

The Social and Solidarity Economy: From the Margins to the Mainstream

OECD Global Action funded by the EU

13-16 September 2021

Virtual meeting

CALL FOR PAPERS AND CASE STUDIES

OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The OECD Global Action “Promoting Social and Solidarity Economy ecosystems” aims to raise awareness of social and solidarity economy organisations, and promote national and local ecosystems conducive to their development. The Action is funded under the European Union’s Partnership Instrument¹ and focuses on two critical policy levers that can help unlock the potential of the social and solidarity economy, namely legal frameworks and social impact measurement, while considering the whole policy ecosystem. The Action targets all EU Member States and six non-EU countries (Brazil, Canada, India, Korea, Mexico and the United States).

The international conference, to be held from 13 to 16 September 2021, will bring together hundreds of practitioners, experts and policy makers in the social and solidarity economy to:

- Learn more about the issues to consider when designing legal frameworks and measuring social impact, including new OECD research in these fields;
- Discuss the role of the social and solidarity economy in achieving social impact and promoting inclusiveness, especially in light of COVID-19;
- Network with other international practitioners, experts and policy makers in highly interactive roundtable and breakout sessions.

The Action is led by the OECD Social Economy and Innovation Unit, as part of the programme of work of the Local Employment and Economic Development (LEED) Programme. For over 25 years, the OECD Social Economy and Innovation Unit has assisted national, regional and local governments in designing and implementing strategies to support social and solidarity economy organisations by providing them with tailored and evidence-based policy recommendations. LEED is part of the OECD’s Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities.

¹ For more information, visit the Global Action website: <http://www.oecd.org/cfe/leed/fpi-action.htm>

What do we mean by social and solidarity economy?

The social and solidarity economy gathers a diversity of organisations (including associations, co-operatives, mutuals, foundations and social enterprises) that develop economic activities and are driven by common principles, such as solidarity, the primacy of people over capital, democratic and participative governance.

Among social and solidarity economy organisations, social enterprises, which emerged more recently, distinguish themselves by a more pronounced entrepreneurial approach compared to other social economy entities.

In order to capture the diversity of social and solidarity economy organisations, especially in non-EU contexts, the OECD Global Action will also look beyond the traditional boundaries of the social and solidarity economy, including entities whose features or missions are close to those of social and solidarity economy organisations.

2. CALL FOR PAPERS AND CASE STUDIES

Objectives

In the run up to the conference, the OECD is launching a call for papers and case studies. Papers, which should provide new and innovative analysis on the social and solidarity economy, are mainly targeting experts and researchers in the field. On the other hand, the objective of case studies is to gather concrete examples from policy makers and practitioners.

Priority will be given to papers and case studies exploring critical issues and highlighting policies, initiatives and practices on (1) Social Impact Measurement and (2) Legal Frameworks for the social and solidarity economy. Contributions are also welcome on other topics, including internationalisation, gender, and COVID-19 and the social and solidarity economy.

Papers and case studies should cover **one or more countries targeted by the Global Action**: EU Member States, Brazil, Canada, India, Korea, Mexico and the United States.

Why participate?

This call represents a unique opportunity for experts, researchers, as well as policy makers and practitioners with experience on the social and solidarity economy, to shape the international policy debate and get exposure through the OECD.

Authors of the most innovative and relevant papers and case studies might have the chance to present at the conference, either in a plenary or workshop session. They might also be featured on the conference website and future OECD work in the social and solidarity economy. Papers and case studies will be selected by the OECD in collaboration with the Global Action Scientific Board.

Guidelines for the submission of papers

Papers should provide innovative analysis on issues related to the social and solidarity economy.

Applicants should be **experts and/or researchers** in the field of the social and solidarity economy.

Papers should be between **8-10 pages long** with references (for a total of about 4 000 – 6 000 words) and include the following information:

- Author(s)' full information;
- Title of the contribution;
- An abstract of about 150 words;
- Context; research objectives/questions; methodological approach; main results; expected contributions/lessons; (if relevant) business or policy recommendations; references.

Themes	Potential questions
Social Impact Measurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are current social impact measurement practices among social and solidarity economy organisations? To what extent are the existing methods and tools adapted to their capacity and needs? • Which methodologies are better suited to fully capture the social benefits of the social and solidarity economy while also allowing for comparison and consolidation of evidence? • How can policy makers foster the uptake of social impact measurement culture and practices in the social and solidarity economy ecosystem?
Legal Frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why and when is it pertinent to design and implement legal frameworks for the social and solidarity economy? What conditions make some legal options more relevant or appropriate in the specific contexts of the target countries? • What trends and legal options can be identified, and are used to regulate social and solidarity economy organisations in the target countries? • What were/are the critical steps of the policy-making process to develop the social and solidarity economy legal frameworks observed in the target countries? What contextual changes have affected/could affect the design, adoption and implementation of legal frameworks? • Which criteria and strategies have been/can/might be used to assess the process of designing and implementing legal frameworks for the social and solidarity economy in the target countries and beyond, including their outcomes?
Other themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the opportunities and challenges of the internationalisation of social and solidarity economy organisations? • What policies and practices could lead to further gender equality within the social and solidarity economy? • What is the post-pandemic role of social and solidarity economy organisations?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the role of the social and solidarity economy in addressing racial/ethnic inequalities? • How can the social and solidarity economy help support under-represented groups?
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Guidelines for the submission of case studies

Case studies should focus on providing concrete examples of successful social and solidarity economy policies, initiatives and practices implemented at the international, national or local level.

Applicants should be **policy makers and/or practitioners**.

Case studies should be between **2-3 pages long** with references (for a total of about 1 000 - 2 000 words) and include the following information:

- Author(s)' full information;
- Title of the contribution;
- Context and description (incl. geographical scope and timeframe); main objectives; activities; challenges; key success factors; impact and unexpected implications; lessons learnt for other places/locations; references.

Themes	Potential case studies
Social Impact Measurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodologies for social impact measurement tailored to the social and solidarity economy at the national or local level; • National or local policies to foster the uptake of social impact measurement culture and practices in the social and solidarity economy.
Legal Frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example of legal frameworks for social and solidarity economy organisations instrumental to their success; • Example of national or local policies or initiatives to develop social and solidarity economy legal frameworks and assess their outcomes.
Other themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example of social and solidarity economy organisations that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ have successfully internationalised; ○ have achieved impact to promote gender or racial/ethnic equality; ○ have supported a local community during COVID-19; ○ target support to under-represented and vulnerable groups.

3. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

Papers and case studies should be submitted in Word format to the OECD at socialeconomyandinnovation@oecd.org no later than **7 May 2021**.

4. TIMELINE

- 7 May 2021: Deadline for the submission of papers and case studies
- 30 May 2021: OECD will get in touch with authors of selected work
- End of June 2021: finalisation of the conference agenda

5. CONTACT

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