Regional Strategies for the Social Economy
Examples from France, Spain, Sweden and Poland

Main Findings and Policy Orientations

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Outline

• Social Economy in EU27 and Selected Countries

• Main Findings

• Policy Orientations
Social Economy in EU27 and Selected Countries
The social economy is a driver of job creation and economic activity with social impact at national, regional and local levels.

Across 27 EU countries

- **6.4% of employment** 11.9 million jobs
- **6 to 8% of GDP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage of GDP</th>
<th>Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>France (FR)</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>2.3 million jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland (PL)</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>365 900 jobs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spain (ES)</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>1.3 million jobs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden (SW)</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>195 832 jobs</td>
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</tbody>
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The social economy is a driver of job creation and economic activity with social impact at national, regional and local levels.
Main findings
Regional development and the social economy: mutually reinforcing dynamics

Effective Regional Development

- Differentiation
- Place-based approaches
- Governance mutual accountability, citizen ownership among other values, decentralisation reforms aim to achieve

Social Economy Principles

- Social & Economic Capital
- Local dimension
- One man-One vote
  Involvement of stakeholders Mutual trust Collective private action

The interest for the social economy increased with the shift to place-based policies, the adoption of major territorial reforms and the decentralisation of competencies to EU regions over the past 50 years.
Factors enabling the development of regional strategies for the social economy

Regional competences
Strategic priority
Level of recognition
Financial resources

Mutually reinforcing dynamics
Regional development
Main conclusions from selected countries

- The social economy is increasingly recognised at national, regional and local levels
- Recognition at national level influences the level of support at regional/local levels
- Regions follow different approaches in involving stakeholders and social economy networks
- Funding is critical especially EU funds from ESF
- Lack of systematic impact evaluation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orientations of the strategies</th>
<th>Allocation of funding</th>
<th>Involvement of stakeholders</th>
<th>Contribution of SE to RD</th>
<th>Impact Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **France**                    | • Promotion of new business models  
• Digital transformation of businesses  
• Reducing disparities between urban and rural areas  
| • 22 regional guarantee funds, and 95 investment tools were available at the end of 2014, representing EUR 2.2 billion to support regional development  
• Some of these funds benefit the social economy  
| • The CRESS are an example of how to engage with stakeholders over time  
| • The CRESS publish key figures and data on the contribution of the social economy to various sector and places.  
| • No systematic impact measurement of the strategies  
| **Spain**                     | • Job creation  
• Social responsibility  
| • ESF funds: EUR 31 million are targeted specifically to the social economy  
| • Partnership model with strong networks: CEPES, an umbrella organisation created in 1992 to represent the companies of the social economy  
| • Need for qualitative evaluations on the contribution of the social economy to regional development  
| • Informal monitoring committees  
• No systematic impact measurement of the strategies  
| **Sweden**                    | • Sustainable society through social entrepreneurship and social innovation  
| • The 2018-2020 National Strategy for Social Enterprises has a budget of SEK 50 million (EUR 11.5 million) per year  
| • Regional agreements between public authorities and civil society, and social economy organisations to foster dialogue  
| Measurement of the contribution of social enterprises, especially WISEs, to job creation  
| In Örebro county, progress against the Action Plan for social economy is reported on a yearly basis to the Department for Regional Development  
| **Poland**                    | • Job creation  
• Integration of vulnerable and socially excluded groups  
• Development of rural areas and marginalised districts  
• Boosting tourism  
| • EU funds, mainly the ESF and the National Operational Programme KED, operating within the framework of 16 regional operational programmes  
• public funds  
• private funds  
| • A monitoring system is being developed by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy, to reinforce regional monitoring of SE strategies  

Policy Orientations
• Better capitalise on the potential of the social economy
• Develop coherent strategies that pursue local objectives while integrating national priorities
• Focus strategies on a few clear priorities and objectives
• Encourage impact assessment

• Secure financial resources
• Ensure Stakeholders involvement over time
• Strengthen coordination mechanisms with stakeholders
• Promote knowledge sharing among EU regions and cities
• Better capitalise on the potential of the social economy
• Develop coherent strategies that pursue local objectives while integrating national priorities
• Focus strategies on a few clear priorities and objectives
• Encourage impact assessment
THANK YOU

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