

## Examples of PYSI projects funded between 2021 and 2024

Platform for cooperative, anti-speculative and ecological housing projects in Brussels, led by [CoBHa SC](#)



CoBHa, the **Coopérative Bruxelloise d'Habitat**, was created in November 2023 by founding members who were also active in various other initiatives, such as Communa, Fair Ground Brussels, Community Land Trust Brussels, Yes We Camp, Bellevilles, DEGENTRIFY and Plateau Urbain. CoBHa's main objective is to develop cooperative, anti-speculative and ecological housing on a large scale in the Brussels-Capital Region, by promoting socio-economic diversity, social cohesion, a sense of unity and the pooling of resources.

The PYSI project (2024) involves testing the implementation of real estate operations, including the purchase, construction and renovation of housing that is then rented out to members of the cooperative. These members then become owners by holding shares, and have a say in the democratic management of the cooperative ("one person one vote"). They also benefit from rent that is stable and affordable, calculated in line with the actual costs of the building, and access to common areas and high-quality shared services. This model is inspired by Swiss housing cooperatives, but CoBHa is aiming to adapt the project to Brussels' own unique characteristics.

Inter-cooperation for the development of shared digital solutions, led by [Coop IT Easy SC](#)



In 2018, Coop IT Easy was created to meet the growing demand for management software among cooperative supermarkets. In 2020, their software was being used in 11 cooperative supermarkets and by 25 cooperatives to manage their members. The PYSI project (2021) involves testing an approach that entails **inter-cooperation and the pooling** of resources, thus reducing costs for cooperative supermarkets.

Coop IT Easy also benefited from support through [CoopCity's SEEDS programme](#).

Implementation of an HSS (holistic support service), led by [Casa legal ASBL](#)



Casa legal's **holistic support service** (HSS) was born when four female lawyers specialising in immigration law, family law and social (criminal) law observed two specific needs, after working in the field for several years: (1) A social need, i.e. the growing number of people requesting the services of a lawyer in these fields, and who also require social and/or psychological support ; (2) A societal need, i.e. the need to de-compartmentalise professions that, in reality, work closely together in the fields in which they operate.

By offering an HSS (PYSI 2021), Casa legal is aiming to test, for 100 proceedings, a pilot service that handles cases holistically, providing the support that particularly vulnerable people need, and which involves combined legal support enhanced by joint legal defence thanks to a partnership of lawyers and support from a psycho-social participant. Casa legal is socially innovative as it is the first non-profit organisation aiming to provide an integrated framework bringing together salaried lawyers and psycho-social players in order to improve the defence and support of its beneficiaries.

Casa legal also benefited from support through [CoopCity's SEEDS programme](#).

Self-renovation of social housing, led by [Community Land Trust Brussels ASBL](#)



Community Land Trust Brussels (CLTB), which was created in 2010 and became a non-profit organisation in 2011, is a socially innovative property developer based on the "Community Land Trust" model. In this model, the land remains the property of the community, while the homes are sold at affordable prices as the owners are not paying for the land. It is possible to resell the house, but only at a limited price, ensuring it remains affordable for future generations. CLTB was the first organisation to apply this model in continental Europe and has become a benchmark in the international CLT movement.

The PYSI project (2024) is testing out a new solution to address the housing crisis in Brussels, where people on low incomes are struggling to find decent, affordable rental housing. The CLTB's solution involves renovating small-scale housing, which is more sustainable than building new apartments, reduces costs, and makes the use and maintenance of housing more sustainable, thanks to partial **self-renovation**.

The CLTB also benefited from support through [CoopCity's INNOVATE programme](#).

Perpetuating affordable rental housing thanks to investments by citizens, led by [Fair Ground Brussels SC](#)



Fair Ground Brussels is a young **social real estate cooperative**, founded by several associations with substantial experience in housing, accommodation centres for the homeless, alternative funding and urban development. The cooperative aims to create affordable and sustainable housing and spaces for the social economy, by calling on investors, particularly those with a social impact.

With the Fair Homes project (PYSI 2022), Fair Ground Brussels is focusing solely on the production of affordable housing for people on low incomes. In contrast to other players, Fair Ground is developing a product that ensures long-term affordability. The housing produced will never be able to be sold on the market, which means the project has a much bigger social impact, but also a lower financial return for the investors. That's why Fair Ground Brussels is looking to test out a new strategy for producing housing on a large scale through Fair Homes, in particular in terms of financial products, target groups, a communication strategy, legal facilities and real estate operations.

Professional reintegration for people with past convictions, led by [Unago ASBL](#)



Unago (PYSI 2023) is testing a solution that helps businesses to find high-quality, motivated staff and also supports **people with past convictions to reintegrate** into society. Despite their motivation and skills, this group of people is often alienated from the job market. Businesses are able to benefit from prepared and well-supported candidates, can take part in a social mission with real meaning, and improve their diversity and inclusion policy. Placing great importance on the human aspect of its work and on the success of the placement, Unago provides coaching ahead of employment for their various candidates, as well as supporting them throughout their employment contract to ensure everything runs smoothly over the long term.

Consortium of employers in the cultural sector, led by [Empowork Culture ASBL](#)

Empowork Culture (PYSI 2023) is a project carrying out a feasibility study for a shared recruitment agency, aimed at cultural players in Brussels and Wallonia. Taking the form of a "**consortium of employers**", its aim is to create full-time, permanent contracts, based on its members' part-time and/or temporary employment opportunities, in order to enhance their activities and improve working conditions for their teams. What makes Empowork Culture unique is also its ability to address several problems encountered in cultural employment, in particular the insecurity of the work, the lack of diversity within teams of cultural players and the absence of shared and widespread management information systems, which can help organisations optimise their operations.

P.E.R.C.H.E.: Projections Et Rencontres pour Cinéphiles en situation de Handicap ou d'Empêchement – Screenings and meetings for cinema-lovers with disabilities or facing barriers, led by [CinéCity SC](#)



P.E.R.C.H.E. (**Projections Et Rencontres pour Cinéphiles en situation de Handicap ou d'Empêchement** – Screenings and meetings for cinema-lovers with disabilities or facing barriers) is a project offering inclusive cinema screenings. Born out of the realisation that there are implicit standards and technological deficits that exclude certain audiences, P.E.R.C.H.E. (PYSI 2023) aims to put in place a technical system and reception mechanism that brings together different types of audiences. The aim is also to create tools (online platform, vademecum, training, etc.) for cinemas in collaboration with specialised associations.

CinéCity also benefited from support through [CoopCity's SEEDS programme](#).

Mutu-a, led by [Collectiv-a ASBL](#)



With the Mutu-a project (PYSI 2023), Collectiv-a is testing out the creation and long-term sustainability of a **community of shared governance organisations working in the health sector**. Firstly, the aim is to facilitate mutual assistance and sharing between organisations, and secondly, to identify common governance issues. The member organisations will work together with Collectiv-a to develop shared models to address these challenges.

During the PYSI project, Collectiv-a is focusing on organisations with the following characteristics: working in the health sector and taking a multidisciplinary approach, with between 5 and 50 employees, in operation for at least 1 year, operating under shared governance and located in the Brussels Region.

From energy sharing initiatives to a citizen, local and renewable electricity supplier in Brussels, led by [brupower SC](#)



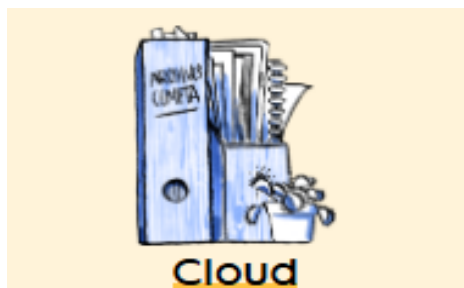
The brupower citizen cooperative is aiming to explore a **new green, renewable citizen electricity supply service** in the Brussels Region. This service (PYSI 2023) is based on the experience that brupower gathers through sharing projects within the energy communities currently being developed in the Region. This new service is co-constructed with Brussels residents, so it can be tailored to their household habits and includes the key requirements for an environmental and social transition.

brupower also benefited from support through [CoopCity's INNOVATE programme](#).

Pension fund supporting social and sustainable real estate, led by **Pensions for Change ASBL**

Pensions for Change is an ambitious project aiming to make a real **systemic impact by making the most of the leverage effect that pension funds can have**. The non-profit organisation highlights that 5% to 10% of the 200 billion euros tied up in Belgian pension plans is invested in real estate, primarily in the listed assets of companies whose speculative operations lead to soaring real estate prices in Regions, such as the BCR. At the same time, growing numbers of people are struggling to find affordable housing. With the PYSI project (2023), Pensions for Change is aiming to carry out the research needed to develop a real estate fund that will bring together a selection of alternatives in one fund, such as housing cooperatives, social housing companies, and urban development fund focused on social as well as financial returns. This "fund of funds" should be big enough to offer pension organisations the chance to invest in local and sustainable real estate for resilient neighbourhoods.

Social testing & opening, led by [Nubo SC](#)



Nubo is a cooperative founded in 2019 by six associations and cooperative structures operating in the digital sector. It has provided email and cloud services to over 620 cooperative members since January 2022. Nubo defends fundamental freedoms and privacy, and opposes the digital industry's exploitation of people's personal data. By using open standards and independent software, Nubo is guaranteeing accessibility, freedom of expression and privacy. It promotes the democratic and collective management of tools, fostering exchange and mutual assistance. To ensure the platform is accessible, the PYSI project (2022) is testing and rebuilding its services while involving the community, while stimulating the emergence of new players by publishing the source code for its services, and documents on its installation.

Nubo also benefited from support through [CoopCity's SEEDS programme](#).



Inter-cooperation feeding Brussels' residents, led by [Cabas SC](#)



The inter-cooperation project is aiming to supply Brussels with healthy products and short supply chains, while testing out logistical and marketing arrangements that involve ALL players in the food industry, from producers to consumers. This PYSI project (2022) is rooted in **inter-cooperation between economic players**, pooling the available resources and developing a shared offering. In this system, decisions are made based on consultation, ensuring that each player's interests are aligned with the general interest. This project also includes a citizen dimension, through the creation of a space within the district that combines a grocery, a logistics centre and a space for citizens, creating a community hub in the neighbourhood, enabling citizens to regain control over their food.

The Cabas project was **incubated within** [SAW-B](#).

### [ViceVersa ASBL](#)

ViceVersa Habitat is a non-profit organisation founded in December 2021 with the aim of building mutual relationships and forging links between vulnerable older people and their careers. After having confirmed the relevance of the social need for **alternatives to care homes for people with cognitive frailties** and having explored the financial and legal viability of the project, ViceVersa launched a PYSI project (2024) to study the feasibility of opening a co-rental scheme for older people living with cognitive frailties, in housing where their life can be similar to the one they led "at home", while benefiting from shared care services.

TalentCoop, led by [SAAMO ASBL](#)

SAAMO, formerly Samenlevingsopbouw, was founded in 1983 and is made up of eight non-profit organisations in Flanders and Brussels. It is working to achieve social inclusion and reduce inequality, launching innovative projects such as Agencies Immobilières Sociales, Community Land Trusts and Maisons Médicales.

The TalentCoop project (PYSI 2024), led by SAAMO Brussels, aims to address two social needs: realising the fundamental rights of people residing without authorisation (PRWA), and overcoming the structural labour shortage in Brussels. The aim is to demonstrate the feasibility and relevance of opening up the labour market to these PRWAs. The pilot project is striving to create a legal framework for access to vocational training, employment and social support for PRWAs, initially in an unregulated industry. **TalentCoop** is based on a **social temporary employment cooperative** to develop alternative models that are tailored to the needs of PRWAs, combating exclusion, poverty and discrimination, and ensuring access to fundamental rights.

SAAMO also benefited from support through [CoopCity's INNOVATE programme](#).

[IsoFabric ASBL](#)



The non-profit organisation "IsoFabric", created in June 2023, aims to reduce the negative impacts of the textile industry in Brussels and across Belgium. Its activities include the research and development of recycling and reuse solutions for textile waste, the creation of sustainable alternatives in various areas, and raising awareness of the harmful effects of the textile industry.

As part of the PYSI funding (2024), IsoFabric is testing the feasibility of developing insulation using textile waste from the Brussels-Capital Region, working within the socio-professional integration sectors and in partnership with les Petits Riens. This project addresses an urgent social need as global textile production almost doubled between 2000 and 2015, while the lifespan of clothes was cut by 36%. Global consumption of clothes is set to increase, reaching 102 million tonnes per year by 2030. Every year, 92 million tonnes of textile products are thrown away across the world, with just 1% of items being recycled. In the European Union, 5.8 million tonnes of textile waste is generated every year, amounting to 11 kg per person, with the majority ending up in landfill sites and often exported to third countries without the infrastructure able to process it.

IsoFabric also benefited from support through [CoopCity's INNOVATE programme](#).