

TAFITIE Academy Training: Social Innovation and/in R&I Policy Funding

- Date & Place:** 17-18 January 2024 & Online
- Time:** 17 January 2024 13:00-17:00
18 January 2024 13:00-17:00
- Type:** Online
- Trainer 1:** **Dr Georg Mildenerger**, Head of Research at the Centre for Social Investment of the University of Heidelberg
- Trainer 2** **Dr Judith TERSTRIEP** (Economist) is Head of the Research Department Innovation, Space & Culture at the Institute for Work and Technology at the Westphalian University Gelsenkirchen

Summary

The training will familiarise the participants with the basic concepts of social innovation. It will sort social innovation in the wider concept of innovation and explain different approaches to define social innovation.

Basic research questions in the context of social innovation will be introduced and explained, and the concept will be placed into the context of challenge-oriented R&I policies.

Participants will have the opportunity to exchange experiences with programmes covering social innovation and learn from peers and trainers.

Special focus will be on new challenges when social innovation is included in programmes and initiatives. Funding and support agencies will have to communicate with new types of actors, new demands towards support in project management, and especially new criteria for evaluating proposals and project results.

Suggested Agenda

Day 1 (Module 1)

13:00 – 13:30 Welcome and tour de table

13:30 – 14:30 Social Innovation – a new field for R&I Policy Funding? Flashlight on the first experiences of participants and introduction to the concept

14:30 – 14:45 Coffee break

14:45 – 16:00 Social Innovation – an innovation type in itself? Short presentation and discussion on the differences and similarities of social innovation and other types of innovation

16:00 – 16:15 Break

16:15 – 17:00 The place of social innovation in challenge-oriented R&I policies. What changes in conditions of funding and criteria of evaluation?

Day 2 (Module 2)

13.00 – 13:15 Summary of day 1 and getting started

13:15 – 14:15 Selected participants present three R&I programmes or initiatives that incorporate social innovation at least to some extent

14:15 – 14:30 Break

14:30 – 15:15 Reflection on the presented R&I programmes/initiatives. New aspects of R&I funding will be discussed when social innovation comes in.

These might concern:

- New types of funded organisations/actors, consequences for the application process, funding conditions, grant management and reporting.
- New types of projects with a stronger aspect of open innovation, participatory processes, experimentation and consequences for the flexibility in funding agreements.
- What are the criteria for the evaluation of proposals on social innovation? Are they the same as usual, or are new criteria needed?
- What are the criteria for success of funded projects?
- What are the expected outputs of social innovation projects? And how long should social innovation projects be funded?

15:15 – 15:45 Break

15:45 – 16:30 Final round: What are the take-away messages from the trainees (fishbowl)

16:30 – 17:00 Conclusions

17:00 End of the training

Who Should Attend?

Experts dealing with the design and implementation of R&I policy.

Zoom Link for the Meeting

To be provided to the registered participants a week before the event.

Learning Outcome

By the end of the training module, trainees should understand the ideas behind the social innovation discourse. Besides standard elements of the definition of social innovation, participants understand its character as a contested concept and its fluidity.

The importance of social innovations for R&I policy is seen, especially with a focus on the potential of social innovations as support for basic social infrastructures and as a source of innovation in general.

The special character of social innovation with its multiple bottom lines is understood, and the necessary changes in R&I policy are identified to cover prima facie market-oriented innovation and social innovation. A better understanding of new actors besides academia, members, and market-oriented corporations is achieved.

About the Trainers

Dr Georg Mildenerberger is Head of Research at the Centre for Social Investment of the University of Heidelberg. He holds a magister atrium in philosophy and political science from University of Tübingen and a PhD in Philosophy from the TU Darmstadt. His research focuses on social innovation, civil society organisations, civic engagement and impact measurement. His research covers the full spectrum from basic research and contributions to methodology to applied research and transdisciplinary work as well as consulting and providing expertise.

He participated in many European research projects in FP7, INTERREG and ERASMUS, and was a national member in the management committee of the COST Action EMPOWER SE.

Dr Judith TERSTRIEP (Economist) is Head of the Research Department »Innovation, Space & Culture« at the Institute for Work and Technology at the Westphalian University Gelsenkirchen and lecturer at the Ruhr-University Bochum. Primary research interests involve the interplay of innovation, (social) relations, knowledge and society from the perspective of innovation, management and spatial theory contributing to just transitions and societal change. Focal work areas cover social innovation (impact) measurement, entrepreneurship, regional development, sustainable transformative and mission-oriented innovation policy, and sectoral and regional analyses. Judith is well-experienced in coordinating European (FP7, Interreg, Erasmus+), national and regional joint projects and has been appointed an expert by the European Commission, federal ministries and various foundations. She received her doctorate from TU Hamburg.