



SERIGO Community of Practice (CoP)- Workshop 3 (16 June 2026; 14:00-17:30)

Unlocking finance for community- led social innovation

The third SERIGO CoP workshop will be held at the occasion of the fourth SERIGO Consortium meeting which will take place in Villach, Austria. The CoP-workshop is scheduled for **16 June, from 2 PM to 5:30 PM** and is primarily designed and co-organised by AEIDL - European Association for Innovation in Local Development (BE/EU) and CUAS - Carinthian University of Applied Sciences (AT).

Scope of the workshop

The workshop will examine challenges, best practices, and methodologies in accessing social finance and funding, drawing insights from practitioners and experts. A key starting point will be **to understand the main difficulties encountered by local NGOs to fund/finance their activities (current and new)**. We will then explore public funding opportunities at EU level and social/impact finance pathways in the Austrian context. Furthermore, we will endeavour to **exchange on inspiring practices and existing tools** from across Europe.

The event will be held entirely in English and in German (based on needs).

Objectives of the workshop

- Identify and better understand the key challenges faced by local NGOs and community-led social innovation initiatives in securing funding and financing for both existing and new activities.
- Explore available funding opportunities, with a particular focus on relevant EU funding programmes and public funding mechanisms.
- Increase awareness of social and impact finance approaches and assess their potential applicability within the Austrian context.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange between local stakeholders, practitioners, and experts on effective methodologies, tools, and strategies for accessing finance.
- Share and discuss inspiring practices from Austria and across Europe that support the sustainability and scaling of community-led social innovations in rural areas.
- Strengthen collaboration and mutual learning among NGOs, public authorities, and other local actors to improve the funding ecosystem for social innovation in rural communities.



Funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or REA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.