

# AUSTRIA

OECD Global Action on Promoting Social and Solidarity Economy Ecosystems

Austria does not have a national framework around the social and solidarity economy (SSE). As of 2020, Austria hosts 127 400 SSE entities with most of them being associations. Women represented 70% of the SSE workforce in 2020. The gross value added of SSE in 2020 was EUR 10.3 billion.

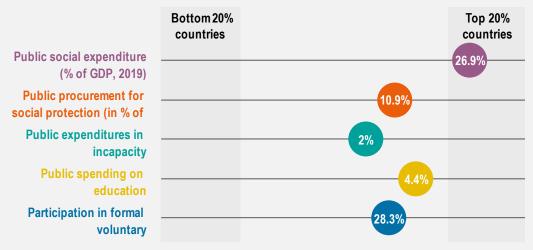
## SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Austria is a federal country and a member of the European Union. It is a high-income country with a very high human development level.

	GDP per capita	Labour force participation rate	Youth not in employment, education or training (NEET)	Poverty rate	Gini coefficient	Rural population	Stakeholder engagement for developing regulations
Austria	USD 67 743	77.8%	11.4%	9.6%	0.272/ 1	40.1%	1.3 / 4
OECD	USD 53 937	73.2%	14.8%	11.0%	0.313 / 1	23.1%	2.1 / 4

Note: Data from Austria refer to 2022, except for NEET (2021), poverty rate (2020), Gini coefficient (2020) and stakeholder engagement (2017). OECD data refer to 2022, except for poverty rate (2018), Gini coefficient (2020) and stakeholder engagement (2017). GDP per capita for OECD is an estimated value. See sources at the end of the document.

### **Country position in selected social indicators**



Note: For each indicator, the position of the bubble on the line represents the country's ranking compared to OECD and EU countries. Higher rankings are on the right. The panel of countries for the international ranking can vary from an indicator to another due to data availability. See sources at the end of the document.

# **SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY ECOSYSTEM**

# **Definition of the social and solidarity economy in Austria**

No official definition of the SSE is available in the country.



### **Institutional frameworks**



### Institutions

The Austrian government programme 2020-2024 assigns social entrepreneurs an important role in promoting innovative business models. **Governmental state funding agencies** such as the Austria Wirtschaftsservice Gesellschaft and the Austrian Research Promotion Agency, the Federal Minister for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection and municipalities **support social enterprise development**. In 2021, the Federal Minister for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection commissioned the expansion of the National Accounts through the integration of a **satellite account for nonprofit organisations**. Data is expected for the upcoming year.



### Legal and policy instruments

Social enterprises that comply with certain criteria can voluntarily apply to the Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH (AWS - the promotional bank of the Austrian federal government) to get the label "Verified Social Enterprise". This label is awarded by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economics and handled by AWS in close collaboration with the Social Entrepreneurship Network Austria (SENA) and the Federal Economic Chamber.



### Stakeholder engagement ■ Output Description Descripti

An independent impact committee reviews all applications to the label "Verified Social Enterprise", which includes representatives from AWS, SENA, Ashoka Austria and the Vienna University of Economics and Business.

### **Main figures**

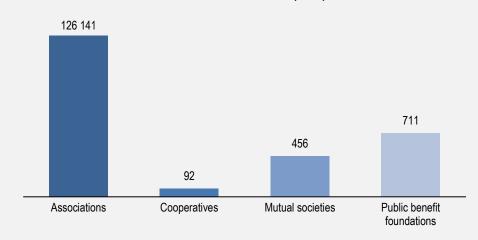
Austria hosts 127 400 SSE entities with most of them being associations. 49.3% are involved in social services including training and employment. Women represented 70% of the SSE workforce in 2020. The gross value added of SSE in 2020 was EUR 10.3 billion.

SCOPE

SSE ENTITIES

There is no legal definition for SSE or a legal status for specific SSE entities in Austria. Since non-profit status in Austria is not tied to a legal form, but is granted on the basis of tax law, organisations with non-profit status are difficult to identify in public registers. The available data are based on selected surveys on non-profit organisations.

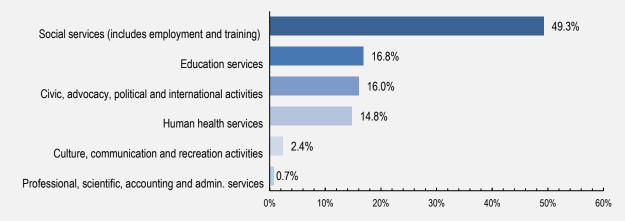
### Number of SSE entities (2020)



Note: The "Associations" column is not to scale. The data are based on register of associations and register of corporations as well as on Astrid Pennerstorfer, Ulrike Schneider (2022). See sources at the end.

# Employment in the SSE by sectors of activity (2020)





Note: The data are based on Astrid Pennerstorfer, Ulrike Schneider (2022). See sources at the end.

# Gender equit



Women represented **70%** of SSE employment while their share in total economy was 48% in 2020.

### Volunteering



There were **2.3 million** of volunteers active in at least one SSE entity in 2016.

### **Economic contribution**



Gross Value Added of SSE in 2020 was **EUR 10.3 billion**. SSE revenues as a share of GDP was **1.3%** in 2013.

# **Legal frameworks**

Legal frameworks to support the development of the SSE can be adopted at the national and subnational levels. They can regulate the SSE as a whole, or specific legal entities of the SSE (such as associations, cooperatives, mutual societies, foundations and social enterprises).

For the SSE	Not available			
For specific SSE entities at national level	<ul> <li>Cooperative Law (1873, revised in 1973) – <u>link</u></li> <li>Federal Act on Associations (2002) – <u>link</u></li> </ul>			

Note: The list above is not exhaustive of all existing legal frameworks around SSE in Austria.

### **Fiscal treatment**

Different fiscal treatment can be established for the social and solidarity economy as a whole, or for specific SSE entities, at the national and subnational level.

### Fiscal treatment of SSE entities Fiscal treatment for contributors to the SSE Tax benefits are granted for any public-benefit limited company, Individuals and companies can deduct donations up to 10% association, foundation and any other organisation pursuing of their taxable income when donations made to certain listed public-benefit goals. organisations with public-benefit status. Housing cooperatives benefit from direct subsidies from both the national and provincial governments. Similarly, roughly 90% of limited-profit housing associations benefit from public subsidies. Limited-profit housing associations have developed strategic partnerships with many municipal authorities to provide low-cost housing. Labour-cost subsidies - such as the "employment subsidy" and the "employment bonus" – are provided to enterprises that focus on the (re)integration of unemployed or hard-to-place groups into the labour market.

Note: The list above is not exhaustive. Information is retrieved from OECD desk research and "Relevant taxation frameworks for Social Economy Entities" published in 2023 by the European Commission.

### **Social impact measurement initiatives**

Driven by a mission of social purpose, SSE entities are increasingly requested to demonstrate the positive value that they generate through their activities. Social impact measurement enables them to assess their positive contribution to society. A diverse range of possible initiatives are available to governments and practitioners to foster a social impact measurement culture.



### **Evidence-based initiatives**

- Austrian Social Enterprise Monitor 2021/2022 (2022) △ Vienna University of Economics and Business, Social Entrepreneurship Centre
- The Potential of Social Business in Austria (Das Potential von Social Business in Österreich) (2015) △ Vienna University of Economics and Business, Social Entrepreneurship Centre



### Capacity support initiatives

- Sustainable Impact Academy (2021) 

   △ Social Entrepreneurship
   Network Austria, EU Interreg
- Impact Management Module 

  △ Social Enterprise Network Austria
- Capacity building programmes by Impact Hubs in <u>Vienna</u> and Tirol

Note: Evidence-based initiatives help produce and disseminate impact evidence to raise awareness on the social and solidarity economy and to reduce the cost of accessing data for single and particularly small-sized entities. Capacity support initiatives offer dedicated funding or training from specialised intermediaries and mobilise networks of expertise and other resources.

### **FURTHER READING ON THE SSE IN AUSTRIA**

European Commission: Social Enterprises and their Ecosystems in Europe Austria | Austrian Social Enterprise Monitor 2021-2022 | Astrid Pennerstorfer, Ulrike Schneider: Der Nonprofit Sektor in Österreich. In: Meyer, Michael/Simsa, Ruth/Badelt, Christoph (Hrsg.): Handbuch der Nonprofit-Organisationen. Strukturen und Management (6. Auflage) | Pennerstorfer, Astrid, Schneider, Ulrike, Reitzinger, Stephanie. 2015. Nonprofit Organisationen in Österreich 2014. Ergebnisse einer Organisationsbefragung. Wien: WU Wien, Institut für Sozialpolitik | A. Exner (2015): Solidarische Ökonomie in Österreich | P. Vandor, N.Traxler, R. Millner, M. Meyer (2017): Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe: Challenges and Opportunities | EU Social Economy Gateway: Austria

### **DATA SOURCES**

- SSE data were collected through OECD questionnaire in May 2022. The data for Austria have been provided by Vienna University of Economics and Business and WU NPO Competence Center as was proposed by the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. Data sources include Astrid Pennerstorfer, Ulrike Schneider (2022): Der Nonprofit Sektor in Österreich. In: Meyer, Michael/Simsa, Ruth/Badelt, Christoph (Hrsg.): Handbuch der Nonprofit-Organisationen. Strukturen und Management (6. Auflage). Stuttgart: Schäffer-Poeschel Verlag.
- Further information on the methodology followed in the country fact sheets can be found <a href="here">here</a>.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.



Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities Local Employment and Economic Development (LEED) Programme Social Economy and Innovation Unit





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