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DO IMPACT Final Conference and 8th Transnational Workshop

7-8 July 2026, Brussels

Venue: Day 1 European Economic & Social Committee (EESC) & Day 2 Ateliers des Tanneurs Day 2

Day 1 Conference: Reimagining the Digital Future: Inclusive Innovation Beyond Technology Power Brokers

The current digital landscape is increasingly dominated by a small number of powerful companies and platforms that control digital infrastructure, data flows, and technological innovation. This concentration of technological and economic power shapes not only markets and products but also social priorities, public discourse, and democratic processes. The result is the so-called platform capitalism, a new scenario in which the power and wealth are strongly concentrated and always more entangled with the control over big data assets. In this scenario, more than ever, innovation is often-by profit-maximising interests, constrained into a mechanisms of return on investments, which pushes organizations to promote over-consumerism and ignoring values of social and environmental justice.

The closing DO Impact Conference wants to explore how this dominance stifles alternative models of innovation, especially those prioritising social good, inclusivity, or democratic governance, and stresses the need to look at social and solidarity economies as a source of imagination. An intellectual space were new "desirable alternatives" can be forged, prompting new ways of organising technology and innovation that are not feeding into the myth of techno-solutionism (technology alone solving complex societal problems) and inequalities. The Conference calls for more pluralistic, socially rooted approaches to technological development; alternative visions emphasise decentralised, community-driven innovation that serves public values and democratic participation rather than wealth concentration.

Participants:

EU institutions · Policymakers · Social economy organisations · Social economy SMEs · Researchers · Digital innovation actors

Agenda:

Timing	Name of Session	Speakers
13:00-13:30	Registration and Welcome Coffee	



13:30-13:45	<p>Welcome Words and Opening Remarks</p>	<p>Gianluca Pastorelli, Executive President Diesis Network</p> <p>Diego Dutto, Legacoop Sociali, EESC</p>
13:45-14:15	<p>Keynote</p> <p>The crisis of imagination and the role of the Social Economy in reshaping innovation trajectories through technology.</p>	<p>Mario Calderini, 2nd Full Professor, Politecnico di Milano, School of Management</p>
14:15-15:00	<p>Session I Digital and data-driven Transformation as a Driver of Social Impact in Europe</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fostering interoperability and collaboration across organisations • Aligning practices with EU digital and social economy strategies • Building sustainable digital infrastructures • Creating future cooperation networks beyond the project 	<p>Session Facilitated by Gianluca Pastrelli, Executive President Diesis Network</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>EU policymakers DG Employment DG Connect DG Just DG Grow</p> <p>Social Economy Europe</p> <p>Giuseppe Guerini, President Cooperatives Europe, Spokesperson Social Economy Category at the EESC</p>
15:00-15:30	Coffee Break	
15:30-16:15	<p>Session II: Small Voices, Big Systems: Keeping Democracy Human in the Age of AI</p>	<p>Session facilitated by Aneta Quraishy, Senior Expert Diesis Network</p> <p>Speakers:</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What "fair participation" means beyond platforms: language, access, power ○ The limits of safeguards: when do simple fixes stop being enough? ○ Can smaller actors rebalance systems shaped by large AI and platform power? 	<p>Jakub Szymik, CEE Digital Democracy Watch</p> <p>Marta Bienkiewicz, Cooperative AI Foundation</p> <p>Jeannette Gorzala, Act AI Now (TBC)</p> <p>Martin Hullin, Bertelsmann Stiftung (TBC)</p>
16:15-17:00	<p>Session III: Policy Roundtable Building a European Data Ecosystem for the Social Economy</p> <p>Focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Should we prioritise a single durable, scalable infrastructure, or invest in more flexible, locally grounded approaches? ● How can these two approaches contribute to the EU's digital sovereignty objectives? ● In the context of the social economy, what should differ from the models currently being developed in other sectors? ● Will the Digital Omnibus, in its current draft form, finally enable broader and more effective use of data within the social economy? 	<p>Session facilitated by Federico Bartolomucci, Junior Assistant Professor, Politecnico di Milano</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Gianluca Sgueo, EU Joint Research Centre</p> <p>Manuel Portela, DataLog</p>
17:00	Wrap Up and Future Opportunities	Diesis Network Team



Day 2 Transnational Workshop and Closing Event:

The final 8th Transnational Workshop will synthesise the entire DO Impact learning journey, spanning digitalisation, open data, ethics, impact measurement, AI, data storytelling, and relationship management. It will be an opportunity to reflect deeper on insights generated during the Final Conference.

Agenda

Timing	Name of Session	Speakers
09:30-10:00	Registration and Welcome Coffee	
10:00-10:15	Welcome Words and Opening Speech	<p>Gianluca Pastorelli, Executive President Diesis Network</p> <p>Aneta Quraishy, Senior Expert Diesis Network</p> <p>Silvana Sanfelu Gaiimo, Responsible of EU projects, Fondazione Piemonte Innova</p>
10:15-11:00	<p>Session I: DO Impact in Practice – the Learning Journey summarised</p> <p>Presentations from the Consortium:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • case studies • digital solutions implemented • impact stories <p>Naturally concludes the learning journey because participants have already explored and highlights the final topic of data sharing frameworks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • digitalisation and data strategies • open data ecosystems • ethical and inclusive data use • impact measurement frameworks 	<p>DO Impact stakeholders (internal and external) in conversation</p> <p>Facilitated by: Aneta Quraishy, Senior Expert, Diesis Network</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applied AI and predictive analytics • data storytelling • relationship management and CRM • data sharing frameworks 	
11:00-11:45	<p>Session II: Fireside Chat</p> <p>COSME projects in conversation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common learnings and takeaways across the various initiatives • Main gaps, learnings & future visions • Cross-cutting Themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Inclusivity in digital upskilling</i> ◦ <i>Actionable strategies in digital upskilling and organisational readiness for advancing sustainable prosperity across the SE</i> 	<p>Session Facilitated by Silvana Sanfelio Giaimo, Responsible of EU projects, Fondazione Piemonte Innova</p> <p>Speakers: Other SMP COSME 2023 SEED project leads:</p> <p>DIGI-SEII BLUEDOTS DIGIT-ABLED DIGISET ENACT DigAccessAgrotourism</p>
11:45-12:00	Coffee Break	
12:00-13:00	<p>Speed Networking: Objective: Matchmaking among participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Best Practices and funding opportunities pitch ◦ Rotating Q&As 	<p>Facilitated by DO Impact Consortium</p> <p>Data Cooperatives</p> <p>Digital and Data Action plans</p>
13:00-14:00	Networking Lunch break	
14:00-14:45	<p>Session III: Designing a Data Space ecosystem</p> <p><i>Participants work in groups on:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Creating data sharing frameworks</i> • <i>ecosystem collaboration models</i> • <i>shared data infrastructures</i> • <i>governance of data partnerships/ sharing</i> <p><i>Outputs:</i></p>	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>ecosystem maps</i>• <i>collaboration strategies</i>	
14:45-15:00	Coffee Break	
15:00-16:45	Session IV: Interactive Workshop: Hands-on session: Designing a Data-Driven Social Economy Ecosystem. What's next after DO Impact? Objective: Help participants build a tailored action roadmap using EU resources, funding opportunities, and peer insights on how they plan to capitalise in the next 2-3 years based on learning and opportunities generated. Deliverables: Each participant walks away with a concrete Action Plan.	
16:45-17:00	Wrap Up and Future Opportunities	Diesis Network Team
17:00-18:00	Networking Aperero and celebration	