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Presentations	Session 5.2	<i>Social innovation in forestry.</i>

Abstract Session 5.2 – The green side of social innovation: using Sustainable Development Goals to classify environmental impacts of rural grassroots initiatives.

Social innovation impacts are long-term effects generated by the changes put in motion by a social innovation initiative towards new sustainable pathways. The environmental dimension of impacts refers to any direct change to the environment resulting from the social innovation activities, products or services, which are not addressed by pre-existing systems. In this paper, we determine the role of social innovation in addressing environmental impacts. We do this by analysing a database of social innovation examples in European and circum-Mediterranean rural areas, compiled within the H2020 Project SIMRA. We conceptualise the overall aim of those environmentally-focused social innovation initiatives as targeting the sustainable development of their territories. To address their environmental impacts in a structured way, we rely on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) classification, which allowed describing social innovation environmental impacts through detailed targets. Through the SIMRA catalogue complemented with individual websites, we analysed 238 initiatives, identifying and classifying their direct environmental impacts. Our results indicate that 68% of the cases have at least one direct environmental impact that aligns with a SDG target. Such initiatives impact mainly SDG 12 (12.2 on sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources) and SDG 15 (15.1 on sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and 15.2 on sustainable management of all types of forests), and to some extent SDG 11 (11.4 on the world's cultural and natural heritage). Of these, about 12% are related to the forestry sector, covering mainly SDG 12 and SDG 15.

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