



## A4i Professional Development Programme

October 2020

The 2008 crisis and the coronavirus crisis have and will have a strong impact on the governance of social services in Europe: Member States have (more often than not) cut their budgets. Thus, new instruments and tools are needed to ensure the presence of quality care and support services, with well-paid staff by fostering the collaboration between private investors and social services.

Through the EU Investment Plan and upcoming InvestEU programme, the European Union is trying to boost investment in Europe, and therefore kick-start the European economy. In the future InvestEU programme, there will be a particular emphasis on strengthening social investment and skills. However, one of the main barriers to social investment is the **lack of capacity and know-how on why, when and how to use private investment in the social field**. Therefore, the a4i project is developing awareness and instruments, which will improve the capacity of social services, investors and public authorities to work together through the creation of multi-stakeholder partnership as a mechanism to provide social care and support services in an effective, efficient, sustainable and inclusive way. Thus, by establishing a joint learning in **cross-sector teaching and training courses** for social service providers, private investors and public authorities, and combine developing **integrated academic and adult training learning methods** between investors, authorities and social care providers, based on specific real-life piloting, a4i project will help to make EU approach successful.

One of the a4i outcome is a universal Professional Development Programme (PDP). This educational programme will be positioned as the bridge among investors, social providers and public authorities, and contributing to enhance the mutual understanding, trust and ability to work together in securing more sustainable and diversified funding for integrated, flexible and individualized services. The main objective of this programme is to attract private investment to the social character initiative, constituting a new partnership-based business model among social service providers, investors and public authorities.

This joint initiative is a first step towards creating concrete collaboration between the three sectors, especially at European level.

The programme is composed by 13 modules providing the key training course on social investment which would apply across Europe. They are focusing on the following topics:

1. Understanding Social investment in Social Care and Support
2. Human Rights in Social Care and Support
3. Understanding Social Care and Support in Social Investment

4. Understanding Private Finance in Social Care and Support
5. Understanding the Investment Cycle
6. Building Social Business Model
7. Standard Financing Instruments
8. European Financial Instruments
9. Emerging Financial Instruments
10. Multi- Stakeholder Partnership in Social Investment
11. Risk Assessment and Mitigation
12. Social Impact Assessment
13. Social Business Plan

The logic of the PDP starts from the **Understand** dimension, understood as an introductory dimension aimed at understanding main concepts that need to be taken into consideration in the social investment field such as: social investment, human rights, social investment cycle or supply and demand side of social investment.

Second dimension is the **Prepare** dimension, a more technical and hands on dimension presenting tools, financial instruments (standard and emerging), the need of a multi-stakeholder partnership and social business models.

The third dimension is **Assess and Plan**, an essential part where a social business plan is figured out and assessments, both from the risk side and from the social impact side, are made.

**Table 1:** Architectural Overview of the Professional Development Programme

DIMENSION	MODULE
UNDERSTAND	1. Understanding Social Investment in Social Care and Support
	2. Human Rights in Social Care and Support
	3. Understanding Social Care and Support in Social Investment
	4. Understanding Private Finance in Social Care and Support
	5. Understanding the Investment Cycle
PREPARE	6. Building Social Business Model
	7. Standard Financial Instruments
	8. European Financial Instruments
	9. Emerging Financial Instruments
	10. Multi-stakeholder partnership
ASSESS & PLAN	11. Risk Assessment and Mitigation
	12. Social Impact Assessment
	13. Social Business Plan
NATIONAL GUIDELINES	14. SPAIN guideline for Quality Social Investment
	15. CZECH REPUBLIC guideline for Quality Social Investment
	16. BELGIUM guideline for Quality Social Investment