

Event Programme & Agenda

Monday, 8 June 2026 • Joist Innovation Park, Larissa

11:00 – 11:30

Registration & Welcome

SESSION 1

11:30 – 11:50

Definition of Social Innovation, presentation of the SI Strategy and analysis of Thessaly's needs

Evangelos Sakellariou — AN.KA S.A.

This session sets the conceptual and strategic framework for the workshop. It introduces the working definition of Social Innovation adopted by the NCCI, presents the current SI strategy for Greece, and analyses the specific social needs and challenges of the Thessaly region.

SESSION 2

11:50 – 12:30

Reframing social problems as a lever for social innovation and institutional reform: applications from Thessaly

Marianna Kondylidou — SED Consultants

This session explores how reframing social problems — looking at them from new angles and with different stakeholders — can unlock innovative solutions and drive institutional change. Practical examples drawn from Thessaly illustrate the approach.

SESSION 3

12:30 – 13:15

Participatory Design & Coaching – Mentoring Tools

Konstantinos Nikolaou — People's University of Social Solidarity Economy "UnivSSE Coop"

This session presents participatory design methods and coaching/mentoring tools that support social innovation processes. The session combines conceptual introduction with hands-on examples of how these approaches are applied in solidarity economy contexts.

SESSION 4

13:15 – 13:45

Social Impact Assessment as a tool for learning and designing actions and policies

Yiorgos Alexopoulos — AUA & Marianna Kondylidou — SED Consultants

The final session introduces Social Impact Assessment (SIA) not just as an evaluation tool but as an active instrument for learning and designing future actions and policies. The session draws on both academic research and applied consultancy experience.

13:45 – 14:00

Open Discussion – Closing Remarks



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Social
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1st Workshop

«Tools and Methodologies of Social Innovation (SI)»

Date	Monday, 8 June 2026
Venue	Joist Innovation Park
Address	Valtetsiou & Tripoleos Str., Larissa
Time	11:00 – 14:00

About the Workshop

This workshop is the first in a series organised under the framework of the National Competence Centre for Social Innovation (NCCI) in Thessaly. It brings together practitioners, researchers, and public officials to explore tools and methodologies that drive social innovation, using concrete applications from the region of Thessaly.

About the NCCI

The National Competence Centre for Social Innovation (NCCI) is supported by the ESF+ Social Innovation+ initiative. From the outset, it adopted the ESF definition of Social Innovation, emphasising the importance of connecting actors from different sectors around ideas that work and bring about positive systemic change.

During the first phase of the project, a sample of social innovation activities in Greece revealed a fragmented yet multidimensional ecosystem with significant potential for effectively addressing social challenges. Issues of employment, education and inclusion were approached across various sectors — such as climate change, the circular economy and culture — which the NCCI integrated in order to broaden its scope. Its strategy focuses on strengthening public administration through capacity building and pilot approaches, as well as empowering the dynamic ecosystem, remaining close to the field and maintaining active transnational knowledge exchange.

The Centre's Objectives

- ✓ Strengthen the Greek social innovation ecosystem through training programmes
- ✓ Support Public Administration with pilot and portfolio approaches
- ✓ Provide capacity-building training for Public Administration and Civil Society Organisations
- ✓ Connect actors from different sectors for meaningful and productive collaboration
- ✓ Facilitate access to funding for social innovation initiatives
- ✓ Collaborate with European and national institutions to shape social innovation strategies and policies

Partners

The Greek Competence Centre for Social Innovation was founded by the **Agricultural University of Athens (AUA)**, the **Directorate of Social and Solidarity Economy** of the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family, and **Anaptixyaki Karditsas, Local Government Development S.A.**

UnivSSE Coop, SED Consultants PC, Kollektiva – For Social Innovation and Culture, Electra Energy Social Coop, HIGGS – Higher Incubator Giving Growth & Sustainability, and the Association of Social and Solidarity Economy of the South Aegean participated in the organisation as founding members, while P2P Lab – Research Organisation for the Commons & Peer2Peer Practices participates as an associated partner.