor, has grown slightly since 2010. In 2021, the in-work poverty rate was 8.9%, which is an increase of 0.4 percentage points compared with 8.5% in 2010. However, in 2016 the rate had reached a peak of 9.8%, so the 2021 figure represents a 0.9 percentage point improvement in the in-work poverty rate over the final five years of this period. Rates varied considerably across the EU in 2021, with the lowest share of in-work-poverty recorded in Finland (2.8%) and the highest in Romania (15.6%) and Luxembourg (13.5%). The likelihood of a person becoming a member of the 'working poor' varies according to their type of contract and education level. Low-skilled workers and people who work part-time or on temporary contracts are generally the most affected.

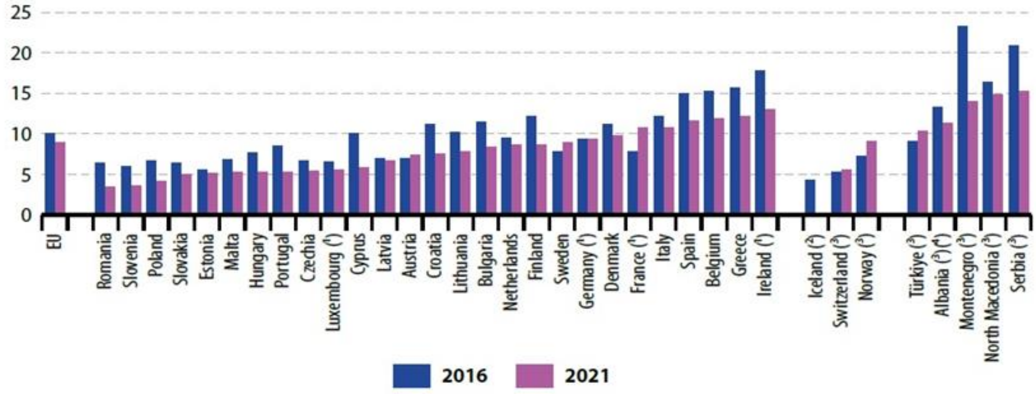
Figure I.18. People living in households with very low work intensity, EU, 2015-2021 (million people aged less than 65)



Note: 2019 data are estimated.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sdg_01_40)

Figure I.19. People living in households with very low work intensity, by country, 2016 and 2021 (% of population aged less than 65)



(¹) Break(s) in time series between the two years shown.
(²) No data for 2021.
(³) 2020 data (instead of 2021).
(⁴) 2017 data (instead of 2016).

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sdg_01_40)

Basic needs

Being at risk of poverty can have a severe impact on a person's ability to meet their basic needs such as being able to afford adequate housing or receive necessary medical treatment.

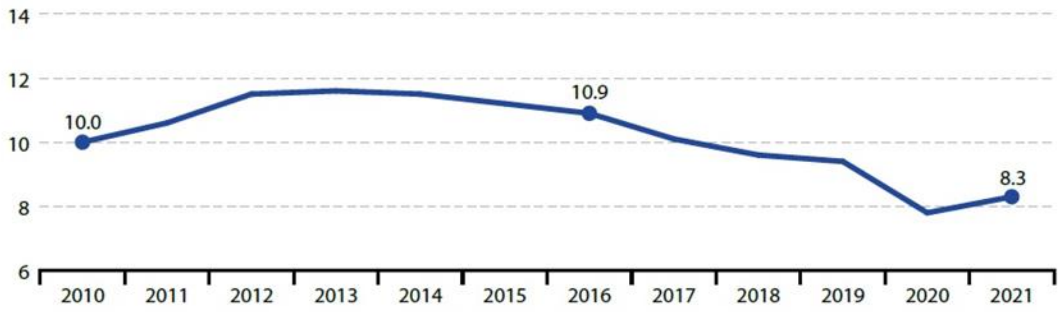
8.9% of employed people in the EU were at risk of monetary poverty in 2021

8.3% of the EU population were overburdened by their housing costs in 2021

Fewer people are overburdened by their housing costs or face severe housing deprivation

The European Commission has declared access to affordable accommodation to be a fundamental need and right. Meeting basic human needs is central to social sustainability and housing is a key dimension of need. Housing costs often account for the largest component of many households' expenditure and determine what is left of their budget for satisfying other essential needs, such as education, medical treatment, food or energy. People suffering from poverty are far more often restricted to sub-optimal housing than the overall population. Housing affordability can be analysed through the housing cost overburden rate, which is defined as the share of the population living in households where the total housing costs (net of housing allowances) represent more than 40 % of the total disposable household income. The EU's housing cost overburden rate has been on a downward path since 2010, when 10.0 % of the population was affected, falling to 8.3 % in 2021. Low-income households are particularly prone to being overburdened by their housing costs. In 2021, 33.0 % of people with an income below the poverty threshold spent 40 % or more of their household disposable income on housing, compared with only 3.4 % of the not at-risk-of-poverty population (referring to people with an income above the poverty threshold).

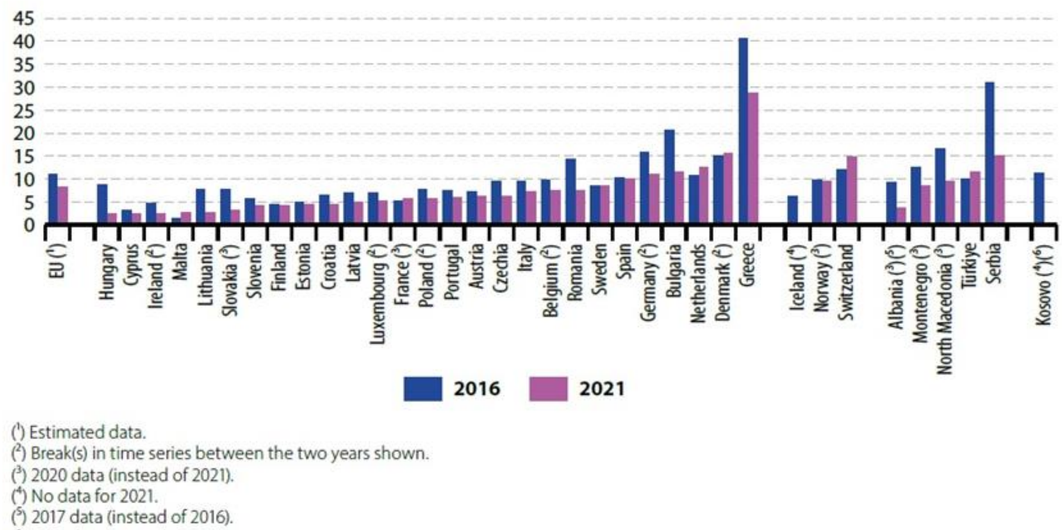
Figure I.20. Housing cost overburden rate, EU, 2010-2021 (% of population)



Note: 2014–2019 and 2021 data are estimated.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sdg_01_50)

Similarly, people with disabilities are more likely to be overburdened by housing costs. Data are only 4.3% of the EU population faced severe housing deprivation in 2020 46 Sustainable development in the European Union 1 No poverty available for people aged 16 or over and show that in 2021, 9.1 % of people with severe and 8.7% of people with some disability (activity limitation) were in this situation, compared with 6.9% of people with no disability (activity limitation). The severe housing deprivation rate is an indicator of inadequate housing, referring to people living in an overcrowded household that also meet the criteria for housing deprivation, defined by poor amenities such as a leaking roof, lack of sanitation facilities (bath, shower, indoor flushing toilet) or a dwelling that is too dark. In 2020, 4.3% of the EU population faced severe housing deprivation, which is a 1.0 percentage point improvement compared with 2015. Among people living in monetary poverty, 10.2% were affected by this situation in 2020, compared with only 3.2% of the richer population. An analysis by degree of urbanisation reveals that city dwellers in particular are more likely to be overburdened by their housing costs. In 2020, 9.9% of people living in cities spent 40% or more of their household disposable income on housing, compared with only 7.0% for towns and suburbs and 5.8% for rural areas. Severe housing deprivation was slightly more common in rural areas with 4.9% than in cities with 4.8% in 2020; in towns and suburbs the rate was 3.4% in that year.

Figure I.21. Housing cost overburden rate, by country, 2016 and 2021 (% of population)

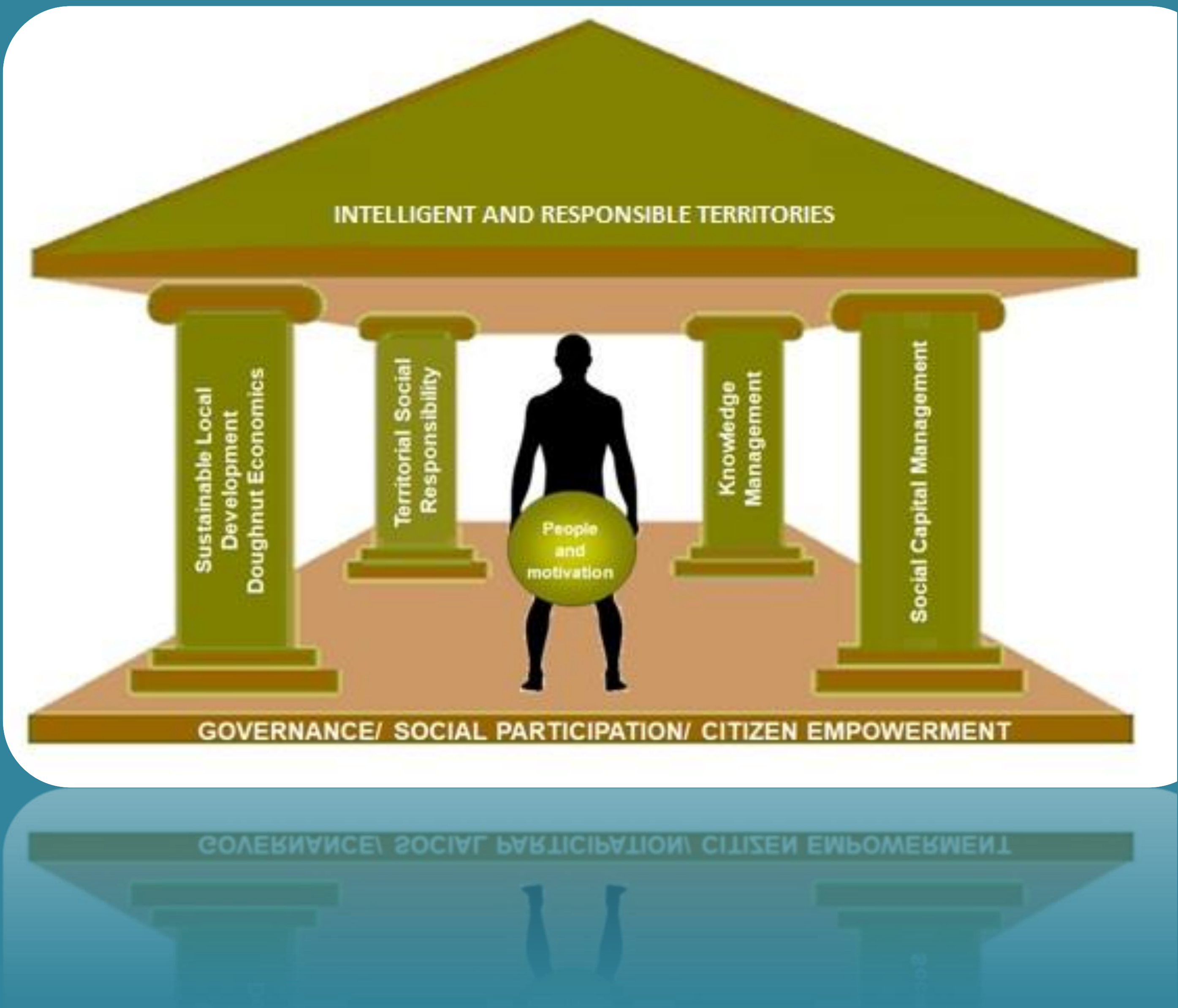


(1) Estimated data.
(2) Break(s) in time series between the two years shown.
(3) 2020 data (instead of 2021).
(4) No data for 2021.
(5) 2017 data (instead of 2016).
(6) 2018 data (instead of 2016).
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sdg_01_50)

People who self-report unmet needs for medical care most commonly cite costs as the reason

Access to health care services is important for ensuring a high quality of life. In turn, this may contribute to increased productivity and reduced costs associated with social protection systems. Barriers to accessing health services include costs, distance and waiting time. In 2021, 2.0% of the EU population aged 16 and above reported an unmet need for medical care. While the situation has improved by 0.8 percentage points compared with 2016, the rate has increased in the last four years. Cost was the main reason given for limited access to health care services, indicated by 1.0% of the EU population in 2021. People with lower incomes face a much higher share of unmet need for medical care. While only 0.2% of the richest 20% of the population reported unmet care needs due to financial constraints, 2.2% of people in the poorest quintile reported that this was the case.

Intelligent and Responsible Territories



3. Intelligent and Responsible Territories

3.1 Introduction

If we are going to talk about Intelligent and Responsible Municipalities (IRM), it is logical to ask ourselves: What is intelligence? Or can the adjective be applied indiscriminately to people, buildings, companies and territories?

In an excellent essay titled “Failed Intelligence” (2004), its author, J.A. Marina, defined intelligence as “the ability of a subject to direct his behaviour, using the information captured, learned, elaborated and produced by himself”: a management capacity associated with the ability to solve problems, and not at all unrelated to the ability to define and choose the objectives of your behaviour or personal development model.

For us it will be obvious that when the subject is a homogeneous territory previously delimited (for example, a municipality) its "behaviour" will be reflected in its "territorial development model", which if it seeks sustainability will tend to balance between wealth creation / social cohesion / nature preservation.

Marina also spoke about the failures of intelligence, and mentioned, among others, “the eighteenth-century Spanish society that shouted “Long live the chains”; the French society that applauded Napoleon's warlike and greedy fury; the German society that hailed Hitler and let itself infecting them with their ravings; and the advanced industrial society that is building an economy that irreversibly depletes nature, or that imposes a system that makes work life and family life incompatible; or a globalization that increases the gap between poor and rich countries. .

It is therefore also legitimate to ask ourselves when the divorce between society and nature, between economy and nature, occurred: when nature became the enemy of man, its dominance as the objective of "progress" and technological development, and its destruction, the price to pay for “our development”.

After stating that the triumph of personal intelligence is happiness, and the triumph of social intelligence is justice, he will conclude that “just societies are intelligent. And the unjust ones are stupid.”

Idea of social justice that will inevitably refer us to the thought of Sen, A. (1999): “when social justice is analysed, there are powerful reasons to judge individual advantage based on the capabilities that a person has, that is, the fundamental freedoms that you enjoy to lead the kind of life that you have reason to value. From this perspective, poverty must be conceived as a deprivation of basic capabilities, and not merely as a lack of income, which is the usual criterion with which poverty is identified.”

Which in turn will lead us to the conception of development as freedom: “It is mainly an attempt to conceive development as a process of expansion of the real freedoms enjoyed by individuals. In this approach, the expansion of freedom is considered to be 1) the primary goal and 2) the primary instrument of development. We can call them, respectively, “constitutive role” and “instrumental role” of freedom in development” (Sen, 1999).

A concept of development that claims to recover the lost relationship between ethics and economy, which takes us into the so-called Development Ethics, which encourages the emergence of new structuring concepts of development in the global knowledge society of the 21st century (Sustainability, Social Capital, Governance,….), because we need "new ways of thinking to solve the problems generated by old ways of thinking."

Having outlined the theoretical framework of reference, let us now advance in the definition of our IRTs.

3.2 Definition of Intelligent and Responsible Territory (IRT)

The successive definitions of territory, from its physical meaning as a support for human activity, to the recognition of its social, cultural, natural and economic identity, have contributed over time to an interesting theoretical debate, both about the concept itself, as well as on the development policies associated with it.

The definition of territory that we adopt is a central issue in any development policy, and even more so when we act at a local level: depending on the definition we adopt, we will study one thing or another, we will use different analysis techniques and indicators, our diagnosis will vary and the policies derived from it, the objectives to be set and the expected results; that is, all the elements that constitute the corpus of, for example, a Local Development and Employment Strategy.

Our concept of territory has its roots in the "local environment" (Aydalot, 1986): a network of local actors, plus the relationships that make up the productive system, in which economic, social, political and institutional agents have specific ways of organization and regulation, have their own culture and generate a dynamic of collective learning.

It is also a territory endowed with competencies and capacities derived from its social structure and dynamics (Lawson, 1999); an **Intelligent Territory** that, in a first approximation, I will define as **one capable of learning to innovate and compete**.

It is the logic of the organization, the links of cooperation and interdependence between local actors, which allows the local environment to cooperate to innovate and compete: a concept of competitiveness that is currently hegemonic in economics, which progressively displaces the concept of development, and sincerely we would like it to tend towards that "sustainable social competitiveness" that some authors postulate, taking as reference the idea of coopetition (cooperation and competition) that others speak of.

To arrive at the idea of intelligent territory, it is necessary that we highlight the relationship between **territory and innovation**: on the one hand, it is evident that innovations (also social innovations), and technological change, arise in the territory associated with local know-how, the qualifications of its inhabitants and the existing knowledge institutions; on the other hand, that the territories function as incubators of innovations, these being the result of a collective social and organizational learning process.

We understand **development** as a collective process, and innovation as a cooperative learning process, both linked to the territory: we talk about "cooperative learning", interactive learning of a social and informal type, learning aimed at solving the problems of the local community ("learning by doing" (Rummelt, 1994); "Theory of learning by action" (Engeström)); I am talking about social and organizational learning that is developed within the framework of cooperation between various organizations and interest groups, working together within project teams, or dynamic networks, with a common objective, generating an community attitude and know-how, a community of practice (Nayham, 2003).

In the second instance, we will define **Intelligent and Responsible Territories (IRT)** as those territories capable of increasing their social capital, and improving their management and problem-solving capacity, through knowledge management and social learning processes, based on networking, social interaction and democratic deepening (good governance), and aimed at creating value from values, within the framework of a sustainable development model aimed at the satisfaction of all interested parties.

A concept of IRT whose main defining characteristics acquire special significance when we intervene at a local scale in a global system, where “the local and the global are complementary terms, joint creators of social and economic synergy” (Borja, Castells, 1997).

An increasingly globalized world dominated by ICTs where, in parallel, there is an **appreciation of the local scale** for various reasons:

- The articulation between society and economy, technology and culture in the new system can be carried out more effectively and equitably by strengthening local society and its political institutions.
- The local acquires strategic importance as a management centre for the global in the new techno-economic system. Strategic importance that manifests itself in three main areas: that of productivity and economic competitiveness, that of socio-cultural integration, and that of political representation and management.
- From the economic point of view, the territorial context is a decisive element in generating the competitiveness of companies in a globalized economy, and it is precisely the local governments (municipal or regional), who can best contribute to the improvement of conditions. of production and competition of companies, on which in turn depends, and ultimately, the well-being of local society. The competitiveness of companies in the new economy increasingly depends on the generation of productivity conditions in the territorial area in which they operate.

Even more so if we refer to the excellent companies, the sustainable companies that we will talk about later.

It is also good that we have a first graphic representation of the concept, which in homage to the inventors of democracy will take the form of classical architecture (graph below): IRTs built on a solid foundation of quality of Governance, social participation and citizen empowerment, supported by four basic pillars (Sustainability (sustainable local development), Social Capital, Strategic Knowledge Management of the territory and Territorial Social Responsibility (RST)), which house among them the prism that represents the “capabilities of the territory” (capacity to produce, of learning, of innovating, etc.), in which people and their commitment to the territory occupy the centre of the representation, and all of this integrated into the natural system, because we consider the New Global Economy based on knowledge as a subsystem of the global natural system (the biosphere).

We need a New Economy that puts people and the environment at the centre of economic thinking: we also believe that if we can imagine it, we can help build it.

.

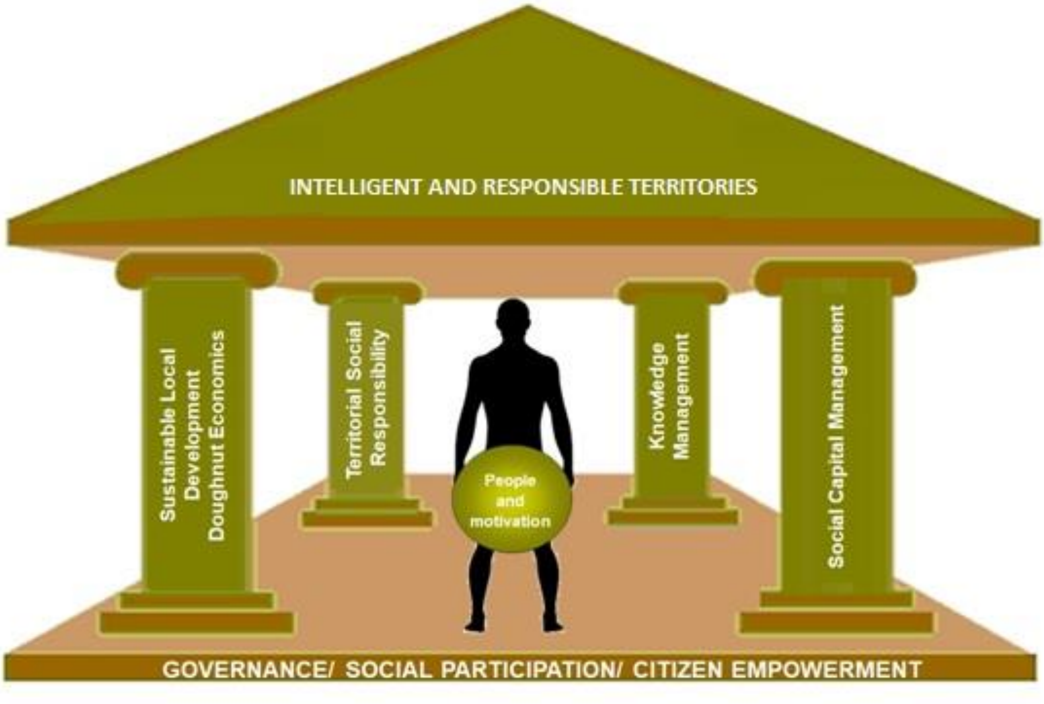


Figure I.22. Intelligent and Responsible Territories (Own elaboration, DOCUMENTA.2006)

3.3 Backgrounds and considerations for the definition of IRT Model

IRT didn't come out of the blue. We need to have in account a group of backgrounds and previous considerations from which we have been feed, and which helped to develop the IRT concept.

1. First consideration we have to remark is the redefinition and reorientation, through several EU Summits, of the **European Model of Development** (EMD). Let's remind once again declarations of Lisbon and Gothenburg:

- "To become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion' (Lisbon, 2000).
- "In the long term, economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection, must advance in parallel." (Gothenburg, 2001).

2. From previously appointed declarations, a second deciding consideration to take in account is the progressive introduction of the concept of **sustainability** in the EMD:

- It is important to pay attention to the need of introducing notable changes in the way in which society interact with natural systems if we don't want to irreversibly diminish vital systems that support society running and welfare (climate, biological diversity, atmosphere, oceans, fertile land, etc.).
- Once and again it is recovered, as indispensable part of politically correct speech, the message from Rio Summit (1982): ""Meeting the needs of the present generation should not undermine the right of future generations to meet their own needs".

This progressive introduction of the concept of sustainability in the EMD, without doubt as a result of the need to redefine the relationship society / nature, will give rise to take into consideration some core ideas key for the new IRT model:

- Consideration of balance between social development / nature's preservation / economic activity.
- End of believing that economic system can work independently from natural system, and that production and distribution of goods and services to satisfy human needs have no environmental limits.
- New Global Economy (N.E.) based in knowledge is, and it's considered, a sub-system of natural global system: biosphere.
- Intermediary evaluation of European Employment Strategy (EES) (2002) defines the municipality as promoter of Sustainable Local Development (SLD), and proposes progressive reinforcement of strategies of concertation and networking.
- Consequences of initiating a Sustainable Local Development (SLD) model affect both to priorities and methodologies of Local Development (LD), and also to policies and instruments needed for its implementation.

I would like to highlight in this section that, even though I agree with the emphasis placed on the "satisfaction of needs" by the Brundtland Report or the Rio Declaration, the relationship between human beings and nature must be understood in a broad sense:

"No doubt people have "needs," but they also have values and, in particular, they value their ability to reason, evaluate, act, and participate. Viewing people only in terms of their needs could convey a rather limited vision of humanity.

To use a medieval distinction, we are not only patients, whose needs need to be met, but we are also agents, whose freedom to decide what we value and how we strive to obtain it can extend far beyond the satisfaction of our needs. The question then arises as to whether environmental priorities should also be seen in the context and in terms of the possibility of sustaining our freedoms…

Focusing attention on sustainable freedoms, in addition to being conceptually important (as part of a general approach to development as freedom) can also have tangible implications of immediate relevance" (Sen, 2007).

In any case, it will be important not to forget that **ecological citizenship** stands as one of the fundamental pillars of sustainability.

3. A third factor that is progressively taking root will be taking in account **social interaction as a strategic factor for development**, which will mean to strength all those aspects related to social participation and governance, insisting also in a bigger, more rational, and better coordinated administrative decentralization.

Exactly the same that in previous case, consideration of social interaction as a factor for development, suppose the admission of some other core ideas which are relevant for the IRT model:

- It appears a strong questioning on the strict separation of functions between public and private sector: co-responsibility of all development actors is stressed, and advocate for articulating new ways of public/private collaboration.

- As a consequence of previous point there is a process to raise awareness of social networks (especially those which take in account active participation of public sector / private sector / third sector), and networking as methodology of social participation and cooperation.
- In parallel it’s also stated the importance of organizations from Civil Society in different issues (employment creation, services to people in social exclusion situations, etc.…); some authors claim for the unpatrimonization or unmonopolization of what is public by public Administration in favour of organized civil society; while others attribute a main role to Third Sector as main social agent responsible of creating Social Capital.
- It’s starting to be talked about Social Capital as a new factor of production. According to the World Bank there are four kinds of capital: natural capital (natural resources got in a territory), built capital (infrastructures, goods capital, financial capital, commercial capital…), human capital (education, health…) and Social Capital (networks, rules, values and institutions).

4. As a fourth element is interesting not to forget expressed and repeated mentions of diverse EU Summits (Lisbon, Gothenburg and Nice) to **Corporate Social Responsibility**; mentions that will be strength with the Green Book of EU on CSR: “CSR is essentially a concept whereby companies and other entities decide voluntarily to integrate social and ecological concerns in their commercial activities and in relations with their stakeholders.”

Lisbon European Council made a special appeal to companies' corporate sense of social responsibility regarding best practices on lifelong learning, work organization, equal opportunities, social inclusion and sustainable development.

Later on, in Gothenburg, the role that public entities should play to foster CSR in the territory was mentioned: «Public policy also has a key role in encouraging a greater sense of corporate social responsibility and in establishing a framework to ensure that businesses integrate environmental and social considerations into their activities. [...] Business should be encouraged to take a pro-active approach to sustainable development in their operations both within the EU and elsewhere».

Nice Summit invited the Commission to create needed conditions to develop an efficient association with social stakeholders, nongovernmental organizations, local authorities and organisms managing social services, and to involve enterprises in that association with the aim of strengthening their social responsibility.
Green Book points out that the CSR has important implications for all social and economical agents, as well as for the public authorities, that must take into account companies’ socially responsible practices in their own action”.

5. Finally, but not less important, evidence of the existence of a double convergent process of **revalorization of social factors in economic activity.**

Revalorization of social aspects in all economic activity is shown through the development of two parallel processes which tend to create synergies and collaboration between two fields that have been apart until now (public sector and private sector):

- Increasing professionalization of Third Sector by adding and using economic and business management criteria as instruments at the service of their social aims:

social cohesion, solidarity, insertion of groups in exclusion situation, cooperation for development, equal opportunities, environment preservation…
- Permeation of enterprises, and inclusion of social and environmental values in their productive strategy (CSR).

3.4 Sustainable Local Development (SLD) in Intelligent and Responsible Territories (IRT)

Since mid-90s we assist to a deep conceptual and methodological redefinition of Local Development theory, consequence of the redefinition of existing relations among society / nature / economy / Enterprise / government.
Mentioned redefinition will bring the emergence and/or revalorization of new concepts, around which the new IRT model is structured in its gestation stage.

The redefinitions that bring out the emergence of these new concepts are:

- Redefinition of the society / nature relationship: **Sustainability.**
- Redefinition of the society / economy relationship: **Social Capital.**
- Redefinition of the society / company relationship: **Corporate Social Responsibility.**
- Redefinition of the society / government relationship: **Governance.**

We assist to a change of paradigm from a model of Economic Local Development (ELD) to a model of Sustainable Local Development (SLD) leaded by the emergence and increasing importance of these four concepts.

This change of paradigm doesn't mean just a theoretical redefinition, but it includes an important methodological transformation which will affect, not only to what to do in the framework of LD policies, but also, and most of all, to how to do what.

The question, once again, is not what to do? but how to do what has to be done, and who should do it?, not so much what, but rather much who is going to do what, how will it be done, where and when will be.

Finally we are building a model of development that rests, not on top of a citizen / passive consumer of products, services and policies, but on top of a participative citizen, ethical and responsible consumer.

We could even enumerate some of the characteristics of this model:

1.- Creation of new focal points of interest (Social Capital, RSC and Territorial Social Responsibility (TSR), Governance, Knowledge Management in the Territory), which complement, enrich and support an integral approach to economic point of view of SLD model. A model that, further than that lots of generated literature, has mainly focused in 3 big axes of intervention:

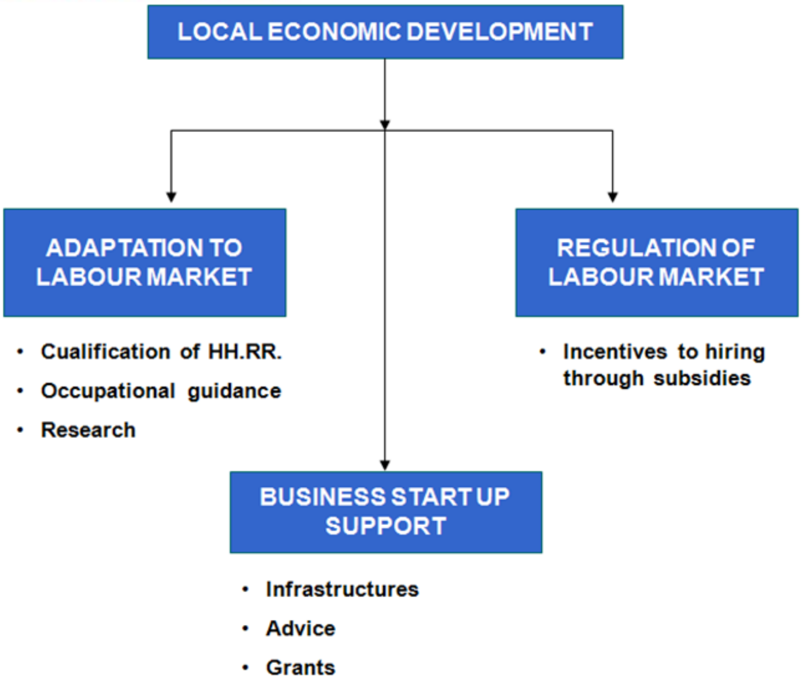


Figure I.23. Local Economic Development (Own elaboration, DOCUMENTA. 2006)

New concepts, new focuses of interest, paradigm shift induced by the progressive incorporation of the concept of sustainability into the development model, and above all, a profound methodological transformation; all of this allows us to visualize a new model of comprehensive development, whose complexity surpasses the mere economic vision of LED, and focuses on the **management of the intangible assets of the territory.**

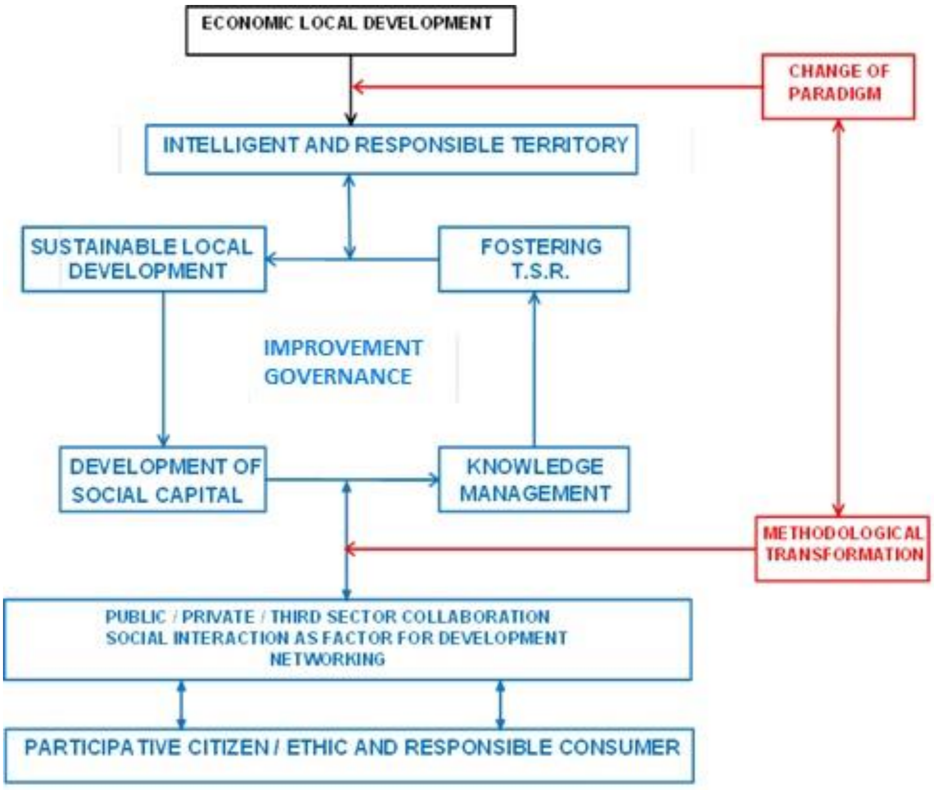


Figure I.24 Model for Intelligent and Responsible Municipalities (Own elaboration, DOCUMENTA. 2006)

2.- Revalorization of Social Capital in the territory and resulting reorientation of policies of Local Development (LD) to its creation.

Emergence of concept of Social Capital, and orientation of LD policies to its research and activation, mainly at local level, implies a whole series of theoretical and methodological transformation in LD theory:

- Social capital as factor for production and development.
- New priorities: environment and social cohesion; governance and social participation; social economy and third sector.
- New methodologies: networking; public /private collaboration; social dialogue.
- New instruments against vulgarization and technocratization of strategic planning: Agendas 21; communitarian development plans; etc.

Beyond the conceptual debate [(1)], we are interested in highlighting here how Social Capital is related to the capabilities of people in a given society to:

- Subordinate individual interests to those of larger groups.
- Work together for common objectives or mutual benefit.
- Associate.
- Share values and norms, and form stable groups and organizations.

In fact, there is no shortage of those who define it as that intangible asset that determines the way in which actors interact with each other, and how they are organized to generate growth, development and social progress. If financial capital is found in people's checking accounts, and human capital in their brains, social capital is found in the structure and nature of social relations.
In his study “The well-being of nations. Role of human and social capital” the OECD itself (2001) recognizes that the studies carried out link social capital and access to it with better health, increased well-being, better child care, less crime and higher quality of government.
Other authors such as Kliskberg, B., (1999) state that “some studies attribute to the last two forms of capital (human and social capital) a majority percentage of the economic development of nations at the end of the 20th century, and indicate that there are decisive keys to technological progress, competitiveness, sustained growth, good governance and democratic stability”.

3.- Taking into consideration social and ecological aspects in all economic activity, and redefinition of Enterprise / society / nature relationship; which will lead at the same time, some other considerations that must be highlighted:

- Strategies of CSR against an economic benefit as unique aim of the enterprise, and not contamination of economic policy with social aims.
- Market as second level variable depending on the grade of social trust (which is at the same time a main indicator of the existence of Social Capital in the territory).
- CSR as a direct economic value, more as investment than as expense, as it happens with quality management.

[1] Structural definitions (Bordieu 1985; Coleman 1990) address Social Capital “as a set of resources available to the individual derived from their participation in social networks”; in cultural definitions (Newton 1997; Stolle 2000) “it is conceived as a subjective phenomenon composed of the values and attitudes of individuals that determine how they relate to each other”; others understand it “as a set of norms, institutions and organizations that promote trust and cooperation among people, in communities and in society as a whole” (Durston, J. 1999).

- Valorisation of public / private collaboration to create a framework that helps CSR.
- Permanent increase of ethical citizens / conscious and responsible consumers, which indicates a mature situation to face new challenges left aside in the practice of LD during the last 20 years:
  - Ethical and transparent Money.
  - Socially Responsible Investment (SRI).
  - Fair trade.
  - Microfinancing of LD.

The old image of the company conceived as a black box or productive structure is banished: a company based on a territory, understood as a mere physical support for its installation, in which raw materials enter and a manufactured product leaves, and whose only objective and obligation is to obtain the maximum benefit for its shareholders.

A company that was located in an economic sphere typical of the private sector, separate and quite distant from other spheres (social, environmental) with respect to which isolation predominated (only cushioned by weak relationships that were more altruistic than functional), but whose responsibility is absolutely foreign to it, and corresponds to the public sector or, in some cases, to the voluntary and assistance action of NGOs (which of course are not even recognized as a sector, or valid interlocutor for economic activity).

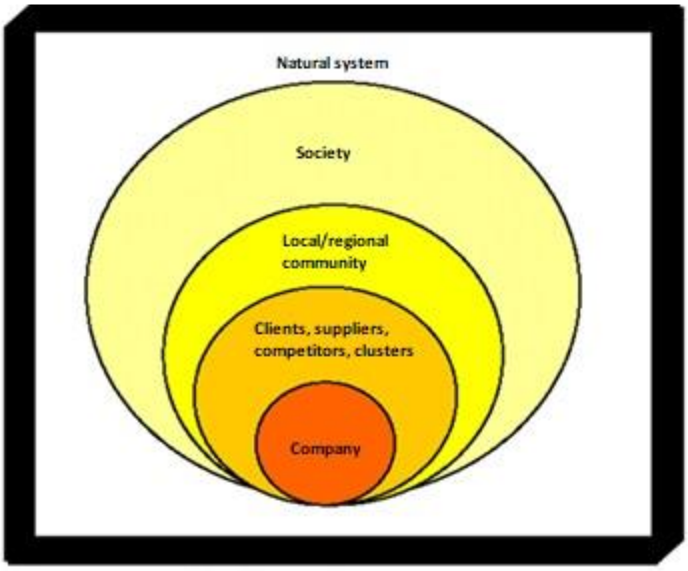


Figure I.24 Natural system (Own elaboration, DOCUMENTA. 2006. Adapted WBCSD)

Faced with this anachronistic and dark image, we can glimpse the image of the **sustainable company**, the primary driver of sustainable development, and therefore involved and responsible with all the aspects that make it up, with an indisputable "interface" function between society/economy / nature.

A new conception of the company that implies substantial changes, both in its vision and mission, and in the way it is governed.

We spoke previously about recovering the lost relationship between ethics and economics, about immersing ourselves in the so-called Ethics of Development, about redefining the company, its role, and the **new challenges** that it will have to face in the New Economy: “Such challenges could be organized into three great labels, which require the exercise of three great virtues: concern for the viability of companies in the new era, which requires the exercise of prudence, a prudence that requires **building and generating trust**; the possibility of building a cosmopolitan citizenship with the help of information technologies, which requires the **exercise of justice**; and the need to assume corporate responsibility in the globalization process, **resorting to business ethics as a factor of humanizing innovation**” (Cortina, 2003).

Figure I.25. Excellent company (A. Cortina)

A. Cortina, Professor of Ethics and Political Philosophy at the University of Valencia, will talk to us about the “excellent company that understands itself as an organization endowed with a culture with an ethical level; a human group united around values that constitute its identity, from which it proposes its activity, from which it tries with a proactive attitude to anticipate the future, and to generate an ethical and supportive climate with all its members, and affected groups for its activity (stakeholders): an excellent company that takes social responsibility as an instrument of quality management, and is equipped with instruments that already exist as “objectifiers” of business ethics (codes, monitoring committees, audits, reports , etc.)".
The signatories of the “Code of Good Governance for the Sustainable Company (Business and Sustainable Development Forum, 2002) walk in the same direction when they define the sustainable company as “one that creates economic, environmental and social value in the short and long term, contributing in this way to increased well-being and authentic progress for present and future generations, both in their immediate environment and on the planet in general.”

Even though I am aware of having earned at this point the scepticism of many readers in the face of a vision of the company that is unfortunately so far from reality on many occasions, I cannot resist expanding the content of this Code signed by a large part of the large Spanish corporations, although many consider it a mere declaration of principles without a solid basis or vision for the future: “a sustainable company is one that contributes: to the growing creation of wealth; to the ecological integrity of our planet; to social justice and solidarity and, therefore, to the eradication of poverty and the growing differences between countries and within them; to the necessary democracy indispensable for peace, security and the eradication of terrorism and all forms of violence; and to the progress of humanity at all levels, within respect for human rights and the exercise of fundamental ethical values. Likewise, the sustainable company must collaborate with the public sector of democratic countries in its governance; respect, defend and promote the values contemplated in this Code in non-democratic countries when it has operations there; and avoid any form of support by action or omission to non-legitimate governments and systems."

4.- Importance of formal and non formal networks in development processes.
As said by authors such as Vázquez Barquero, A. (1999) it is the right moment to start with third generation policies:

- First generation of regional policies was mainly focused in creation of infrastructures and stimulation of localization of external enterprises through incentives.
- Second generation stressed those initiatives directed to foster intangible resources of development through instruments such as business incubators, centres of business and innovation, Technological institutes or Training Centres.
- Third generation of regional policies will go for initiatives fostering emerge and development of nets among enterprises, organizations and institutions based in the same territory, and in other territories with which there is some strategic complementarity.

5.- Importance of Knowledge Management in the territory.

In business world it is commonly admitted that **continuous innovation** is the only way to survive in present global knowledge society, and this need the implementation of knowledge management systems.

It is also known that "Main source to create competitive advantages in an enterprise is based mainly in its knowledge, or more concretely in what is its know-how, in how it is used and in its capacity to learn new things" (Prusak, 1996); or what is the same, intellectual capital of the enterprise is its main source of competitive advantages.

Without pretending to do hasty identifications, I think we can consider that Intellectual Capital is to competitiveness of the enterprise what Social Capital is to competitiveness of the territory, to define -from that point- **knowledge management applied to IRT** as the group of processes and systems that allow to activate, regenerate and increase Social Capital in the territory, through efficient management of its capacities to solve problems, with the aim of creating competitive lasting advantages in the framework of a sustainable local development model.

Bear also in mind that apart from the need of implementing "Knowledge Cycle" in the territory, it is also needed to overpass the namely "Functional Management of knowledge" (based in the use of new technologies –informatics- to organize and distribute information) to go deep into **"Strategic Management of knowledge", looking for an equilibrium among creation of knowledge in the territory, strategy of development and organizative structure (governance)**.

KNOWLEDGE CIRCLE

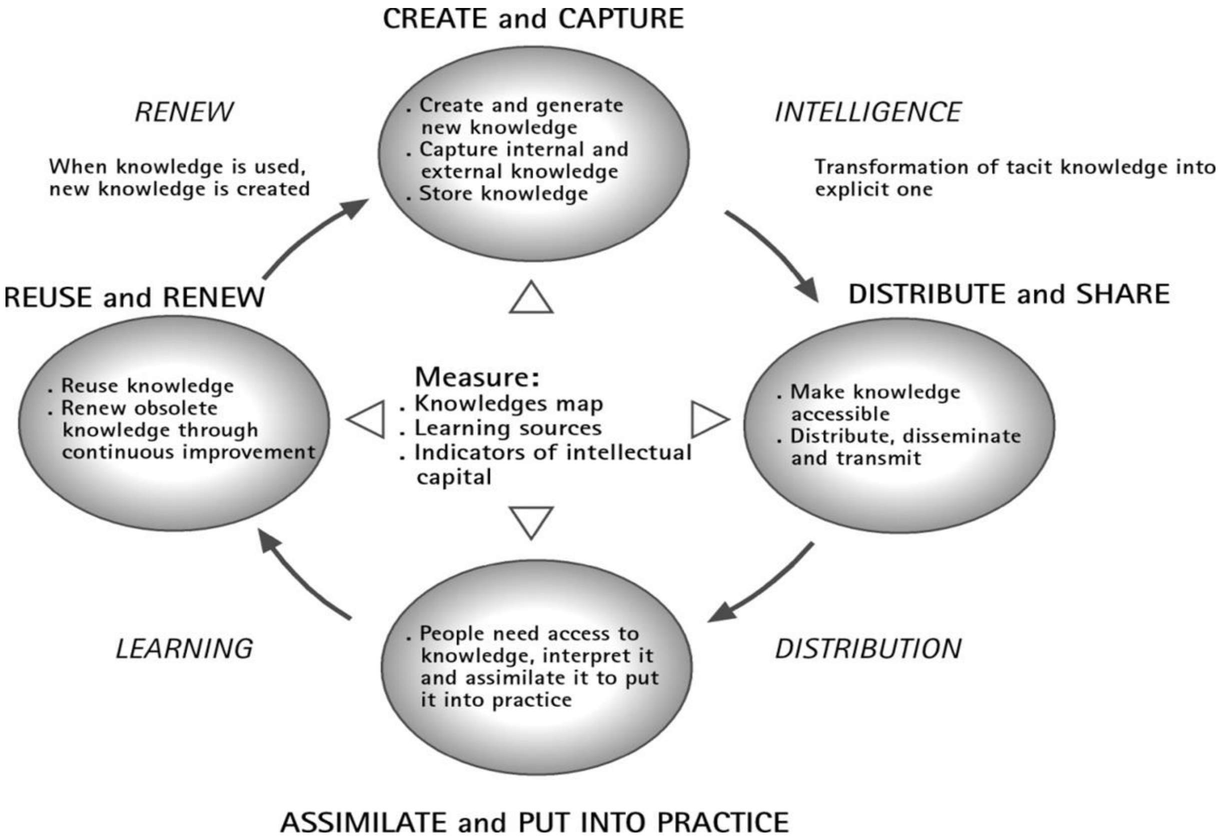


Figure I.26 "Knowledge management: an integrative vision of organizational learning", Plaz,R. (2003)

Bear also in mind that apart from the need of implementing “Knowledge Cycle” in the territory, it is also needed to overpass the namely “Functional Management of knowledge” (based in the use of new technologies –informatics- to organize and distribute information) to go deep into **“Strategic Management of knowledge”, looking for an equilibrium among creation of knowledge in the territory, strategy of development and organizative structure (governance)**.

We are not talking now about human capital, although it is obvious that it is people who learn, but about the capabilities and competencies of our Intelligent and Responsible Municipalities (as territories; as local environments), to move towards Sustainable Development; of its social capital (set of intangible assets of the territory; intellectual capital of the territory) to learn, innovate and compete in the global knowledge society; always putting people at the centre of development thinking.

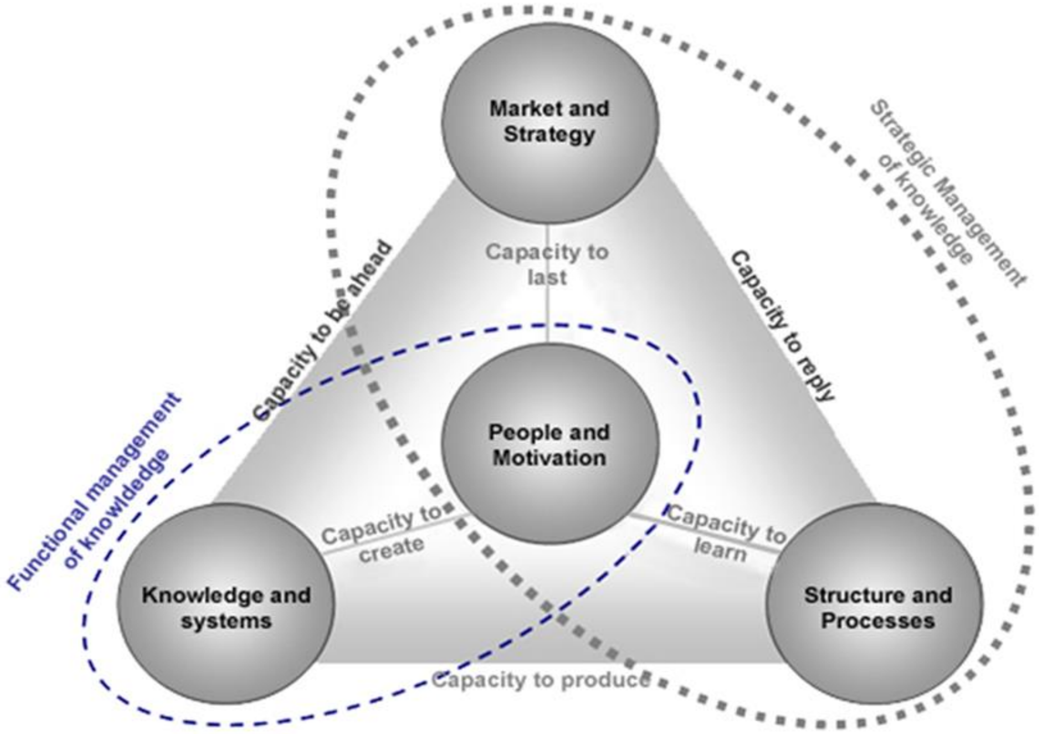


Figure I.27 "The value of knowledge" Tissen, R., Andriessen, D., Lekanne Deprez, F. (2000)

The correct identification of the capabilities of our MIRs, as well as their efficient management to increase social capital, become the central objective of the Strategic Management of Territorial Knowledge in our MIRs, the latter being the main source of lasting and generating competitive advantages. of sustainable development.

We are visualizing a new model of integral development, which complexity overpass pure economic vision of ELD and focus in **management of intangible actives of the territory**.

Once we have drawn main axes that structure IRT model, we need to define a concept of territory appropriate to the characteristics of the model. As conclusion I will define some of its most relevant characteristics, to be able to end with a final definition.

1- **We understand the Intelligent and Responsible Territory (IRT) as a network-space** (a network of overlapping networks in the territory) of vague and changing frontiers, which limits, grade of cohesion and homogeneity, identity and competences, come stated by nature (type, intensity and quality) of social interaction within the network.
2- **Social Capital is to IRT what Intellectual Capital is to sustainable Enterprise**, and therefore it is its main source to create sustainable and lasting competitive advantages.
3- **There isn't Territorial Intelligence (Social Intelligence) out of a sustainable development model**; neither there is sustainable development without efficient and participative management (Governance quality) of Social Capital, knowledge and Territorial Social Responsibility.
4- **Knowledge management in IRT** is a group of processes and systems that allow activating, regenerating and increasing Social Capital in the territory, through an

efficient management of its competences, with the aim of generating lasting competitive advantages, in the framework of a sustainable development model.

5- **Intelligent and Responsible Territory** is a network-space (net of nets) defined and characterized by the nature of social interaction within the network, able to increase its Social Capital and to improve its capacity of management and resolution of problems, through dynamics of social / organizational learning and knowledge management processes, having as final aim to develop lasting competitive advantages, in the framework of a sustainable development model (equilibrium among wealth creation / social cohesion / environment preservation)

The first approach to the concept of IRT was published at the beginning of the 21st century (2006), and was conceived as a new way of understanding Local Development Strategies, which is why we were talking about IRT, but above all about Intelligent and Responsible Municipalities (IRM). In subsequent collaborations and publications (2011), we highlight not only the absolute validity of this approach to Sustainable Local Development at that time, but also the total harmony with the definition by the European Commission (2010) of the "**Europe 2020 Strategy. "A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth**."

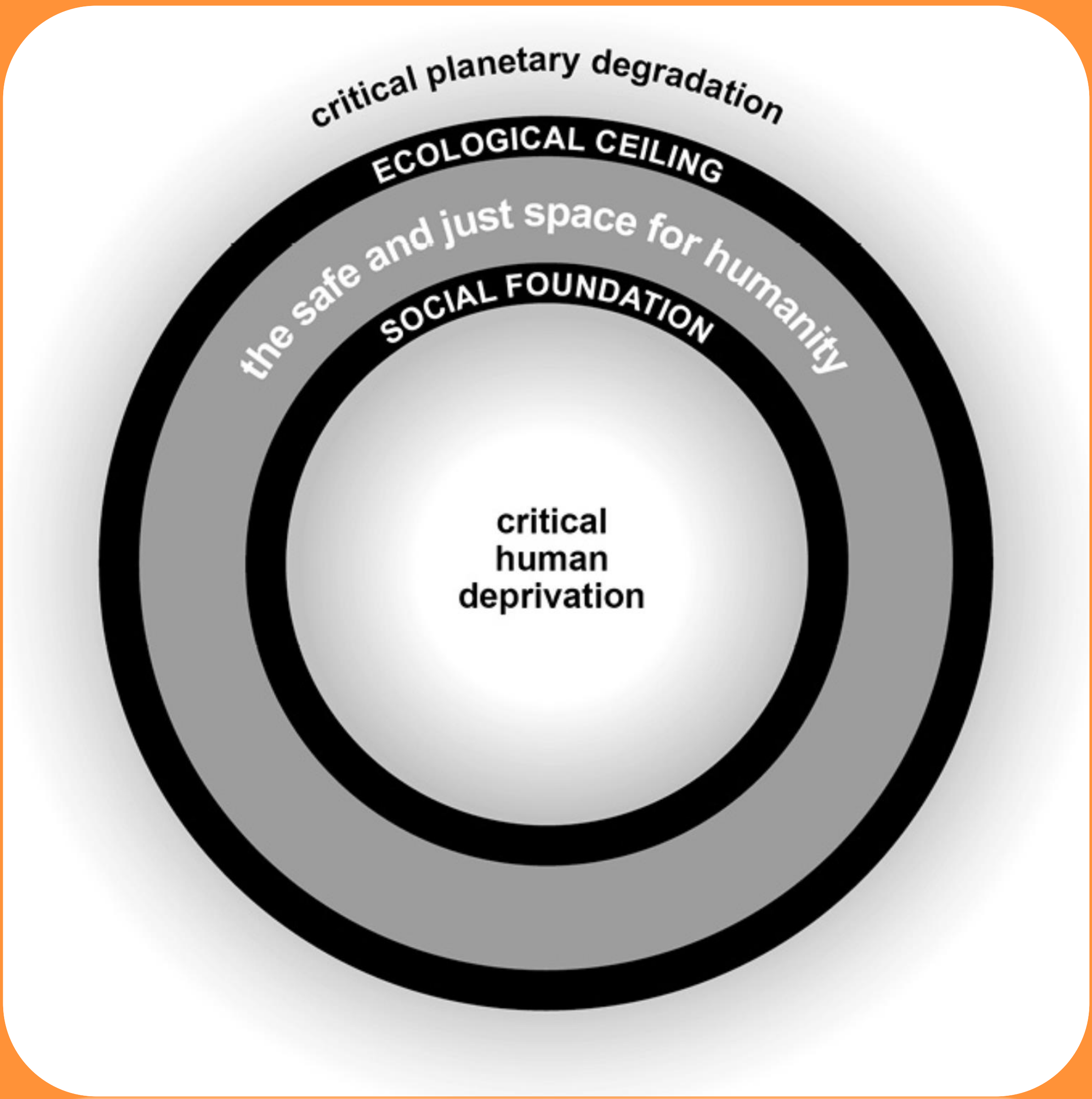
A Europe 2020 Strategy whose priorities were:

- Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation.
- Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy.
- Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.

Nowadays we have become much more skeptical regarding the concept of "Growth", and although we consider that we remain perfectly aligned with EU policies (17 SDGs; Agenda 2030, Green Deal, etc.), we also believe that to move forward we need a new economic story, and above all, a Compass that serves as a guide in this turbulent, changing and uncertain 21st century; perhaps we should replace (or at least treat) our addiction to "growth" in the economic narrative, with other concepts: incardinated economics; dynamic complexity; distributive and regenerative economy; etc.

We will talk about all this in the next chapter about the **"Doughnut Economics: A Twenty-First-Century Compass"**

Doughnut Economics: A Twenty-First-Century Compass



4. Doughnut Economics: A Twenty-First-Century Compass

4.1 Introduction

"Why is there this disconnect?" What is Kate Raworth referring to when in the introduction to her book "Doughnut Economics. Seven ways to think like a 21st Century Economist" (2017), does this question arise? The author is referring to the disconnection that is seen in "the gulf between the preoccupations of mainstream economic theory and growing real-world crises such as global inequality and climate change".

As an example of verifiable information, she reminds us that "Many millions of people still lead lives of extreme deprivation. Worldwide, one person in nine does not have enough to eat. In 2015, six million children under the age of five died, more than half of those deaths due to easy-to-treat conditions such as diarrhoea and malaria. Two billion people live on less than $3 a day, and over 70 million young women and men are unable to find work... ……….. Meanwhile, the world has become extraordinarily unequal: as of 2015, the world's richest 1 percent now own more wealth than all the other 99 percent put together".

These and many others more directly related are the reasons that lead him to affirm that "Everybody's saying it: we need a new economic story, a narrative of our shared economic future that is fit for the twenty-first century. I agree"; yes, aware that "You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete" (Buckminster Fuller).

"…But it is no easy thing to do, as Keynes discovered. Coming up with his groundbreaking theory in the 1930s was, he admitted, « a struggle of escape from habitual modes of thought and expression . . . The difficulty lies not in the new ideas, but in the old ones which ramify, for those of us brought up as most of us have been, into every corner of our minds".

The problem is that "these citizens of 2050 are being taught an economic mindset that is rooted in the textbooks of 1950, which in turn are rooted in the theories of 1850".

"Students must learn how to discard old ideas, how and when to replace them . . . how to learn, unlearn, and relearn,' wrote the futurist Alvin Toffler.

Little by little the key question would take shape**: What if we started economics not with its long-established theories but with humanity's long-term goals, and then sought out the economic thinking that would enable us to achieve them?"**

A new narrative of our economic future that "It draws on diverse schools of thought, such as complexity, ecological, feminist, institutional and behavioural economics".

And similarly, "Visual frames, it gradually dawned on me, matter just as much as verbal ones." which allowed K. Raworth to draw a first graphic approximation to this Compass for the 21st century.

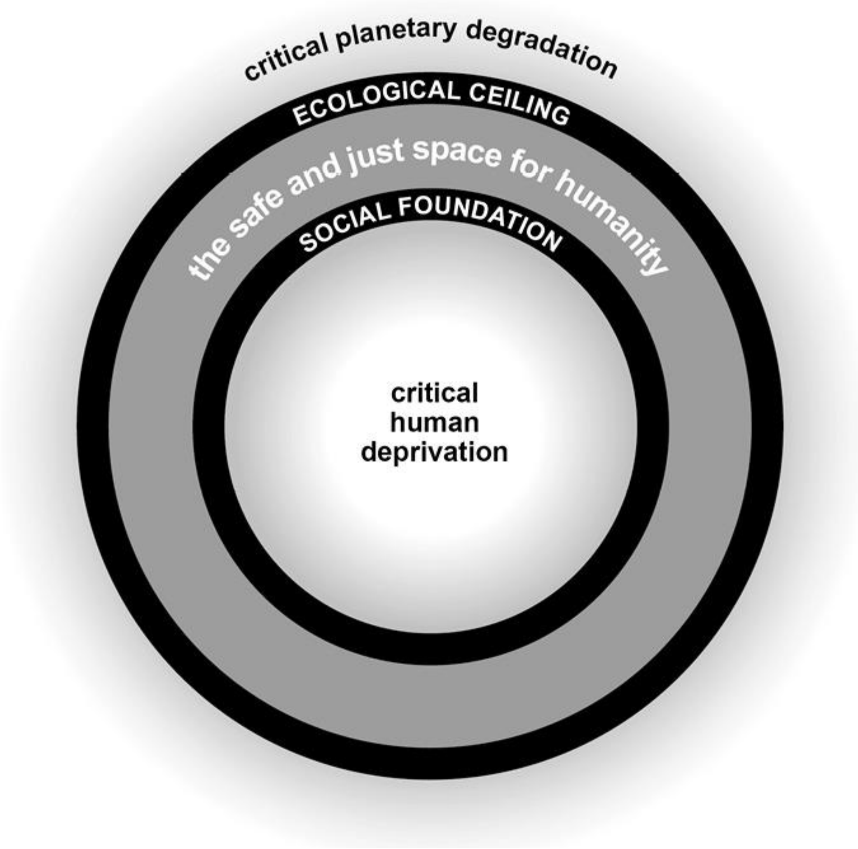


Figure I.28 The essence of the Doughnut: a social foundation of well-being that no one should fall below and an ecological ceiling of planetary pressure that we should not go beyond. Between the two lies a safe and just space for all. Designed by Christian Guthier.

4.2 How Economics lost sight of its goal

Back in Ancient Greece, when Xenophon first came up with the term economics, he described the practice of household management as an art. Following his lead, Aristotle distinguished economics from chrematistics, the art of acquiring wealth—in a distinction that seems to have been all but lost today.

James Steuart (1767) first proposed the concept of **«political economy»**: “The principal object of this science is to secure a certain fund of subsistence for all the inhabitants, to obviate every circumstance which may render it precarious; to provide everything necessary for supplying the wants of the society, and to employ the inhabitants (supposing them to be free-men) in such a manner as naturally to create reciprocal relations and dependencies between them, so as to make their several interests lead them to supply one another with their reciprocal wants”.

Adam Smith (1776) considered political economy as a science oriented to a specific purpose with «two distinct objects: to supply a plentiful revenue or subsistence for the people, or, more properly, to enable them to provide such a revenue or subsistence for themselves; and secondly, to supply the state or commonwealth with a revenue sufficient for the public services».

John Stuart Mill (1844) led to a change of focus by redefining it as « a science which traces the laws of such of the phenomena of society as arise from the combined operations of mankind for the production of wealth». With this, Mill began a trend that others would further: turning attention away from naming the economy's goals and towards discovering its apparent laws.

Milton Friedman and the Chicago School would turn the economics had become a value-free zone, shaking off any normative claims of what ought to be and emerging at last as a 'positive' science focused on describing simply what is".

How had the GDP growth cuckoo so successfully hijacked the economic nest? The answer can be traced back to the mid 1930s—as economists were just settling upon a goalless definition of their discipline—when the US Congress first commissioned economist Simon Kuznets to devise a measure of America's national income. The calculation he made came to be known as Gross National Product and was based on the income generated worldwide by the nation's residents ….. by the end of the 1950s, output growth had become the overriding policy objective in industrial countries.

That same year (1960), the United States joined other leading industrial countries to set up the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), with its first priority being to achieve 'the highest sustainable economic growth'—aiming to sustain not the environment but output growth. And that ambition was soon backed up by international GNP league tables showing whose growth was in the lead.

Kuznets became one of its most outspoken critics, having warned from the start that 'the welfare of a nation can scarcely be inferred from a measure of national income».

Donella Meadows: « Growth is one of the stupidest purposes ever invented by any culture,' she declared in the late 1990s; 'we've got to have an enough». In response to the constant call for more growth, she argued, we should always ask: 'growth of what, and why, and for whom, and who pays the cost, and how long can it last, and what's the cost to the planet, and how much is enough?»

«What kind of growth would you like today?» Angela Merkel suggested « sustained growth». David Cameron proposed "balanced growth". Barack Obama favoured "long-term, lasting growth". Europe's José Manuel Barroso was backing "smart, sustainable, inclusive, resilient growth". The World Bank promised "inclusive green growth". Other flavours on offer? Perhaps you'd like it to be equitable, good, greener, low-carbon, responsible or strong. You choose—just so long as you choose growth.

Today economists and politicians debate with confident ease in the name of economic efficiency, productivity and growth—as if those values were self-explanatory—while hesitating to speak of justice, fairness and rights.

How can we learn to talk again of values and goals, and put them at the heart of an economic mindset that is fit for the twenty-first century?

In the late twentieth century, **E.F. Schumacher**—best known for arguing that "small is beautiful" —sought to place ethics and the human scale at the heart of economic thought. And the Chilean economist **Manfred Max-Neef** proposed that development be focused on realising a set of fundamental human needs—such as sustenance, participation, creativity and a sense of belonging—in ways that are adapted to the context and culture of each society.

Amartya Sen argues the focus of development should be on “advancing the richness of human life, rather than the richness of the economy in which human beings live”. Instead of prioritising metrics such as GDP, the aim should be to enlarge people’s capabilities—such as to be healthy, empowered and creative—so that they can choose to be and do things in life that they value. And realising those capabilities depends upon people having access to the basics of life—adapted to the context of each society—ranging from nutritious food, healthcare and education to personal security and political voice.

We urgently need a way to help policymakers, activists, business leaders and citizens alike to steer a wise course through the twenty-first century.

4.3 Seven Ways to Think Like a Twenty-First-Century Economist.

First, change the goal. For over 70 years, economics has been fixated on GDP, or national output, as its primary measure of progress. That fixation has been used to justify extreme inequalities of income and wealth coupled with unprecedented destruction of the living world. For the twenty-first century, a far bigger goal is needed: meeting the human rights of every person within the means of our life-giving planet. And that goal is encapsulated in the concept of the Doughnut. The challenge now is to create economies—local to global—that help to bring all of humanity into the Doughnut’s safe and just space. Instead of pursuing ever-increasing GDP, it is time to discover how to thrive in balance.

Second, see the big picture. Mainstream economics depicts the whole economy with just one, extremely limited image, the “Circular Flow” diagram. Its limitations have, furthermore, been used to reinforce a neoliberal narrative about the efficiency of the market, the incompetence of the state, the domesticity of the household and the tragedy of the commons. It is time to draw the economy anew, embedding it within society and within nature, and powered by the sun. This new depiction invites new narratives—about the power of the market, the partnership of the state, the core role of the household and the creativity of the commons.

Third, nurture human nature. At the heart of twentieth-century economics stands the portrait of rational economic man: he has told us that we are self-interested, isolated, calculating, fixed in taste and dominant over nature—and his portrait has shaped who we have become. But human nature is far richer than this, as early sketches of our new self-portrait reveal: we are social, interdependent, approximating, fluid in values and dependent upon the living world. What’s more, it is indeed possible to nurture human nature in ways that give us a far greater chance of getting into the Doughnut’s safe and just space.

Fourth, get savvy with systems. The iconic criss-cross of the market’s supply and demand curves is the first diagram that every economics student encounters, but it is rooted in misplaced nineteenth-century metaphors of mechanical equilibrium. A far smarter starting point for understanding the economy’s dynamism is systems thinking, summed up by a simple pair of feedback loops. Putting such dynamics at the heart of economics opens up many new insights, from the boom and bust of financial markets to the self-reinforcing nature of economic inequality and the tipping points of climate change. It’s time to stop searching for the economy’s elusive control levers and start stewarding it as an ever-evolving complex system.

Fifth, design to distribute. In the twentieth century, one simple curve—the Kuznets Curve—whispered a powerful message on inequality: it has to get worse before it can get better, and growth will (eventually) even it up. But inequality, it turns out, is not an economic necessity: it is a design failure. Twenty-first-century economists will recognise that there are many ways to design economies to be far more distributive of the value that they generate —an idea best represented as a network of flows. It means going beyond redistributing income to exploring ways of redistributing wealth, particularly the wealth that lies in controlling land, enterprise, technology, knowledge and the power to create money.

Sixth, create to regenerate. Economic theory has long portrayed a “clean” environment as a luxury good, affordable only for the well-off. This view was reinforced by the Environmental Kuznets Curve, which once again whispered that pollution has to get worse before it can get better and growth will (eventually) clean it up. But there is no such law: ecological degradation is simply the result of degenerative industrial design. This century needs economic thinking that unleashes regenerative design in order to create a circular—not linear—economy and to restore humans as full participants in Earth’s cyclical processes of life.

Seventh, be agnostic about growth. One diagram in economic theory is so dangerous that it is never actually drawn: the long-term path of GDP growth. Mainstream economics views endless economic growth as a must, but nothing in nature grows forever, and the attempt to buck that trend is raising tough questions in high-income but low-growth countries. It may not be hard to give up having GDP growth as an economic goal, but it is going to be far harder to overcome our addiction to it. Today we have economies that need to grow, whether or not they make us thrive; what we need are economies that make us thrive, whether or not they grow. That radical flip in perspective invites us to become agnostic about growth and to explore how economies that are currently financially, politically and socially addicted to growth could learn to live with or without it.

4.4 A Twenty-First-Century Compass.

What exactly is the Doughnut? Put simply, it’s a radically new compass for guiding humanity this century. And it points towards a future that can provide for every person’s needs while safeguarding the living world on which we all depend. Below the Doughnut’s social foundation lie shortfalls in human well-being, faced by those who lack life’s essentials such as food, education and housing. Beyond the ecological ceiling lies an overshoot of pressure on Earth’s life-giving systems, such as through climate change, ocean acidification and chemical pollution. But between these two sets of boundaries lies a sweet spot—shaped unmistakably like a doughnut—that is both an ecologically safe and socially just space for humanity. The twenty-- first-century task is an unprecedented one: to bring all of humanity into that safe and just space.

.

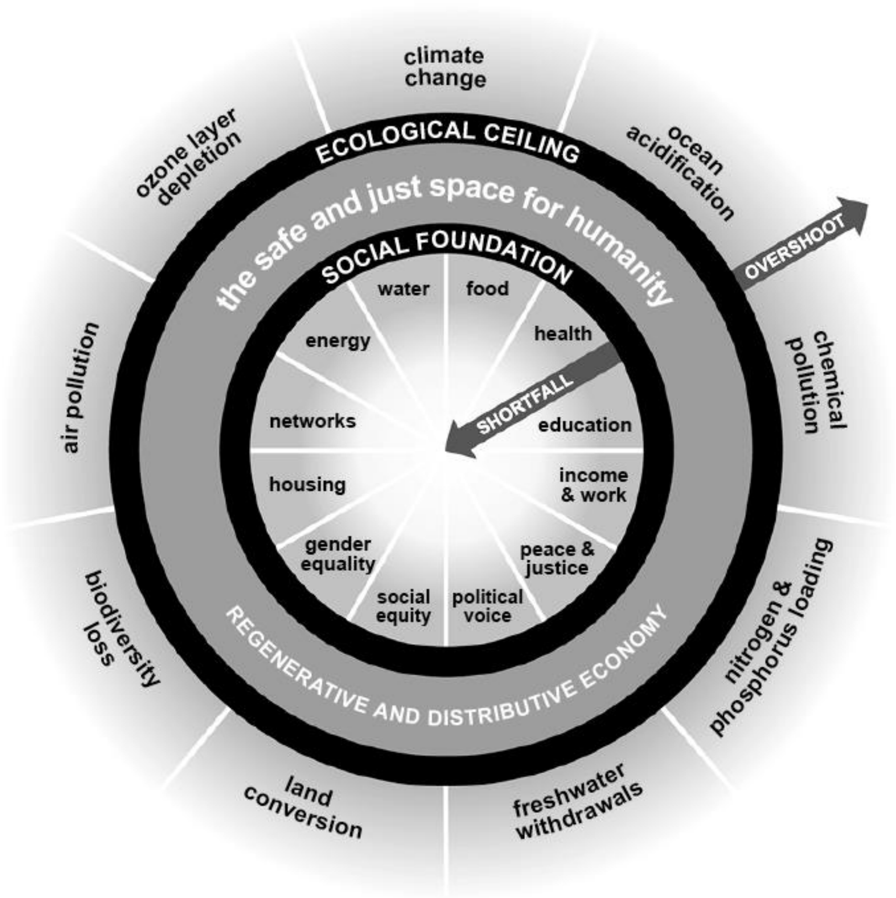


Figure I.29 The Doughnut: a twenty-first-century compass. Between its social foundation of human well-being and ecological ceiling of planetary pressure lies the safe and just space for humanity. Diagram designed by Christian Guthier

The Doughnut's inner ring—its **social foundation**—sets out the basics of life on which no one should be left falling short. These twelve basics include sufficient food; clean water and decent sanitation; access to energy and clean cooking facilities; access to education and to healthcare; decent housing; a minimum income and decent work; and access to networks of information and to networks of social support. Furthermore, it calls for achieving these with gender equality, social equity, political voice, and peace and justice.

Since 1948, international human rights norms and laws have sought to establish every person's claim to the vast majority of these basics, no matter how much or how little money or power they have. Setting a target date to achieve all of them for every person alive may seem an extraordinary ambition, but it is now an official one. They are all included in the United Nation's **Sustainable Development Goals**—agreed by 193 member countries in 2015—and the vast majority of these goals are to be achieved by 2030.

Thanks to the scale of our impact, we have now left behind the **Holocene** and entered uncharted territory, known as the **Anthropocene**: the first geological epoch that is shaped by human activity. What will it take, now that we are in the Anthropocene, to sustain the benevolent conditions that we knew in our Holocene home: its stable climate, ample fresh water, thriving biodiversity, and healthy oceans?

In 2009, an international group of Earth-system scientists, led by Johan Rockström and Will Steffen, took on this question and identified nine critical processes—such as the climate system and the freshwater cycle— that, together, regulate Earth's ability to maintain Holocene-like conditions.

But in essence, **the nine planetary boundaries** create the best picture we have yet seen of what it will take to hang on to the home-sweet-home of the Holocene, but to do so in the human-dominated age of the Anthropocene. And it is these nine planetary boundaries that define the Doughnut's ecological ceiling: the limits beyond which we should put no further pressure on the planet if we want to safeguard the stability of our home.

Together, the social foundation of human rights and the ecological ceiling of planetary boundaries create the inner and outer boundaries of the Doughnut. And they are, of course, deeply interconnected.

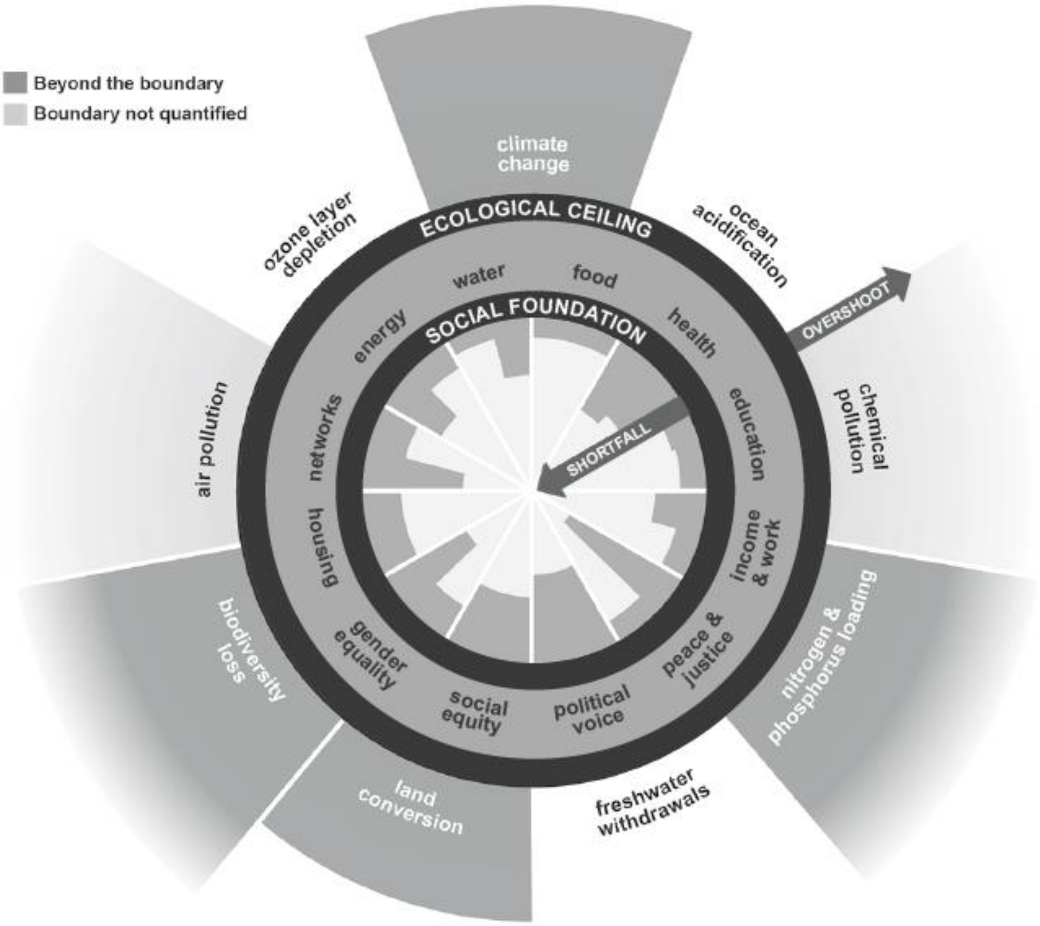


Figure I.30 Transgressing both sides of the Doughnut's boundaries. The dark wedges below the social foundation show the proportion of people worldwide falling short on life's basics. The dark wedges radiating beyond the ecological ceiling show the overshoot of planetary boundaries. Diagram designed by Christian Guthier.

If moving into the safe and just space that lies between the Doughnut's inner and outer boundaries is our twenty-first-century challenge, the obvious question is this: how are we doing? Thanks to data advances in both human rights and Earth science, we have a clearer picture than ever before. Despite unprecedented progress in human well-being over the past 70 years, we are far beyond the Doughnut's boundaries on both sides.

Many millions of people still live below each of the social foundation's dimensions. Worldwide, one person in nine does not have enough to eat. One in four lives on less than $3 a day, and one in eight young people cannot find work. One person in three still has no access to a toilet and one in eleven has no source of safe drinking water. One child in six aged 12–15 is not in school, the vast majority of them girls. Almost 40 percent of people live in countries in which income is distributed highly unequally. And more than half of the world's population live in countries in which people severely lack political voice. It is extraordinary that such deprivations in life's essentials continue to limit the potential of so many people's lives in the twenty-first century.

Humanity has, at the same time, been putting Earth's life-giving systems under unprecedented stress. In fact, we have transgressed at least four planetary boundaries: those of climate change, land conversion, nitrogen and phosphorus loading, and biodiversity loss. The concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere now far exceeds the boundary of 350 ppm: it is over 400 ppm and still rising, pushing us towards a hotter, drier, and more hostile climate, along with a rise in sea level that threatens the future of islands and coastal cities worldwide. Synthetic fertilisers containing nitrogen and phosphorus are being added to Earth's soils at more than twice their safe levels. Their toxic run-off has already led to the collapse of aquatic life in many lakes, rivers and oceans, including a dead zone the size of Connecticut in the Gulf of Mexico. Only 62 percent of land that could be forested still stands as forest and even that land area continues to shrink, significantly reducing Earth's capacity to act as a carbon sink. The scale of biodiversity loss is severe: species extinction is occurring at least ten times faster than the boundary deems safe. No wonder that, since 1970, the number of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish worldwide has fallen by half. Although the global scale of chemical pollution has not yet been quantified, it is of great concern to many scientists. And human pressure on other critical Earth-system processes—such as freshwater withdrawals and ocean acidification—continues to rise towards planetary-scale danger zones, creating local and regional ecological crises in the process.

This stark picture of humanity and our planetary home at the start of the twenty-first century is a powerful indictment of the path of global economic development that has been pursued to date. Billions of people still fall far short of their most basic needs, but we have already crossed into global ecological danger zones that profoundly risk undermining Earth's benevolent stability. In this context, **what could progress possibly look like?**

For over 60 years, economic thinking told us that GDP growth was a good enough proxy for progress and that it looked like an ever-rising line. But this century calls for quite a different shape and direction of progress. At this point in human history, the movement that best describes the progress we need is coming into **dynamic balance** by moving into the Doughnut's safe and just space, eliminating both its shortfall and overshoot at the same time. That calls for a profound shift in our metaphors: from "good is forwards-and-up" to "good is in-balance". And it shifts the image of economic progress from endless GDP growth to thriving-in-balance in the Doughnut.

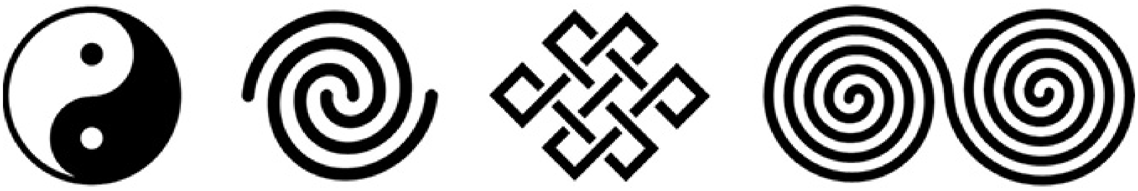


Figure I.31 Ancient symbols of dynamic balance: the Taoist yin yang, Maori takarangi, Buddhist endless knot and Celtic double spiral. Diagram designed by Marcia Mihotic.

In the 1970s, the economist **Barbara Ward** —a pioneer of sustainable development—called for global action to tackle both the ‘inner limits’ of human needs and rights and the ‘outer limits’ of environmental stress that Earth can endure: she was effectively drawing the Doughnut with words rather than with a pen.

“We are the first generation to know that we’re undermining the ability of the Earth system to support human development”, says **Johan Rockström**. “This is a profound new insight, and it is potentially very, very scary . . . It is also an enormous privilege because it means that we are the first generation to know that we now need to navigate a transformation to a globally sustainable future”.

4.5 Can we live within the Doughnut?

Five factors certainly play key roles: population, distribution, aspiration, technology and governance.

Population matters, and in an obvious way: the more of us there are, the more resources it takes to meet the needs and rights of all, and that is why it is essential for the size of the human population to stabilise. But here’s the good news: although the global population is still growing, since 1971 its growth rate has been falling sharply. What’s more, for the first time in human history, its fall has been due not to famine, disease or war but to success. Decades of public investment in infant and child health, in girls’ education, in women’s reproductive healthcare, and in women’s empowerment have at last enabled women to manage the size of their families. Seen through the lens of the Doughnut, the message is clear: the most effective way to stabilise the size of the human population is to ensure that every person can lead a life free of deprivation, above the social foundation.

If population matters, distribution matters just as much because extremes of inequality push humanity beyond both sides of the Doughnut’s boundaries. Thanks to the scale of global income inequality, responsibility for global greenhouse gas emissions is highly skewed: the top 10 percent of emitters—think of them as the global carbonistas living on every continent —generate around 45 percent of global emissions, while the bottom 50 percent of people contribute only 13 percent. Food consumption is deeply skewed too. Around 13 percent of people worldwide are malnourished. How much food would it take to meet their caloric needs? Just 3 percent of the global food supply. To put that in context, 30–50 percent of the world’s food gets lost post-harvest, wasted in global supply chains or scraped off dinner plates and into kitchen bins. Hunger could, in effect, be ended with just 10 percent of the food that never gets eaten. From these examples, it is clear that getting into the Doughnut calls for a far more equitable distribution of humanity’s use of resources.

A third factor is aspiration: whatever people consider necessary for a good life. And one of the biggest influences on our aspirations is how and where we live. In 2009, humanity went urban, with over half of us living in cities and towns for the first time in history, and 70 percent of us are expected to be urbanites by 2050. City living tends to amplify the influence of surrounding crowds and of advertising billboards whose images promise that a better life is just a purchase away, stoking up desire for faster cars and slimmer laptops, for exotic holidays and the latest-craze gadgets. As economist Tim Jackson deftly put it, we are "persuaded to spend money we don't have on things we don't need to make impressions that won't last on people we don't care about". Given a fast-growing global middle class, the lifestyles that people aspire to will have clear ramifications for our collective pressure on planetary boundaries.

Urbanisation may fuel consumerism, but it also offers an opportunity to meet many of people's needs—such as for housing, transport, water, sanitation, food and energy—in far more effective ways. Around 60 percent of the area expected to be urban by 2030 has yet to be built so the technologies used to create that infrastructure will have far-reaching social and ecological implications. Can new transport systems replace traffic queues of private cars with fast and affordable public transport? Can modern urban energy systems replace fossil-fuel power with rooftop networks of solar power? Can buildings be designed to be largely self-heating and self-cooling? Can food for the city be produced in ways that help to store more carbon in the soil and provide good jobs at the same time? It depends a great deal upon **the technological choices that are made**.

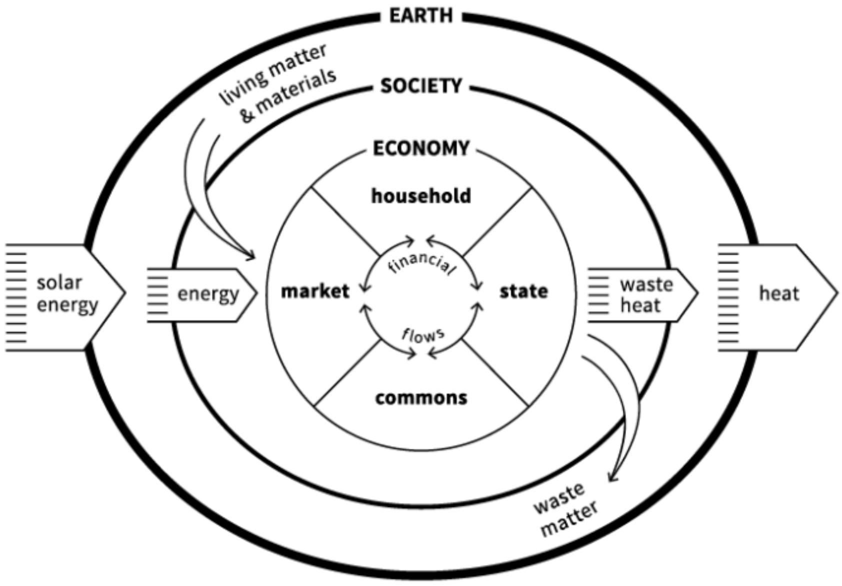
Governance also plays a pivotal role, from local and city scales to the national, regional and global. Designing governance that is suited to the challenges we face raises deep political issues that confront the long-- standing interests and expectations of countries, corporations and communities alike. The global scale, for example, needs governance structures that can reduce humanity's pressure on planetary boundaries in ways that are equitable with respect to the distribution of their regional and national impacts. At the same time, they must be able to take account of complex interactions such as the inextricable linkages between the food, water and energy sectors. And they must be able to respond far more effectively to unexpected events, such as global food price crises, while steering a wise course on emergent technologies. Much will depend upon the twenty-first century creating far more effective forms of governance, on every scale, than have been seen before.

All five of these factors—population, distribution, aspiration, technology and governance—will significantly shape humanity's prospects for getting into the Doughnut's safe and just space, which is why they are all at the heart of ongoing policy debates. But they cannot bring about the scale of transformation required unless we also transform the economic thinking that we bring to bear. We have left this transformation late in the day— some would say too late. But today's economics students could well be the last generation with a chance of achieving our twenty-first-century goal. They deserve, at the very least, to be equipped with an economic mindset that gives them the best possible chance of succeeding. And so do we all.

4.6 The Incardinated Economy: a new economic scenario for the 21st century.

To tell a new story, let’s start with a new picture of the whole economy. Samuelson drew his iconic diagram in the late 1940s—in the wake of the Great Depression and the Second World War—and so was understandably focused on the question of how to get income flowing around the economy again. No wonder his diagram defined the economy in terms of its monetary flows alone. In doing so, however, it offered an extremely small stage for economic thinking, along with a stripped-down cast of characters. So let’s start afresh with an economic question better suited to our own times: **what do we depend upon to provision for our needs?**

Here’s a visual answer to that question, summed up in a diagram that I have called the **Embedded Economy**, which brings into one picture important insights from diverse schools of economic thought.



The Embedded Economy, which nests the economy within society and within the living world while recognising the diverse ways in which it can meet people’s needs and wants.

Figure I.32 The Embedded Economy. Diagram designed by Marcia Mihotich

What does it show? First, Earth—the living world—powered by energy from the sun. Within Earth is human society and, within that, economic activity, in which the household, the market, the commons and the state are all important realms of provisioning for human wants and needs, and are enabled by financial flows. If this diagram sets a new stage, then here is the cast of characters that it calls forth

A new economic scenario that will finally allow us to overcome the famous mantra of "no sacrifice, no benefit", inseparably linked to the erroneous Kuznets curve (relationship between per capita income and inequality), to reach the conclusion that equitable economies do not They arise automatically after going through an inevitable process of economic sacrifice: they are created by applying an intentional design pattern.

This revolution oriented towards a distributive economic design will be joined by another, equally powerful one, oriented towards a regenerative economic design, which will lead us to be agnostic about growth, but will open our minds to openly criticize the "caterpillar" economy of design. degenerative industrial, and opt for a regenerative "butterfly" economy by design; which will allow us to talk about the Generous City, the partner-State or the Economy of the Common Good.

If this diagram sets a new stage, then here is the cast of characters that it calls forth.

Economics: The Twenty-First-Century Story

(in which we create a thriving balance)

Staging and script: a work in progress by economic re-thinkers everywhere

Cast in order of appearance:

EARTH, which is life giving—so respect its boundaries

SOCIETY, which is foundational—so nurture its connections

THE ECONOMY, which is diverse—so support all of its systems

THE HOUSEHOLD, which is core—so value its contribution

THE MARKET, which is powerful—so embed it wisely

THE COMMONS, which are creative—so unleash their potential

THE STATE, which is essential—so make it accountable

FINANCE, which is in service—so make it serve society

BUSINESS, which is innovative—so give it purpose

TRADE, which is double-edged—so make it fair

POWER, which is pervasive—so check its abuse

But we will talk about all this at another time, and in another place.

Lessons learned for the development of a European Strategy for Education and Social Participation

5. Lessons learned for the development of a European Strategy for Education and Social Participation.

As we already commented in the Introduction of this RSC White Paper, in this section of conclusions and lessons learned we return to the “Intelligent and Responsible Citizenship (IRC) against Poverty and Social exclusion” Project (Erasmus+ 2021), after an intense and necessary journey “through the foundations and theoretical bases that animated it: because knowledge of them is as important as the final conclusions themselves; because we believe that “best practice is also good theory.”

And we return to the RSC Project because obtaining the results planned therein, after the corresponding evaluation and validation process, is the basis on which our European Education and Social Participation Strategy against Poverty and Social Exclusion is based.

A RSC Project whose **general objective** is “to contribute to the reduction of Poverty and Social Exclusion (P&ES) in the EU (European Agenda 2030), through the **design, testing and systematization of a European Education and Social Participation Strategy (EESPS) against P&ES**, innovative and effective, based on the construction of an “Inclusive and Collaborative Learning Ecosystem”, and on the creation and networking of “Local Inclusive and Collaborative Learning Communities”, aimed at : capacity building and acquisition of key competencies (ERF) to promote inclusion, participation and social cohesion; the design and evaluation of "Inclusive and Collaborative Learning Projects" against P&ES; and empowerment and involvement of an active, Intelligent and Responsible European Citizenship”.

An EESPS whose implementation phases in the territory we could systematize/structure in the following pedagogical/participatory process:

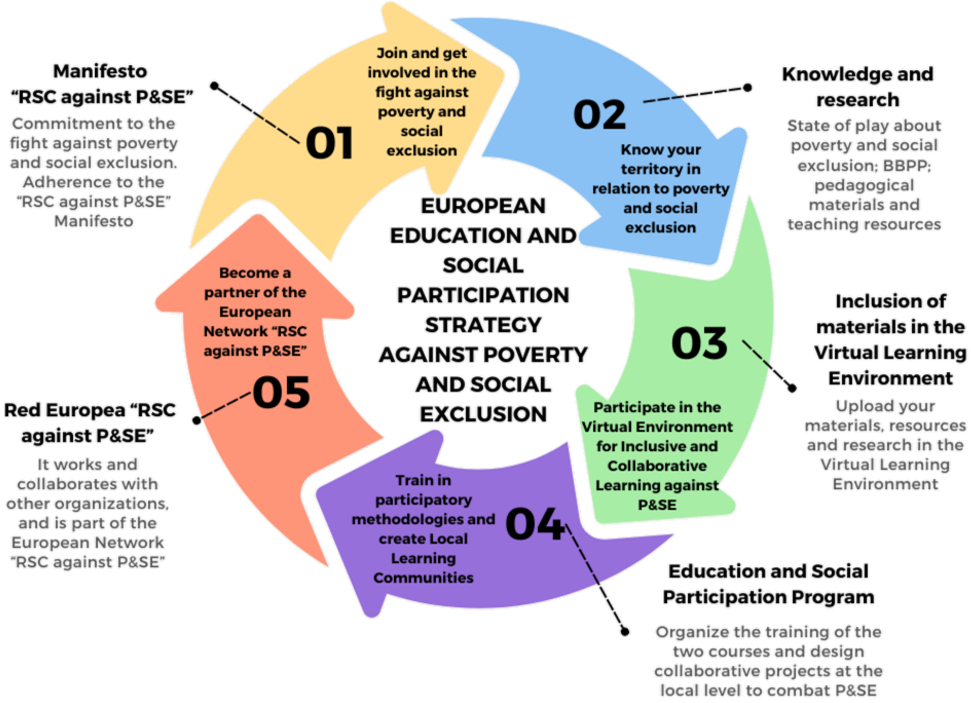


Figure I.33 ESESP (Own elaboration, DOCUMENTA)

At this point, after the journey through the principles and theoretical foundations that animated our Project, we should ask ourselves what were the lessons learned from the RSC Project that define and characterize the ESESP against the P&ES that constitutes the general objective of the Project.

From now on we will refer to the Strategy by its English acronym, given the European context in which it is framed and from which it derives (Erasmus+):

RSC-ESESP: Responsible Smart Citizenship - European Strategy of Education and Social Participation - against Poverty and Social Exclusion.

5.1 Emergence, context and detected needs of the RSC-ESESP

The need to develop the RSC-ESESP is based on facing a real situation:

“The UN World Development Economics Research Institute warns that the economic consequences of the global pandemic could increase poverty around the world until it affects 500 million more people, or in other words, an 8% more than the total world population. This would be the first time poverty has increased worldwide in 30 years since 1990.

One of the main innovations brought by the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, adopted in 2010, was a new common objective in the fight against poverty and social exclusion: reducing the number of Europeans living below the national poverty line by 25% and lift more than 20 million people out of poverty. The number of people at risk of poverty and exclusion increased between 2009 and 2012, but began to decrease thereafter. In 2019, 21.1% of the EU population, equivalent to 92.4 million people, were at risk of poverty or social exclusion (European Parliament).”

On the other hand, the RSC-ESESP assumes the main conclusion of the report “The State of Poverty” for Spain (EAPN, 2020), undoubtedly applicable to the rest of the countries of the RSC consortium, and possibly to the EU as a whole: “**the need to design new more effective tools in the fight against poverty and social exclusion” (EAPN, 2020).**

Therefore, RSC-EEESP arises from the need to develop new strategies to combat poverty and social exclusion in the EU; innovative and participatory -based on the civic and social commitment of an active, intelligent and responsible Citizenship-; and that respond to the current situation: Covid-19 crisis, insufficiency of traditional strategies to combat P&SE, emergence of a new poverty profile, EU commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

A RSC-ESESP with specific characteristics determined by the **needs identified** in the study prior to the design and execution of the RSC Project:

- Need for updated information, appropriate pedagogical materials and training resources, collaborative learning methodologies, and methodologies for the design and evaluation of social projects, acquisition of key competencies, etc.
- Need to build a quality, accessible and functional Virtual Learning Environment: technological platform, virtual learning community and online learning tools.
- Need for an Education and Social Participation Program, aimed both at improving the qualifications of professionals and volunteers (participatory methodologies and key competencies (ERF)), and at the creation of Local Inclusive and Collaborative

Learning Communities; and the empowerment and involvement of an Active, Intelligent and Responsible Citizenship.

- Need to systematize the process, and build the appropriate tools for its transfer and implementation in the EU, as well as for future sustainability.
- Needs for a pedagogical/participatory process that outline the Roadmap of the RSC Project:

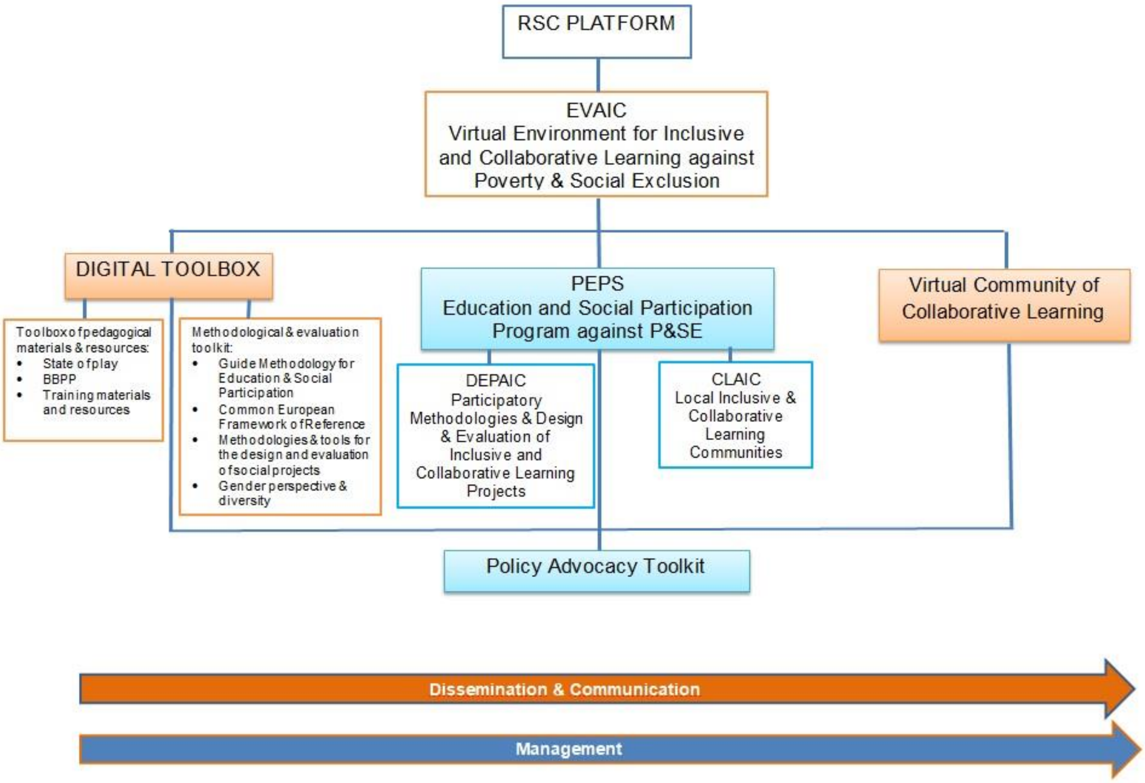


Figure I.34 Roadmap of the Erasmus+ project "RSC against P&SE". Own elaboration, DOCUMENTA

5.2. Theoretical framework of RSC-ESESP: Erasmus+; Agenda 2030, Intelligent and Responsible Territories; Doughnut Economics.

We needed this RSC White Paper to establish and explain the theoretical foundations on which our RSC-ESESP is based, as well as its alignment and harmony with the commitments and policies of the EU (SDG, Agenda 2030, and associated policies).

A theoretical framework in which they dialogue, complement and enrich each other:

- Our **RSC-ESESP**: framed in the **ERASMUS+** HORIZONTAL priority "Common values, civic commitment and social participation"; that contributes to fighting poverty and social exclusion through the creation of an "Inclusive Learning Ecosystem" (UNESCO), and "Collaborative Learning Communities", at a local level, and working in networks.
- Local Learning Communities that promote both the empowerment of an active, Intelligent, Responsible European Citizenship committed to compliance with the 2030

Agenda (promotion of ethics in lifelong learning); as well as the qualification of professionals, volunteers and final beneficiaries, through the acquisition of key competencies of the European Framework of Reference (CC4, CC5, CC6 and CC7): digital competencies (digital collaborative learning platform), social, intercultural and civic competencies (social and civic engagement), learning to learn (collaborative projects in local learning environments) and sense of initiative.

- The chosen local intervention model, **Intelligent and Responsible Territories (IRT) (Farto, 2006)**: a model of Sustainable Local Development, based on the "improvement of Governance, the promotion of social participation, and citizen empowerment"; built on four strategic pillars: Sustainability (sustainable local development); Knowledge Management of the territory; Management of the Social capital of the territory; promotion of Territorial Social Responsibility. An IRT Model that puts people and nature at the centre of economic thinking.
- The **European reference framework**, represented mainly by the assumption of the UN SDGs (mainly SDG1: No Poverty) in the **EU 2030 Agenda**; and the definition of the **Priorities of the European Commission**: 1) European Green Deal; 2) an Economy at the service of people; 3) Europe prepared for the digital age; 4) European lifestyle; 5) a stronger Europe in the world. And, of course, the **European Pillar of Social Rights**, together with the **Action Plan for European Democracy**.
- Finally, we needed to rethink the economy to put it at the service of people and nature, new guidelines, lines of action and evaluation indicators, a new economy that addresses "the abyss between the concerns of orthodox economic theory and the growing crises of the real world, such as global inequality and climate change": **Doughnut Economics. A Compass for the 21st century (Raworth, 2018).**

A theoretical framework of RSC-ESESP whose graphic representation is illustrated in the following figure:

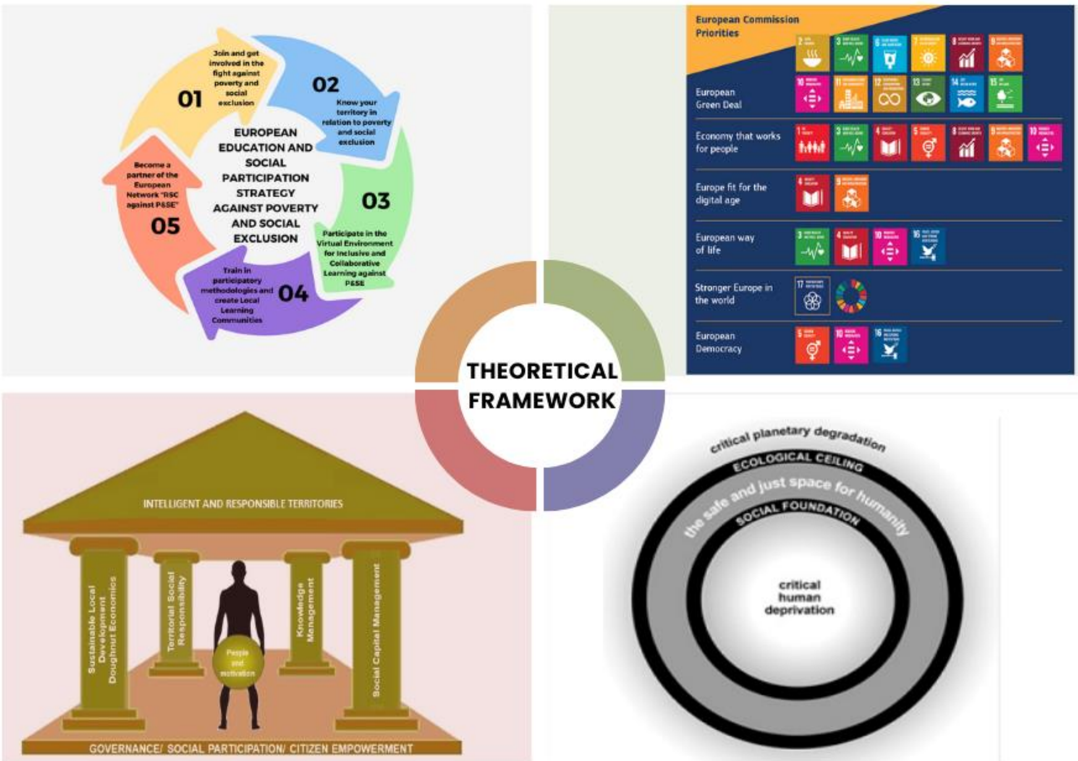


Figure I.35 Theoretical Framework (Own elaboration. DOCUMENTA)

5.3. Methodological framework of the RSC-ESESP: pedagogical/participatory processes (participatory methodologies); Virtual Learning Environment; Local Learning Communities (Collaborative projects against P&ES); Networking.

It is not possible to dissociate the theoretical approaches of a strategy, from the methodologies used to achieve the objectives and planned results; this necessary theoretical/methodological coherence means that, RSC-EEEPS relies on the use of participatory methodologies, and a local approach, aimed at promoting social participation and the empowerment of Intelligent and Responsible Citizenship.

In general terms, the RSC-ESESP Methodological Framework is inspired by two well-known mottos, with a strong methodological load:

- Unity in diversity
- Think globally, act locally.

We understand RSC-ESESP as a **pedagogical/participatory process** whose implementation is supported by the knowledge and correct use of innovative, but sufficiently tested, participatory methodologies: Collaborative Learning, Participatory Action Research, Service-Learning, and acquisition of key competencies included in the European Framework of Reference. Both the conceptualization of the project, aimed at the design of effective and efficient strategies to combat poverty and social exclusion, as well as the chosen methodologies and proposed results, will contribute to promoting citizen participation and civic and social commitment, through non-formal learning, in addition to contributing to greater awareness and knowledge of the context and common values of the EU.

A pedagogical/participatory process (RSC-ESESP) based on the creation of **Local Inclusive and Collaborative Learning Communities**, through an Education and Social Participation Program aimed at both improving the qualification of technicians and volunteers from social organizations, as well as the design and implementation of collaborative projects against poverty and social exclusion: local, participatory and inclusive microprojects, with a bottom-up approach, territorialized, integrated into the Community, indebted to an Intelligent and Responsible Citizenship.

An **Education and Social Participation Program** against poverty and social exclusion that is supported by ICTs - "Digital technologies have become a social necessity to guarantee education as a basic human right" -, and in the creation of a **Virtual Learning Environment**: "UNESCO supports the use of digital innovation to expand access to educational opportunities and advance inclusion, improve the relevance and quality of learning, create improved lifelong learning pathways by ICT, reinforce education and learning management systems, and monitor learning processes. To achieve these goals, UNESCO works to develop digital literacy and digital skills, focusing on teachers and learners" (UNESCO, 2024).

"UNESCO takes a humanistic approach to ensure that technology is designed to serve people in accordance with internationally agreed human rights frameworks, and that digital technologies are harnessed as a common good to support the achievement of the SDG 4 -

Education 2030 and to build shared futures of education beyond 2030. UNESCO promotes digital inclusion focused on the most marginalized groups, fundamentally women, low-income groups, people with disabilities and linguistic and linguistic communities. minority cultural "(UNESCO, 2024).

UNESCO defines the creation of semi-face-to-face and virtual programs as a technological system of two-way (multidirectional) communication, which can be massive, based on the systematic and joint action of teaching resources and the support of an organization and tutoring that, physically separated from students, promote **independent (cooperative) learning** in them.

Distance Education is a fundamental human right, which breaks the single learning model. It is a flexibility in how to provide education, curricular designs, skills and competence, it is one in which the physical presence of the student is not required for the delivery of the degree and different resources can be used, such as printed publications, videoconferences, digital materials, as well as the use of ICT, although not as the main means."

Connected Local Learning Communities, working in a Network at local, regional and national levels, and associated in the European RSC Network.

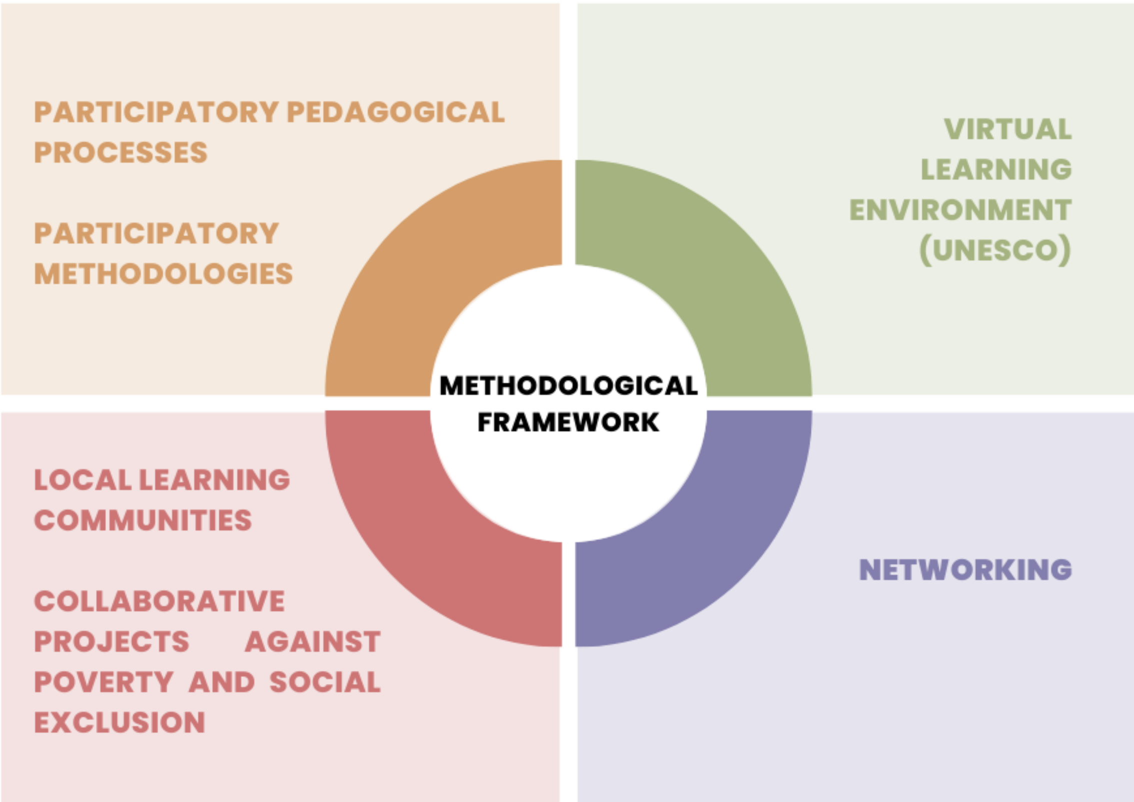


Figure I.36 Methodological Framework (Own elaboration, DOCUMENTA)

5.4. Tools for the implementation of RSC-ESEPS: Digital Toolbox (methodological Toolkit); Virtual Inclusive and Collaborative Learning Environment; Education and Social Participation Program against Poverty and Social Exclusion; Toolkit and RSC White Paper.

As we have previously highlighted, RSC-ESESP is above all a pedagogical/participatory process aimed at the creation of Local Learning Communities, and the development and implementation of collaborative Projects to combat poverty and social exclusion; on a local scale, and working in networks.

For the transfer and implementation of the RSC-ESESP in new territories, we have the different tools developed with the RSC Project, which we have already stated when talking about the objectives and results of the Project, and were perfectly described in the Roadmap.

As can be seen in the following graph, each of the tools corresponds and is applicable in each of the successive phases of implementation of the Strategy; and the circular representation, like the graphic representation of the Strategy, responds to its nature as a pedagogical/participatory process (successive phases) in the territory, and shows its enormous potential for transfer and replicability (amplifying its multiplier effect) in new territories: a common theoretical and methodological base (UNITY), to implement in diverse scenarios: social, cultural, economic and geographical diversity (IN DIVERSITY)**: Unity in diversity.**

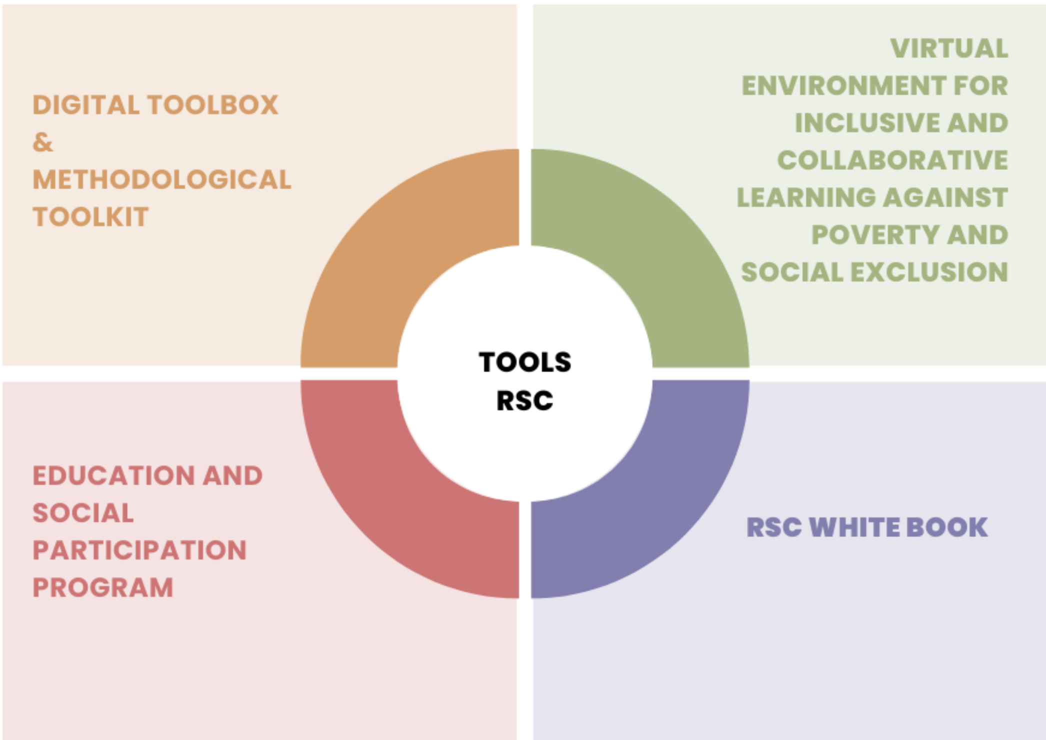


Figure I.37 Tools RSC (Own elaboration, DOCUMENTA)

We do need to make special mention of the RSC White Paper, and the dissemination, transfer and sustainability Toolkit, since in addition to collecting and systematizing the main results of the RSC Project, it constitutes the main element of the future RSC Transfer and Sustainability Strategy for the ESESP.

The general objective of the Toolkit, and especially the White Paper, is to raise awareness, promote change in the approach to poverty and social exclusion by policy makers, and facilitate the transfer and replicability of the "RSC against P&SE" Project in other EU organizations and territories, laying the foundations for its enlargement and future sustainability. Likewise, this Toolkit is aimed at covering other needs identified by the partners in the project preparation phase: building bridges of collaboration between social organizations, political decision-makers, citizens and beneficiaries; systematize and make accessible and operational alternative strategies to combat poverty and social exclusion based on social participation and active citizenship; facilitate the professional qualification of technicians and volunteers involved in the area; contribute to raising awareness and involving EU citizens in achieving the SDGs and the European 2030 Agenda, as well as encouraging their active participation in a future Responsible Smart Citizenship against P&SE platform.

The **Toolkit** will contain **three fundamental elements**:

- **RSC White Paper on political advocacy**: Its objective is to define and explain the theoretical and methodological foundations that animated the design and development of the RSC Project, and constitute the foundation of the RSC-ESESP Strategy. Starting from this foundation, the White Paper defines the main structuring elements of the RSC-ESESP: Emergence, context and needs addressed from the RSC-ESESP; Theoretical framework; Methodological framework; Intervention tools; and Transfer and Sustainability Strategy

- **Transfer and implementation toolkit**: aimed at systematizing and operationalizing the entire process to facilitate its transfer and replication in other EU territories, and will include both a User Manual, and the main structuring elements of the Project: Digital toolbox, **Virtual Learning Environment**, and an Education and Social Participation Program.

- **Networking and Sustainability Strategy**: A sustainability strategy will be defined based on both a dissemination and awareness campaign at EU level (final conference, White Paper, etc.), and on the preparation and dissemination of the **RSC Manifesto against P&SE**, germ of a future European RSC Network (Networking).

5.5 RSC-ESESP Transfer and Sustainability Strategy: Transfer and Sustainability Toolkit; European RSC Network; Rights to exploit national results; National exploitation and sustainability plans.

The RSC-ESESP Transfer and Sustainability Strategy is structured around four key elements:

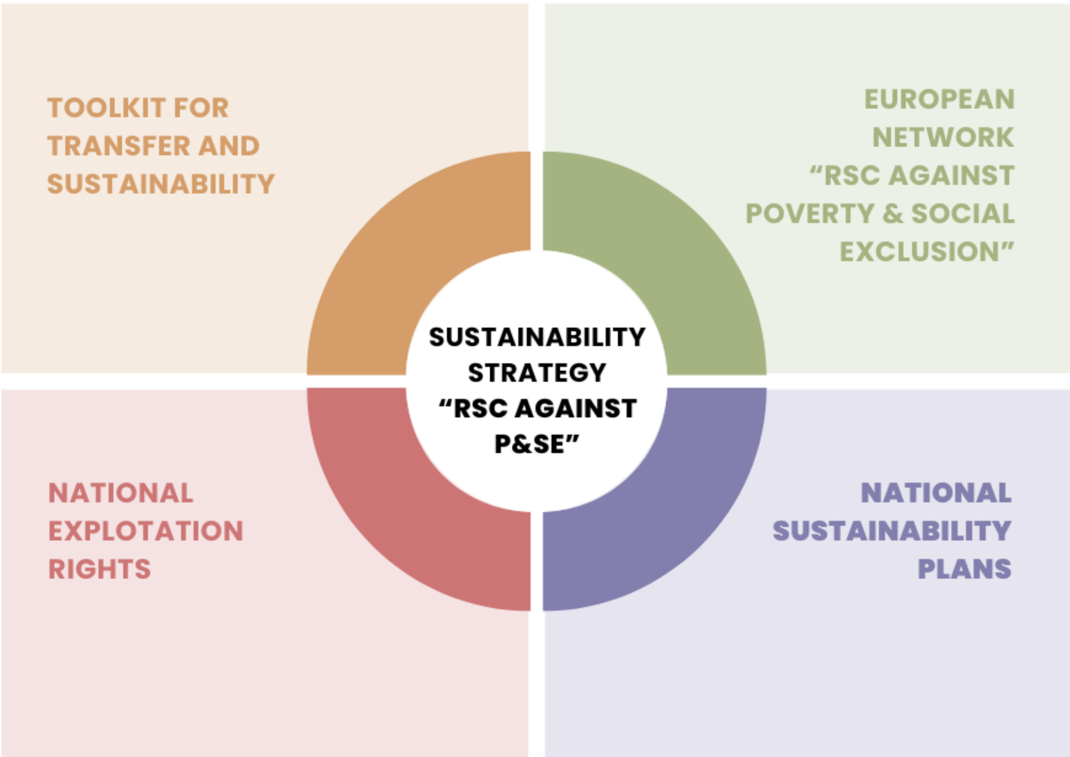


Figure I.38 Sustainability Strategy “RSC against P&SE” (Own elaboration, DOCUMENTA)

- **Transfer and Sustainability Toolkit.**

The target audience of the Toolkit are both the stakeholders of the RSC Project during its development, as well as the potential stakeholders that are detected for its continuity and expansion.

The expected **impact** will occur at several levels:

• The Toolkit will contribute to the dissemination of the results of the project, to increase the population's awareness of the problems of poverty and social exclusion in the EU, and to promote the exercise of active citizenship, networking, and the improvement of governance in the territory, through the creation of Local Learning Communities and collaborative projects against P&ES, which in turn will contribute to achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda.

• On the other hand, it will contribute to facilitating access to the Virtual Learning Environment, and expanding its use by an extensive and diverse community of stakeholders, improving their qualification and empowerment through free access to materials and resources (OER), methodologies and tools, etc.

• Finally, it will be the seed of a future European RSC Network actively involved in the fight against P&ES, the achievement of the SDGs, and the 2030 Agenda.

The main innovation of the Toolkit lies in the diversity of functions it fulfils: it contributes to dissemination and awareness; facilitates the accessibility, systematization and replication of the process in the EU; improves the qualification of technicians and the empowerment of stakeholders; improves governance, networking and sustainability. Provides a complete pack for the implementation of the RSC-ESESP Strategy in organizations, foundations or community centres.

- **European RSC Network.**

The Transfer and Sustainability Strategy is also based on networking and the creation of the European RSC Network.

The Toolkit will also contain the **RSC Manifesto**, the acceptance and signature of which constitutes the necessary expression of interest to begin the pedagogical/participatory process (described in the RSC-ESESP implementation phase chart in the territory) of adhesion to the European RSC Network.

- **Rights to exploit national results.**

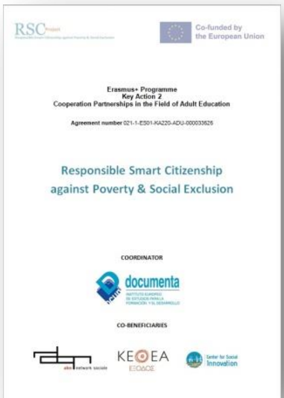
As established by the Erasmus+ regulations, the **Intellectual Property Rights** of the products resulting from the RSC Project, correspond to the members of the RSC Consortium, and contain the **exploitation rights** of the same in their respective countries.

- **National exploitation and sustainability plans**.

Based on the Intellectual Property Rights at an international level of the members of the RSC Consortium, and their rights to exploit the results at a national level, each of the organizations will define their **National exploitation and sustainability plans**, contributing to the dissemination, transfer and sustainability of the RSC Project, as well as the expansion and consolidation of the European RSC Network.

Basic bibliography

6. Basic bibliography



Erasmus + project “Responsible Smart Citizenship against Poverty & Social Exclusion” (DOCUMENTA, 2021).

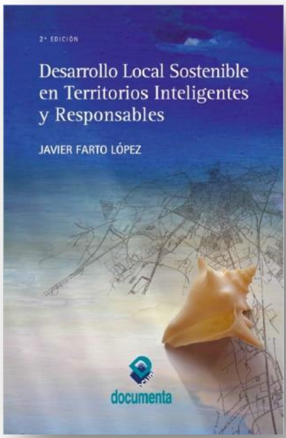
Sustainable Development in the European Union. Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context. 2023 edition. (Publications Office of the European Union, 2023)

EU VOLUNTARY REVIEW on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. (EU, 2023)

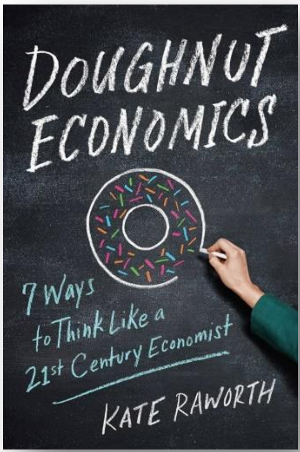
The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan (Publications Office of the European Union, 2021)

XII Report: The State of Poverty in Spain. Monitoring of the indicators of the EU 2030 Agenda. 2015 – 2021 (EAPN Spain, 2022)

European Reconstruction, integration into the European Pillar of Social Rights and the 2030 Agenda. Impact of COVID-19, proposals and measures to face the next challenges in the fight against poverty (Graciela Malgesini Rey, Head of Political Advocacy and European Affairs of EAPN-ES and co-chair of the EUISG, Social Inclusion Group of EAPN EU, 2021)



Sustainable Local Development in Intelligent and Responsible Territories (Javier Farto López, 2006)



Doughnut Economics. 7 ways to think like a 21st century economist (Kate Raworth, 2018)

The RSC against P&SE Consortium

Coordinator

rscagainstpse.eu

https://www.facebook.com/RSCprojectEU

Co-funded by
the European Union

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.