

TRAINING PROJECT FOR SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY MANAGERS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

✓ **Background**

Specific goal A.3 entitled “The promotion of social inclusion and fight against poverty” from the ENI CBC MED program includes the investment priority A.3.2 “encouraging the Social and Solidarity Economy actors in terms of improvement of their skills and closer cooperation with public institutions as service providers”.

The Regional Council of Occitanie is highly interested in this priority, because it launched in the last years an efficient value-added chain to the benefit of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) actors in its regional area:

- The Regional Council of Occitanie created [REALIS](#), a business incubator dedicated to SSE. Since 2013, REALIS has helped implementing innovative and economically efficient projects together with the creation of a business centre and a resource centre (training courses, technical expertise, coaching) so as to gather all the necessary tools in view of project development. Up to now, REALIS has provided around 30 firms in the Social and Solidarity sector which means 180 jobs over various fields such as renewable energy, services to individuals, health, food, etc...
- The Regional Council of Occitanie sustains the social innovation incubators [Alter'incub](#) and [Catalis](#).
- The Regional Council of Occitanie organizes once every 2 years a socially responsible business club called [Coventis](#) for Social and Solidarity Economy actors. The goal is to enable them to widen their professional network, remain on alert and discover new offers in terms of products and services.
- The Regional Council of Occitanie was also part of the creation of the “[DESS](#)” degree from the IFOCAS (Training formation institute in SSE management) based on the development of managerial skills as far as cooperative or mutual associations are concerned.

Drawing on its own experience, the Regional Council of Occitanie has made the decision to launch a managerial training project within the framework of the first call for projects of the ENI CBC MED program.

On the Northern shore of the Mediterranean, SSE enterprises indeed changed a lot in the last 30 years (development of salaried employment, change in funding models, increased competition with the private sector, etc) and now require a specific need for managers’ professionalization and skills renewal.

Moreover, in many countries of the Southern shore, SSE enterprises’ human resources are often of low number and quality, and it has an impact on their managerial skills.

Region Occitanie therefore suggests the development of an innovative project through new methods based on the involved actors’ point of view. The aim is to develop training for managers of SSE in the Northern and Southern shore of the Mediterranean, in cooperation with vocational training actors and local public administrations.

✓ **Objectives**

- Enlarging and strengthening the training courses for SSE managers in the Mediterranean,
- Developing and improving this training offer through the transfer of skills among vocational training actors,
- Reinforcing cooperation between public institutions and Social and Solidarity Economy actors in the Mediterranean,
- Promoting entrepreneurship culture in the field of SSE in the Mediterranean,
- Establishing a network of policy makers in the Mediterranean in order to share and broadcast values, tools and start dialogues about entrepreneurship in SSE.

✓ **Results**

- The participation of SSE managers in a training cycle on a Mediterranean scale,
- The perpetuation of training courses for SSE managers in the Mediterranean,
- The maintaining of a partnership and joint actions between local public institutions, vocational training and SSE actors,
- The creation of a Mediterranean group which would gather SSE firm managers.

✓ **Activities**

- Studying and analyzing SSE management courses in terms of efficiency,
- Implementing a cross-border training cycle addressed to SSE firms' managers and professional training actors,
- Improving teaching materials to enhance managerial skills (MOOC, SPOC...),
- Organizing workshops, creating online platforms to facilitate communication and the exchange of good practices for a good cooperation between public institutions and SSE actors,
- Establishing a forum of exchanges on the SSE in the Mediterranean.

✓ **Target groups**

- SSE firms' managers,
- Vocational training actors,
- Local administrations.

✓ **Partners**

Committed partners :

- The Regional Council of Occitanie with the International and European Department and the department of Economic affairs and Innovation (Occitanie, FR)
- IFOCAS – Training institute for SSE managers (Occitanie, FR).

Expected partners :

- Status : vocational training institutes, universities, research centres, civil society organizations with a relevant experience in professional training, public administrations with a relevant experience in SSE matters.
- Target regions : all regions eligible for the ENI CBC MED Program

The role as a partner is to get involved in:

- the pedagogical part of the cross-border training courses addressed to SSE managers and vocational training actors,
- the creation of a network gathering SSE and vocational training actors and the relevant local administrations,
- the strengthening of the cooperation between local administrations and the parties involved,
- the capitalization and dissemination of results.

✓ **Contact**

Clémence VIDAL, project officer,

European and International Relations Department, Région Occitanie / Pyrénées-Méditerranée

clemence.vidal@laregion.fr | Tél.: +33 (0)4 67 22 90 11 |