

Social innovation and policymaking

Public policy can both support social innovation, and be socially innovative in itself



Social innovation is about developing and implementing new ideas to meet social needs and create new social relationships. Social innovations can take many forms - from products and services (like Mobilearn), to institutions (like government innovation lab La 27e Région), initiatives (like the White House's Call to Action campaign) and ways of doing things (such as the Behavioural Insights Team's EAST model to help policymakers apply behavioural insights to the policy process).

We often say that social innovation is 'social in means and ends' - the innovation process benefits people, as well as the outcome. For example, social innovation may involve: Changing power relations; Improving human capabilities; Inviting input from a wide range of people; Blurring boundaries between public, private and civil society sectors; Redistributing wealth and assets.

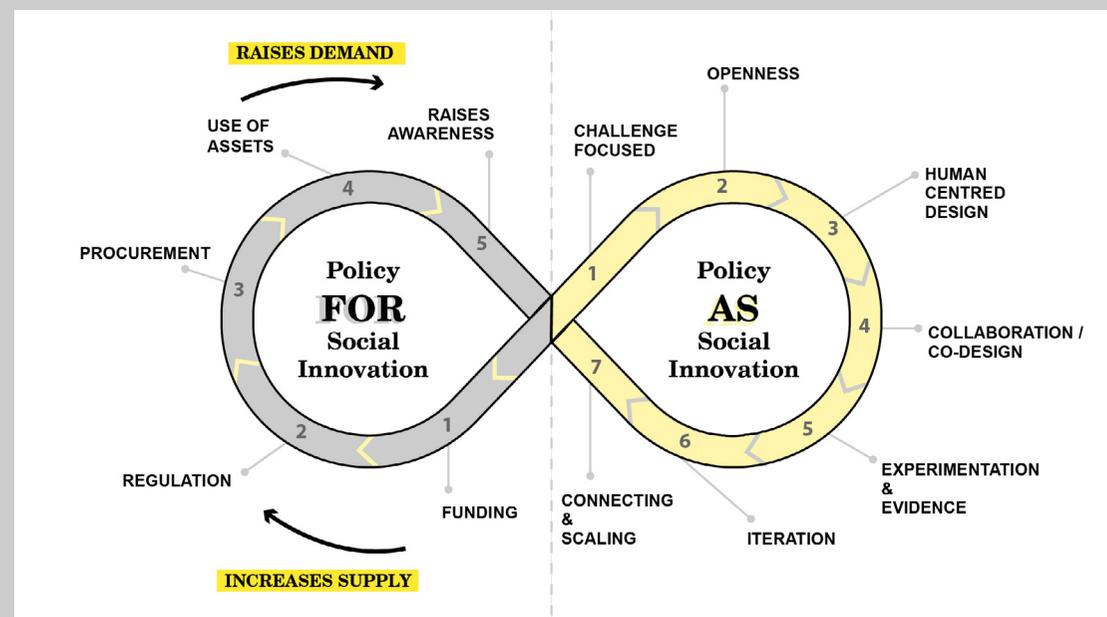
POLICY FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION

Public policy can support social innovation by using a number of policy levers to stimulate supply and demand for it and creating an environment where social innovations can thrive. We call this **policy for social innovation**.

POLICY AS SOCIAL INNOVATION

Policymakers can be social innovators too, using social innovation principles in the way they design new policies, programmes and initiatives to:

- Rethink how policy challenges are approached and framed
- Open the policy process up to different ideas and perspectives
- Make use of human-centred design approaches
- Collaborate with citizens, users and other stakeholders
- Design policy solutions that are experimental and seek to make better use of evidence
- Develop policy in a more iterative way
- Make connections to other initiatives and search for ways to scale impact



Over the course of the Social Innovation Community project, we will be leading a series of practical workshops intended to highlight the different ways in which policymakers can support social innovation. Further, as part of this work, Social Innovation Community will set out to equip policymakers with the insights and tools needed to apply socially innovative approaches to real policy challenges, in order to help create a sharing, learning community of socially innovative policymakers in Europe.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 693883.

Get in touch : Twitter @SICommunity_EU hashtag #socinnpolicy

Email us directly at policy@siceurope.eu