

Atlantic Social Lab

Cooperation for the promotion of Social Innovation

ASL Receives an Extension Phase

Atlantic Social Lab is a project focused at developing and promoting social innovation approaches and methods to give response to key growing social issues of the Atlantic Area, both within citizens, third sector and social enterprises as well as the public sector.

The project ended in May 2021 with tangible results that benefited many citizens in the Atlantic Area. However, the pandemic has highlighted the weaknesses and gaps in existing social protection and inclusion policies and the pressing need to address these.

The extension phase of Atlantic Social Lab aims to **address new measures to provide long-term solutions in the post-COVID scenario with a particular emphasis on digitalization**. In this sense, new pilot actions will be developed and tested to provide social services to citizens in this new context.

The extension of the project started in March this year and will last until June 2023.

Presentation of the Partnership

The partnership covers all the eligible countries of the Atlantic Area and is composed of 7 partners. The project is keeping the same partnership structure as in the previous application form that has proved to be successfully delivering activities and results:

5 partners with territorial competencies will implement the pilot actions to test new approaches and tools to reach citizens via digital tools (Avilés, ENW, CIM do Ave, Gijón and CRIJ OPM) in a post-pandemic scenario.

2 academic partners (CES and GCU) will be involved in the communication and capitalization activities of the project results taking advantage of the several networks in which they are currently involved.

New Partners

Two new partners (Gijón and CRIJ OPM) were included in this phase in order to strengthen the partnership in terms of territorial coverage and competencies and skills.

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The Foundation of Social Services of Gijón Municipality. Gijón, the largest municipality in the Asturias region, stands out for its commitment to the citizens offering numerous programmes to tackle different social circumstances.



CRIJ Occitanie Pyrénées Méditerranée is an association with a public service mission. Its role is to accompany young people towards autonomy and better inclusion in society. Based in Toulouse they belong to the National Network of youth information offices in France.

Atlantic Social Lab Extension Kick-Off Meeting

The **kick-off meeting** for the ASL extension took place on June 14 and 15 in Avilés and was organized by **Avilés City Council**, the project lead partner.

The meeting's main objective was to present the results achieved by the project in its previous phase and to establish lines of action for the work to be developed, namely concerning its goals and the presentation of the new pilot actions. This was also a moment to welcome and introduce the new partners joining this extension, namely, the **Foundation of Social Services of Gijón (Spain)** and the **CRIJ Occitanie Pyrénées Méditerranée (France)**.



Being the Atlantic Social Lab a project focused on developing territorial practices of social innovation, the meeting also included **study visits** to identify good practices. Several sites were visited.

The Youth Workshop of Gijón - an interdisciplinary space where young people have free access to professional, sexual, psycho-emotional counselling, training, study rooms and a social innovation centre.

The "Second Chance School" - a school for young people at risk of social exclusion, with a focus on soft skills and a teaching approach adapted to the student's individual needs and goals.

Avilés Cultural Factory - a public space that seeks to bring the population of Avilés closer to the arts, with a particular emphasis on young people, the elderly, and people in vulnerable situations.

And also the **DECUCHARA project** - a social restaurant that seeks the labour integration of women at risk of social exclusion.

Atlantic Social Lab Partners during a study visit at Gijón

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Partners



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