

Transforming innovation to address social challenges

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An International Perspective

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The OECD/LEED Forum on Social Innovations

- A multi-stakeholder forum created in 2000 by various actors (Governments, private sector and non profit sector).
- To facilitate exchanges of best practice and policies in social innovation.
- To provide a framework for a comparative assessment of social innovations.
- To reinforce international networks of policy-makers in this field.

What is social innovation?

- Defined by the Forum of Social Innovations stakeholders as concerning: **“conceptual, process or product change, organisational change and changes in financing, and new relationships with stakeholders and territories.”**

What is social innovation? (2)

Social innovation seeks **new answers to social problems** by:

- identifying and delivering new services that **improve the quality of life of individuals and communities;**
- identifying and implementing new labour market integration processes, new competencies, new jobs, and new forms of participation, as diverse elements that each contribute **to improving the position of individuals in the workforce.**

What is social innovation for?

- **To tackle complex challenges by providing innovative solutions.**
- **To modernise public services, general interest services and community services by involving users in the design, implementation and evaluation of these services.**

What is social innovation for? (2)

- **To respond in a more tailored, effective way to people's needs** (a strong link here with the role of social enterprises as detectors of people's needs as they are strongly rooted in communities.)
- **To produce social change.** The change can be of different intensity: incremental or radical

Where and how?

- Social innovation **is not the monopoly of one sector**: it can happen in all sectors (government, private sector, non profit sector, community sector, civil society).
- Social innovation **does not simply happen**: it is always the result of joint efforts.
- The drivers for social innovation might differ from those of technological and commercial innovation.
- Scaling social innovation requires “bees and trees”.

FSI Social Innovation Criteria

- Local development activities that meet five main criteria:
 - New actors, products, services, processes
 - Social impact
 - Territorial impact
 - Replication potential
 - Sustainability

FSI Methodology

- Database of potential social innovations
- Experts' meetings on new local approaches
- Study visits to projects with transfer potential
- Publications and conferences
- Networking among participants
- LEED newsletter

FSI Themes

- Main themes:
 - Access to capital and changes in financing
 - Employment, targeted insertion, delivery of social and community services
 - Balanced growth approaches to development
 - Social cohesion in the “New Economy”
 - Social enterprises and social entrepreneurship
 - Corporate social responsibility
 - Community capacity building

FSI publications

- Antonella Noya (ed.) (2009) *The Changing Boundaries of Social Enterprises*, Paris: OECD
- Antonella Noya and Emma Clarence (eds.) (2009) *Community Capacity Building: Creating a Better Future Together*, Paris: OECD
- Antonella Noya and Emma Clarence (eds.) (2007) *Social Economy: Building Inclusive Economies*, Paris: OECD (available in French in 2009, published by Economica, France)
- OECD (2004) *Entrepreneurship: A Catalyst for Urban Regeneration*, Paris: OECD

FSI publications (2)

- OECD (2003) *The Non-Profit Sector in a Changing Economy*, Paris: OECD (also available in French and in Spanish)
- OECD (2003) *Asset Building and the Escape from Poverty: A New Welfare Policy Debate*,
(on-line booklet also available in French, Spanish and Italian)
- OECD (2001) *Corporate Social Responsibility: Partners for Progress*, Paris, OECD
- OECD (1999) *Social Enterprises*, Paris: OECD (also available in French and Spanish)