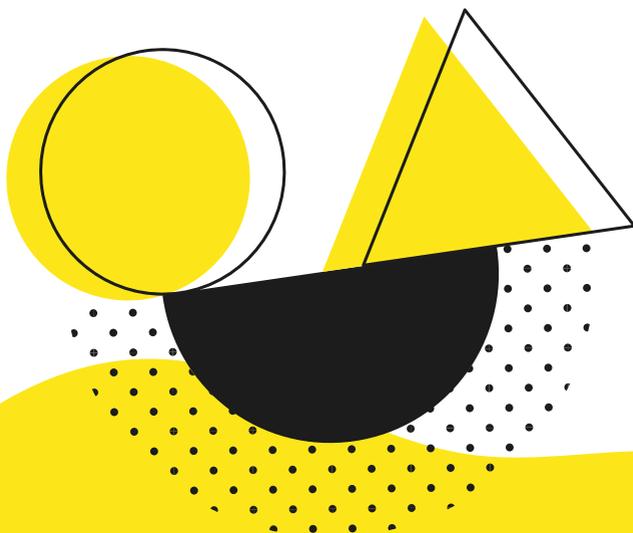




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# ESSPIN

**E**conomic, **S**ocial and  
**S**patial **I**nequalities  
in Europe in the Era  
of Global Mega-trends

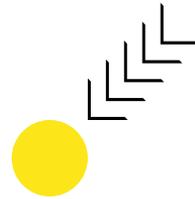


## WHY ESSPIN?



The rapidly changing environment of the first two decades of the new century was characterized by the emergence of new factors or dynamics that exerted multiple pressures on welfare and socio-spatial cohesion in Europe and elsewhere and raised new challenges for policy and collective action. EU integration processes, the financial crisis, the pandemic, the digitisation of the economy, unbalanced patterns of globalization, the refugee and migration crisis and climate change disasters and threats have increased the vulnerability of significant social groups and places, triggered discontent and populism and raised new challenges for development and social policy.

## AIM OF THE PROJECT



ESSPIN is a 3-year project determined to support the EU initiatives on social and economic transformation. The goal of ESSPIN is to re-examine the nexus of social, economic and spatial inequalities in the EU, the various typologies and the arrangements and mix of policies addressing them, in the light of emerging and highly interacting mega-trends and challenges, threatening to increase pressures and make policy choices even more difficult. As new and older drivers of change are projected to create a rather unfavourable environment for balanced growth and socio-spatial resilience, this research will focus on the analysis of policy responses, aiming to make them more proactive, inclusive and effective.

### DONOR

REA

### BUDGET

€ 2.674.000,00

### TIME FRAME

OCT 2022 – SEPT 2025

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## PROJECT'S OBJECTIVES

- 1 To relate the various drivers and outcomes of inequality at different levels of aggregation to each other in an interactive and dynamic way.
- 2 Define and measure inequality in its various dimensions.
- 3 To examine the impact of drivers of inequality at various spatial scales, from global to the local neighbourhood and household levels focusing on the spatial level that is more suitable for analysing the drivers of inequalities more clearly.
- 4 To provide a framework of analysis that allows learning from policy success and policy failure.
- 5 Development of an open-access data-driven platform, that will provide estimates of the levels and types of inequality for specific social groups and spatial units under different scenarios related to initial conditions, the combined impact of drivers and the strength and mix of policy responses.



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## PROJECT'S OUTCOMES



The EU inclusive growth policies need to be better informed by new and consolidated knowledge related to the persistence, evolution and drivers of inequality. To this end, this project aims to develop:

- ▶ A holistic and integrated framework of analysis, coupled with precise measures of multi-dimensional inequalities. This framework will provide the scientific community with a deeper and better understanding of the multiple and interacting forces behind the persistence or upsurge of inequalities;
- ▶ Open access datasets and scientific work, which could be exploited by the scientific community to develop cutting-edge research on inequalities;
- ▶ Tools for policy analyses, recommendations, and instruments of intervention, for policy-makers to identify the spatial dynamics of inequality and identify the governance levels best based to act;
- ▶ Research-based framework, guidance and recommendations for policy-makers, social actors and stakeholders to identify both critical thresholds in societal tolerance of inequalities, and instruments to tackle unsustainable trends and reverse inequalities;
- ▶ Policy packages to address the needs of left-behind people, left-behind places, and marginalized groups;
- ▶ Tools of analysis and strategies for the business sector to design more inclusive and more productive wage structures and business practices;
- ▶ Various learning tools tailored to different stakeholders to increase awareness of inequality and its ramifications for individual well-being and social cohesion.

## ESSPIN IMPACT



### ■ SCIENTIFIC

- Develop a new knowledge frontier and improve the understanding by the scientific community of the evolution and drivers of inequality.
- Provide a novel methodological framework integrating different strands of literature and different types and scales of inequality that will have a lasting impact on scientific research.

### ▲ ECONOMIC

- Provide a better understanding of the economic costs of inequality.
- Contribute to higher well-being at the workplace, higher firm productivity, and more inclusive managerial practices.

### ● SOCIETAL

- Successfully deal with the challenges faced by left-behind people and places.
- Enhance public awareness of the causes and effects of inequality.
- Single out critical areas for social actors and NGOs to intervene, accompanied by effective tools of analysis and policy instruments to reduce inequality and bring about inclusive growth.
- Raised awareness to society as a whole on the importance of inequalities for social cohesion, economic growth, and well-being.

### ▼ POLITICAL

- Improved efficiency of economic, social and cohesion policies in achieving inclusive growth at the European level.
- Improve policymakers' capacity in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- A more equal and inclusive European society.

# PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

## 13 partners, over 10 countries

### LEAD PARTNER



University of Thessaly  
(UTH), Greece

### THE CONSORTIUM PARTNERS



Politecnico di Milano  
(POLIMI), Italy



Research Centre for  
Macroeconomic and  
Regional Forecasting  
Bucharest University  
of Economic Studies  
(ASE), Romania



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Environment  
London School of  
Economics and  
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Social Research  
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Germany



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(UTOULON), France



European Association  
for Local Democracy  
(ALDA), France



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Charles University  
(CHARLESU), Czech  
Republic



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(UNICA), Italy



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Finland (UEF), Finland



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and Local Studies  
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