

Handbook

Collection of best practices on Masters on Social Innovation

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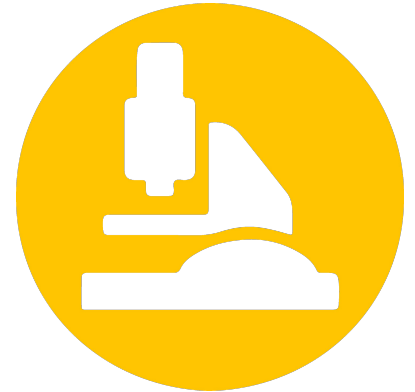


Aim of the deliverable

Make an overview of the Masters on Social Innovation within the Adriatic-Ionian area and beyond that respect most of the following criteria:

- “social innovation” must be the explicit objective of the program;
- it must cover different areas of research adopting a multidisciplinary approach that addresses more than two issues related to social innovation (i.e. urban studies, migration, project management, environment, etc);
- the program trains professional figures clearly outlined;
- upper-level degree title in the classification levels of educational programs;
- the program adopts innovative training methods;
- the program provides both technical knowledge and hands-on experiences;
- the program is enriched by a plural multilevel network of partners;
- the program offers mobility opportunities (including study tours and visits).

Analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the best practices identified to inform the design of our Joint Master in Social Innovation.



Identified best practices

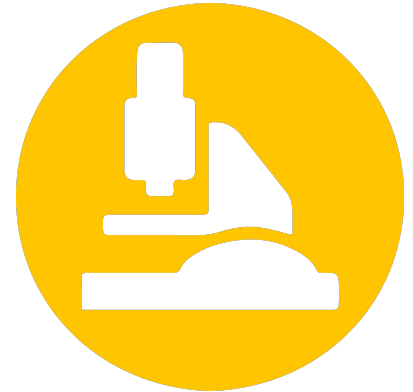
Country	No. of BP	Masters' title and institution
Albania	1	Marketing - EUT
Croatia	3	City Management - U. Zagreb Preparation and Implementation of EU project - U. Zagreb Sustainable development of tourism - U. Zadar
Greece	5	Social Innovation and Development Strategies - U. Peloponnese Social and Solidarity Economy - HOU Green Leadership, organizational culture and sustainable innovative entrepreneurship - U. Western Macedonia Environment and Development - NTU of Athens Community Work and Social Economy - U. of Crete
Italy	5	Social Innovation for Sustainable Development - U. of Turin and ILO Social Innovation and Spatial Planning - U. of Salento U-RISE Urban Regeneration and Social Innovation - IUAV MAGIW Governance and Local Welfare Innovation - UNIBO GECOP Management and Co-production of Participatory, Community, and Neighbourhood Processes - UNIBO
Serbia	3	Integral Urbanism - U. Belgrade Architecture Migration Studies - U. Belgrade Economic Policy and Sustainable Development - U. Belgrade

Identified best practices

Country	No. of BP	Masters' title and institution
Austria	1	Social Innovation - Salzburg
Belgium	1	Public Sector Innovation and eGovernance - KU Leuven
Denmark	1	Urban, Energy and Environmental Planning - Cities and Sustainability - Aalborg
France	1	Creative Business & Social Innovation - EDHEC Business School
Germany	1	Social Design and Sustainable Innovation - Berlin UAS
Netherland	1	Sustainability Science, Policy and Society - Maastricht University
Poland	1	Innovation Management - Poznan PUEB
Portugal	1	Impact Entrepreneurship & Innovation - Nova School of Business and Economics
Spain	1	Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation - UA Barcelona
UK	1	Public Policy Innovations - LSE

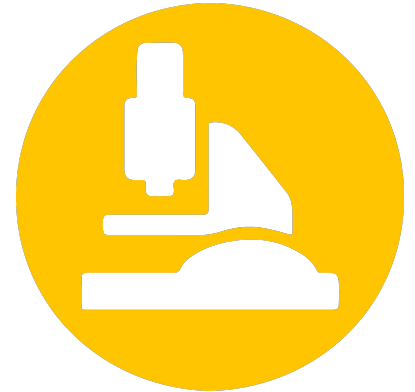
Main strengths of identified best practices

- **Interdisciplinarity and flexibility** - most of the programs identified offers teaching in a broad series of disciplines, favouring transdisciplinary and critical thinking for the identification of innovative solutions to social problems; they furthermore offer the possibility to specialise in a broad series of fields.
- **Combination of theory and practice** - most of the programs aims at providing both theoretical knowledge and practical skills, although the collaboration of business partners and the integration of internships in the curriculum is still limited.
- **Internships and mobility abroad** - a limited number of best practices integrates internship and mobility opportunities, considered crucial for the acquisition of practical skills to be used in the labour market.
- **Partnership with institutional and business institutions** - some of the identified best practices are offered in strict cooperation with institutional or business partners, increasing the practical impact of the educational offer.
- **Community of Alumni** - in some cases, one of the main strengths of the program is the creation of a collaborative community of Alumni that continue to cooperate in SI project also afterward.



Main weaknesses of identified best practices

- **Lack of mobility opportunities** - the number of programs offering integrated mobility opportunities is limited, especially with mobilities abroad. Where offered, mobilities proved crucial to experience real-life social problems and innovative solutions and to increase the international scope of the educational offer.
- **Lack of internships** - also in this case, most of the programs does not offer the possibility to integrate internship in the curriculum, which would give students the possibility of testing the skills acquired during the program and facilitate their entrance in the labour market.
- **Limited scope** - in some cases, the educational offer, although adopting an interdisciplinary approach, remains limited in its scope (i.e. tourism, migration), limiting the occupational perspectives of the students.
- **Necessity of a multidisciplinary staff** - the interdisciplinary offer of most of the identified programs highlight the challenge of recruiting a multidisciplinary staff.



Lessons learned

- **The importance of combining theory with practice:** the Joint Master will offer both theoretical modules and methodological/skills-oriented classes; it furthermore will invite practitioners and experts to share their experience through laboratories and workshops.
- **Flexibility to attract persons already included in the labour market:** attention to the necessity of working students can increase the attractiveness of the program.
- **The integration of mobility periods and internship is a relevant added value:** the general lack of programs offering these opportunities will make out Joint Master very competitive.
- **Valorisation of a large and diverse partnership is an asset:** each Partner can share its experience and expertise within a program that requires a multidisciplinary approach.



Thank you!

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