

Good Practice Workshop – ENRD Evaluation Helpdesk

‘New tools for monitoring and evaluation: insights from the Evaluation Knowledge Bank’ – Online, 20th of October 2021

Evaluation of social innovation in rural areas: a novel method developed by SIMRA H2020 project - Overview

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SIMRA WP4 Coordinator and UNIPD Team

Other involved partners: **HUT**, BOKU, DLO, IFE SAS, EFI, ICRE8, EURAC, UNIFG, CETIP, CTFC

Outline of the presentation

1. Introduction: the SIMRA H2020 project
2. Section A: online database and examples
3. Section B: the SIMRA methodology for evaluating SI in MRAs
 1. The SIMRA evaluation framework
 2. Tools for data collection, entry and analysis
 3. A guided system to focus the evaluation
 4. Key messages and outputs
4. ***(Acknowledgements → see the slides)***

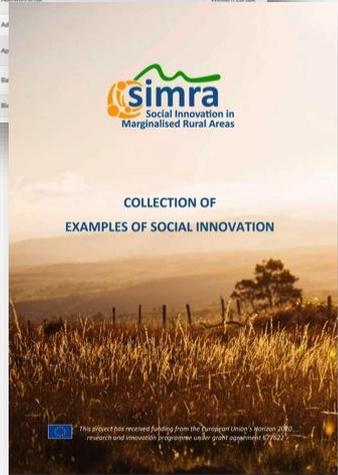
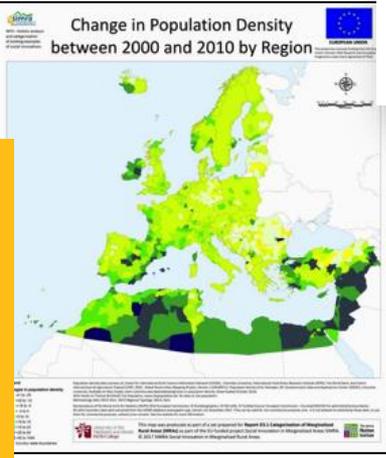
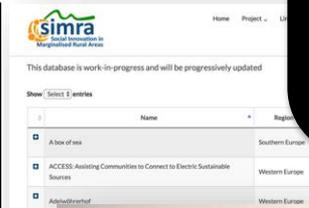
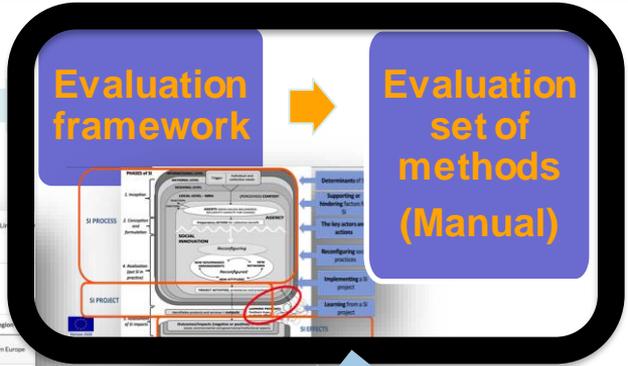
1. SIMRA project: Main Activities and Results

SIMRA Social Innovation Think Tank

Conceptual framework

Map of elements of rural marginalization

Database of SI examples in rural areas



Empirical data collection in 11+13 case studies

7 Innovation Actions

Guidelines for policy and practice



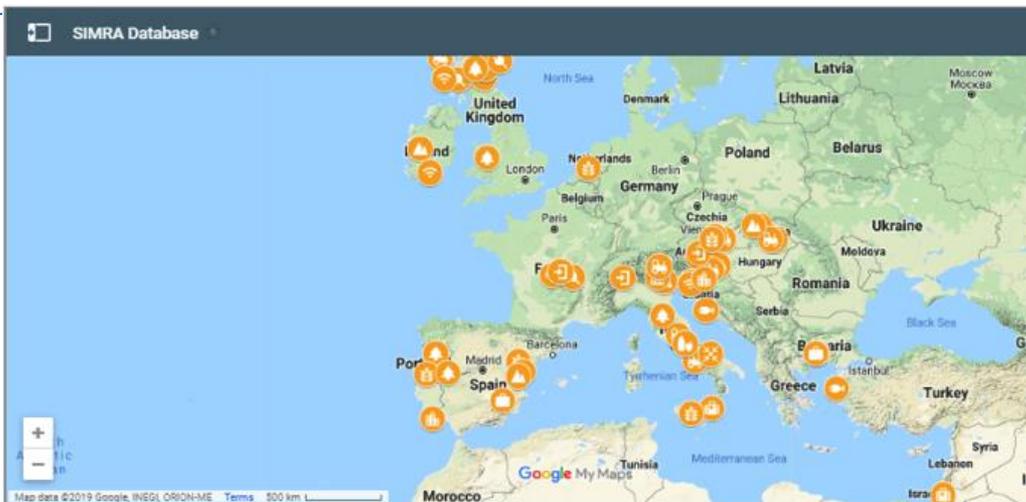
MOOC

SIMRA definition of SI (Polman et al. 2017): “The reconfiguring of **social practices**, in response to societal challenges, which seeks to **enhance outcomes on societal well-being** and necessarily includes the **engagement of civil society actors**”

Section A: the database and examples of Social Innovations in Marginalised Rural Areas



2. The SIMRA database of SI: 211 collected (88 of which validated) available online



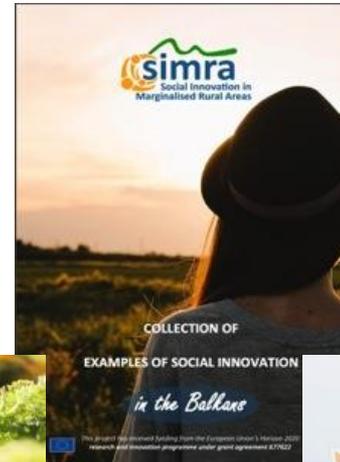
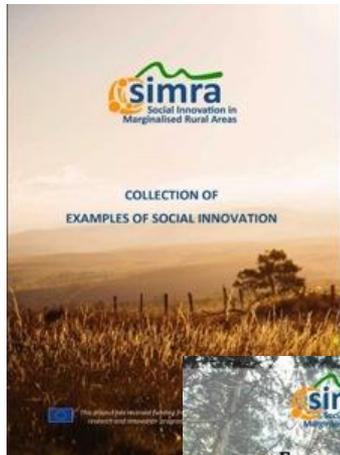
-  Access to land
-  Local Food
-  Environment conservation
-  Forest management / Fire prevention
-  Sustainable/Organic Agriculture
-  Fishery / Aquaculture
-  Energy
-  Entrepreneurship
-  Local Development
-  Social Farming / Community supported agriculture
-  Crowdfunding
-  Networking
-  Provision of services
-  Tourism

	Name
	A box of sea
	Acacias for all
	ACCESS: Assisting Communities to Connect to Electric Sustainable Sources
	Adelwöhrerhof
	Adotta un terrazzamento
	Apadrina un Olivo (Adopt an olive tree)
	ARCHE NOAH - Preserving and Developing the Diversity of Cultivated Plants
	ARDAC - Assisting Reforestation and forest Development Activities in partnership with local Communities
	Artel 13: Encouraging local agricultural produce and local services consumption through revitalizing old houses in a depopulated rural mountain area
	Association Citaa' Futura

Showing 1 to 10 of 88 entries

www.simra-h2020.eu

2. The SIMRA SI examples: catalogues of types

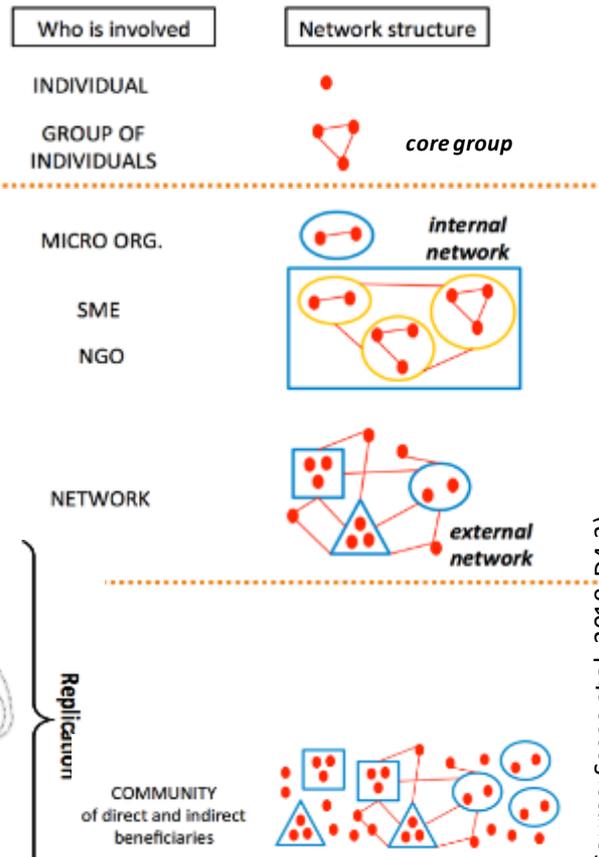
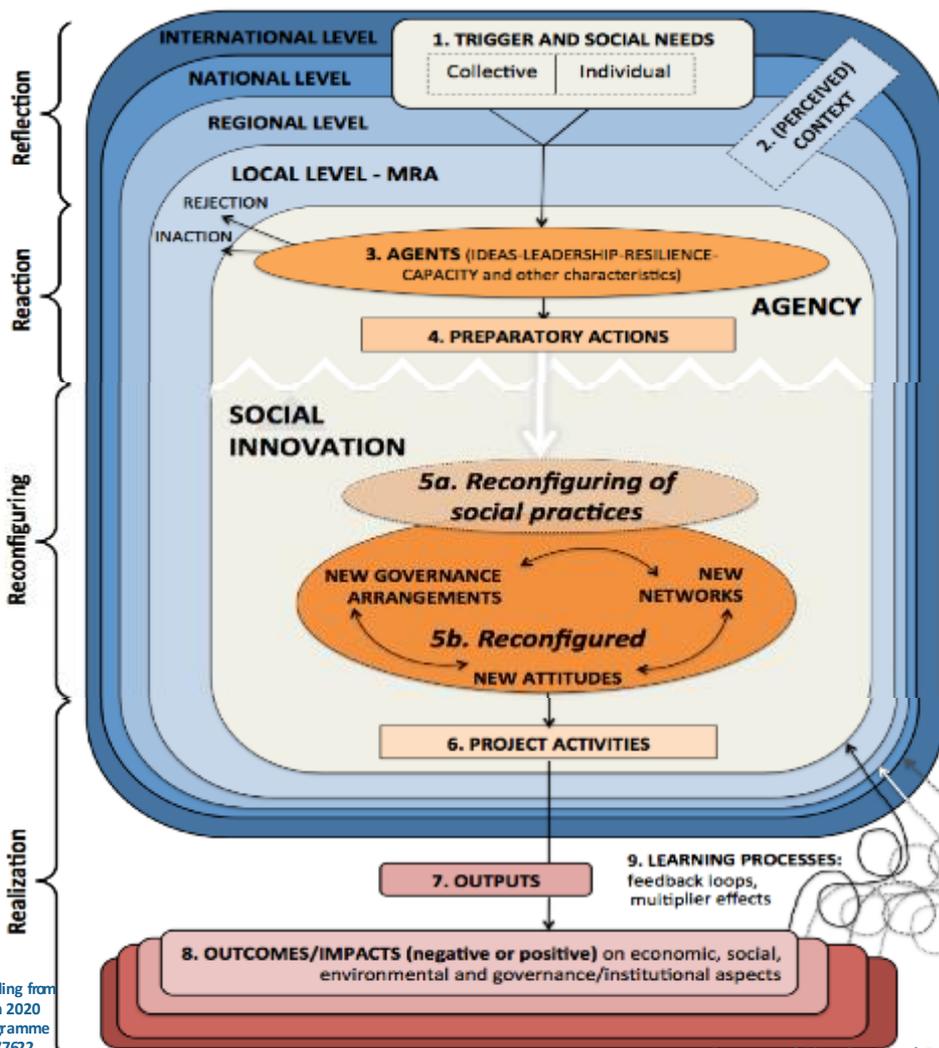
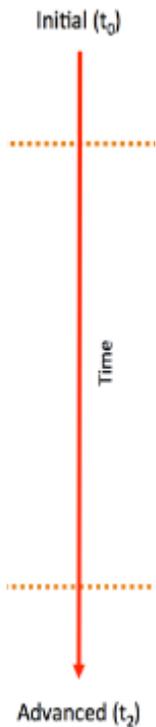


Section B:

Methodology for evaluating Social Innovation in rural areas

**(evaluation framework, data collection and analysis
tools, indicators)**

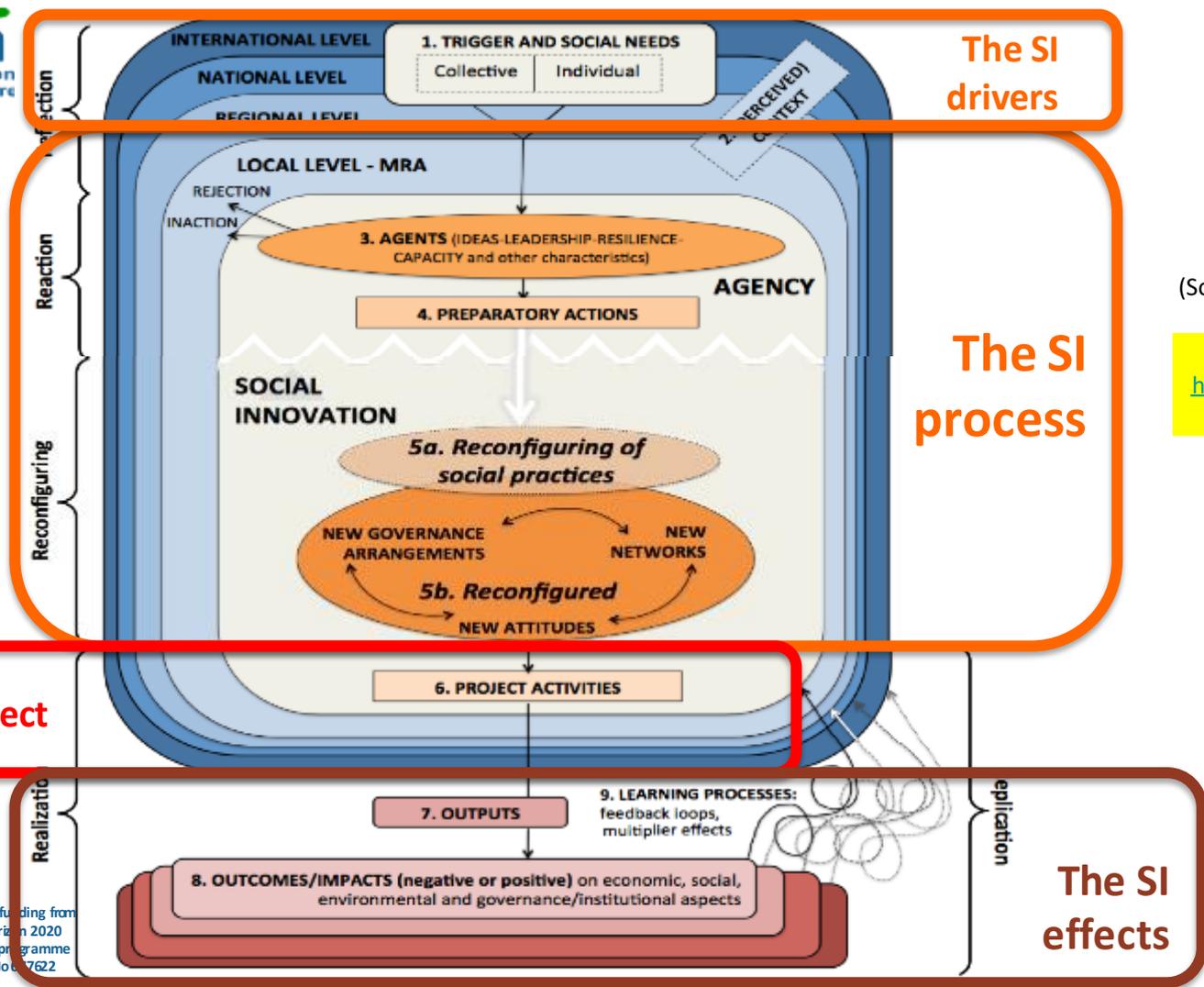
3.1 - The SIMRA Evaluation Framework



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(Source: Secco et al. 2019, D4.3)

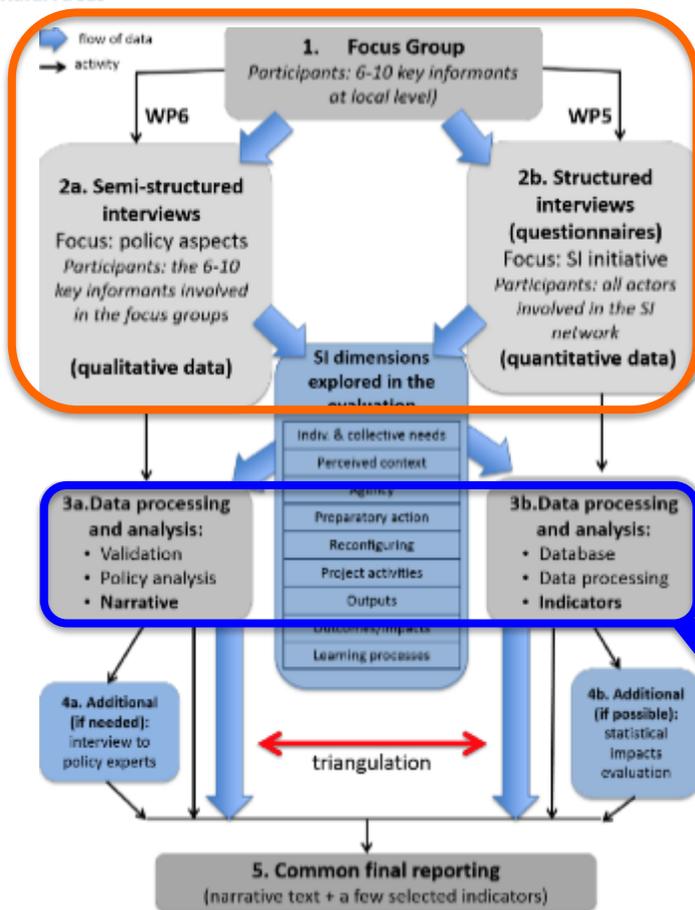
One 4' video on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCfeLxX6I7c>



The SI project

The SI effects

3.2 - Tools for data collection, entry and analysis



2 Mixed methods tools

- Tool1 – **Desk work** on background information
- Tool2 – **Participative group interview** with key informants (focus groups with various sections)

4 Quantitative tools: Questionnaires (Q.)

- Tool3 – **Q.** to Innovators & Followers (Core Group)
- Tool4 – **Q.** to the SI Network (Transformers)
- Tool5 – **Q.** to Project Partners
- Tool6 – **Q.** to Beneficiaries

2 Qualitative tools: Semi-Structured Interviews (SSI)

- Tool7 – **SSI** to key actors
- Tool8 – **SSI** to policy makers

1 Quantitative tool

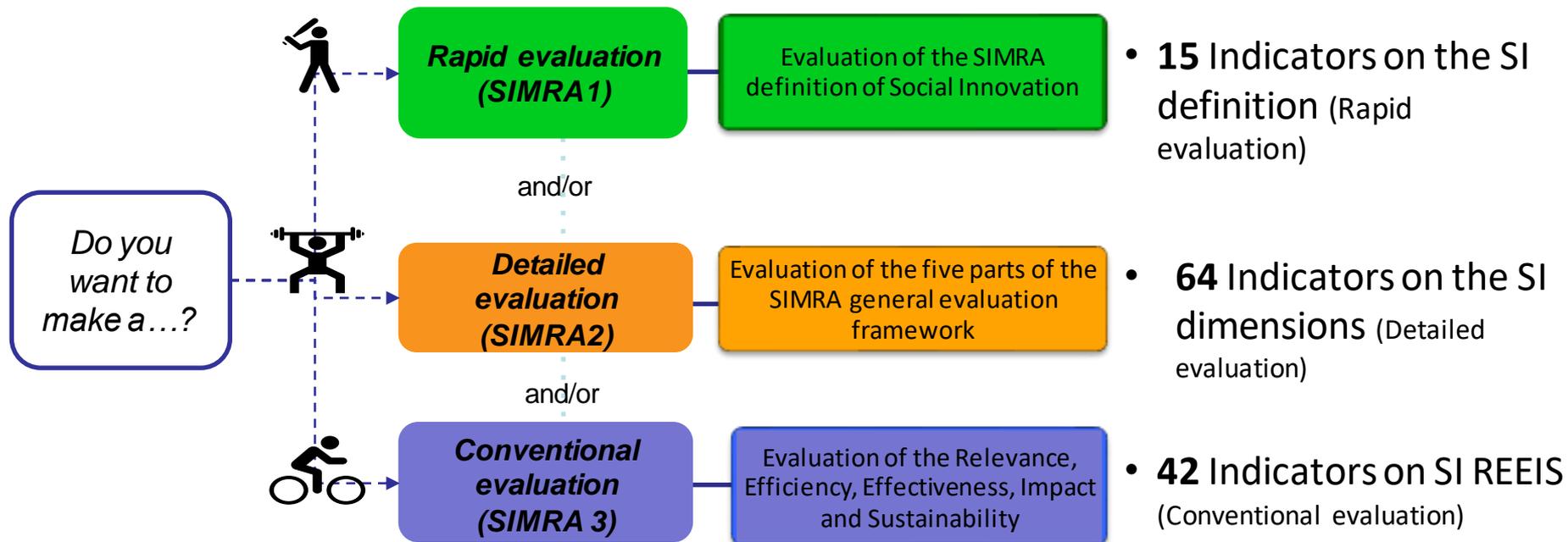
- Tool9 – **Excel file** (data entry + indicators calculation)

2 Qualitative tools

- Tool10 – **Matrix** for interviews' content analysis
- Tool 11 – **Matrix** for policy analysis

3.3 - A guided system to focus the evaluation

Quantitative indicators can be selected in a «flexible» way; a table help to triangulate with qualitative info (narrative), which help to complete/deepen the analysis



3.4 - Key messages: what is special in SIMRA evaluation framework and methods (a part the scope)?

- The **Science-Stakeholders co-constructed** process of development, testing and validation
- The **inclusion of contemporary, emerging issues** in the evaluation (e.g., **social capital, networks, governance, actors' satisfaction**)
- Its potential for being a **complementary tool in M&E of other EU initiatives** (e.g. EIP-Agri, LEADER)
- The possibility to use it in **self-evaluation processes** (e.g., LEADER-Community Led Local Development implemented by LAGs)
- **The full integration of both qualitative and quantitative approaches, tools and information**
- **It is empirically tested to be a flexible tool for different users, allowing evaluators to analyse the different stages, elements and aspects of SI according to their objectives**

3.4 - An empirically tested method!

E.g. questionnaires and related 160 indicators, semi-structured interviews → empirically **tested on 19 Case Studies (11 + 8)** → **121 indicators + tables “validated” with practical tests!**



N.	Case Study	Thematic cluster	Location and country	Partner
1	Forest fire volunteers	Forest Management	Catalonia, Spain	CTFC
2	Lochcarron Community Development Company		Strathcarron, Scotland, UK	HUTTON
3	The Noidanlukko cooperative	Local Development	Pyhäjoki, Finland	OULU
4	Pro Val Lumnezia		Surselva, Switzerland	UBERN & SAB
5	Revitalising plans for Vlkolínec		Vlkolínec, Slovakia	CETIP&IFESAS
6	Hawaruhof	Community Agriculture	Kirchberg am Wagram, Austria	AWI
7	Learning-Growing-Living with women farmers	Social Farming	Trentino Alto-Adige, Italy	EURAC
8	Care farm Pitteperk		Koudekerke on Walcheren, The Netherlands	DLO
9	Dairy producers public-private partnership	Networking	El Jem, Hazeg and Beni Hassen, Tunisia	FAOSNE
10	VAZAPP'		Foggia, Apulia, Italy	UNIFG
11	A box of sea	Fisheries	Lesvos and Leros Islands, Greece	ICRE8

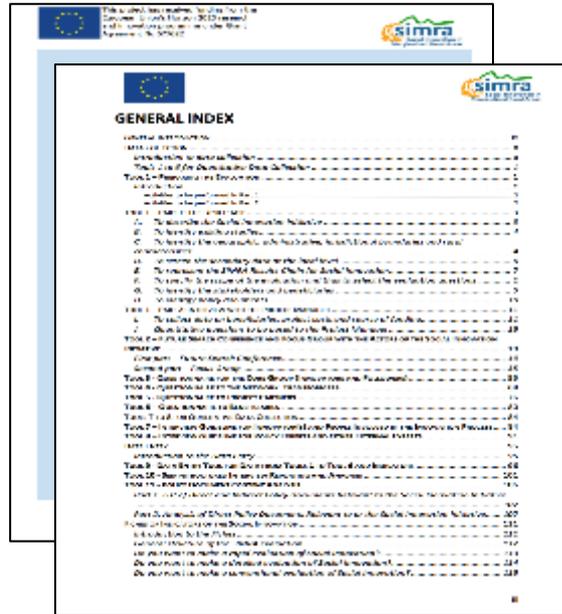


3.4 - Key outputs (on evaluation)

Deliverable 4.3 – Manual on Innovative Methods to Assess SI and its impacts

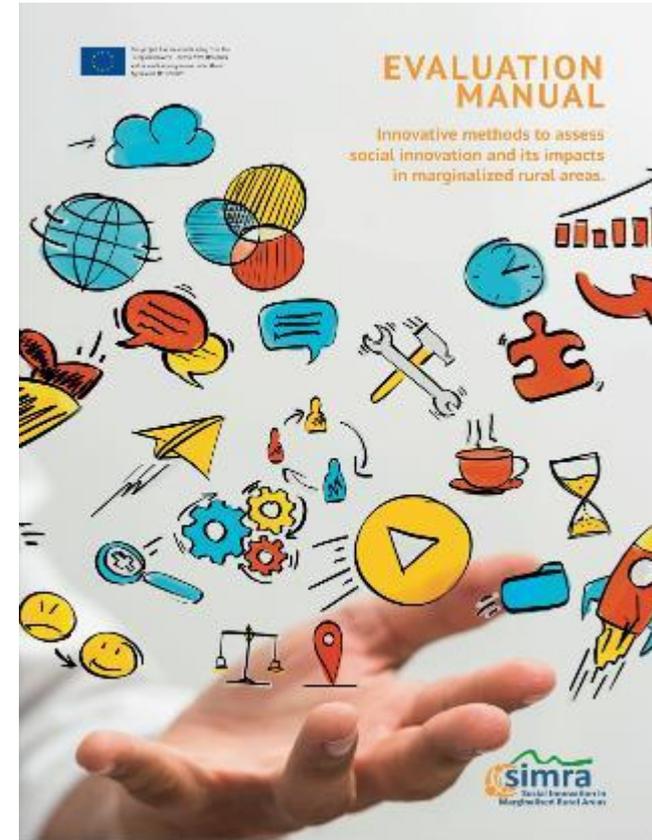
+ The Technical Annex (p. 1-251)

- detailed instructions
- the data collection tools
- the indicators' fiches
- **the Excel file (Tool 9)**



The image shows the cover and the first page of the 'GENERAL INDEX' manual. The cover features the European Union flag and the SIMRA logo. The Table of Contents lists various sections and their corresponding page numbers, including sections on 'GENERAL INDEX', 'Introduction', 'Methodology', 'Data collection tools', and 'Indicators' fiches'.

One “user-friendly” Manual
(PDF, available at www.simra-h2020.eu)



- **Maria Nijnik, David Miller, Carla Barlagne, James Hewitt (The James Hutton Institute, UK)**
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- *All the SIMRA Think Tank stakeholders and Scientific Advisory Board*
- *All the stakeholders involved in the 19 Case Studies and 7 Innovation Actions*
- *The EC Officers and project evaluators*
- *DGAgri and ENRD*



University
of Padova
core team



HUT core team (*SIMRA
Coordinators*)



EFIMED core team



EURAC core
team



BOKU
University
core team





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Thank you for kind attention!

UNIPD Team (WP4 Leader)

on behalf of the **SIMRA Research Team**

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