



# Promoting social and solidarity economy ecosystems

While estimates vary, a cross-country study shows that traditional social economy organisations account for 6.4% of employment and 11.9 million jobs across EU27 countries. To increase the scale and impact of the social and solidarity economy (SSE) globally, the OECD has embarked on an ambitious three-year project with the support of the EU.

## Why this project?

Growing inequalities, persistent unemployment and environmental imperatives have come to the fore as priority policy issues. In that context, the SSE can contribute to building more inclusive and sustainable economies and societies. The SSE has indeed proved to be a longstanding agent of inclusive growth.

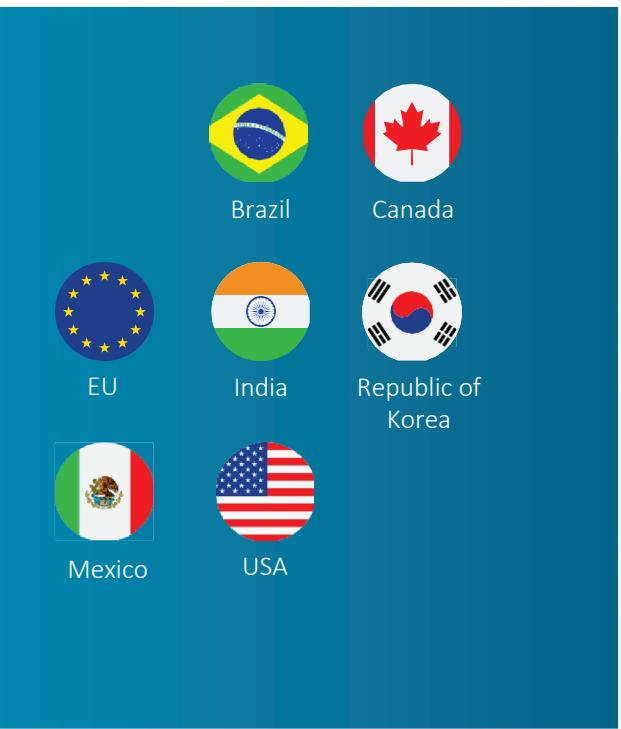
The main characteristic of the SSE is doing business differently, often through social innovation. Traditional SSE organisations and more recent forms, such as social enterprises, all share a common approach that puts people at the core of their mission. By doing so they address social, economic and/or environmental challenges in their business model. Despite the increasingly recognised importance of the SSE, many countries still struggle to develop conducive ecosystems and to access good practices

at the international level. This project will thus focus on two critical policy levers which can help unlock the potential of the SSE, namely legal frameworks and social impact measurement.

## Objectives

As part of the OECD and EU strategic objectives to promote inclusive, smart, resilient and sustainable growth, this project aims to:

- support the SSE, including social enterprise development and internationalisation;
- raise awareness and capacity to build conducive national and local ecosystems for SSE development;
- promote knowledge and other exchanges at the international level.



## How will this project achieve these goals?

In addition to country fact sheets and other targeted papers, the project will develop:

- Peer-learning partnerships to exchange knowledge and experiences on the SSE and social entrepreneurship;
- International guide on legal frameworks for the SSE;
- International guide on social impact measurement for the SSE.

Special themes and hot topics in the field will also be addressed in the different project activities. They include the internationalisation of the SSE, gender and others. Several events and workshops will also be

organised to enhance knowledge-exchange on these issues.

## Would you like to get involved?

Several opportunities for collaboration are possible. Your country or organisation could:

- Take an active role or participate in a peer-learning partnership, through the OECD call for tenders to be published in September 2020 [here](#);
- Take an active role or participate in a specific event around the topics of the project;
- Share policy successes and lessons learnt on the SSE with other countries.

## PROJECT TIMELINE



## CONTACT

If you are interested to learn more about the project or to get involved, please contact [Antonella Noya](#), Head of the Social Economy and Innovation Unit | [Antonella.Noya@oecd.org](mailto:Antonella.Noya@oecd.org)  
OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

## About the OECD Social Economy and Innovation Unit

OECD began work on social entrepreneurship over 25 years ago. The OECD assists national, regional and local governments in designing and implementing strategies to support the SSE and social enterprises by providing them with tailored and evidence-based policy recommendations. The work supports the OECD's Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Programme.



Website: [www.oecd.org/cfe/leed](http://www.oecd.org/cfe/leed)



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