



NETHERLANDS

OECD Global Action on Promoting Social and Solidarity Economy Ecosystems

Netherlands does not have a national framework around the social and solidarity economy (SSE). There were **60 194 social economy entities** employing **798 778 people** in 2014-2015. **5 000-6 000 social enterprises** were estimated to exist in Netherlands in 2016. Social enterprises generated a total of **EUR 3.5 billion** in revenues in 2015.

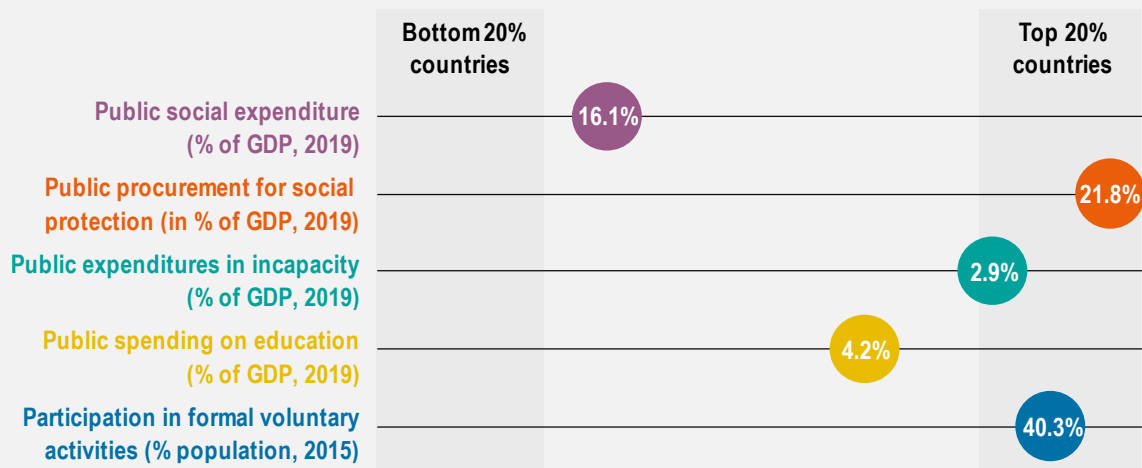
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Netherlands is a unitary 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
Netherlands	USD 69 578	84.7%	7.4%	8.5%	0.297 / 1	0.6%	2.6 / 4
OECD	USD 53 937	73.2%	14.8%	11.0%	0.313 / 1	23.1%	2.1 / 4

Note: Data from Netherlands refer to 2022, except for NEET (2021), poverty rate (2020), Gini coefficient (2021) 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 Netherlands is a provisional value, for OECD is an estimated value. Poverty rate is a provisional 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 the Netherlands

The social and solidarity economy (or social economy) is not defined in any legal or official text in Netherlands. A study commissioned by the Ministry of Economic Affairs has identified the following characteristics of a social enterprise:

A **social enterprise** is an enterprise that: (a) provides a **product or service**, (b) is primarily focused on contributing to a **social purpose** that is laid down in its statutes, rather than on making profit, (c) reinvests part of its revenues in achieving its social purpose and/or limits the distribution of profit and assets to ensure that the **social purpose comes first**, (d) identifies and **consults its relevant stakeholders** at least once a year, (e) is **transparent** on its website (or via other public documents i.e. annual report) about the societal value created, and (f) pursues its strategy **independently from the government and/or other entities**.

Note: For the original text, refer to the [Letter to Parliament on Social entrepreneurship from the then State secretary on Economic affairs](#) (2020).

Institutional frameworks



Institutions

A **variety of actors** contribute to the SSE ecosystem in the Netherlands, including the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.



Legal instruments

In 2020, the government announced plans to introduce a new legal entity for social enterprises in corporate law and a **legislative proposal for social enterprises** is being prepared. **Local governments** tend to be very active in developing policies to stimulate the SSE. Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht have issued **actions plans on the social economy**.



Stakeholder engagement

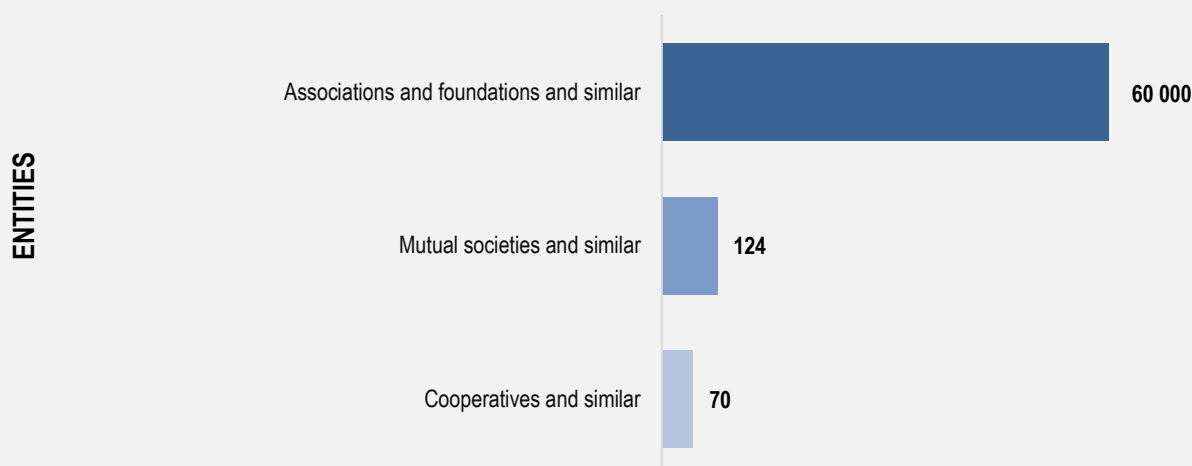
The large scale partnership **City Deal Impact Ondernemen** (City Deal Impact Entrepreneurship) unites over 100 partners from public authorities – local and national –, financiers, knowledge institutions, and social enterprises with the objective to reduce barriers to social entrepreneurs' activities.

Main figures

A national framework around the SSE does not exist in the Netherlands. There were **60 194 social economy entities** employing **798 778 people** in 2014-2015. In 2016, it was found that **5 000-6 000 social enterprises** existed, **creating 65 000-80 000 jobs**. The most common legal form for social enterprises is **limited liability companies**.

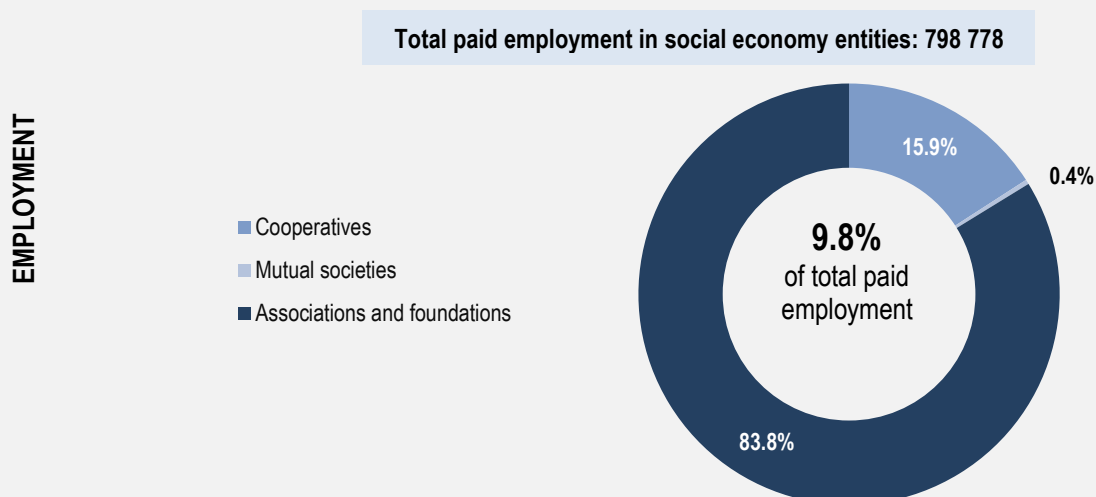
SCOPE Netherlands does not have a national framework on SSE. The data below are retrieved from previous studies conducted in the country: CIRIEC, 2017 for the social economy, and McKinsey, 2016 and European Social Enterprise Monitor 2021-2022 for social enterprises specifically.

Number of social economy entities in Netherlands (2014-2015)



Note: Note: The data on social economy entities are retrieved from CIRIEC, 2017. The above graph is not to scale.

Paid employment in cooperatives, mutual societies, associations, foundations and similar entities (2014-15)



Note: The data on employment are retrieved from CIRIEC, 2017.

Zoom on Social Enterprises



5 000 – 6 000
social enterprises in 2016



65 000 – 80 000
jobs in social enterprises
in 2016

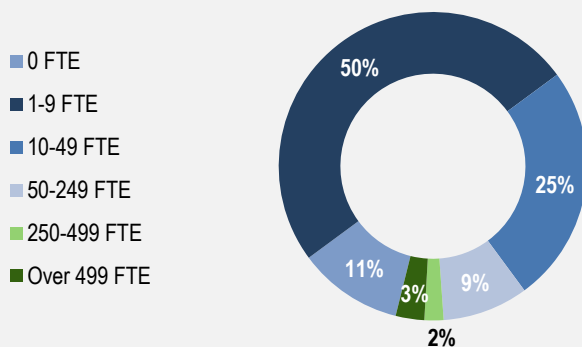


EUR 3.5 billion
in total revenues by social
enterprises in 2015

Note: The data above are retrieved from McKinsey's 2016 report "Scaling the impact of the social enterprise sector".

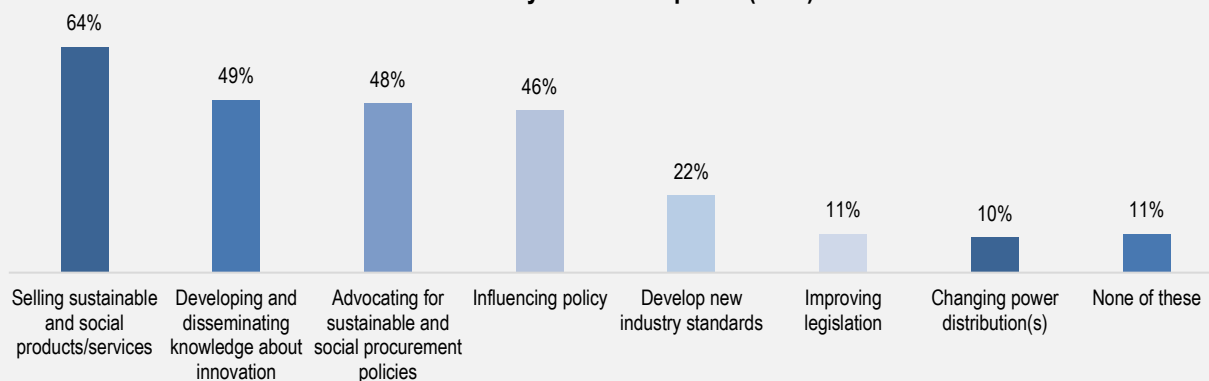
SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Share of social enterprises by size of employment (in full time equivalents - FTE) (2021)



The most common legal form for social enterprises is **limited liability company (51%)**, sometimes in **combination with a foundation (18%)**.

Activities by social enterprises (2021)



Note: Activities reported as carried out in the past 12 months by social enterprises as of 2021. Each social enterprise could report more than one activity.

Note: Data on the share of social enterprises by size of employment and social enterprises' activities are retrieved from the European Social Enterprise Monitor 2021-2022 by Euclid Network and Social Enterprise NL. The understanding of the "social enterprise" notion in the European Social Enterprise Monitor may show variation from the OECD definition.

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

- Civil Code (1992) – Book 2 on Legal persons (including Associations, Cooperatives, Mutual societies, Foundations) - [Link](#)

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

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate tax reduction are available for organisations meeting the requirements for public benefit status (ANBI status), such as having the aim and the actual activities of an organisation with 90% public interest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donations to public-benefit organisations by individual donors can be deducted from income tax up to 10% of total income. Donations must be at least 1% of the gross income or EUR 60. For corporate donors, donations are deductible up to a maximum of 50% of the profit with a maximum of EUR 100 000. Donations to cultural entities can be considered for 150%.

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.

 Policy framework	 Guidance-based initiatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploratory advice on social businesses (2015)  Social and Economic Council of the Netherlands (SER) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onderzoek Impact Meten: noodzaak voor verandering en uniformiteit (2023)  City Deal Impact Ondernemen The impact path tool (2018)  Avance, Social Enterprise NL and Impact Centre Erasmus. Commissioned by Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Note: Policy frameworks create enabling conditions and set targeted incentives to conduct social impact measurement. Guidance-based initiatives deliver guidance on social impact measurement approaches, which are tailored to the specific needs of the social and solidarity economy.

FURTHER READING ON THE SSE IN THE NETHERLANDS

[OECD: Boosting social entrepreneurship and social enterprise development in the Netherlands](#) | [European Economic and Social Committee and CIRIEC: Recent Evolutions of the Social Economy in the European Union](#) | [Euclid Network and Social Enterprise NL: Dutch Social Enterprise Monitor 2021-2022](#) | [European Commission: Social Enterprises and their Ecosystems in Europe Netherlands](#) | [EU Social Economy Gateway - Netherlands](#)

DATA SOURCES

- Socio-economic data refer to 2022 unless stated otherwise, and relate to data downloaded as of 17 July 2023. Datasets used: GDP per capita, current PPP: OECD national accounts statistics, <https://doi.org/10.1787/na-data-en>; Labour force participation rate (15-64 year old): OECD Employment and Labour Market Statistics, <https://doi.org/10.1787/data-00310-en>; NEET (15-29 year olds, all levels of education): OECD Education at a Glance 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1787/19991487>; Poverty rate (after taxes and transfers, poverty line 50%): OECD Social and Welfare Statistics (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/data-00654-en>; Gini coefficient (disposable income, post taxes and transfers): OECD Income Distribution Database, <https://www.oecd.org/social/income-distribution-database.htm>; Rural population (OECD): OECD, CFE Regions and Cities databases, <http://oe.cd/geostats>; Stakeholder engagement for developing regulations: OECD Better Life Index, <https://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/#/11111111111111111111>; Public social expenditures: OECD Social Expenditure Database (SOCX), <http://dotstat.oecd.org/Index.aspx?QueryId=26920>; Share of public procurement for social protection (in % of total general government procurements): OECD (2022), "Government at a Glance - 2021 edition", <http://dotstat.oecd.org/Index.aspx?QueryId=107598>; Public spending on incapacity: OECD (2022); Public spending on incapacity (indicator), <https://doi.org/10.1787/f35b71ed-en> (Public spending on incapacity refers to spending due to sickness, disability and occupational injury); Spending on education (primary to tertiary level, in % of GDP): OECD Education Statistics (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/c4e1b551-en>; Participation in formal voluntary activities (% of people): Eurostat table [ilc_scp19], based on the 2015 EU-SILC ad-hoc module.
- SSE data were collected using existing repositories of information on SSE constituents, mainly CIRIEC's 2017 report "[Recent evolutions of the Social Economy in the European Union](#)", McKinsey's 2016 report "[Scaling the impact of the social enterprise sector](#)" and the [European Social Enterprise Monitor Netherlands 2021-2022](#) by Euclid Network and Social Enterprise NL.
- Further information on the methodology followed in the country fact sheets can be found [here](#).

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.



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