



European webinar

The journey towards green transition – New perspectives for small and micro social economy enterprises

Report



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SKI.F.T. Webinar

The journey towards green transition - New perspectives for small and micro social economy enterprises

29 October 2024, 9am – 1pm

Report

1. Participants

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Francesca Belotti, CONSORZIO SOLCO CITTA' APERTA (IT)

Elsa Brander, Kooperationen (DK)

Bojana Bradic (RS)

Raymo Bucher, Oeko Service (CH)

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Valentina Dragone, Demetra Formazione (IT)

Monica Dunkel, University of Greenwich / Innovate UK Business Growth (UK)

Mariusz Godlejewski, Studio M6 Foundation (PL)

Giuseppe Guerini, CECOP-CICOPA/European Economic and Social Committee

Nora Hannisdal, CoopCat - Confederació de Cooperatives de Catalunya

Helena G. Hansen, Kooperationen (DK)

Urzula Fila-Kicman, FISE (PL)

Julia Koczanowicz-Chondzynska, FISE (PL)

Erdmuthe Klaer, REVES aisbl

Laura Klakk, Log Ladies (DK)

Annett Lengyel, HEPA – EEN (HU)

Lilas Leyrat, CRESS Ile-de-France (FR)

Jukka Lindberg, Diaconia University of Applied Sciences / Center of Expertise for Social Enterprises (FI)

Maria Rosa Manca, Cooperativa Sociale Padre Daniele Badiali Onlus (IT)

Diana Manesi, Athens Chamber of Small and Medium Size Industries (GR)

Rosaria Mastrogiamco, Legacoop Emilia-Romagna (IT)

Adam Markuszewski, FISE (PL)

Henrik Noorgard, Clean Cluster (DK)

Helle Baggar Nielsen, Erhvervshus Sjælland (DK)

Umut Ogur, ArtiBilim Bilgi ve Egitim Teknolojileri (Plus Science Information and Education Technologies) (TR)

Lois Pimentel-Iglesias, European Commission

Elena Scanferla, CSA COESI (IT)

Anna Skocz, sTOP (PL)

Daniel Sorrosal, FEBEA

Marion Tondeur, Groupe One (BE)

Roberta Trovarelli, Legacoop Emilia-Romagna (IT)

Davide Specchio, A.S.D. Virtual Life (IT)

Laurence Vandenhoeke, Groupe One (BE)

Joanna Wierzba, Social Cooperative Zeroban (PL)

Francesca Zaganelli, CECOP

Laura Zambrini, Demetra Formazione (IT)

Tim Zebahl, TUTECH INNOVATION (DE)

2. Objective of the European webinar

This event aimed to

- discuss concrete needs and potential regarding capacity-building for green transition with micro and small social economy enterprises as well as with social economy support organisations;
- provide an insight into first results of the SKI.F.T. project, including a methodology accompanying micro and small social economy organisations in defining transition pathways;
- present some examples of already existing tools of support for green transition within (social economy) enterprises, and
- seek to identify necessary policy action to create better framework conditions a greening of activities and products/services of small and micro social economy enterprises.

3. Programme

9 am Introduction and Welcome

Elsa Brander, Kooperationen (DK) – Project leader

9.10 SKI.F.T. – Skills for Transition: A presentation of first (preliminary) project outputs

Erdmuthe Klaer, REVES aisbl

9.25 Green Transition - Impact and Opportunities for Small and Micro Social Economy Enterprises

- *Joanna Wierzba, Social Cooperative Zeroban (PL)*
- *Laura Klakk, Log Ladies (DK)*
- *Davide Specchio, APS Sociale Virtual Life*
- *Maria Rosa Manca, Cooperativa Sociale Padre Daniele Badiali*

10.15 am Green Transition – The perspective of intermediary organisations working with small and micro social economy enterprises

- *Elsa Brander, Kooperationen (DK)*

- *Laura Zambrini, Demetra Formazione/Elena Scanferla, CSA COESI/Rosaria Mastrogiacomo, Legacoop Emilia-Romagna (IT)*

- *Julia Koczanowicz-Chondzynska, FISE (PL)*

11 am Break

11.15 am Green Transition of Small and Micro (Social economy) Enterprises: Support instruments

- *Manon Tondeur, Laurence Vandenhoeke, Groupe One (BE)*

- *Henrik Norgaard, Clean Cluster (DK)*

- *Anna Skocz, sTOP (PL)*

12 pm Capacity-building for Green transition: Overcoming barriers for micro and small social economy organisations - the potential of transnational cooperation

- *Daniel Sorrosal, FEBEA and SOFIGREEN*

- *Lois Pimentel Iglesias, European Commission, DG Grow*

12.45 Conclusions and closing

Giuseppe Guerini, President of CECOP and Member of the European Economic and Social Committee

Elsa Brander, Kooperationen

4. Discussion

Elsa Brander, representing SKI.F.T. project leader Kooperationen, welcomes the participants. She recalls the fact that cooperatives have long been pioneers regarding practices fostering environmental sustainability by developing groundbreaking community-based solutions. Democratically owned businesses are essential to the green transition and have the potential to mobilise for a collective shift. Nevertheless, despite their important role and efforts, social economy enterprises – in particular those of a micro or small size - often still face a number of obstacles when moving towards a greater (environmental) sustainability of their products, services and processes.

The SKI.F.T. project seeks to make a contribution to bridge certain of the existing gaps by creating ways and tools to facilitate green transition for small and micro social economy enterprises and accompany the latter on this pathway.

Presentation of first (preliminary) project outputs

The “Skills for transition” project (SKI.F.T.) has the objective to accompany micro and small social economy enterprises in green transition processes.

In this context, next to the development of sustainable business models, partners also work on means to stimulate cooperation between small and micro SEE and other local actors, on possibilities for small and micro SEE to be part of local social green value chains, as well as on ways and methods for small and micro SEE to communicate their efforts and added value more effectively.

The project partnership, led by Kooperationen (DK), is composed of five social economy intermediary organisations from Denmark, Italy and Poland, as well as two European networks.

The project consists of three main stages :

Partners started with some research on specific green transition-related needs of micro and small social economy enterprises. Moreover, they sought to identify already existing instruments and programmes facilitating green transition projects/processes of enterprises and organisations. In a second phase, in which partners find themselves at the moment of the European webinar, project partners in Denmark, Italy and Poland deliver advisory and coaching services to small and micro social economy enterprises. Finally, as of November 2024, small and micro social economy enterprises will have the possibility to apply for direct financial support. With this financing they will be able to purchase further capacity-building-related services from external service providers.

Throughout the whole project duration SKI.F.T. partners also meet for several transnational meetings which then feed local project activities (this is for example the

case when it comes to methodologies that are being discussed by the project partnership).

A short insight into the first phase of the project – research on needs and existing tools/programmes : Initially, SKI.F.T. partners undertook a survey and interviews with 75 small and micro social economy enterprises in Denmark, Italy and Poland. The aim was to find out more about what these enterprises already did with regard to green transition, what they would like to do in the future, which *were* or *are* main obstacles they perceive for green transition processes in their enterprise, and what their needs are in terms of capacity-building and other aspects.

Many of the enterprises that took part in the survey do already to different extent integrate environmental sustainability in their practices. Examples are the use of renewable energy sources, upgrading to more modern and energy-efficient equipment, energy saving policies, sustainable waste management/recycling, use of biodegradable packaging or of sustainable means of transport, ...

Nearly all respondents would like to do more, but encounter obstacles, including mainly a lack of a) knowledge/expertise, b) financing, c) human resources/time to devote for capacity-building, or d) knowledge regarding possibilities to find expertise on specific topics.

Topics of specific interest for the respondents are the following:

- Cooperation with other private players (including social economy), including possibilities to better identify sustainable supply;
- Cooperation with public players;
- Creation of local green value chains.

In parallel to the survey the SKI.F.T. partnership identified a number of already existing tools/programmes developed to facilitate green transition processes of enterprises and organisations. In this context, the focus was not only on tools conceived specifically for social economy enterprises. The consortium decided to take a wider look:

In terms of *target groups* project partners included tools/programmes developed for the social economy, but also those addressing other type of enterprises/organisations, and/or public authorities and that could potentially be used for the social economy, as well.

The consortium analysed different *type of support*, including training courses/webinars, guidelines, (online) self-assessment tools, good practices, etc.

In addition, project partners also took into consideration different type of *providers/organisers of green transition-related capacity-building programmes and tools*: social economy-related structures, consultancies/other type of private enterprises, business development agencies, universities; (European) networks/associations, ...

From the more than 80 tools spotted so far, only a minority has been built mainly for the social economy or organisations close to the social economy.

These are some examples:

- [Economy for the Common Good: Common Good Matrix 5.0/Balance Sheet 5.0](#)

- ANEL (ES): Diagnosis tool - SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy and SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production

- [ValorESS](#), UDES (FR)

- HEC Montréal (CA) - [Collection « Circular Economy »](#)

- [Social-Circular Hub Gent](#)

- [CARTECO](#) – ESS France

Many of the identified tools and programmes focus rather on the «traditional » enterprise. This does not mean that they could not serve as an inspiration and support also for the social economy. However, in many of these instruments elements that allow for an integration of specific characteristics of the social economy, such as relational/participatory aspects and governance-related topics, are often missing. Partners made similar observations with regard to (a lack of) the collective perspective, i.e. designing and implementing green transition processes in cooperation with partners/stakeholders – an aspect which is important *also* and *in particular* for small and micro social economy enterprises.

As a consequence, SKI.F.T. partners developed a matrix to help visualize the different questions/elements and relations a (small and micro) SEE might or should take into account. It contains in the column on the left different areas that might be chosen as priority themes of green transition processes and, in the upper row, different type of stakeholders of the social economy (*see attached presentation*).

The matrix should not be considered as another self-assessment tool. It has been conceived more as an analysis grid which is supposed to help gaining an overview on the different aspects and relations a social economy enterprise should/might have to take into consideration when assessing its performance in terms of green transition and planning future actions.

The objective is NOT necessarily to fill in all fields (in some cases this might not even be possible). Yet, the matrix might be of help when defining the ‘state of the art’ of the green transition-related performance of a social economy enterprise and also help to then identify the specific aspects the enterprise might need and/or wish to improve.

For the different aspects/boxes guiding questions were developed and good practices/tools added. SKI.F.T. partners continue elaborating the matrix to further improve it based also on the experiences of the partners' work with beneficiaries at local level.

The final result of this work will be published in summer 2025.

Drawing also on the results of the initial research phase and discussions around methodologies, SKI.F.T. partners proceed with the organisation of advisory and coaching at local level. They all follow some main principles: The activities are centred on the specific needs of each beneficiary enterprise. Moreover, wherever possible, partners seek to promote the principles of co-creation with stakeholders and cooperation/networking between social economy enterprises (and other type of actors) in the conception and implementation of the different transition projects.

Green Transition - Impact and Opportunities for Small and Micro Social Economy Enterprises

Francesca Zaganelli, CECOP, opens the panel discussion with representatives of small and micro social economy enterprises from Denmark, Italy and Poland – all of them beneficiaries of the ongoing advisory and coaching services:

The **social cooperative Zeroban** (PL), represented by Joanna Wierzba, is specialized in the upcycling of commercial materials, such as banners and similar type of textile. To avoid this material – often not recyclable - to be dumped on landfills Zeroban uses it to produce bags, backpacks, folders, pencil cases and many other products. Zeroban is a micro enterprise with eight female cooperators/employees, among which five persons with disabilities, as well as a refugee from Ukraine.

Log Ladies (DK), which is introduced to the participants by Laura Klakk, is a cooperative set up in order to create safe learning and work spaces for women and queers in the construction sector. The activities of the enterprise are based on a holistic idea of life and a related philosophy bringing together eco-feminist values with other (social economy) principles, including equal pay, degrowth, work-life balance, environmental protection, to name just a few.

Association Virtual Life (IT), represented by Davide Specchio, is a non-profit organization delivering different types of training and learning experiences in technology and programming (including on gamification) for children, youngsters and adults. The association follows the development of latest technologies, including AI, but is particularly interested in virtual reality and possibilities to use it in all areas of life also with social benefits. Virtual Life has more than 50 members and participated in different type of free coding skills learning projects. In 2024, the association also worked on an initiative targeting specifically children with learning difficulties and/or from

disadvantaged backgrounds, which aimed to develop programming and graphic skills with the goal to create green transition-related messages.

The [**Social Cooperative Padre Daniele Badiali**](#) (IT), presented by Maria Rosa Manca, is a type B cooperative employing 16 persons in disadvantaged conditions. The enterprise follows three type of activities, including manual assembly services which are delivered also and above all to other local enterprises, textile waste collection following environmental standards (in cooperation with municipalities, and the installation and maintenance of photovoltaic, hydraulic and electrical systems.

With regard to **main needs and ideas regarding future green transition-related projects within the enterprise**, Maria Rosa Manca refers to the intention of her cooperative to improve its environmental impact in general and find new ways to involve the whole team in sustainability-related training and actions going beyond already existing initiatives such as the installation of a water fountain, avoiding disposable cups, etc. Moreover, she highlights the wish of the cooperators to also contribute to raising awareness on green transition within the local community.

Davide Specchio points to the number of power-consuming devices his association is currently working with and which it would like to replace by rechargeable elements. Moreover, Virtual Life follows research on modular and polymer-based computers. In addition, the association organizes courses and other awareness-raising activities regarding green transition also for its own members and would like to further advance on this path.

Laura Klakk shares ways of working and initiatives her cooperative already adopted and might further develop in the future. These include the use of biodegradable material (taken from the local forest through cooperation with another cooperative, or from the local recycling station based on a specific agreement with the latter). In addition, the holistic way of understanding sustainability also includes initiatives helping the cooperators/workers to take care of the own body in a physically very requiring work and “keep it working” in a respectful way, and to practice work-life balance supporting also workers with children, etc. On a regular basis, Log Ladies invite partners and other interested persons to take part in community-based learning processes and therewith also become more aware of sustainability-related questions.

Joanna Wierzba shares information about activities her cooperative is carrying out to raise the awareness of different parts of the local community on possibilities to contribute to green transition. She mentions upcycling workshops organized with children and teenagers, but also the cooperation between Zeroban and a coffee shop for which Zeroban produced waist bags out of old coffee sacks. Moreover, the cooperative developed bags out of functional clothing from the construction sector.

When it comes to **major challenges small and micro social economy enterprises (might) meet regarding green transition** Joanna Wierzba mentions, next to financial challenges, the big efforts her enterprise has to undertake in order to make people

(including politicians) understand the added value her cooperative is producing for the local community: “It is hard for us to compete with big companies, for example with regard to prices, as quality (in different respect) is very important to us. This also means that we cannot work as fast and cheaply as others.”

Laura Klakk points to the fact that building with eco-materials is much more expensive (up to 30%) than using other kind of wood etc. Another problem is the greenwashing of other companies and the Danish building regulation which does not recognize so far the added value of building with eco-materials.

Maria Rosa Manca adds to the challenges mentioned by previous speakers the initial significant costs of technologies needed for certain processes that would allow to lower the environmental impact of an enterprise, as well as the necessity to continuously train staff.

Reasons for applying for SKI.F.T.-related support are for Davide Specchio the perspective to have access to knowledge about new and more effective ways to carry out the different activities of his association in an environmentally sustainable way. More specifically, Virtual Life plans to develop a virtual reality-based experience for companies which has the objective to raise the awareness of the latter on the *need for* and *ways towards* green transition. Maria Rosa Manca and her cooperative hope to improve their knowledge on how to address green transition in a more strategic way, as well as to receive practical tools in this respect.

Laura Klakk and Joanna Wierzba are looking forward to an exchange with other small and micro social economy enterprises “having the same size, but other perspectives” and related inspiration for their own cooperatives. Log Ladies would also like to get better access to experts and knowledge regarding organic construction materials.

During the Q&A session, some participants would like to know to what extent funding for social economy enterprises (and green transition) is available in different EU Member States, given the fact that in other countries this type of financing is offered only or mainly for profit-oriented companies. Joanna Wierzba explains that some programmes targeting specifically social economy enterprises do exist in Poland, even though, in general, compared to other type of actors, there is not a lot of financial support available for them. Zeroban cooperative tries, together with others, to undertake initiatives in order to fight for equal (funding) opportunities for social economy. Maria Rosa Manca mentions important support of social economy enterprises in Italy by foundations such as Cariplo. Another participant would like to know whether websites exist offering organized access to information about social economy enterprises engaged in green transition and which might also act as potential suppliers. Erdmuthe Klaer, REVES aisbl, mentions the [CARTECO](#) mapping initiative, launched by ESS France, which was spotted by SKI.F.T. partners when searching for existing green transition-related capacity-building programmes and tools. Julia Koczanowicz-Chondzynska, FISE, reports that FISE tried to

set up a database of social economy enterprises at national level in the past. However, next to technological challenges it turned out to be rather difficult to update the database on a regular basis (contacts and offer of the enterprises changed, it was not easy to keep contact with them, etc.). Julia therefore thinks it would be more useful and effective to set up this kind of databases at a regional level, supported by regional authorities and actors which are in charge of the social economy and able to have better access to information. For Polish participants Anna Skocz suggests taking a look at the following website - a platform providing a list of socially responsible suppliers in Lower Silesia: <http://kupujespolecznie.pl>

Green Transition – The perspective of intermediary organisations working with small and micro social economy enterprises

Beside developing and providing green transition-related support to micro and small social economy enterprises, SKI.FT. also has the objective, through transnational exchange, to better equip social economy intermediary organisations with means to accompany their members and beneficiaries in these processes. The following are represented in the project consortium:

[Kooperationen](#) (DK), introduced by Elsa Brander, is the apex organization for cooperatives and social economy in Denmark. It is a member-owned organization which represents a wide range of enterprises in different sectors of activity and of different size. Kooperationen provides legal advice and counselling to its members (e.g. on employment law, company law, construction law, cooperative start-up processes, democracy within the enterprise), etc. It also works with young entrepreneurs and young cooperative start-ups.

[FISE, the Foundation for Social and Economic Initiatives](#) (PL), presented by Julia Koczanowicz-Chondzynska, was set up in 1990 to support individuals, professionals and enterprises on the labour market. It focuses on social economy, social innovation and the support of individuals (mainly migrants) on the labour market. FISE runs incubators as well as a social economy support centre. Apart from offering financial support FISE also provides training, advisory and coaching services which are funded mainly through the European Social Fund. Moreover, the foundation also dialogues with (potential) partners of the social economy, such as public authorities, in order to encourage cooperation with social economy enterprises. FISE are partners also in the European [baSE project](#) which is elaborating a blueprint for capacity-building in the social economy and proximity economy. The baSE consortium currently works on training modules for social economy to be tested in different European countries.

[CSA COESI](#), represented by Elena Scanferla, is a Service Centre for social economy organisations (including cooperatives and not for profit organisations) and is a certified

training provider. It has 138 members (cooperatives and social enterprises) as well as over 800 clients of which 70% are social cooperatives, but which also include other type of cooperatives and other actors from the non-profit sector. CSA COESI provides services and training with regard to topics such as accountancy, human resources management, compliance, access to finance, etc. Moreover, the cooperative has the objective to help social economy enterprises improving their impact and sustainability.

[Demetra Formazione](#) is a Vocational Training Organisation linked to the cooperative movement in Emilia-Romagna. The organization provides training to cooperatives, but also to individual persons (mainly persons with a disadvantaged background, but not only) in the framework of the European Social Fund. In addition, Demetra Formazione offers a variety of work integration services supported through regional funds. Demetra is also active and involved in a number of initiatives at European level which focus on capacity-building in different areas.

[Legacoop Emilia-Romagna](#) is an organization representing a rich network of cooperatives rooted throughout the Emilia-Romagna region and active in several sectors of the regional economy. It counts 1121 member cooperatives. Among the different roles Legacoop Emilia-Romagna performs for its member cooperatives are, for example, a) the **representation**, on a regional level, of all the member cooperatives and institutions by acting as a spokesperson for their interests and joint requests, b) coordination of the policies of territorial and sectoral associations within Legacoop; c) establishment and management of relationships with local and regional public institutions, with the other professional associations and other organized bodies of the civil society, or d) the provision of consulting, assistance and vocational training services to qualify and develop cooperative entrepreneurship and human resources,...

All four organisations, in their capacity as social economy intermediary organisations wishing to accompany also small and micro social economy enterprises in green transition processes, observe similar challenges as those reported in the previous panel: limited financial resources and limited access to finance, a lack of human resources (with one person being often in charge of different tasks) and therewith of time, insufficient access to expert knowledge, a lack of appropriate tools to work on consumer awareness and demand, a need for better communication tools and skills. Moreover, in particular young enterprises cannot always make green transition a priority, as they need to focus also on economic sustainability. Also, in some cases, the integration of environmental sustainability-related aspects in the operations of the enterprises is considered merely an administrative duty linked to certain reporting processes.

In view of these facts and given that social economy support organisations often work with enterprises having different fields of activity and profiles, strategies and instruments tailored to the specific needs of the respective enterprise need to be developed.

Legacoop for instance, where also not every regional office has a sustainability department, set up a sustainability taskforce. It provides a platform for persons in charge of sustainability-related processes in different type of cooperatives. Together they define and discuss challenges and ways how to solve the latter. This knowledge is then shared within the network. In this context larger cooperatives might also act as mentors for smaller ones (e.g. those in their own value chain).

All speakers highlight the importance and added value of acting as a network to pool knowledge, expertise and other resources which might then also (at least partially) compensate for a lack of capacities at the level of the individual enterprise. Social economy intermediary organisations should therefore consider themselves not only as a training providers or advisors, but at the same time as animators of networks at local/regional level. This also includes establishing contacts between an enterprise and the right experts, or stimulating a stronger cooperation between micro and small social economy enterprises and larger (social economy) enterprises which sometimes might be more advanced and/or equipped regarding green transition. The latter might then further contribute to the creation of a stronger social economy ecosystem able to use its full potential in fostering environmental sustainability.

In some countries, however, initiatives to promote partnership and cooperation prove more difficult with regard to other private enterprises which still do not see very much the added value of the social economy and partnerships with the latter. SKI.F.T. partners therefore also stress the importance to improve communication skills and methods on the side of the social economy and its support organisations.

For the social economy intermediary organisations that are partners of the SKI.F.T. the project is not only an opportunity to exchange on green transition, but also and above all to undertake a more thorough capacity-building process within the own organization. CSA COESI for example, conducted its own sustainability assessment as part of a test of tools which would then be applied by beneficiaries.

Green Transition of Small and Micro (Social economy) Enterprises: Support instruments

The screening exercise in which SKI.F.T. partners sought to identify and analyse existing capacity-building programmes and tools for green transition of (social economy) enterprises had already been mentioned at the very beginning of the webinar. Its final results will be published in 2025. The webinar is an occasion to present three of them. Not all have been conceived specifically for (micro and small) social economy, but could be applied by the latter and/or provide inspiration.

Anna Skocz presents [sTOP, the Polish NGO Trainers Association](#), which has the objective to promote quality of adult learning and education (ALE). The association also

works on green transition-related approaches and related instruments which might support adult learning institutions. Here, it observes similar challenges for NGOs as those mentioned earlier by small and micro social economy organisations.

In this framework, sTOP is also part of the [SMALEI Erasmus+ project](#) which has the aim to improve the sustainability of adult learning and education providers and organisations all over Europe and to increase their capacity to contribute to green transition and other (related) societal developments. The project developed the [SMALEI matrix](#) which is to help ALE providers to assess different aspects linked to green transition as well as to find appropriate tools and [inspiring practices](#) facilitating improvements and change. The matrix is available in different languages. It focuses on five areas: Environmental sustainability of the institution, Green skills of trainers and staff, Engagement of learners, Awareness-raising and Involvement of people; Partnerships for Sustainability.

Different ways to use the matrix, adapted to the capacities of the user organization also in terms of time, were developed. A [workbook](#) with designed processes and ready- to-use activities to work with green transition and apply the matrix has been created, as well. sTOP, as an organization with 3 employees, tested the matrix. As a result, the organization developed the [Green Compass](#), its own ethical code of conduct. Anna Skocz invites interested participants to join the [LinkedIn Green ALE Community](#) as well as SMALEI [Digital Academy](#) and [autumn webinars](#).

[Groupe One](#), which is represented by Manon Tondeur and Laurence Vandenhoeke, was founded more than 25 years ago with the objective to promote transition with a positive impact on human beings and the environment in the French-speaking part of Belgium.

The programme [Explore](#) in particular has the aim to support small and medium enterprises which can prove at least 3 years of business activity in improving their performance with regard to environmental impact and sustainability – based also on a better understanding of the need for economic transition. The programme has a duration of two to three months. It includes individual coaching as well as collective workshops. Depending on the specific needs of the enterprise, activities may include the measurement of carbon footprint, a supply audit, energy audit, etc. A main feature of Explore is also the effort to stimulate the creation of local/regional ecosystems and networks in which SMEs, including small and micro social economy enterprises, can access and develop competences and expert knowledge with regard to green and fair transition.

Examples of social economy enterprises accompanied by Explore are the cooperative café Estaminet 1030, where Explore was an opportunity to realise activities regarding the acquisition of the good food label and more sustainable mobility practices, as well as [Coop Brussels](#), a cooperative multi-functional space serving as a community hub, which

wished to develop a comprehensive strategy to improve its environmental impact. A main challenge for Explore which is free of charge due also to the co-financing by the Brussels-Capital Region, is not to lose participants and encourage beneficiary companies to continue until the end of the programme. Helpful here is the on-the-spot coaching offered by the programme – an offer which was enlarged in view of the difficulty in particular of small and micro enterprises to find time and persons to participate in external training measures. Manon Tondeur also stresses the importance of cooperation between a diversity of (public and private) support structures able to address the specific needs of each enterprise.

Referring to experience of her own organization, Manon Tondeur points to what she perceives as weaknesses of the existing system of support for promoting the green transition of enterprises: A majority of existing programmes and policies *are not accessible for or do not take into consideration the specific needs and reality of* small and micro enterprises which have often higher opportunity costs for transition (support) than larger enterprises. Moreover, support is often addressing more mature enterprises, even though many entrepreneurial projects finding themselves rather at an early stage and being of smaller size might sometimes have a greater awareness and innovative ideas than large and ‘more mature’ enterprises to implement activities with low environmental impact. Finally, also CSRD tools are in Tondeur’s view less suited for small enterprises.

Henrik Norgaard provides participants with an insight into the activities and initiatives of [Clean Cluster](#) – the Danish Water and Environmental Cluster which has been funded in 2014. It is one of several clusters in Denmark set up on an initiative of the national government to work in different thematic areas. Clean Clusters focuses on water and environmental technologies. It connects companies, utilities, knowledge institutions and the public sector to market-driven green innovation in Denmark and internationally. The cluster works in areas such as water in the technosphere; climate adaptation; waste, resources and materials (including circular economy practices); air (including carbon capture); soil, water & nature.

Clean cluster and its members can be seen as a toolbox helping other sectors and actors to transition towards more sustainable practices. Connecting research and enterprises it aims to promote research-based and business driven innovation as a basis for business growth, employment and the ability of enterprises to work at international level. In this context, Clean Cluster also works with start-ups and small enterprises (among them social economy) – always with the specific objective “to get knowledge out of research institutions to the daily lives of start-ups and small enterprises”, open new possibilities for innovative action and create an eco-system helping enterprises to access and properly use existing expertise and opportunities.

The different type of activities of the cluster include knowledge-sharing and skills development, matchmaking and networking, the development of project partnerships

and support for internationalization. Clean Cluster is funded by the Danish Government and European Union project co-financing – services for start-ups and SMEs are free.

An example for the cooperation between Clean Cluster and specifically small social economy enterprises is [Baisikeli](#). Baisikeli is a work integration social enterprise specialized in reparation and upcycling of bicycles. Through Clean Cluster the enterprise could also engage in partnerships with actors in African countries which have to aim to foster employment and inclusion in these countries (here, it was able to use contacts Clean Cluster has in the framework of the [International Cleantech Network](#)).

Clean Cluster also developed – together with other partners in the European Endurance initiative – the [Green Acceleration Handbook](#). The handbook contains tools and methodologies linking specifically green transition and cluster management.

Capacity-building for Green transition: Overcoming barriers for micro and small social economy organisations - the potential of transnational cooperation

The SKI.F.T. project falls into an interesting period: First of all, the [Social Economy Action Plan \(SEAP\)](#), published by the European Commission in 2021, is in its implementation phase. Moreover, the Council Recommendation on Developing Social Economy Framework Conditions was adopted in the end of 2023, inviting Member States to develop or review their social economy(-related) policies within a period of two years. At the same time, a new European Parliament has been elected and a new college of European Commissioners will soon take office. With this final panel, SKI.F.T. partners had the objective to look further into the future.

Daniel Sorrosal, Director of [FEBEA](#), the **European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks**, stresses the fact that social economy lies in the DNA of his organization and its members. With an initial main focus on social aspects, the latter increasingly finance also projects/enterprises wishing to contribute to environmental sustainability. When discussing (entrepreneurial) projects with potential clients, ethical and alternative banks often suggest to integrate aspects linked to green transition, should the latter be missing.

An example for the investment of ethical and alternative banks in green transition is VEJA, a French company producing sustainable shoes. When it launched its activities in 2015 “nobody believed in the idea of applying sustainability to the whole value chain of creating shoes”. However, NEF – a French cooperative bank – supported the company from the very start. Another example is the first French vegan restaurant which has been awarded a Michelin star. Also here the project could initially be launched only thanks to the support of NEF combined with crowdfunding. No other finance actor was willing to invest.

Sorrosal invites small and micro social economy enterprises looking for financial support for their green transition projects to better consider also the financial instruments ethical and alternative finance actors might have to offer.

At European level, [FEBEA](#) is also part of the project [SOFIGREEN](#) which is co-financed under the same call for proposals as SKI.F.T. SOFIGREEN has the objective to make financing opportunities for social economy enterprises in the field of green transition more visible. It will provide an overview of the different type of funding sources that are available and provide concrete guidelines and counselling for social economy enterprises on how to approach potential investors/funders and how to best use different sources of funding (also in combination, where needed).

Asked on his expectations or suggestions to Member States and EU policy-makers regarding the support of green transition of (small and micro) social economy enterprises, Daniel Sorrosal hopes policy-makers will continue and improve financial support programmes and instruments, but also optimize fiscal frameworks where more incentives could be created. At European level he calls on decision-makers to maintain instruments such as Invest EU, which *has been* and *still is* very important for Ethical and Alternative Banks that use the guarantee schemes provided. In Sorrosal's opinion Invest EU and its Social Window could be more finetuned to SMEs and social&green transition. Other type of finance actors should be encouraged to apply social and environmental criteria in their operations. This way, private financing from a larger diversity of finance providers could be mobilized also for small and micro social economy enterprises.

Lois Pimentel-Iglesias who takes part in the panel on behalf of the **European Commission/DG Grow** is asked on how future EU programmes and other initiatives could address the obstacles for small and micro social economy enterprises and their transition projects – obstacles caused not only by the lack of financing, but also and especially by insufficient capacities in terms of human resources and a lack of time. For Pimentel-Iglesias, enhancing financial support is in any case a key aspect here. This can be done in his view also through a stronger promotion of public and private responsible procurement. In this regard Pimentel-Iglesias points also to the [EESC own initiative opinion “The potential of public procurement for social economy enterprises”](#) and its recommendations.

According to Lois Pimentel-Iglesias, while waiting for a new college of European Commissioners to take office, several policies and initiatives launched in the past years are on track. The European Social Economy Action Plan is set to be implemented until 2030, with a mid-term review of what has been implemented so far being scheduled for 2025. In the framework of the Single Market Programme, [new calls for proposals](#) have been launched.

Also work on the [Transition Pathway on Proximity and Social Economy](#) will be continued and mobilise policy-makers, social economy, civil society and other stakeholders to

contribute to a fair digital and green transition. From among the 14 action areas defined in the transition pathway, 7 focus on green transition. Stakeholders have been invited to submit pledges documenting their efforts and engagement. Approximately 65% of the pledges the European Commission received up until today focus on green transition. Most of them come from Italy, Spain, Belgium and France, and many address the topic of skills gaps. Lois Pimentel-Iglesias invites participants who have not done it so far to also consider submitting a [pledge](#).

Asked about two actions he would recommend Member States to include in their (social economy) policies in order to facilitate green transition-related initiatives of small and micro social economy enterprises, Pimentel-Iglesias mentions a) the provision of financial support (including rewards to companies which already act and innovate) and creation of fiscal incentives, as well as b) the establishment and/or strengthening of advisory structures providing services free of charge.

Conclusions

In his conclusions, Giuseppe Guerini, President of [CECOP](#) and member of the [European Economic and Social Committee](#), refers to the complex challenges and tasks Europe and also the social economy will have to deal with in the upcoming years.

He reflects on the risks of a European business and economic agenda which would focus mainly on unidimensional growth and so-called “European champions” in order to improve European leadership and competitiveness, as suggested in documents such as the Draghi report. Considering the European entrepreneurial landscape which is composed to 98% of small and medium enterprises, Guerini warns about a risk of destroying the existing SME ecosystem.

He does not oppose the idea of having European champions as such – however, this should not be the **main** and unidirectional focus of a European (macro-) economic policy, which should at the same time take into account further development of the ecosystem for SMEs which is different than that of larger economic players. Also reviews of internal market rules, including state aid, should take this into account.

Giuseppe Guerini confirms from his own experience on the ground that the so-called “twin transition” is very important for many social economy enterprises.

Therefore, Europe and its economic actors (including the social economy) should, in Guerini’s view, invest above all in qualification and skills development, but also stimulate stronger cooperation among enterprises, including small and micro enterprises. Ecosystems should be created which make these enterprises thrive and deploy their rich potential for creating quality jobs and innovation with social and environmental value. In this context, Giuseppe Guerini refers to what he considers the most important proposal

in the [Transition Pathway on Proximity and Social Economy](#), which relates to cooperation between social economy enterprises and organisations: “We can overcome the disadvantage of size by working together!”

With regard to the promotion of (environmental) sustainability of enterprises, Guerini deplores that many criteria regulating sustainability in the economy were created by large consulting firms. This led to the development of regulatory systems which orient themselves rather on the reality of large enterprises.

Giuseppe Guerini calls on the social economy to develop its own system, indicators, requirements and methods to measure its performance. Here, he also refers to the latest European Commission study on “[Benchmarking the socio-economic performance of the EU social economy](#)” as well as to OECD proposals to measure the value created by social economy.

Finally, Giuseppe Guerini highlights the importance of combining principles around sustainable development and the promotion of entrepreneurship also with values such as democracy and inclusion. He suggests complementing the triple bottom line “People, Planet, Prosperity” which is supposed to measure the success of entrepreneurship also in terms of sustainability by “Productivity, Participation and Progress for all” towards a more inclusive single market.

Regarding actions to take Giuseppe Guerini has three main suggestions:

- the need for Europe to build on its rich SME landscape and its diversity in general and improve access of the social economy to the single market (including a revision of procurement rules);
- improving access of the social economy to innovation networks also through a stronger cooperation between social economy and other type of enterprises;
- investing in sustainability, which should mean not only to further develop social impact investment, but also to make the existing finance system in general more accessible for social economy enterprises of different size.

Attachments:

Presentations

Webinar:

**The journey towards green transition – New
perspectives for small and micro social economy
enterprises**

REVES aisbl 29-10-24



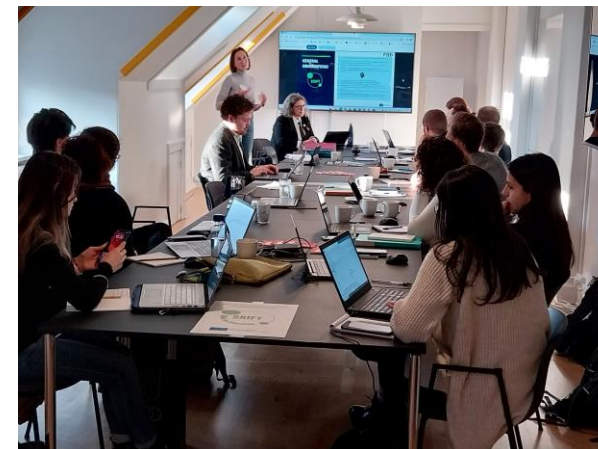
Co-funded by
the European Union

SKI.F.T. aims...

... to accompany micro and small social economy enterprises in their efforts to make their business model and related practices more environmentally sustainable

More specifically, SKI.F.T. would like to help enabling micro and small social economy enterprises to:

- a) develop sustainable business models, based also on new technologies as enablers;
- b) rethink their role also in their relationships with other private and public actors and in the creation of local green markets and local value chains, and
- c) communicate their efforts more effectively.

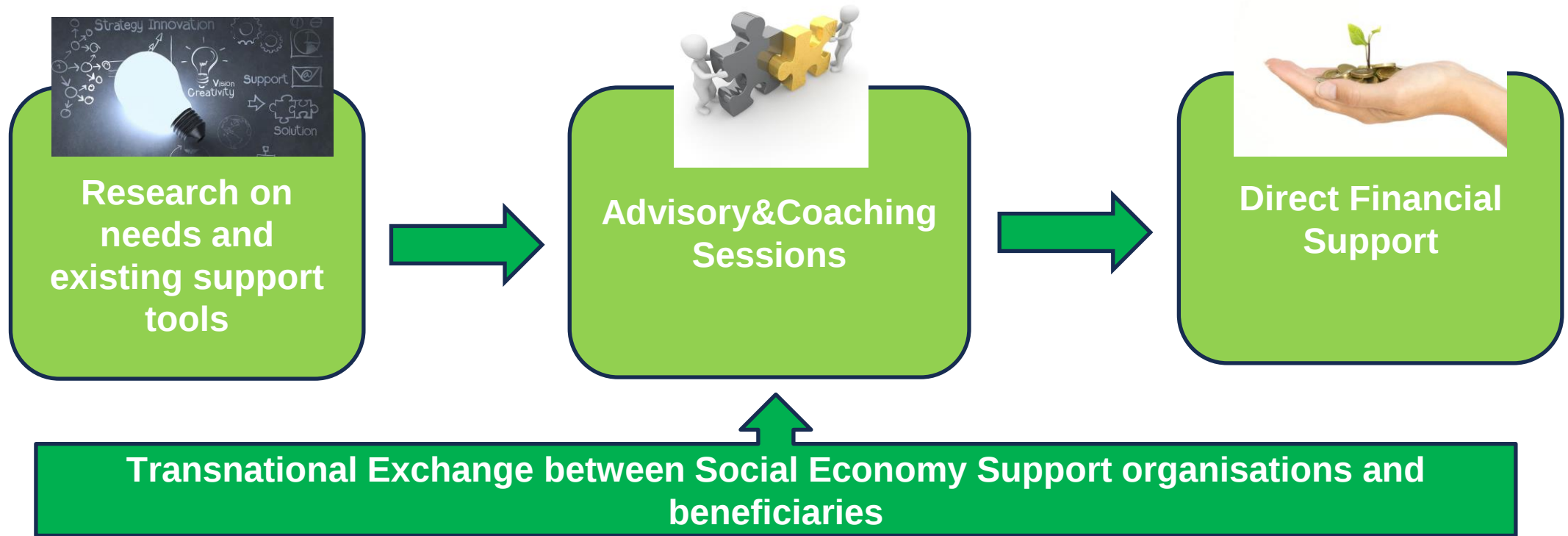


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SKI.F.T. Partnership



SKI.F.T. Project Stages & Activities

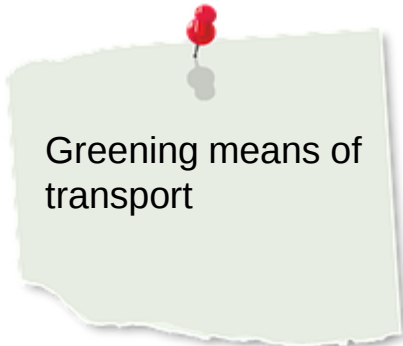


SKI.F.T. Survey – Set-up



Respondents: 75 micro and social economy enterprises covering different fields of activity from Denmark, Italy and Poland

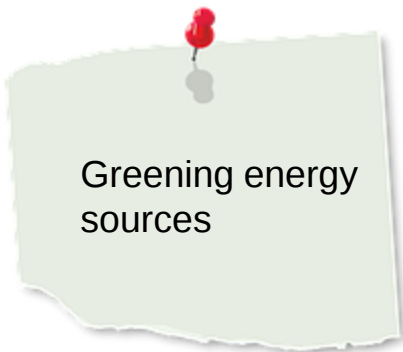
Main topics covered:

A light green sticky note with a red pushpin at the top center. The text 'Greening means of transport' is written in black.

Greening means of transport

A yellow sticky note with a blue pushpin at the top center. The text 'Practices of impact assessment' is written in black.

Practices of impact assessment

A light green sticky note with a red pushpin at the top center. The text 'Greening energy sources' is written in black.

Greening energy sources

A pink sticky note with a blue pushpin at the top center. The text 'Greening purchase of materials and services' is written in black.

Greening purchase of materials and services

A yellow sticky note with a blue pushpin at the top center. The text 'Access to (sustainable) finance' is written in black.

Access to (sustainable) finance

A pink sticky note with a blue pushpin at the top center. The text 'Sustainable waste management/ Circular practices' is written in black.

Sustainable waste management/
Circular practices

A yellow sticky note with a blue pushpin at the top center. The text 'Cooperation with other local actors/contribution to the creation of local 'green social' supply chains' is written in black.

Cooperation with other local actors/contribution to the creation of local 'green social' supply chains

A light green sticky note with a red pushpin at the top center. The text 'Communicating 'social green' impact' is written in black.

Communicating 'social green' impact



Co-funded by
the European Union

SKI.F.T. Survey – Main Results



1. Many of the enterprises that took part in the survey do already apply at least a minimum of sustainable practices
(use of renewable energy sources, upgrading to more modern and energy-efficient equipment, energy saving policies, sustainable waste management/recycling, use of biodegradable packaging, use of sustainable means of transport, ...).
2. Nearly all respondents would like to do more, but encounter obstacles, including mainly:
 - A lack of knowledge/expertise
 - A lack of human resources/time to devote for capacity-building
 - A lack of financing
 - A lack of knowledge regarding possibilities to find expertise on specific topics
3. Topics of specific interest:
 - Cooperation with other private players (including social economy), including possibilities to better identify sustainable supply
 - Cooperation with public players
 - Creation of local green value chains



SKI.F.T. Screening of existing tools/programmes(1)



- Target groups of spotted programmes/tools: any kind of enterprise (majority), small enterprises (a few), public authorities, social economy (some)



- Type of support: training courses/webinars, guidelines, (online) self-assessment tools, good practices, ...



- Different type of providers/organisers: consultancies/other type of private enterprises, business development agencies, universities; (European) networks/associations – **among all of them, social economy-related actors are rather a minority...**



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SKI.F.T. Screening of existing tools/programmes (2)



Examples:

Economy for the Common Good: Common Good Matrix 5.0/Balance Sheet 5.0

<https://www.ecogood.org/apply-ecg/common-good-matrix/>

ANEL (ES): Diagnosis tool - SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy and SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production

ValorESS, UDES (FR): <https://www.valoress-udes.fr/mesurez-votre-empreinte-carbone>

HEC Montréal (CA) - Collection « Circular Economy »

<https://portailcoop.hec.ca/in/fr/collections/collection-economie-circulaire>

Social-Circular Hub Gent: <https://stad.gent/nl/werken-ondernemen/werken/werken-regio-gent/sociale-economie-gent/sociaal-circulaire-hub-gent>

CARTECO – ESS France: <https://carteco-ess.org/map>



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the European Union

SKI.F.T. Screening of existing tools/programmes (3)

- A majority of the training programmes and tools screened focus very much on the « traditional », individual enterprise.
- How to capture the specific characteristics of (small) social economy enterprises – in particular the relational/participatory aspects?
- How to better integrate a collective approach – designing and implementing green transition processes (including the construction of local social green value chains) within the enterprise and with its partners/stakeholders?



SKI.F.T. methodology/Possible point of departure(1)

	Co-entrepreneurs/Cooperators/ Members (with decision-making competences)		Employees (without decision-making competences)		Suppliers		Public Customers	
	Areas of Improvement	Governance/ Communication	Areas of Improvement	Governance/ Communication	Areas of Improvement	Governance/ Communication	Areas of Improvement	Governance/ Communication
Quality of the Product/Service								
Purchase Practices								
Transport								
Energy								
Use of resources, including circular practices and waste management								
Possible other fields to be added ...								

SKI.F.T. methodology – Possible point of departure (2)



	(Potential) Private Partners		(Potential) Public Partners		Local Community	
	Areas of Improvement	Governance/ Communication	Areas of Improvement	Governance/ Communication	Areas of Improvement	Areas of Improvement
Quality of the Product/Service						
Purchase Practices						
Transport						
Energy						
Use of resources, including circular practices and waste management						
Possible other fields to be added ...						

SKI.F.T. methodology – Preparing advice and coaching (1)

What to expect participating in

SKI.F.T. advisory services and coaching



UNDERSTANDING

A first interview to understand your needs for green transition.

Elaboration of a dedicated path to meet your needs



GOAL SETTING



ADVISORY

Thematic webinars, workshops or on the job accompaniment

Individual or group coaching to exchange with others and network



COACHING



STRATEGY

Final assessment pattern for the green transition of your organisation

SKI.F.T. methodology – Preparing advice and coaching (2)



Main principles of SKI.F.T advice and coaching:

1. **User-centered:** when designing the service, users - social enterprises - must always be taken into consideration. The different steps have to be kept modular and flexible so as to respond/adapt best to the specific needs of the user
2. **Co-creative:** taking all stakeholders into consideration in the analysis and development process – ideally, all stakeholders should have an active role in the transition project
3. **Sequencing (iterative process):** services must be displayed for key moments in the user journey, where each moment can be explored in depth before, during and after using the service.
4. **Holistic:** the design must take the whole into consideration, i.e. all the touchpoints of an experience, encouraging the development of networks and interactions between SEEs.



Thank you very much for your attention!

Let's keep in touch!

<https://skift.kooperationen.dk/forside/>

Capacity-building and training needs in the context of "greening" activities aim to provide individuals, organizations, and communities with the knowledge, skills, and resources essential for implementing environmentally sustainable practices.

"Greening" an enterprise or organization involves enhancing its activities to be more environmentally sustainable, which may encompass various aspects such as production processes, the final product or service, purchasing practices, and related supply chains.

COOPERATIVA SOCIALE PADRE DANIELE BADIALI ONLUS

Webinar progetto SKI.F.T.
29 ottobre 2024
Maria Rosa Manca



Padre Daniele Badiali
Cooperativa Sociale ONLUS

Our mission

**"THE PERSON
AT THE CENTER
OF OUR ACTIONS"**



Padre Daniele Badiali
Cooperativa Sociale ONLUS

THE BEGINNING...

The cooperative was founded in **1999** in Calolziocorte and after few years moved to Cisano Bergamasco.

It's a type B cooperative for job placement.

In those years the first sectors were born are:

- the **assembly sector**
- the **collection of used clothing** in collaboration with Caritas



Padre Daniele Badiali
Cooperativa Sociale ONLUS

ASSEMBLY SECTOR



In this sector, we deal with manual assembly services.

Our team handles different types of product assemblies, supporting local industries.

This sector is very important to provide job opportunities.

We currently employ **16** people in disadvantaged conditions.



Padre Daniele Badiali
Cooperativa Sociale ONLUS

TEXTILE WASTE COLLECTION

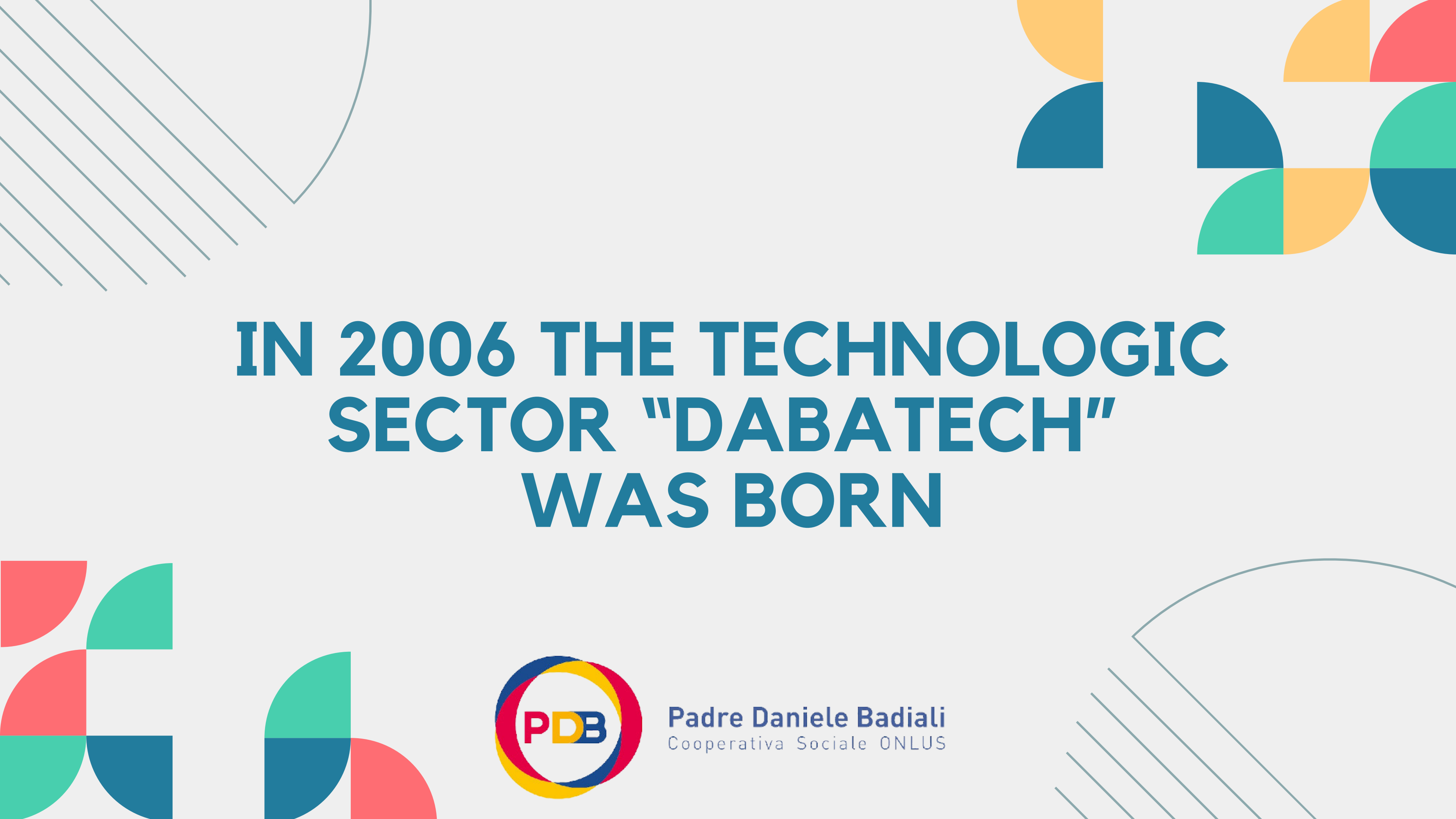
Our waste management sector collects, sorts and forwards textile waste following environmental guidelines.

We work with several municipalities to ensure waste is managed efficiently and sustainably, contributing to a cleaner and more responsible textile waste cycle in our community.

We have about **350 bins** and collaborate with about **105 municipalities** in the provinces of Lecco and Bergamo.



Padre Daniele Badiali
Cooperativa Sociale ONLUS



**IN 2006 THE TECHNOLOGIC
SECTOR "DABATECH"
WAS BORN**



Padre Daniele Badiali
Cooperativa Sociale ONLUS

TECNOLOGY SECTOR

In this sector, we offer installation and maintenance services for photovoltaic, hydraulic and electrical systems.

Our goal is to support the transition to renewable energy sources, providing quality and sustainable energy solutions.

Our team is trained to perform installations with care and expertise, ensuring safety and efficiency. We also promote **energy communities**.

537 photovoltaic systems
420 electrical systems
350 thermal systems





OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is a fundamental part of our identity. We integrate sustainable practices into every sector of our activities.



Padre Daniele Badiali
Cooperativa Sociale ONLUS



We choose the use of recyclable and sustainable materials whenever possible, and actively work to minimize waste during the assembly process.

ASSEMBLY
SECTOR

TEXTILE WASTE
COLLECTION

TECNOLOGY
SECTOR

We promote reuse, recycling and proper disposal, encouraging our partners and customers to adopt responsible environmental practices.

Our work with solar installations directly supports clean energy production. We also offer consulting services to help clients optimize their energy use and reduce their carbon footprint.



Padre Daniele Badiali
Cooperativa Sociale ONLUS



THANK YOU



Padre Daniele Badiali
Cooperativa Sociale ONLUS

VIRTUAL LIFE



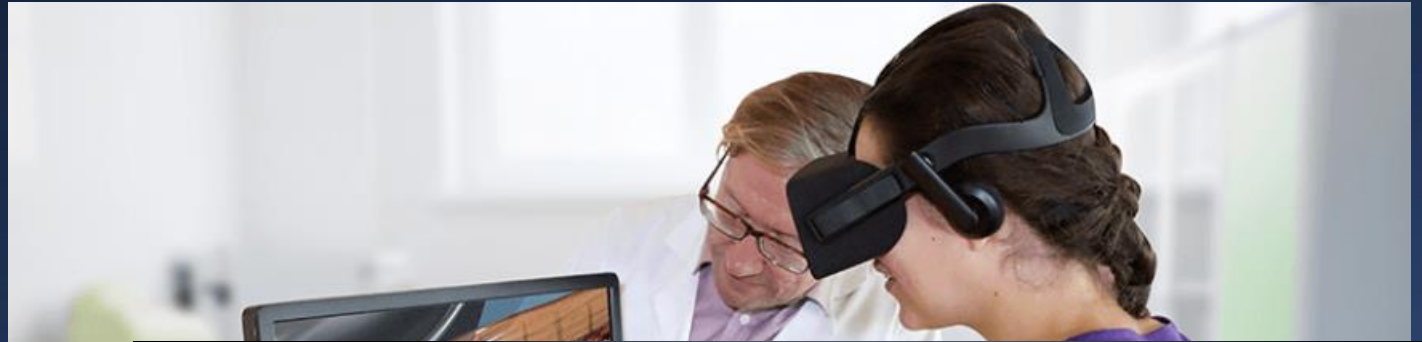
VIRTUAL REALITY (VR)



**ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE (AI)**

VIRTUAL REALITY (VR)

- Virtual Reality is predominantly a computer-generated environment that the user can freely explore and interact with.
- It is largely created through gaming software and is experienced through a Head Mounted Display, one or two screens viewed through lenses at close proximity.
- What it lacks in photo-realism it makes up for in freedom of action.

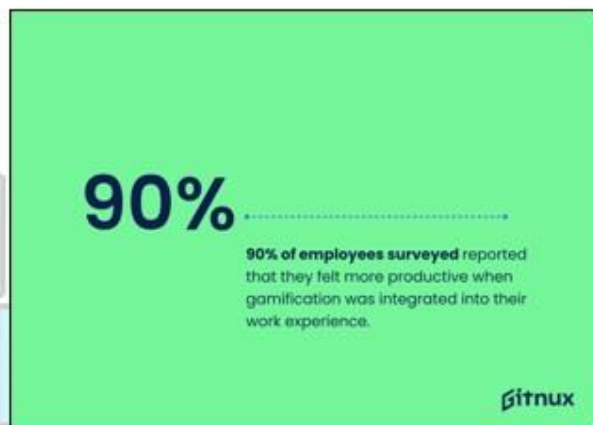


PREMESSA

La gamification è uno strumento che sta prendendo sempre più piede nelle aziende; lo scopo di questo sistema di formazione alternativo è di migliorare, attraverso il coinvolgimento nel videogioco diversi elementi di un team lavorativo, che utilizzando uno strumento di svago si presteranno più volentieri al miglioramento delle proprie abilità personali e del lavoro di squadra.

Gitnux.org, noto sito di analisi e di ricerche di marketing, rileva da un sondaggio che il **90%** degli impiegati intervistati ritengono di avere incrementato la propria produttività attraverso l'esperienza della gamification.

Questo non dovrebbe sorprendere; è chiaro che la possibilità di avere delle finestre di svago nel proprio ambito lavorativo è già di per sé per un dipendente qualcosa di molto gratificante



Ancora, sempre Gitnux.org rileva che la motivazione derivante dalla Gamification è molto maggiore di quella che si ottiene attraverso formazioni tradizionali: l'**83%** contro il **61%**.



Ma i benefici di questo tipo di formazione non si limitano all'ambito della produttività e della soddisfazione personale;

Mambo.io, una delle più grandi aziende in ambito della Gamification, riporta alcuni studi statistici effettuati da Gitnux.org, Finances Online e altri in cui è rilevato che la produttività delle aziende che utilizzano la Gamification è incrementata del **50%**

How has gamification improved corporate training?

By improving employee engagement and retention

- 78% of employees say gamification makes their work more enjoyable and engaging. (Gitnux)
- It can increase engagement by up to 48%. (Gitnux)

By boosting employee engagement

- 61% of employees in the U.S. are

Through effective training modules

- Educational frameworks that incorporate game-based learning are projected to grow at 15.4% from 2019 to 2024. (FinancesOnline)
- Using game-like challenges can boost student performance by 34.75%. (FinancesOnline)

By boosting productivity and learning engagement

- Companies leveraging gamification



Un'attenzione particolare va poi data all'utilizzo del VR e della realtà aumentata nel processo di Gamification negli ambiti del lavoro, strumenti che verranno utilizzati nel corso del progetto proposto. Zippia, grande azienda statunitense che opera nell'ambito del lavoro e del collocamento, riporta che la spesa in tutto il mondo per l'implementazione del VR e della AR negli ambiti della formazione e del lavoro è incrementata **dai 12 miliardi nel 2020 a 72,8 miliardi di dollari nel 2024**, un incremento sostanziale che indica un trend ben preciso negli ambiti lavorativi di successo.

Augmented Reality (AR) And Virtual Reality (VR) In Gamification



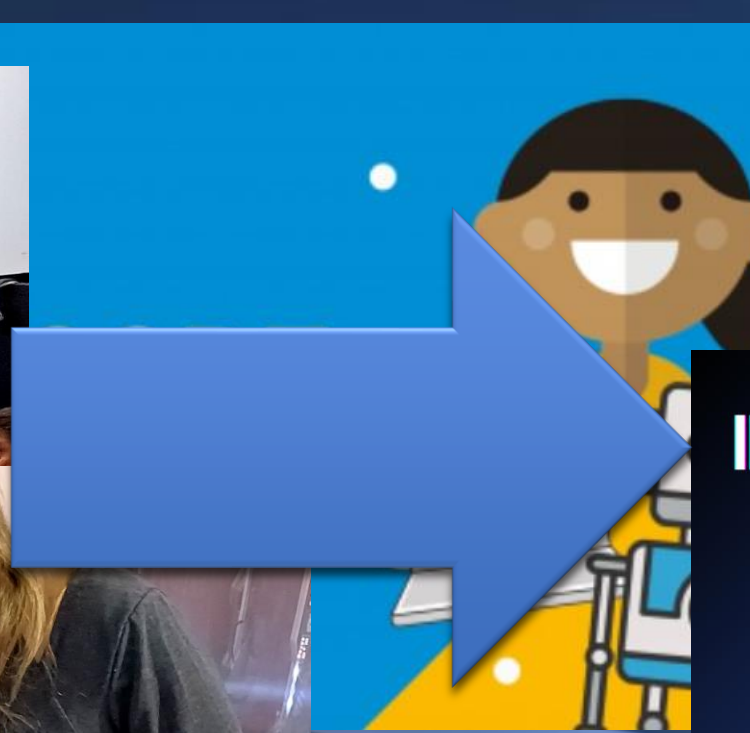
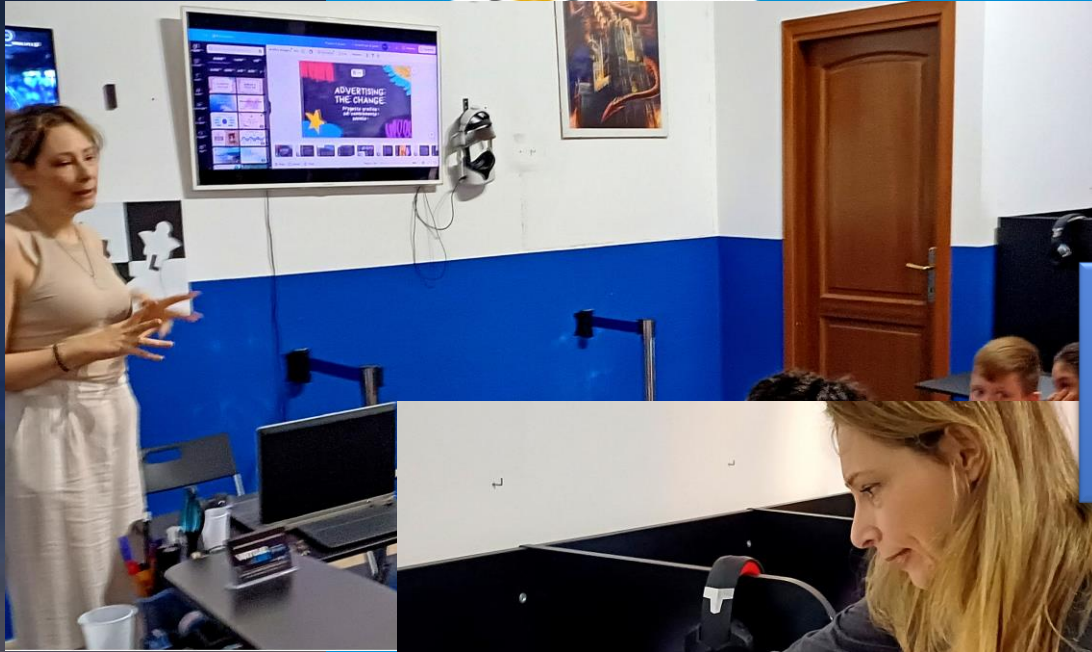
- Worldwide spending on AR and VR technology is projected to reach \$72.8 billion in 2024, up from approximately \$12 billion in 2020. This growth represents a five-year CAGR of 54%. (Zippia)
- A 2022 survey by PwC highlighted that VR trainees absorb knowledge four times faster than classroom learners. Moreover, they feel 275% more confident in applying the skills they've learned. (PwC)

Mambo.io

Ancora, un sondaggio effettuato nel 2022 riporta che l'utilizzo del VR incrementa l'apprendimento in maniera notevole, **ben quattro volte di più che utilizzando i mezzi tradizionali, oltre a dare una maggiore sicurezza nelle skill apprese.**

Tenendo conto degli elementi qui presenti, appare chiara quindi l'importanza di utilizzare dei progetti di Gamification per incrementare l'efficienza della propria azienda e dell'ambito lavorativo, soprattutto attraverso l'uso specifico della Realtà Virtuale e della Realtà Aumentata.

50 Members



UNITI PER
L'ECOLOGIA

IL MONDO E' NELLE
NOSTRE MANI



EMILIA-ROMAGNA

LEGACOOOP

SKI.F.T. Webinar

The journey towards green transition.

New perspectives for small and micro social economy enterprises

Legacoop Emilia-Romagna

Legacoop Emilia-Romagna is an organization representing a rich network of cooperatives rooted throughout the Emilia-Romagna region and active in several sectors of the regional economy.



■ **Cooperatives:** 1121

- **People employed:** 138 thousand
- **Value of production:** 30.7 billion Euro
- **Sectors:** services, industrial production, agrifood, building, housing, welfare, consumers, large-scale retail trade, culture, tourism, communication.





The Association operates throughout the regional territory and in all economic sectors, through a structured network of local associations and sectoral offices working in coordination with the regional level.

The development of cooperation and mutuality, of economic and solidarity relations among enterprises, the promotion of cooperative principles and values are the core of its identity.

Legacoop Emilia-Romagna performs the following roles for its member cooperatives:

- It **represents** on a regional level all the member cooperatives and institutions by acting as a spokesperson for their interests and joint requests identified on a case-by-case basis;
- It **coordinates** on a regional level the policies of territorial and sectoral associations within Legacoop;
- It **establishes and manages** relationships with local and regional public institutions, with the other professional associations and other organized bodies of the civil society by developing and fostering strategies and policies aimed at promoting the interests of the territory and the cooperative world;
- It **offers** consulting, assistance and vocational training services to qualify and develop cooperative entrepreneurship and human resources;
- It **encourages, promotes and organizes** cultural, promotional, educational and economic initiatives, in line with the principles and values of cooperation.
- It **promotes** multiple partnerships, seminars and roundtables aimed at fostering cooperative values with a sustainable approach to entrepreneurship.

Thank you.



Explore - SKI.F.T.

Webinar 29/10/2024



Tackling the small businesses' challenges in transitionning
towards sustainable business models:
illustrated by Groupe One's "Explore" program



TEAM MEMBERS PRESENT TODAY



Manon Tondeur

Coordinator of the
Explore program



**Laurence
Vandenhoeke**

Sustainable
Entrepreneurship Coach

Our mission

For 25 years, Groupe One has been working in French-speaking Belgium and abroad **to bring about a fundamental change in the economy and territories** towards a model that has a positive impact on the environment and human beings.

Our mission can be broken down into 3 areas:

Inspire

and spark action
towards sustainable
change

Support

change makers

We support SME's
(Small & Medium
Businesses) from their
first steps all the way
through their business'
life.

Change

through local actions,
social and
environmental
innovation

EXPLORE PROGRAM

Supporting & inspiring entrepreneurs
to embark on a sustainable transition.



Target audience

Existing SME's (at least 3 years of
business activity)



Helping businesses transition



Supporting and inspiring entrepreneurs to embrace the economic transition.

Two personnas

EXPLORE



**Sylvia has a small
retail shop.**

She's aware of the current ecological crisis and has started to make changes to her business.



**Tom is a
hairstylist's.**

He isn't familiar with the economic transition. That being said, he has heard his fellow entrepreneurs talking about it and is curious about knowing more.



HOW DOES THE EXPLORE PROGRAM SUPPORT SYLVIA, TOM AND THOSE ALIKE?



2-3 month program



Collective workshops



Individual coaching



Carbon footprint



Supply audit



Energy audit



**Ecosystem (competences
and network)**

Inspiring examples

EXPLORE



Sectors :

Retail

Food

Services

Estaminet

- Cooperative statuts
- Social impact (Community)
- Differentiated prices
- Environnemental impact (label GF + slow mobility - mobility bonus)

Coop

- Multifunctional space : co-working, businesses events, and a community hub for workshops and events to strengthen local bonds.
- Social impact is reinforced through strong community connections.
- Environmental initiatives : shared vegetable patch but lack a cohesive strategy.



- 
- ⊕ • Importance of the plurality of support structures
 - ⊕ • Business Model changes
 - Mature, unaware companies vs. less mature but aware companies
 - Small companies with higher opportunity costs for transition support vs large companies
 - CSRD tools less suited for small businesses vs. large ones
 - Market systemically unprepared (logistics, maturity)

**THANK
YOU !**

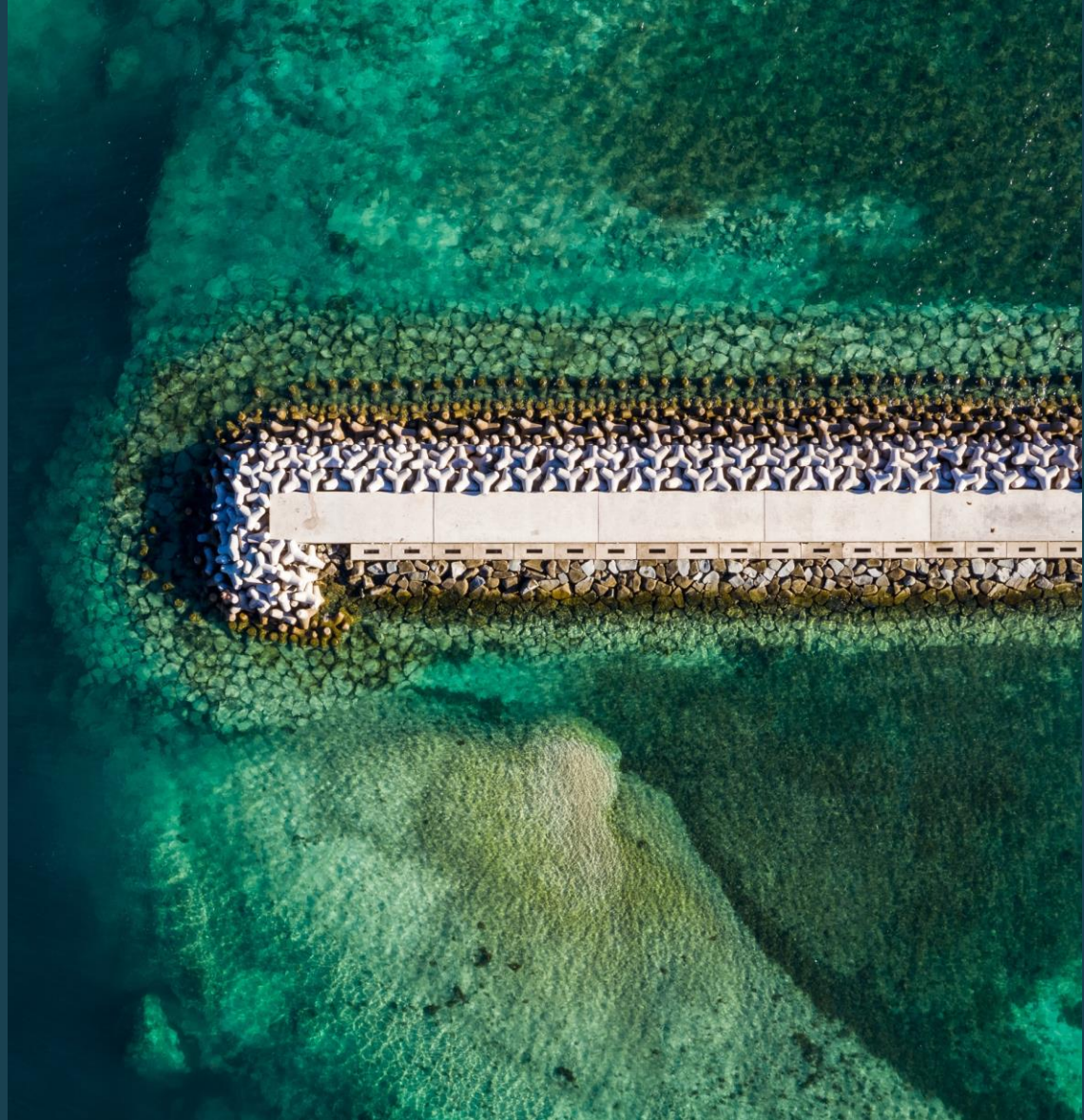


Green Transition of Small and Micro Enterprises

Clean – the Danish Water and Environmental Cluster

Henrik Nørgaard

29/10/2024



Co-funded by the Danish Agency for
Higher Education and Science

 Danish Board of
Business Development

 Co-funded by
the European Union

 Clean



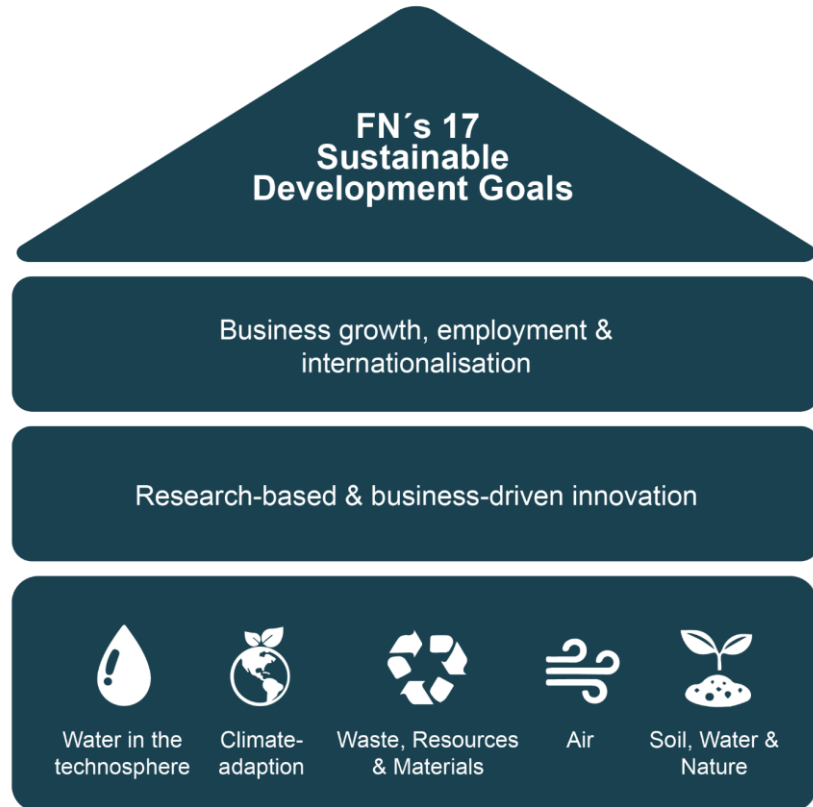
- Overview

Agenda

- About Clean and how we work with green transition
- How we work with startups
- Contact

- Denmark's Water & Environmental Cluster

Clean



Our Vision & mission

Vision

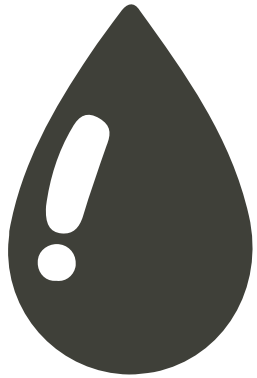
Danish companies must be world leaders in the water and environmental field

Mission

Clean is The Danish Water and Environment Cluster that connects companies, utilities, knowledge institutions and the public sector to market-driven green innovation in Denmark and internationally

- Our focus areas guides our work

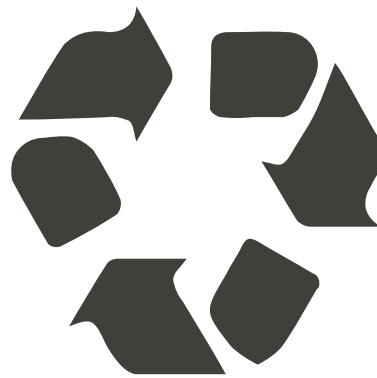
Focus areas



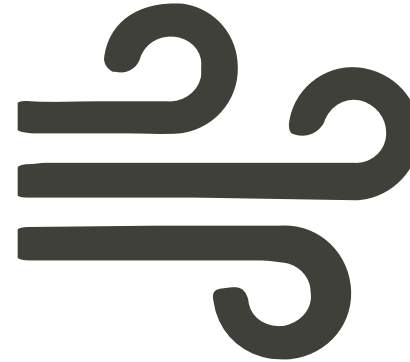
Water in the
Technosphere



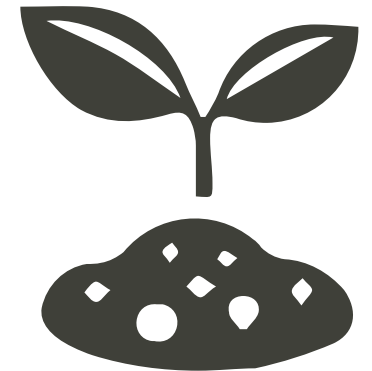
Climate adaption



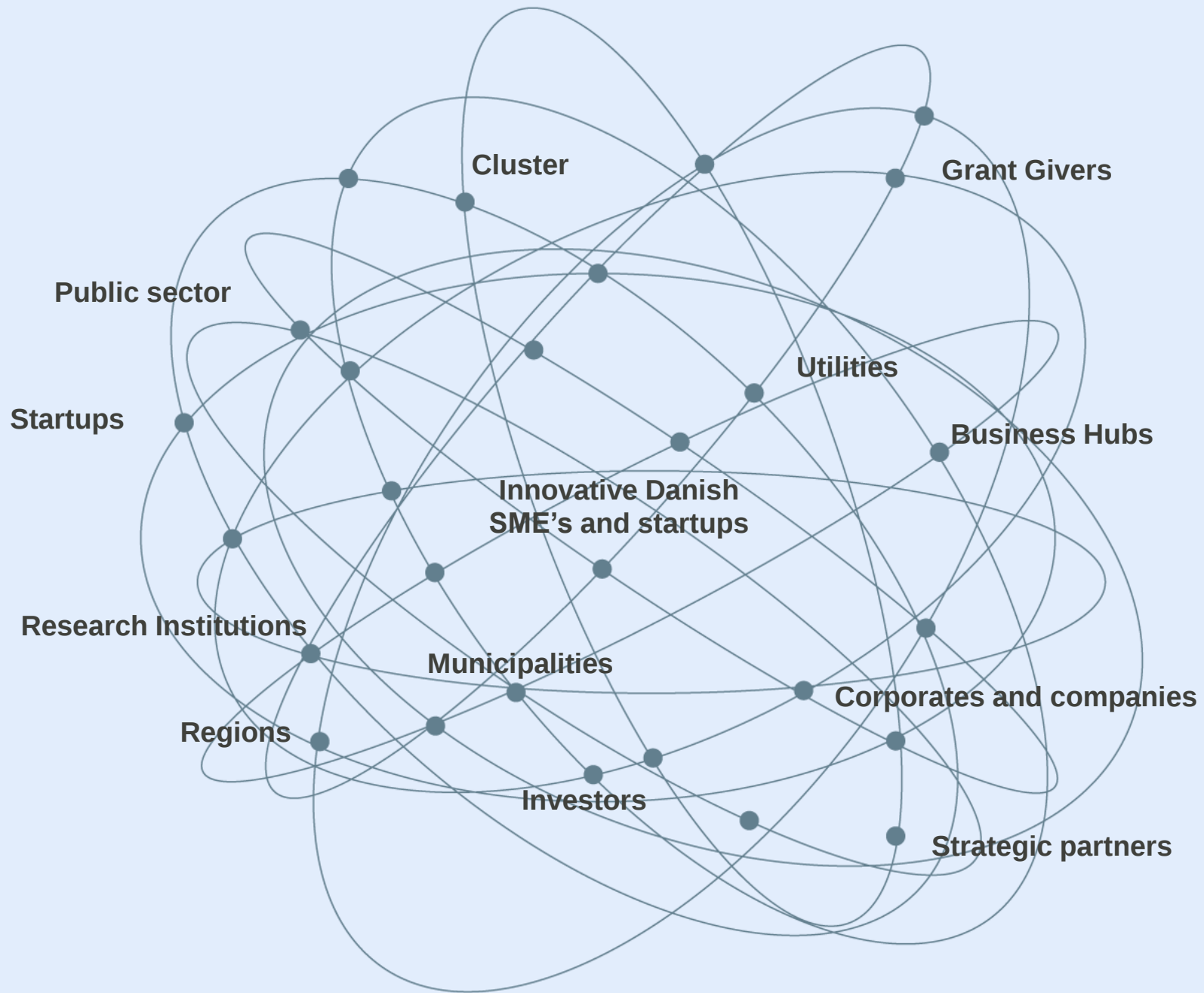
Waste, Resources
& Materials



Air



Soil, Water &
Nature



- What we do

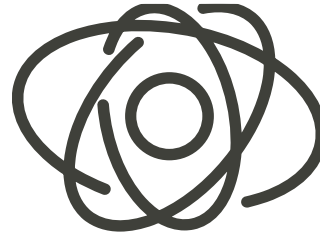
Cluster activities



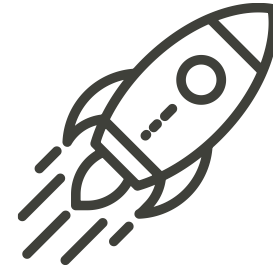
Knowledge sharing &
Skills development



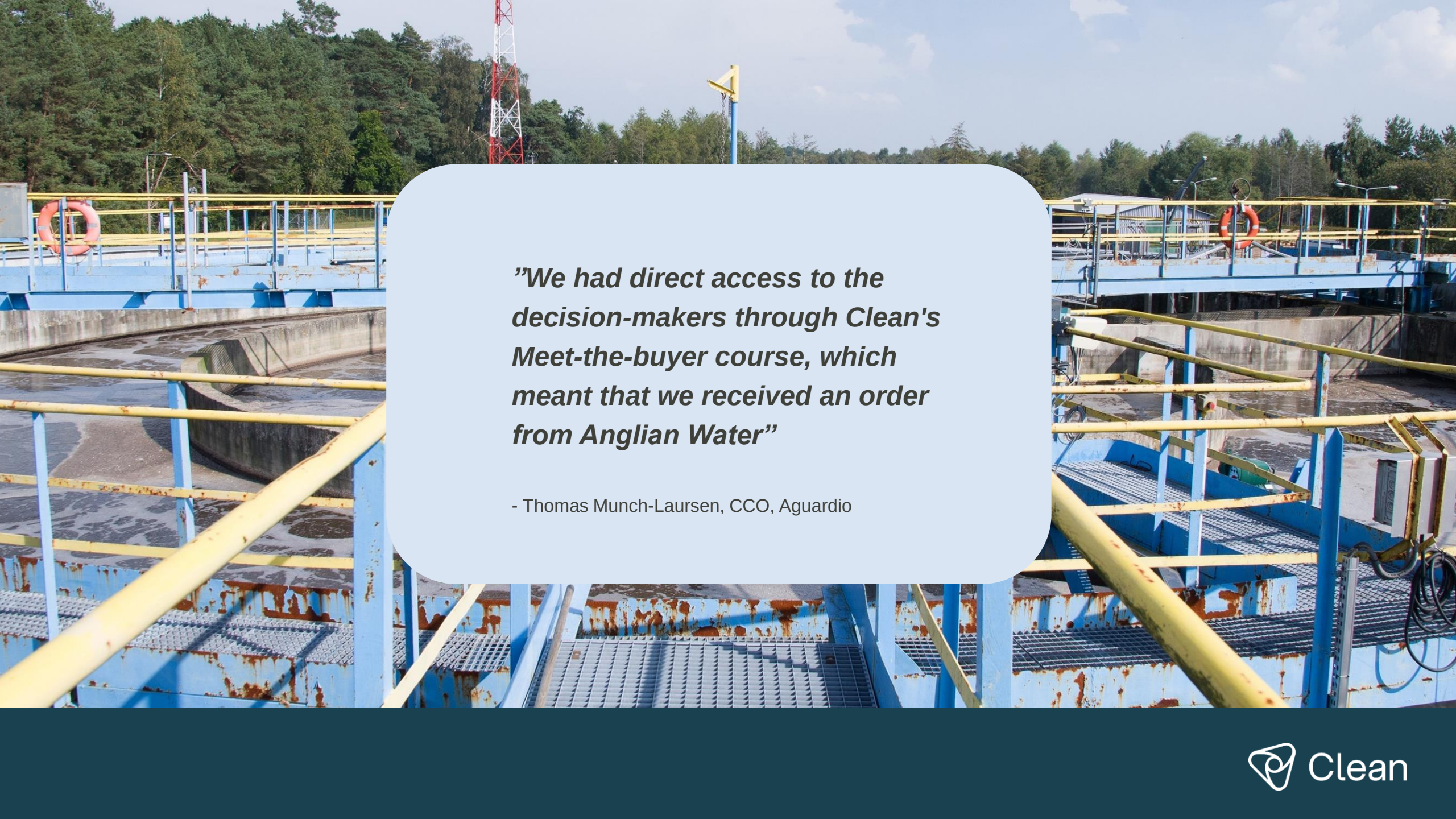
Matchmaking & networking



Partner projects



Internationalization



"We had direct access to the decision-makers through Clean's Meet-the-buyer course, which meant that we received an order from Anglian Water"

- Thomas Munch-Laursen, CCO, Aguadio



- Building International bridges

The International connection – and why it's important



THE INTERNATIONAL CLEANTECH NETWORK

The International Cleantech Network (ICN) is an exclusive network of cleantech clusters in the world's leading cleantech regions, aiming to generate new business opportunities, enhance competitive advantages and create value for companies, knowledge institutions, and local authorities across cluster regions.

Our members in numbers

+300

Members

41%

Waste, Resources, and Materials

28%

Water in the Technosphere

14%

Soil, Water and Nature

13%

Climate adaption

16%

Air



endurance
green accelerator for EU clusters



Co-funded by
the European Union



Green Acceleration Methodology for EU Clusters

Developing a green acceleration methodology for EU clusters to integrate green growth, eco-innovation and European Green Deal strategies and scenarios in SMEs and startups.



Green Acceleration Handbook

A global syllabus on sustainability, entrepreneurship, and innovation



Beyond Beta

building future scaleups

Beyond Beta for high potential startups:

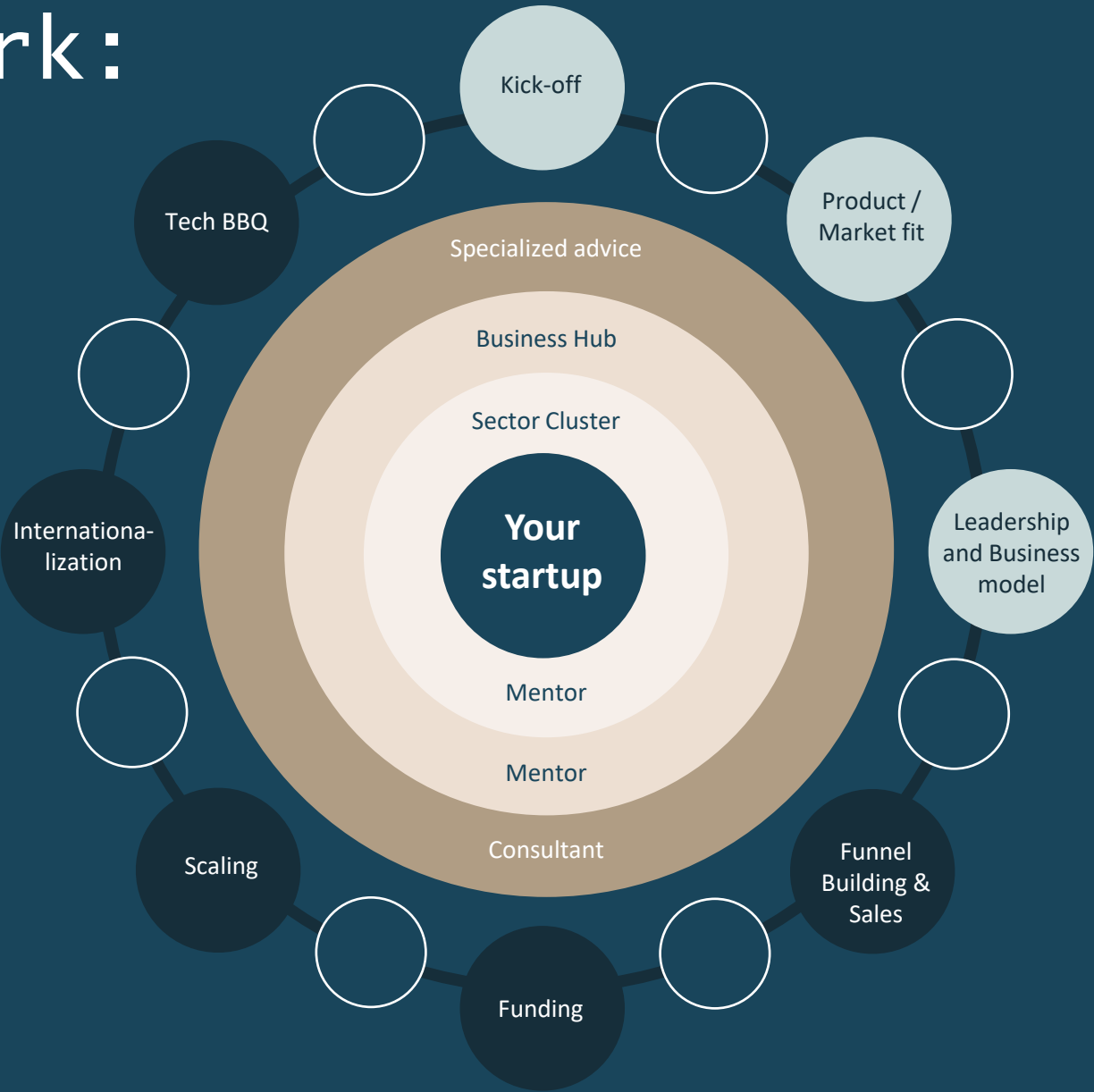


We help startups' journey towards rapid scaling and securing the first investment based on the experiences of +1000 startups in various sectors and fields.

We don't believe in a one-size-fits-all approach – Beyond Beta is highly customized to your individual needs. We will pair you with the right resources at the right time and help you gain access to an extended network within your industry.

How we work:

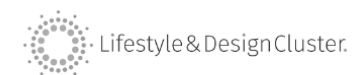
Beyond Beta



-  Kick-off and camps – mandatory
-  Camps and Tech BBQ – choose the activities that suit you best
-  1:1 mentoring, specialized advice, peer-to-peer sparring

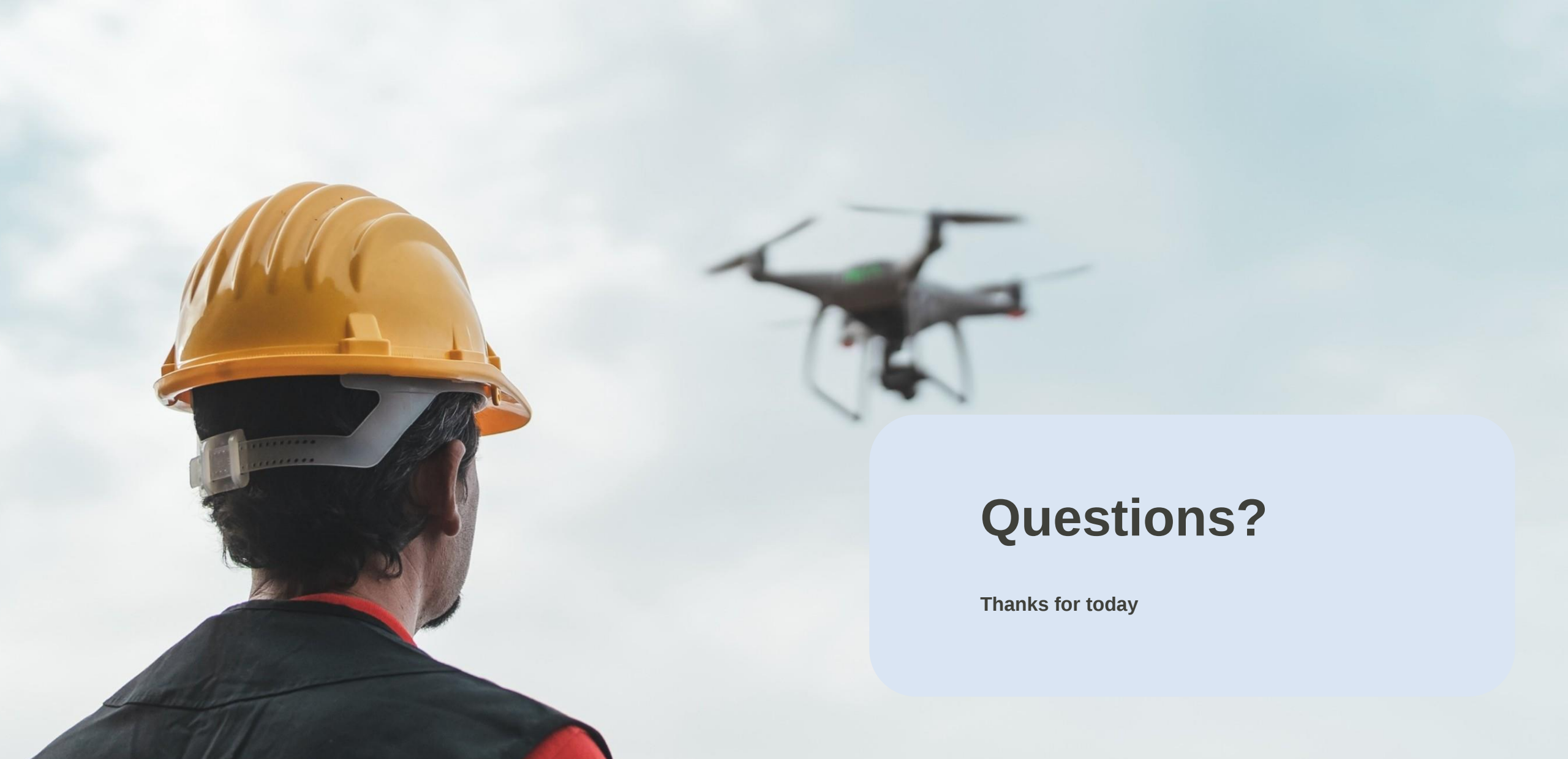
Beyond Beta is powered by:

Beyond Beta



Proudly funded by:





Questions?

Thanks for today