



European
Commission



Proximity and Social Economy Transition Pathway

User Guidance: FAQs on the EU Proximity and Social Economy Platform

What is the purpose of this platform?

The objective of this platform is to create an online community that facilitates collaboration, knowledge sharing, and capacity building among stakeholders in the proximity and social economy ecosystem, in line with the goals of the Transition Pathway.

In this platform, you will find:

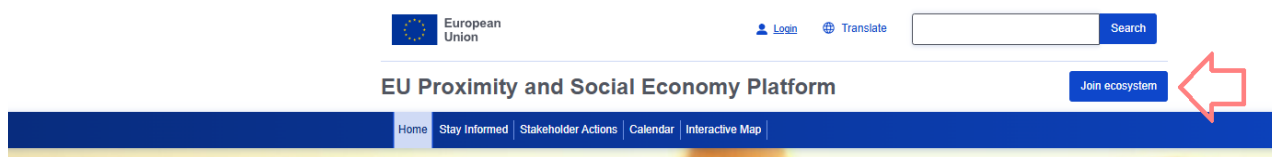
- **Accessible and up-to-date knowledge on the transition pathway action areas for your ecosystem.** This includes relevant news, events, and funding opportunities.
- **Private working spaces on the favourite topics of the ecosystem.** Here you will be able to share knowledge and collaborate confidentially with the members of your chosen community(ies).
- **Access to networking and collaboration opportunities with your peers across the EU, and beyond.** By registering to the platform, you will be able to attend capacity building events and learning opportunities, as well as engage in discussion forums.
- **Guidelines on how to pledge for the Transition Pathway, and inspiration for your future commitments.** This is thanks to our long list of pledges, as well as identified best practices across this ecosystem.

How can I register to the platform?

To register to the EU Proximity and Social Economy Platform, follow these steps:

1. **Create an EU Login account:** Our website is housed on the Europa server; this means that all users will need an EU Login. You can create one by using this [link](#).

2. **Become a user:** Navigate on the [platform](#) and select 'Join Ecosystem'. Enter your EU Login details and register to become a new user in the platform.



3. **Customise your experience:** As you enter your user preferences, you can customise your homepage according to your interests. This will tailor the content based on which filters you select.
4. **Stay up to date:** We recommend that you bookmark the platform page or turn on notifications. In user preferences, you can add notifications. The platform is updated regularly, so use these tools to quickly reference the platform and see when we add new content.

Notifications & Alerts

In-platform notifications E-mail alerts

5. **Interact with others:** Now that you are a user, you have access to interactive features of the platform including the discussion forums and thematic areas.

What type of content can I find on the platform?

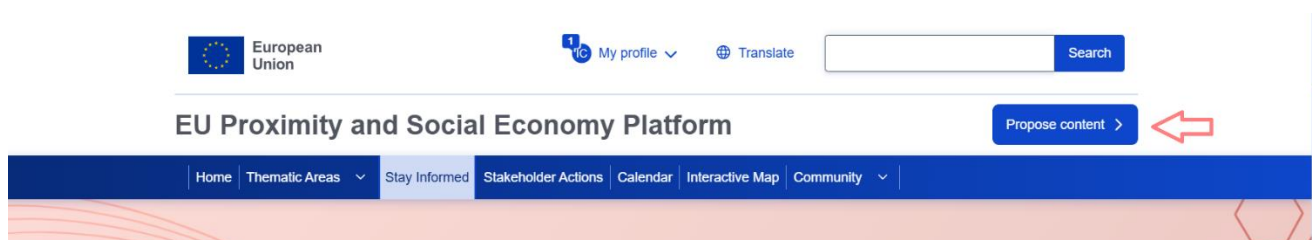
The table below lists all the content types available on the platform:

Stay informed	News Articles Library
Stakeholder actions	Best practices Pledges
Calendar	Events and trainings Funding opportunities

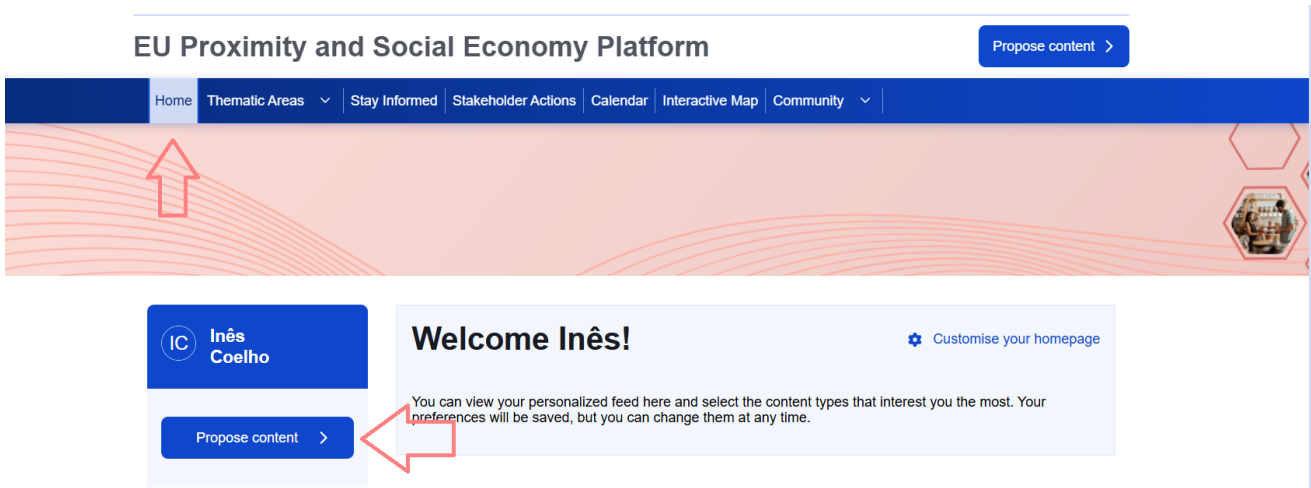
How can I propose content?

If you are a registered user of the EU Proximity and Social Economy Platform, you can easily draft and suggest content.

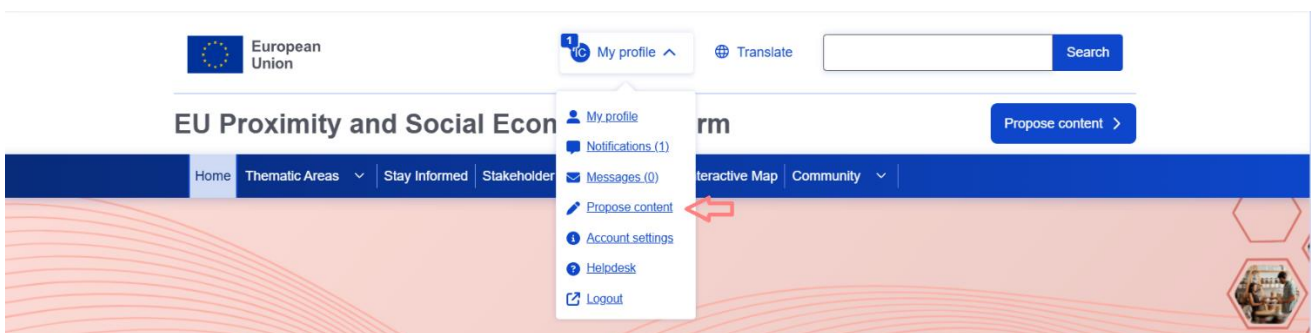
Method 1. Select the blue button on the upper right of the platform:



Method 2. Go to your customised homepage and click 'propose content'.



Method 3. Click the drop-down arrow on 'My profile'. Then, select 'propose content'.



On the content proposal page, select the type of content you want to write about and read and agree to the [Waiver](#) for content proposals. You will then be redirected to a form containing all the necessary requirements for submitting your content item.

What type of content can I propose?

You can propose the following content types:

Articles	Articles are longer informative pieces with original content written by the editorial team or provided by registered users. The content can be related to sharing innovative ideas, interviews, or connecting different sources within the sector.
Best practices	Best practices are inspiring examples of stakeholders' initiatives, that have been selected by the editorial team because of their high levels of innovation, transferability and impact.
Events and trainings	Time-dependent pieces aimed at sharing upcoming events and trainings, which can be both offline or online. Training programs may be asynchronous webinars or courses (culminating with an exam and/or certificate).
Funding opportunities	Funding opportunities are open invitations for financial support provided by public or private bodies, which have a specific date attribute.
Library	The library compiles relevant sources such as research papers, reports or presentations, for a deep-dive into the latest research findings on the proximity and social economy.

News

This content type offers an overview of the most recent updates about the proximity and social economy and about the platform. It is the recommended content type to announce important updates and activities for the community, such as introducing a new project or initiative.

When proposing new content, please be sure to select the most relevant content type to you.

Can I propose pledges through the EU Proximity and Social Economy Platform?

Currently submitting your pledge through the platform is not possible. We ask you to submit your pledges via this [website](#). After each cut off deadline, our team will assess and add the approved pledges to the platform. For additional information on how to structure and submit your pledge, please refer to this guide 'How [to submit your pledge](#)'.article.

What are the benefits of proposing content?

By proposing content, you can increase the visibility of your organisation and participate in the ecosystem. You can share any type of content described above: including initiatives proposed by your organisation, an event you will be holding, or a report you found interesting and would like to share with others.

How can I interact with other registered users?

You have three different ways of interacting with users on the platform: Discussion forums, thematic areas and direct messaging.

1. Discussion forums

In the discussion forums users can initiate and/or participate in discussions. These 'threads' are available to all registered users on the platform.

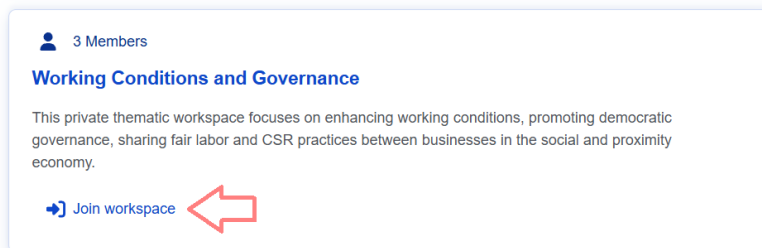
2. Thematic areas

Seven thematic working spaces have been identified to address the needs and interests of stakeholders of the proximity and social economy ecosystem. They align with key EU policies and the Transition Pathway's action areas, creating focused areas for discussion and collaboration.

Figure 1: Thematic areas of the platform

Financing the Ecosystem
Partnerships
Regenerative Green Transition
Skills
Transformative Digital Transition
Urban and Rural Wellbeing
Working Conditions and Governance

Registered users need to request access to these thematic areas. The community managers responsible for each area will review and accept the requests. Once approved, users can view other members, access specific content created for that area, and engage in discussions with other stakeholders.



Users can also propose content specific for each thematic area and introduce questions or discussion topics using threads.

3. Direct messaging

Users have the option to engage in private messaging through the platform. To do so, navigate to the 'Our Members' page and locate the user you wish to contact. Then, click on 'Send Message' to initiate communication with the selected user.



If you have further questions, please refer to our [User Guidance](#). For additional assistance, contact helpdesk.PSE@stakeholderplatform.eu.
