ISSUE 04
APRIL 2025

SOCIAL ECONOMY INSIDER

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION: EMPOWERING CITIZENS FOR A DIGITAL AND SOCIAL ECONOMY

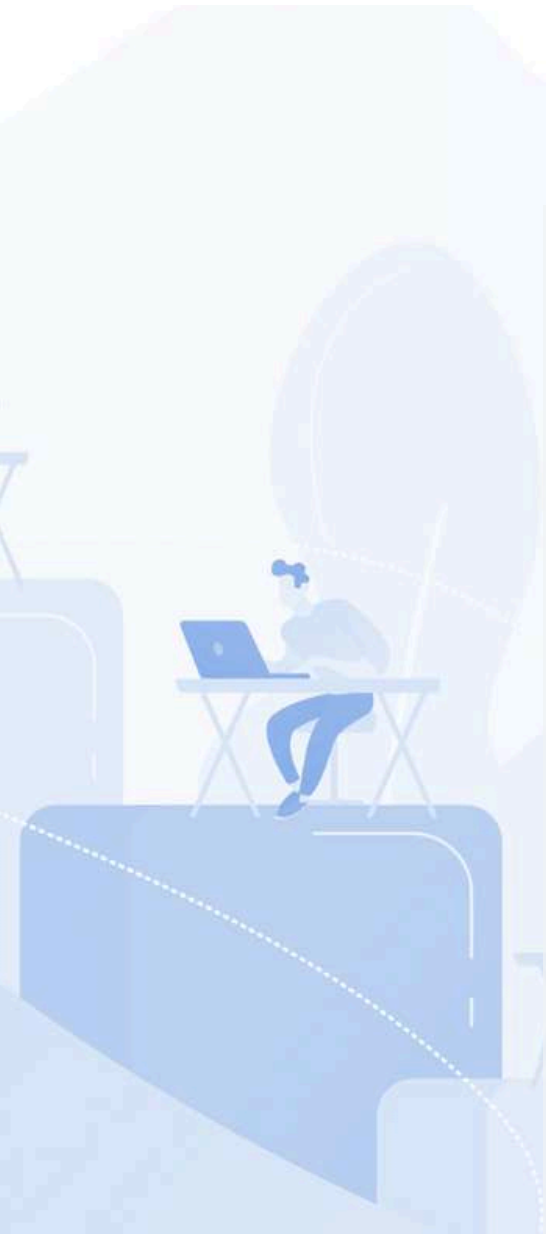
YOUR SOCIAL ECONOMY MAGAZINE

WELCOME

Welcome to our magazine – your essential guide for staying abreast of the latest trends in the social economy sector.

In this edition, we explore the **innovative projects and initiatives around digital citizenship education (DCE) and how the social economy can support a more inclusive society by empowering citizens in a digital world.** Here you can find tools, articles, resources and much more related to the last SE trends.

We are thrilled to present the fourth edition of Social Economy Insider – dive in to discover insights into social economy trends, policy updates, research, and much more.



INDEPENDENT AND AUTONOMOUS

Social Economy Insider emerged from the writing of the baSE project, but it aims to transcend its boundaries and become an independent and sustainable entity that unites different actors in the social economy sector.

We would like to **invite you all to contribute to the SE magazine by sharing your thoughts and insights** on the latest trends and developments in the field. Your contributions can take the form of articles, case studies, interviews, podcasts or any other format that you feel would be engaging and informative for our readers.

Send us an email at
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NEXT EVENTS

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The **EU Proximity and Social Economy Platform** is a digital space that supports the EU Proximity and Social Economy (PSE) ecosystem in the implementation of its Transition Pathway.

WHAT CAN YOU FIND?

Private working spaces on the favourite topics of the ecosystem:

- Transformative digital transition
- Regenerative green transition
- Working conditions and governance
- Partnerships
- Financing the ecosystem
- Skills
- Urban and rural wellbeing

Access to networking and collaboration opportunities with your peers across the EU, and beyond

Guidelines on how to pledge for the Transition Pathway

Accessible and up-to-date knowledge on the transition pathway action areas

GLOBAL PULSE

BRAZILIAN LAW IN SOCIAL ECONOMY

Brazil has adopted a new law that creates the National Solidarity Economy Policy (PNES).

Its objectives include:

- strengthening the association and cooperative movements, which are the fount of solidarity economy enterprises;
- promoting access for the solidarity economy to funding, means of production, markets and technologies;
- supporting actions that bring consumers and producers closer together in order to promote conscious consumption and fair and solidarity-based trade.

A NATIONAL SYSTEM

The law establishes the **National Solidarity Economy System (Sinaes),** which will be responsible for promoting the PNES, integrating efforts between federal entities and civil society, as well as monitoring the implementation of the policy.

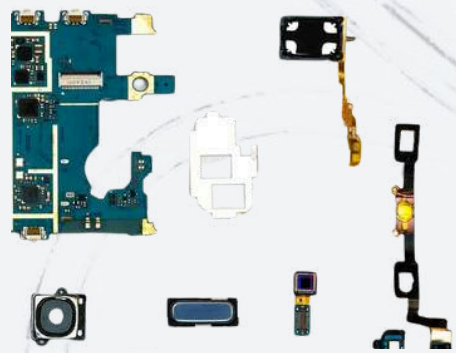
LEGAL CATEGORY

The law also amends the civil code to include s**olidarity economic enterprises (EES) as a new category of legal entity.**

WHAT IS DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP?

Digital citizenship goes beyond national or regional citizenship, as people from all over the world interact in the **digital environment.** Therefore, we need responsible norms and behaviours to **facilitate** the use of this global shared digital space.

Conceptually, digital citizenship emerged as early as the **1980s**, with the advent of personal computers, when technology began to develop and started to play a **significant role in people's lives** *(Hamutoğlu & Ünal, 2015)*.



DigiComp 2.0 Framework

"*Digital Competence: Framework for Citizens*", defines digital citizenship as comprising the following dimensions: information and data literacy, communication and collaboration, digital content creation, safety, and problem-solving *(Vuorikari et al., 2016)*.

The **Council of Europe** structures the concept of digital citizenship through the "*Digital Citizenship Education*" project into 10 dimensions: consumer awareness, privacy and security, rights and responsibilities, active participation, online presence and communication, health and well-being, ethics and empathy, access and inclusion, media and information literacy, and learning and creativity *(Council of Europe, 2019)*.

THE IMPORTANCE OF DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Digital education is essential because it helps individuals develop the skills needed to navigate the online world safely and responsibly. It teaches **cybersecurity awareness**, critical thinking, and **ethical online behaviour,** while promoting **digital literacy**.

By understanding digital rights, privacy, and responsible communication, **people can protect themselves** from online threats and misinformation. Additionally, digital education fosters creativity, collaboration and adaptability in an increasingly **technology-driven society.**

The digital era requires citizens to **acquire new knowledge and skills** to engage responsibly in online environments. This involves understanding digital rights, online safety, critical thinking, and ethical behaviour. By cultivating digital literacy, individuals become capable of navigating and participating in the digital world actively, ensuring they **contribute positively to both real and virtual communities.**

INTERVIEW

In an interview with **Pour La Solidarité**, **Jeanne Bretécher**, president and co-founder of **Social Good Accelerator** (SOGA), talks about digital inclusion in the SSE and how social tech is supporting digital literacy.

> *The actors of digital inclusion were born in the social and solidarity economy. This is a new 'sector' in its own, which we are trying to represent at SOGA.*

She highlights how digital exclusion reinforces other forms of exclusion. People supported by SSE organisations are those who suffer from the greatest vulnerabilities, which tend to be cumulative. The digital 'divide' doesn't exist in isolation; it adds another layer of difficulty to the challenges these people already face. In a society where everything is becoming increasingly digitalised, especially public services, a proper level of digital use is required.

Social tech and Digital Literacy:
Social Tech is in fact the digital social economy. It compensates for the deficiencies of the public authorities and the market in providing general access to essential digital services, to digital citizenship and to the diversification of profiles among digital professionals. They are all committed to digital accessibility, if not specifically dedicated to solving the problem of digital illiteracy.

Digital inclusion at EU level:
We must find the means to achieve the objectives of the European strategy for the digital decade. However, there is still a need for real financial investment and support for the fragile economic models of Social Tech players, which are necessarily a hybrid of general interest activities and income-generating activities.

ARTICLE

HOW IS AN UPCOMING STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL ECONOMY IN SLOVENIA (2025-2035) ADDRESSING THE ISSUES OF TRAINING AND EDUCATION?

Written by Marina Letonja and Karolina Babič

The **Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism and Sport** (MEDTS), which is responsible for social economy in Slovenia, has drafted of a **10-year strategy for the development of the social economy sector in Slovenia.**

Prepared by a working group of the Social Economy Council set up by the ministry, the draft was published in February 2025 for public consultation before the legislative procedure. The strategy is expected to be accepted by the Slovenian government by the end of this year.

The strategy will **clearly define the social economy sector**, since currently the only relevant law is that on social entrepreneurship.

It defines the social economy as:

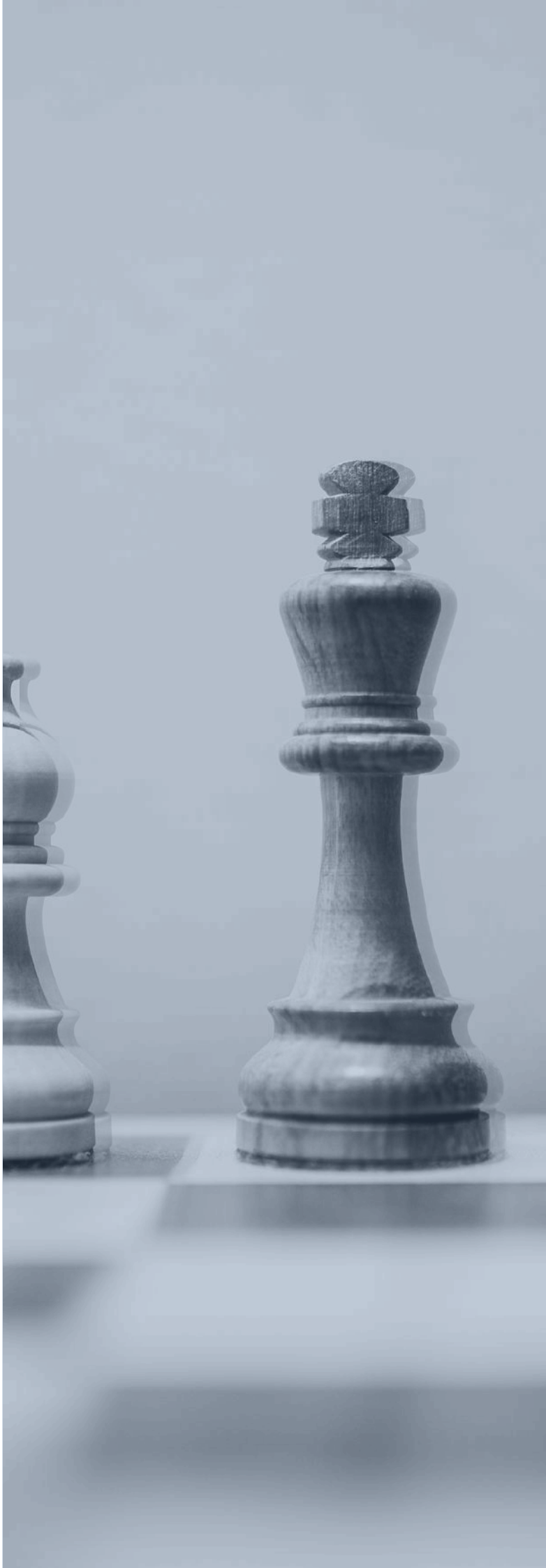
"The way in which organisations defined by the Social Entrepreneurship Act operate in accordance with the principles of the social economy. Social economy organisations decide on their operations democratically and/or through participatory means, adhering to the principle of "one person, one vote. They produce goods and services aimed at addressing and solving social issues, often by introducing social innovations.
The impact of these organisations extends beyond the individual interests of their members, employees, or users, fulfilling broader social needs. Furthermore, social economy organisations reinvest any surplus income into the operation and development of their activities."

FOCUS OF THE STRATEGY

- Enhancing the visibility and operational capacity of SE entities;
- Improving the regulatory framework and facilitating access to funding;
- Developing a supportive environment for the social economy;
- Fostering innovation and professionalisation within the sector.

IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR THE SOCIAL ECONOMY

- Goal 1: “Increased visibility of the social economy and social entrepreneurship”;
- Goal 2: “Increased opportunities for the development, operation, and strengthening of social economy organisations and social enterprises”;
- Goal 3 “A developed supportive environment for the social economy and social entrepreneurship”;
- Goal 4 “Professionalised social economy organisations and social enterprises”.



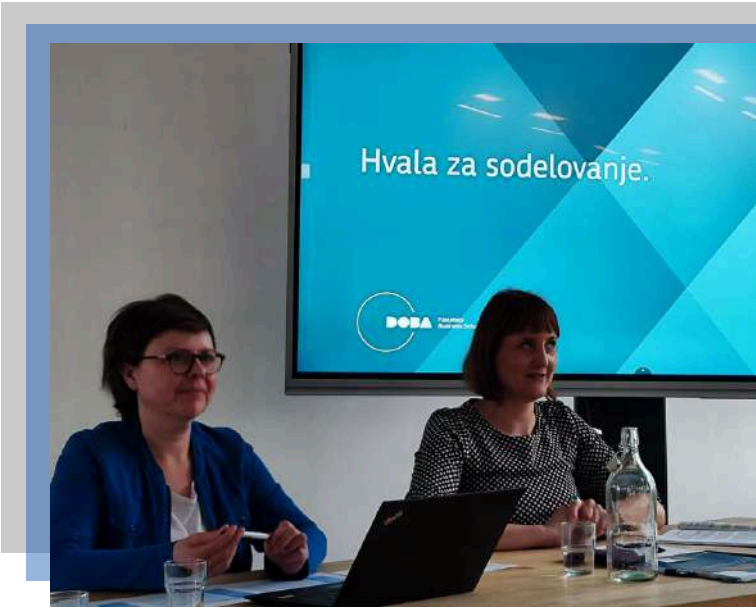
IMPORTANCE OF THE STRATEGY

- **Strengthening the infrastructure of the social economy in Slovenia,** by professionalising the sector and establishing strong links with other sectors and spheres of society;
- **Integrating the SE into broader national economic and social policies**, recognising its role in achieving sustainable development goals and addressing societal needs;
- **Anticipating an increase in the social economy's contributions** to job creation, better social services, and enhanced quality of life for communities;
- **Promoting collaboration among stakeholders** within the SE and with other sectors, including the public and private sectors;

This interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach is expected to foster a more integrated and innovative response to social and economic challenges.

The strategy comprehensively incorporates education, training, and knowledge standards to ensure that individuals and organisations within the SE are well-equipped to contribute to and benefit from a more equitable and sustainable economic system.

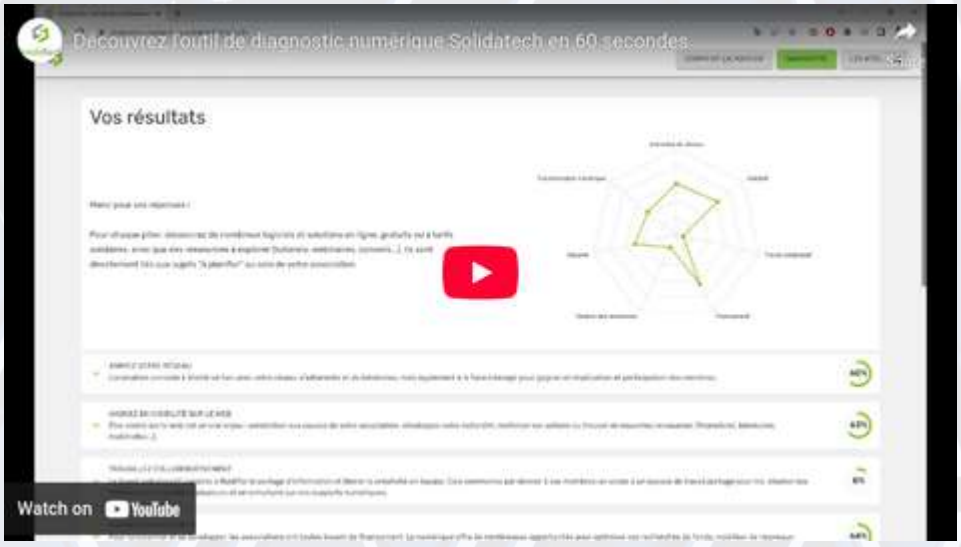
The focus on integrating SE-related educational content into mainstream education and professional development programmes exemplifies a forward-thinking approach to building knowledgeable and skilled individuals who can drive social innovation, economic democracy, and community-oriented development.



RESOURCES

DIAGNOSIS TOOL FOR ASSOCIATIONS

Start your association's digital diagnosis – A questionnaire designed by Solidatech to initiate your digital transformation and generate recommendations tailored to your situation.



HI DIGITAL

Hi Digital is a step-by-step course designed for anyone who needs a bit of help developing their digital skills, particularly those who have rarely or never been online (often 65+ years old).

The course consists of short practical lessons that guide the person step by step. You can choose to end a lesson and resume it at a later stage.

CORNER

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE OF DCE 2025

The Council of Europe has created a versatile set of resources, each with a different target groups.

POLICY MAKERS | **EDUCATORS** | **PARENTS & CARERS** | **DCE PROMOTERS**

In addition there are leaflets available in different languages to learn more about:

- why DCE is important
- purpose and objective of the Year
- the Year's main activities and themes;
- how to get involved.

DIGI-NAUTS

The Digi-Nauts is a video series developed by the Council of Europe to encourage young children, as well as their parents and educators, to think about what it means to be a digital citizen.

RESEARCH

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL ECONOMY: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BETWEEN FIVE EU COUNTRIES

Based on primary data, it develops the **situation of vocational education and training (VET) for the social solidarity economy (SSE)** and explores the **relevant educational programmes as a basic support mechanism for the SSE in the EU.** It shows that the connection between adult education and the SSE is not accidental, but is based on the similar principles of these two fields, and especially on their common mission regarding the transformation of society.

Authors:

- *Nikolaos Apostolopoulos and Alexandros Koukouris - University of Peloponnese*
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- *Ira Papageorgiou - INE GSEE*

Using empirical data from five countries which are taking part in an Erasmus+ programme coordinated by the INE GSEE trade union labour institute in Greece, this policy text **fills a gap in the literature of the European SS**E, given its limited exploration in general, and in particular in relation to VET.

The importance of this article is even greater in view of the ongoing socio-economic crises, which highlight the fact that the **prospects of the SSE can no longer be absent from the political agenda.**

MEET THE PRACTITIONERS

We introduce you to a captivating section showcasing the remarkable endeavours of social economy practitioners across Europe.
We delve into the *inspiring stories* and *innovative practices* that are reshaping our societies for the better.
Join us as we uncover the transformative power of social economy initiatives, highlighting the *individuals and organisations* that are making a profound impact on their communities.

DIGI EDU HACK

DigiEduHack is an EU initiative that aims to foster **grassroots innovation,** collaboration and creativity and to drive positive change in **digital education**.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

DigiEduHack is a **series of 24-hour grassroots local hackathons** taking place over a period of ten days, between 7 and 16 November 2025.

DigiEduHack started in 2019, as part of the first Digital Education Action Plan of the European Commission. For its first five editions, it gathered nearly **10-000 participants** from Europe and beyond. Whether in Europe or elsewhere around the globe, participants come together to create solutions to diverse digital education-related challenges.

The initiative continues under the ***Digital Education Action Plan*** 2021-2027, with a long-term goal to support grassroots innovation and contribute to the objectives of the European Digital Education Hub.

Are you an organisation interested in hosting a local event, a student, educator or entrepreneur, or a digital education enthusiast who wants to join a hack? DigiEduHack offers a unique space where you can unleash your creativity and explore the latest trends in digital education.

DIGI EDU HACK

THAKI

SECURING BRIGHT FUTURES WITH DIGITAL EDUCATION

Thaki is a social impact non-profit and woman-led organisation registered in the Netherlands and Lebanon, founded in 2015. Its work is based on a **circular economy model:**

- Companies donate their second-hand electronic devices;
- They are refurbished, loaded with interactive offline learning content (either proprietary or open source);
- Computer hardware and edtech software are distributed to education centres working with vulnerable children;
- Schools can afterwards responsibly retire and recycle devices through their disposal partners.

NOUR PROJECT

- Project developed involving local organisations
- Edtech programme that builds children's emotional resilience and helps to overcome difficult emotions;
- Programme applied anywhere – even if users cannot read.

thaki

HUMANA NOVA

Encouraging the employment of people with disabilities and socially excluded people through the production and sale of quality, innovative textile products made from ecological and recycled fabrics.

DIGITALISATION

Although it has always prioritised manual processes over digital processes in its re-use operations, recently some digital systems were incorporated:

- **E-računi system (ERP):** to manage various business processes – finance, human resources, supply chain, manufacturing and sales;
- **E-Onto system:** an electronic record book for waste generation, consolidating data on waste flows and a corresponding network application.

TRAINING

The training conducted at Humana Nova is done in an **informal and on-the-job setting,** where employees learn by **actively engaging in digitalisation processes, aligned with their expertise and work tasks**. In a supportive and inclusive work environment, employees selflessly share their knowledge and experience with the aim of achieving common goals.

The most significant lesson gained from this experience is knowing how to find the balance between digitalisation and manual processes. We have recognised the importance of manual processes for the purpose of employing people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. This balance between digital and manual operations ensures inclusiveness and provides meaningful employment opportunities.

HumanaNova

Source:DigiSocCirc project

THE BEST OF THE SE

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS IS OPEN!

Apply now to the **3rd edition** of the European **#SocialEconomyAwards** and gain visibility across Europe and the EU institutions.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

June 16, 2025

WHO CAN APPLY?

Social Economy organizations & enterprises;
Educational institutions & training providers;
Local & regional governments.

DO YOU HAVE AN OUTSTANDING INITIATIVE IN:

- Housing;
- Clean Energy solutions;
- Social Economy Training & Education, or Innovation in Work Integration Social Enterprises (WISEs).

https://www.socialeconomy.eu.org/2025/03/14/european-social-economy-awards-2025-third-edition/

NEXT EVENTS

SELF POLICY FORUM

Social Enterprise World Forum

21 May

Online

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION FORUM

Council of Europe

27-28 May

Strasbourg, France

ICA CCR EUROPE 2025 CONFERENCE

International Cooperative Alliance

11-13 June

Helsinki, Finland

EU SOCIAL ECONOMY WEEK

Social Economy Europe

15-18 September

Murcia, Spain

GLOBAL SSE FORUM

GLOBAL SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY FORUM

29-31 October

Bordeaux, France

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This magazine is a product of the baSE project, co-funded by the European Commission. For more information about the baSE project, please visit www.socialeconomyskills.eu. The collection of materials for this magazine has been led by Diesis Network, with Giulia Georg and Gabriele di Giandomenico serving as the main editors and providing support in gathering materials and content from all the baSE partnership organisations.

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Co-funded by the European Union