

ONCE Foundation, Laboral Kutxa, Mondragon Unibertsitatea and the Carlos III University of Madrid close the programme for promoting quality social investment



On 23 March, the pilot programme Promoting Quality Social Investment in Spain (PISCE) promoted by the ONCE Foundation, Laboral Kutxa, the Business School of Mondragon Unibertsitatea and the Gregorio Peces-Barba Human Rights Institute of the UC3M came to an end. This course is part of the European Commission's Erasmus+ project "Inclusive Investment Partnership for Social Care and Support".

The aim of the programme was to provide training in social impact investment and the exchange of experiences between the different public and private actors and social entities.

Thirty-seven professionals from the three sectors took part in the course. During these two months, through an innovative training process, they were able to learn about national and European case studies through eLearning content in video and podcast format, as well as collaborating and reflecting in virtual meetings.

According to the European Union, Europe will have an investment gap in social infrastructure of approximately 150 billion euros per year over the next decade. There is, on the one hand, a crucial need for complementary resources to scale the quality and degree of innovation of projects and initiatives, and for a new generation of actors who have the skills and confidence to ensure collaboration between them. In this way, financing with social impact through public and private sources will allow addressing the needs faced by the Social Sector and as set out in the 2030 Agenda, leaving no one behind.

The closing ceremony was attended by Fernando Torija, Head of Division for Spain at the European Investment Bank; Alberto Durán, Executive Vice-President of the ONCE Foundation, Lander Beloki, Dean of the Business Faculty at the University of Mondragón, Oscar Muguerza, Director of Business Development at Laboral Kutxa and Silvia Gallart Parramón, Director of International Relations and Cooperation at UC3M.

Javier Güemes, Director of the ONCE Social Group's International Department, highlighted the EIB's role as a key player in the development of the investment ecosystem and thanked it for its support for a more social and inclusive Europe. The EIB stresses the importance of this type of collaborative initiative for promoting social investment in Spain together, as well as its provision of experience, programmes and resources to achieve this.

Alberto Durán highlighted the process of reflection carried out during the programme to identify the keys to achieving quality social investment, stressing that collaboration between the three sectors is vital to the success of social impact investment. He also highlighted the added value of complementing existing resources through this means, always prioritising their social impact, the appropriate selection

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of indicators for their evaluation and continuous improvement, favouring efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability in management of resources. Lander Beloki highlighted the important learning framework that the programme has been, where agents of different natures have met with a common purpose and have been able to define lines of work for the future. He also stressed the university's commitment, as a generator and transmitter of knowledge, to transfer the knowledge generated to existing programmes, emphasising the sensitivity and balance required when addressing both economic and social challenges within the framework of impact investment. Oscar Muguerza welcomed the role played by both the EIB and the EIF in the world of social finance and pointed out that just as there is no economic investment without economic profitability, there is no social investment without social impact, and that the key is what you maximise. Every social project has to have an economic return, but what it has to seek is social maximisation.

For her part, Silvia Gallart, from the Carlos III University of Madrid, highlighted the commitment to the values of inclusivity, equality, accessibility and environmental sustainability as a fundamental key.

Translated from Spanish. The original version can be found here ([link to be put in the website version](#))