

# SOCIAL INNOVATORS IN RURAL AREAS

“LEARNING HOW TO USE SIMRA’S RESULTS” WORKSHOP

Workshop



Brussels

20 February 2020





SIMRA Final Conference – workshop training

*Venue: Scotland House, Rond-point Robert Schuman 6, 1040 Brussels, Belgium*

*Target audience: local practitioners, RDP evaluators, policymakers, managing authorities, Horizon 2020 project implementers, researchers, etc who monitor or implement social innovation.*

Since starting in 2016, the Horizon 2020 project “**Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas**” (SIMRA) has been at the forefront in promoting the contribution of social innovation to social, economic and environmental development in disadvantaged rural areas. The project team has explored vibrant examples of community-led projects to determine triggers and drivers, development patterns, factors of success and evaluation criteria for social innovation in rural areas.

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During this workshop, participants will have the opportunity to learn how to use the tools developed by SIMRA to support the implementation of social innovations, to evaluate social innovations in rural areas and to discuss policy-making bottlenecks and enablers in the field of social innovation.

*No interpretation will be provided – the official language will be English*



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# AGENDA

9:00-9:30

## Registrations & Welcome

9:30-11:00

## Round 1 | Parallel working sessions

### Session A

“How to develop a social innovation in rural areas?”

Facilitated by the European Forest Institute

### Session B

“How to evaluate social innovation in rural areas?”

Facilitated by the University of Padova (Italy)

### Session C

“How can public policies support social innovation in rural areas?”

Facilitated by the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (Austria) and Wageningen Economic Research (The Netherlands)

11:00-11:30

*Coffee break*

11:30-13:00

## Round 2 | Parallel working sessions

### Session A

“How to develop a social innovation in rural areas?”

Facilitated by the European Forest Institute

### Session B

“How to evaluate social innovation in rural areas?”

Facilitated by the University of Padova (Italy)

### Session C

“How can public policies support social innovation in rural areas?”

Facilitated by the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (Austria) and Wageningen Economic Research (The Netherlands)

13:00-13:30

## Feedback from parallel sessions & Conclusion

By Bill Slee, The Rural Development Company

13:30-14:30

*Networking lunch*



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program under Grant Agreement 677622

## Session A

### **“How to develop a social innovation in rural areas?”**

This workshop will introduce participants to the Innovation Actions methodology used within the SIMRA project to support local initiatives in a socially and economically sustainable way. Seven Innovations Actions were supported by the SIMRA project in Spain, French Antilles, Lebanon, Norway and Italy. Some key messages for success and transferability are summarised in a 7-step guide intended for practitioners which will also be presented during the workshop.

## Session B

### **“How to evaluate social innovation in rural areas?”**

This workshop will familiarise the participants with the evaluation framework developed by the SIMRA partners. The framework takes into account both the process and the impacts of social innovation in marginalised rural areas. Special attention was given - during the establishment of this framework - to the social, economic, environmental and institutional/political (governance) aspects of social innovation.

## Session C

### **“How can public policies support social innovation in rural areas?”**

This workshop will explore the challenge of raising the profile of social innovation in policymaking, because although social innovation may happen as a result of citizen action alone, its impact can be much enhanced by the design of supportive policies. By using examples from different policy fields, the workshop aims to highlight fostering and hindering factors for the role of policies in supporting social innovation and how they could be improved.

*To prepare for the workshop, you can download SIMRA material results and examples from our website:*

[www.simra-h2020.eu](http://www.simra-h2020.eu)

