



CISOMO II: Civil Society Solidarity Movement II

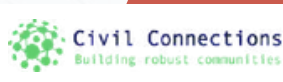
PROJECT NUMBER: 101148054

Solidarity Nexus Resilience Assessment Framework

Assessing Community Resilience, Inclusion and Solidarity

www.cisomo.eu

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TABLE OF CONTENTS



• About CISOMO II	03
• The Solidarity Nexus Concept	04
• What Does Integration Mean?	05
• Empowerment as a Driver of Integration	06
• The Role of Communities and Stakeholders	07
• Challenges and Opportunities	08
• Integration through Solidarity and Participation	09
• Conclusion	10



INTRODUCTION

About CISOMO II

The CISOMO II project (Citizens' Solidarity in Motion) was developed in response to the growing need to strengthen solidarity, social inclusion, democratic participation, and active citizenship across Europe. In an increasingly diverse and interconnected society, migrants, refugees, and vulnerable groups continue to face barriers to participation in social, economic, and political life. At the same time, local communities are challenged to develop inclusive approaches that promote mutual understanding, social cohesion, and respect for fundamental rights.

CISOMO II brings together civil society organisations, local authorities, educational institutions, community stakeholders, migrants, refugees, and citizens from different European countries with the shared objective of fostering solidarity-based societies where every individual has the opportunity to contribute, participate, and be heard. Through thematic Living Labs, stakeholder consultations, awareness-raising activities, capacity-building initiatives, and transnational events, the project has created opportunities for meaningful dialogue, collaborative problem-solving, and the exchange of experiences and good practices.



The Solidarity Nexus Concept

Solidarity is one of the fundamental values upon which the European Union is built. It reflects the willingness of individuals, communities, institutions, and Member States to cooperate, support one another, and collectively address common social challenges. In the context of migration, solidarity extends beyond humanitarian assistance; it represents a long-term commitment to creating inclusive societies where all individuals have equal opportunities to participate, contribute, and thrive.

The concept of the Solidarity Nexus refers to the interconnected relationship between solidarity, social inclusion, civic participation, and community resilience. Rather than viewing these elements independently, the Solidarity Nexus recognises that they reinforce one another. Communities that promote solidarity are more likely to encourage participation, build trust among citizens, strengthen cooperation between institutions, and become more resilient in responding to social, economic, and demographic challenges.

Within the CISOMO II project, solidarity was understood not simply as a value, but as a practical mechanism for strengthening communities. Through dialogue, collaboration, and shared responsibility, project activities demonstrated that inclusive communities are better equipped to respond to migration-related challenges while fostering democratic participation and social cohesion.

From Solidarity to Resilience

Community resilience refers to the ability of communities to anticipate, respond to, adapt to, and recover from challenges while maintaining social cohesion and ensuring that all members of society are included in these processes. Challenges may include migration, demographic changes, economic uncertainty, social inequalities, discrimination, or other situations that require coordinated community responses.

Solidarity is one of the key drivers of resilience because it strengthens relationships between individuals and institutions. When citizens trust one another, participate actively in community life, and cooperate across sectors, communities become more capable of addressing challenges collectively rather than individually.

The CISOMO II partnership observed throughout the project that resilience is strengthened when:

- citizens actively participate in community initiatives;
- migrants and refugees are recognised as active contributors rather than passive beneficiaries;
- public authorities cooperate closely with civil society organisations;
- intercultural dialogue is promoted through inclusive activities;
- communities create opportunities for shared learning and mutual support.

These observations formed the basis for developing the Solidarity Nexus approach.

The Four Dimensions of the Solidarity Nexus

The Solidarity Nexus is based on four interconnected dimensions that together contribute to stronger and more inclusive communities.

Social Inclusion

Social inclusion ensures that every individual, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, gender, religion, or migration status, has equal opportunities to participate in society. Inclusive communities remove barriers to participation, promote equal access to education, employment, healthcare, housing, and public services, and encourage diversity as a source of strength.

Within CISOMO II, social inclusion was promoted through participatory Living Labs, intercultural exchanges, and discussions that encouraged migrants, refugees, and local citizens to jointly explore common challenges and identify practical solutions.

Civic Participation

Participation is essential for democratic societies. Communities become stronger when citizens are able to contribute to decisions affecting their lives and engage actively in local initiatives.

The project highlighted numerous examples where migrants and refugees participated in discussions, workshops, consultations, and policy dialogues, demonstrating that meaningful participation strengthens both individual empowerment and community resilience.

Collaboration and Partnerships

No single organisation or institution can address migration and integration challenges alone. Sustainable solutions require cooperation between municipalities, civil society organisations, educational institutions, volunteers, migrant associations, community leaders, and citizens.

The Solidarity Nexus Model

The CISOMO II experience demonstrated that resilient communities develop through a continuous cycle of cooperation and participation. The relationship between the different components of the Solidarity Nexus can be understood as follows:

Solidarity creates mutual trust between individuals and institutions.



Trust encourages dialogue, cooperation, and participation.



Participation strengthens civic engagement and community ownership.



Collaboration generates innovative solutions and stronger partnerships.



Empowerment enables individuals to actively contribute to their communities.



Community Resilience increases the capacity of communities to address present and future challenges while maintaining social cohesion.

This cycle is continuous. As resilience increases, opportunities for solidarity and participation also expand, creating stronger and more sustainable communities over time.

Applying the Solidarity Nexus

The Solidarity Nexus can be applied by a wide range of stakeholders involved in migrant integration and community development, including:

- Local and regional authorities developing integration strategies.
- Civil society organisations delivering inclusion and advocacy initiatives.
- Educational institutions promoting intercultural learning.
- Community organisations supporting local participation.
- Migrant and refugee associations strengthening community leadership.
- Policymakers designing inclusive governance approaches.

Rather than offering a single solution, the Solidarity Nexus provides a holistic perspective that helps organisations understand how different aspects of inclusion, participation, and cooperation interact to strengthen resilience.

CISOMO II as a Practical Example

The activities implemented throughout the CISOMO II project illustrate the practical application of the Solidarity Nexus concept. The Round Table in Denmark encouraged discussions on migrant integration and civic participation, while the Sweden Round Table explored advocacy and community empowerment. Living Labs organised in Romania, Slovenia, and Poland created opportunities for direct dialogue between migrants, refugees, citizens, civil society organisations, and public authorities, enabling participants to exchange experiences, identify common challenges, and jointly develop recommendations.

Assessment Pillars

The Framework is built around six interconnected pillars representing the key dimensions of resilient and solidarity-oriented communities.

Pillar 1 – Inclusive Governance

Inclusive governance refers to the extent to which public institutions involve diverse community members, including migrants and refugees, in decision-making processes.

Indicators

- Opportunities for public consultation
- Participation of migrants in local decision-making
- Transparent communication by local authorities
- Equal access to public services
- Cooperation between institutions and communities

Guiding Questions

- Are migrants represented in local consultation processes?
- Are community members informed about decisions affecting them?
- Are local policies developed through participatory approaches?
- Do institutions collaborate with civil society organisations?



Pillar 2 – Social Inclusion

Social inclusion measures whether all community members have equal opportunities to participate in society regardless of their background.

Indicators

- Equal access to education
- Equal employment opportunities
- Access to healthcare
- Access to housing
- Anti-discrimination measures
- Community support services

Guiding Questions

- Are migrants able to access essential services?
- Are vulnerable groups adequately supported?
- Are inclusion initiatives available within the community?
- Does the community actively reduce barriers to participation?

Pillar 3 – Civic Participation

This pillar evaluates the degree to which citizens and migrant communities actively participate in public and community life

Indicators

- Participation in volunteering
- Community initiatives
- Public consultations
- Local associations
- Democratic participation
- Community leadership opportunities

Guiding Questions

- Are migrants encouraged to participate in community activities?

Applying the Framework in Practice

The CISOMO II partnership recommends that the Framework be used as part of regular community planning and evaluation processes. Assessments should ideally involve representatives from local authorities, civil society organisations, educational institutions, migrant and refugee communities, volunteers, and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that diverse perspectives are reflected in the findings.

The participatory approach promoted throughout CISOMO II demonstrates that resilience cannot be accurately assessed through institutional data alone. Community dialogue, lived experiences, and stakeholder collaboration provide equally valuable evidence for understanding how solidarity functions in practice.

Used consistently, the Solidarity Nexus Resilience Assessment Framework can support organisations in designing more inclusive policies, strengthening partnerships, promoting civic participation, and building resilient communities capable of responding effectively to future social challenges.

Conclusion

The Solidarity Nexus Resilience Assessment Framework provides a practical and structured methodology for assessing the capacity of communities to foster solidarity, social inclusion, civic participation, and resilience. Developed within the framework of the CISOMO II project, it translates the knowledge, experiences, and good practices generated throughout the project's Living Labs, Round Tables, and stakeholder consultations into an adaptable assessment tool that can be applied across different local and national contexts.

The Framework recognises that resilient communities are not built solely through policies or services but through strong partnerships, active citizen participation, inclusive governance, intercultural dialogue, and the meaningful involvement of migrants and refugees in community life. By evaluating these interconnected dimensions, organisations and public authorities can better understand their current strengths, identify areas requiring further attention, and develop targeted actions that respond to the needs of increasingly diverse communities.

The experiences gained throughout the CISOMO II project demonstrate that solidarity is not simply a value but a practical approach to strengthening social cohesion and community resilience. By providing clear assessment pillars, indicators, and practical guidance, the Solidarity Nexus Resilience Assessment Framework supports evidence-based decision-making and contributes to the development of more inclusive, participatory, and resilient communities across Europe.



**CIVIL SOCIETY
SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT**

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