



SOTECIN
FACTORY

MISSION COUNCIL FACTSHEET

**SOTECIN FACTORY: SOCIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL
INNOVATION FACTORY FOR LOW-CARBON AND
CIRCULAR INDUSTRIAL VALUE CHAINS**

Designed by:



Metabolic
Ventures

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OVERVIEW

Over the past few years, mission-oriented innovation has become an increasingly important topic for the European Commission. In a recent flagship research project about the role of mission oriented research and innovation in the European Union, Mazzucato (2018)¹ calls for meaningful, well-defined, bold yet achievable innovation missions to become a core driver of the sustainability transition and system-wide innovation in Europe. At the same time, she urges different actors in the innovation space to design and implement new instruments that would steer the missions in the right direction.

In the context of SoTechIn Factory, EU funding was allocated to support the project's aim to pilot an innovative way to drive mission-driven, circular innovation and entrepreneurship across the EU. Importantly, part of the funding was also allocated specifically to support the creation of the Mission Council, a stakeholder group of selected experts focused on furthering the circular mission related to the target value chain selected by the respective region. Importantly, this group is also tasked with preventing any potential mission-drift throughout the duration of this 3-year program, and ensuring that EU Funds are supporting the missions as intended. As such, the creation of the regional Mission Councils is one of the most innovative elements of the SoTechIn Factory, ensuring that the program contributes to its goals, whilst allowing the EU to deepen its understanding of new mechanisms that can effectively support mission-oriented innovation approaches.

The Mission Council will comprise 5-8 members selected from the regional SoTechIn communities who are passionate about the achievement of the regional mission and cover an array of backgrounds and expertise: academic and industry professionals, investors, business owners, government representatives, circularity and technological experts. Members will be selected based on their motivation and ability to further the respective mission, as well as their willingness to monitor the progression of the ventures selected in line with their mission.

MISSION COUNCIL IN BRIEF

- An impartial, multi-stakeholder group of selected experts that oversees the achievement of a value-chain mission in a given region of the SoTechIn Factory. It acts as a 'guardian' of this broader mission.
- Comprises a range of different actors who share common traits – an interest in the outcome of the mission, value chain and context specific expertise, a local network to help its progression.
- In the SoTechIn Factory context, the crux of this is overseeing the progression of the challenges by the challenge owners and solution providers – specifically, overseeing the development of the higher-R focused, early-stage enterprises, deployment of their solutions, and ensuring that the ventures stay focused on the overarching mission, even in the face of different external factors.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/mazzucato_report_2018.pdf



BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP IN A MISSION COUNCIL

Members of the Mission Council will play an important role in the SoTeIn Factory program, safeguarding its mission to contribute to a systemic transformation of a selected regional value chain into circularity, and safeguarding the EU's commitment and funding towards systemic innovation through venture building. More specifically, Mission Council members will:

- Have the opportunity to join and pilot the functioning of an **innovative, impact-driven stakeholder group**, as conceptualized by leading organisations in the global circular economy space, and as approved by EU's Horizon 2020 Funding Programme.
- Strengthen own **network** of core **circular economy actors in the EU**.
- Be at the forefront of sustainable industry transformation by piloting **novel open innovation approach** to the circular transition together with other impact driven stakeholders by:
 - » Spreading expertise and influence through the support and progress tracking of circular entrepreneurs.
 - » Collaborating and learning from global experts on systems thinking, entrepreneurship, circular economy, and technology innovation.
 - » Helping industry representatives (private, public, non-for-profit actors) pinpoint their core sustainability challenges and identify high potential circular solutions.
 - » Cooperating with other Mission Council members, expanding one's network, and deepening regional industrial connections.

- Be able to gain first-hand insights into **newest circular innovations** and **high-impact technologies**.
- Be able to shape next steps of the SoTeIn Factory Program, ensuring that the piloted open innovation approach has been codified and can serve as a blueprint for replication in other projects across different sectors and geographies.

Members of the Mission Council will also get the following **additional benefits**:

- Being included on the SoTeIn Factory website as a core contributor to the project, along with an uploaded headshot and a bio.
- Receiving the title 'SoTeIn Factory Mission Council representative (2023 - 2024)', to be freely used for different purposes (eg., LinkedIn Profile, CV).
- Participation in online webinar(s) about different impact-related topics from leading experts, from the circular transition and systems thinking, to steward ownership governance structures.





TASKS AND ACTIVITIES

In this section, we have outlined core tasks and areas of contribution of the members of Mission Councils. Please note that the exact details of the individual tasks will be further specified over the duration of the SoTeIn Factory program. This is due to the fact that the Mission Council is a novel, innovative concept in the open innovation space, and as we will progress with the program over time, we will be able to establish our own learnings, iterate on the proposed approach, and make amendments as needed.

The overall time commitment of Mission Council members is estimated at 4-5 hours of work/ quarter or 1.5h/ month over the next two years, distributed as needed (ie., there will be certain busy months, and certain months where no contribution is needed). Their time will be spent on a variety of tasks, from core readings, revision activities, or participation in (virtual) meetings.

Task overview	Description	Other
Co-select Challenge Owners + Contribute to shaping Regional Challenges	<p>Background info: Challenge Owner is a party (private, public, non-profit - from a public organisation focused on national sustainability transition to a corporate deadline with a specific circular economy value chain challenge) which sets a specific regional, circular innovation challenge for the SoTeIn Factory program as they have an interest in it being solved through high-value circular solutions. The challenge owner will need to not only create challenges and co-select solutions that meet their direct needs, but also deliver wider societal value. This balance of interests is critical to the system change required across the regional value chain. The Mission Council plays a key role in ensuring this balance.</p> <p>MC's role: The Mission Council will provide core input and have a veto right in the Challenge Owner selection process. It will also contribute to co-formulating core circular innovation challenges, ensuring balance between societal value created, and specific business or other needs of the selected challenge owners.</p>	<p>Priority task <i>Low effort required</i></p>
Contribute to the Selection of Ventures	<p>Background info: Selection of high value, circular solutions that can contribute to the circular transformation of the regional value chain and to the specific challenges identified by the Challenge Owners is a core aspect of the SoTeIn Factory program. Once entrepreneurs apply to the program, this task will involve identifying and short-listing high-potential solutions, and making a final selection of the ventures that will enter the SoTeIn Factory Program.</p> <p>Role of MC: The Mission Council will provide input to the circular solution selection process, to help select solutions that can best contribute to the core mission of the SoTeIn program. There are two options for how individual Mission Council members can get involved, pending an individual preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low effort (eg., reviewing pre-selected applications, participating in core discussions, providing input in writing) • Medium-high effort: Utilizing budget available for the Mission Council member(s) to form an expert jury to select circular solutions. Mission Council members will be able to apply to become part of the jury and take part in the full selection process, for a financial remuneration. 	<p>Priority task <i>Medium to high effort required</i></p>

Task overview	Description	Other
<p>Steward the Mission of the SoTeIn program by preventing a mission drift</p>	<p>Background info: One of the core aims of the SoTeIn Factory is to effectively contribute to the circular transformation of the selected regional value chain through entrepreneurship and technological innovation. The program's innovative elements, potential difficulties associated with open innovation, and dynamic nature of venture building activities, among other forces, might, however, risk a mission drift, whereby the program could get steered in a direction that would alter or prevent reaching successful outcomes of the program.</p> <p>Role of MC: The Mission Council's role is to prevent such a mission drift from occurring. Effectively, the Mission Council will play the role of a controlling entity over the program's duration, by the means of participating in quarterly meetings, in which different topics and potential challenges that could lead to a mission drift will be discussed (eg., progress of ventures, new legislation, regional trends, new stakeholders), and strategies for preventing these from occurring will be proposed.</p>	<p>Priority task Low-medium effort required</p> <p><i>Format: Input provision</i></p> <p><i>Participation in quarterly meetings</i></p>
<p>Provide Support to Ventures</p>	<p>Background info: Over the duration of the SoTeIn Factory, selected ventures will participate in a series of capacity building workshops, organised by Impact Hub Global, to deepen necessary knowledge and skills of entrepreneurs to get them become scaleable or investment ready. They will also be matched with suitable mentors, and receive 1-2-1 mentoring sessions.</p> <p>Role of MC: The Mission Council will have the option to participate in different capacity building activities, pending the motivation, interest, and expertise of the individual members. For instance, a Mission Council member could become a mentor to a selected venture, could give a lecture or run a workshop about a topic of interest, or could provide ah hoc advice to ventures depending on the member's core expertise.</p>	<p>Optional task Effort pending personal motivation and capabilities of the MC member</p>
<p>Provide input to the SoTeIn Consortia of Partners about next steps of the program to maximise impact</p>	<p>Background info: The SoTeIn Factory has been conceptualized and funded in such a way that would allow the consortia of partners to experiment with innovative elements of circular entrepreneurship and approaches to regional systems change. Aside from the program itself, the SoTeIn Factory has a goal of effectively codifying core learnings, publishing thought leadership articles, and developing blueprints that would allow other stakeholders in the circular economy ecosystem to replicate core elements of the SoTeIn Factory in other contexts.</p> <p>Role of MC: Towards the end of the SoTeIn Factory, the Mission Council members will provide input into codifying core learnings from the process of forming and participating in the Mission Council, and shaping the final blueprints, sharing insights about what has worked and what could have been done differently.</p>	<p>Secondary task Medium effort required</p>



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