The European Commission support to Social Innovation: the example of the Social Challenges Innovation Platform

Mark Nicklas,
Head of Unit
DG GROW, European Commission
Challenges → Solutions

Inclusivity and co-creation → Better solutions, no wasted potential

Business creation, jobs and growth + Social and environmental value
An overview of the Project

The platform is launched: Sept. 2017

First Call: 21 Sep. – 21 Dec. 2017
Second Call: 15 Jan. – 15 April 2018
Third Call: 15 April – 15 July 2018
Fourth Call: 15 June- 15 Sept. 2018
SocialChallenges.eu: The Process

- 83 challenges
  - 48 cities & regions

- 498 Solutions
  - SMEs, startups & solopreneurs (78%)

- 81 Solution Providers shortlisted
  - Grant: €30k
  - Mentoring: 6 months

- Final Pitch
  - 3 go in, 1 comes out

- 27 Companies or Products Launched
  - First client built in

Results: 81 promising ideas prototyped, reflecting real-world needs, 27 of which are launched with their first client.
Attracting new stakeholders to fund solutions to new challenges

European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM)

SEE THE CHALLENGES
A good opportunity for cities of all sizes
Social Challenges Innovation Platform, a project implemented by EASME

Natalia MARTINEZ PARAMO, Head of Unit
Executive Agency for SMEs - EASME
Where did the challenges come from?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRIES</th>
<th>CHALLENGES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>2 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>4 5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>2 2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>3 4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>3 4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>9 11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>2 2%</td>
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<td>Greece</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>3 4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>2 2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>15 18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>7 8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>1 1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>8 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>8 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>4 5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>3 4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>5 6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>83 100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What were the challenges about?

CHALLENGES PER TOPIC

- Aging: 5
- Education: 13
- Employment-Skills: 10
- Energy: 1
- Environment-Food: 17
- Health-Disability: 8
- Youth: 1
- Refugees-Migration: 6
- Smart cities-Mobility: 7
- Social Inclusion-Gender: 15
Distribution of the topics by city
Country of origin and topic of the solutions

SOLUTIONS PER TOPIC

- Aging: 44
- Education: 71
- Employment-Skills: 53
- Energy: 5
- Environment-Food: 82
- Health-Disability: 40
- Youth: 7
Some topics are more attractive to Solution Providers
The Platform: www.socialchallenges.eu

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