



OECD
Global Action

Promoting
Social & Solidarity
Economy Ecosystems



Unlocking the potential of youth-led social enterprises

Join our webinar!

9 November
15h00 - 16h30



This project is funded
by the European Union



OECD Local Development
Forum Webinar

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What's the issue?

Social enterprises represent a double opportunity to do business and generate social and environmental impact. Young people increasingly prioritise pursuing careers with positive social and environmental impacts. Social enterprises can help them fulfil this ambition. Youth-led social enterprises can address pressing social and environmental issues while providing young people with opportunities in the labour market. **Despite this potential, youth-led social enterprises often struggle due to the age of their founders and the specificities of their businesses.** In particular, skills development, access to finance, navigating legal frameworks and visibility present notable challenges to young social entrepreneurs.

Why attend this event?

Based on diverse data sources, as well as numerous best practice examples from many OECD countries and beyond, the new OECD report [Unlocking the potential of youth-led social enterprises](#) sheds light on the potential of youth-led social enterprises, the challenges they face and what policy makers can do to help them thrive. It is part of the [Global Action for Promoting Social and Solidarity Economy Ecosystems](#), funded by the European Commission. This launch event will bring together voices from policy making, international networks and, most importantly, young social entrepreneurs, also as part of the [OECD Stand By Youth initiative](#).

AGENDA

Opening remarks and presentation of main findings and recommendations: (10 min)

Karen Maguire, Head of Local Employment, Skills and Social Innovation Division, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD

Corinna Valente, Team Leader, Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI), European Commission

Panel discussion: *What do young social entrepreneurs need to thrive?* (50 min)

- **Julien de Beys**, Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion, European Commission
- **Juan Manuel Martinez Louvier**, Director of the National Institute of Social Economy (INAES), (Mexico)
- **Niki Sharma**, Parliamentary Secretary for Community Development and Non-Profits, British Columbia (Canada)
- **Jonathan van de Gronden**, Member of the OECD Youthwise Board
- **Stefan Panhuijsen**, Director, Social Enterprise NL and Member of the Board, Euclid Network
- **Eduardo Varella Avila**, Executive Director, Revolusolar
- **Sabrina Konzok**, Co-Founder Kiron Digital and Chair of the Board, Social Entrepreneurship Netzwerk Deutschland

Q & A (20 min)

The OECD and the social economy

[The OECD's Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Cities and Regions \(CFE\)](#) is at the forefront of policy advice on regional and local issues, on the social economy and on social innovation. CFE actively supports young people through its [Stand by Youth](#) initiative. This initiative has created a coalition of 12 global organisations to encourage businesses to help young people navigate crises by providing job and mentoring opportunities.

Through the [Local Employment and Economic Development \(LEED\)](#) Programme, the OECD has significantly contributed to the conceptual knowledge and practical understanding of the [social economy and social innovation](#) since the 1990s. The OECD has considerably expanded its work in the field over the last 25 years, raising awareness of the contribution of social economy organisations (associations, cooperatives, foundations, mutual organisation and social enterprises) to inclusive and sustainable growth at the local, regional and national levels in OECD Members and beyond. To date, 15 in-depth reviews on the social economy have been conducted, including at regional (subnational) level. Additional guidance on developing the ecosystem to support the social economy and social entrepreneurship is found in the online [EU/OECD Better Entrepreneurship Policy Tool](#) and numerous [publications](#).

[The OECD Global Action "Promoting Social and Solidarity Economy Ecosystems"](#) was launched in 2020, funded by the European Union, to further support OECD policy guidance on the social economy in 33 countries. The Action focuses on two critical policy levers that can help unlock the potential of the SSE, namely legal frameworks and social impact measurement, while considering the entire policy ecosystem as a framework. In June 2022, the OECD Council adopted the [OECD Recommendation on the Social and Solidarity Economy](#), a ground-breaking internationally agreed policy framework to promote the social economy and social innovation, the first of its kind in the field. It recognises, amongst others, the social economy's potential to create jobs and engage youth.

This [OECD Local Development Forum](#), a network of thousands of individuals worldwide, united by their shared commitment to making their communities more resilient, inclusive and sustainable. It counts members from over 70 countries, representing city, regional and national governments, employment and training agencies, chambers of commerce, social innovators, start-ups, businesses and NGOs. The Local Development Forum is a place for peer learning and dissemination of local innovations and best practices at the global level.

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