

Good morning!

My name is Antonella NOYA and I am the Head of the Unit on Social economy and innovation at the OECD Center for Entrepreneurship SMES Local Development and Tourism where I have worked for the last 20 years on social economy, social entrepreneurship and social innovation, among other issues.

Welcome to the OECD Headquarters and thank you all for joining us today for this working seminar, co-organised with EC.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the opportunities and the challenges brought by the development and the implementation of satellite accounts for the social economy and the third sector.

To do so we would like to promote an open and constructive discussion on **what is needed and what is suitable and feasible to move forward the implementation of satellite accounts** for the social economy and the third sector.

More precisely we want to:

- **Raise awareness, knowledge and visibility about the use of satellite accounts.**

Although there is an increasing interest in some countries to implement satellite accounts, **more information and knowledge are needed on what this entails**, and on what the benefits and the constraints of settling satellite accounts might be. International opportunities to debate these issues have already been provided, of course. We feel that this is the right time to enrich those discussions.

- We also want **to share concrete examples and discuss them directly with statistical officials** who can witness hurdles and opportunities of implementing satellite accounts.
- For us it is also important to hear from you what is the **role that international and European organisations** along with national institutions can play to facilitate the process of implementing satellite accounts.

I also want to thank DG GROW of the European Commission for having invited the OECD to co-organise this event.

The **reasons why** the OECD has gladly accepted this invitation are **multiple**:

- **First**, the OECD has worked in the field of social economy and related fields for more than two decades and our work has been instrumental to increase the awareness of policy makers, public decision makers and other stakeholders on the importance of all these fields for economic and social development. Moreover, OECD has advised a number of countries, including non European ones, on how to establish enabling policy frameworks to support the development of social economy entities, including social enterprise . In this framework, the OECD has constantly **raised awareness on the need to build rigorous statistics and harmonised measurement frameworks with the objective of producing comparable data**. This is indeed indispensable in order to measure and assess the contribution of the social economy and related fields to the general economy but it is also crucial as it contributes to improving the visibility of

the sector, contributing, in turn, to its formal recognition and to better and more evidence-based policy making.

- **Second**, this seminar gives OECD a great opportunity to discuss the developments of satellite accounts which we first put on our radar at their outset in Europe in our publication *The Non-profit Sector in a Changing Economy* (OECD, 2003) in which we looked at what was emerging in Belgium. Moreover OECD has recently been part of the advisory board of the Third sector impact project, funded by the EC, which contributed to provide an updated conceptualisation of the Third Sector, including for statistical purposes
- **Third**, OECD took a leading role in the establishment of satellite accounts on tourism, namely by drafting the methodology together with the UNWTO and by promoting an harmonisation of the different methodological approaches which were at stake at that time. Nowadays, almost 80 countries are implementing satellite accounts on tourism; satellite accounts on culture are also being created and OECD expertise is very valuable in showing how hurdles could be overcome and opportunities maximised. OECD was also involved in the preparation of the UN Handbook.
- **Fourth** we are aware that notions such as third sector or social economy have existed for a long time and that they partly overlap because they have roots in common historical movements and traditions, and share the purpose of generating social values and mutual or public benefits.

However, we should also note that these concepts tend to evolve over time and include new actors and activities with sometimes hybrid features, such as social enterprises. In this context, conceptualisation of principles, legal forms and activities, and operationalisation of definitions have to be seen as two sides of the same coin. A purpose of this meeting **is also to find out how these two sides might have to struggle to come to terms, and why and how and where this might result in “losses”, as it is simply not possible to “round the square”**. We expect to have a stimulating debate around these issues of conceptualisation and operationalisation, and to understand what is possible to “win” when applying a rigid measuring methodology, and what is acceptable – and to what extent- to loose;

- All in all, we hope that this working seminar will be the opportunity to shed light and clarify the state of play in terms of conceptual and methodological frameworks available to measure the social economy or the third sector. We also hope that it will provide participants with a clearer understanding of the concrete implications that implementing a satellite account has.
- I wish us all an excellent meeting and I pass the floor to Ulla Engelmann Head of Unit for Clusters, Social Economy and Entrepreneurship within DG GROW for her opening remarks.