

Who is concerned with the third sector?

Practitioners

engage in online consultations and offline meetings, and will find valuable resources to enhance many aspects of their work.

Policy-makers

gain insights into the potentials of the third sector and related policies across Europe, and can rely on data and evidence to support decision and evaluation processes.

Researchers

find a clear definition of the third sector that takes cultural and structural differences across Europe into account, and data to advance comparable research.

Statisticians

can engage with colleagues and experts in producing robust comparable data on the third sector and volunteering, and the impacts generated.

Journalists

find resources to give the sector, the people active in it, and the policies shaping it more public recognition and exposure on national and European levels.

Citizens

receive greater recognition through boosting public awareness of volunteering and realise their belonging to a millions-strong cohort of active citizens in Europe.



Give voice to your expertise and priorities. Participate in the consultations. Share your experience and impact.

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Measuring impact. Enhancing visibility.



CONCEPT



MEASUREMENT



IMPACT



BARRIERS

Third Sector Impact (TSI) is a research project that aims to understand the scope and scale of the sector of associations and foundations, volunteers, and citizens engaging in civil society in Europe. TSI investigates current and potential third sector impact, and the barriers hindering it to fully contribute to the continent's welfare.

To take full advantage of this resource we need a clearer understanding the fabric of the third sector in Europe. Measuring existing and potential impact and identifying barriers for third sector activities will support researchers, policy-makers and citizens alike to contribute to common welfare in Europe.

Research is divided into four working areas: conceptualization, measurement, impact, and barriers, carried out by 30 researchers from 10 European partner universities. Equally important is the input and feedback from more than 100 national and European stakeholders throughout the project, influencing definitions and the research agenda. Together, researchers and stakeholders will make impact, scope, potential, and barriers of the third sector visible for all.

BASIC INFORMATION

Begins: January 2014

Ends: January 2017

Coordinator: Bernard Enjolras



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Working areas



CONCEPT

Clarify and define the concept of the third sector in its European manifestations.



MEASUREMENT

Identify major outlines of the third sector to measure its size, structure, and composition.



IMPACT

Identify third sector impact, its contributions to European economy and social cohesion.



BARRIERS

Identify barriers and solutions to third sector development.

Give voice to your expertise and priorities. Participate in the consultations. Share your experience and impact.

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National and European stakeholders

Stakeholder engagement interacts with all TSI working areas. It is structurally intertwined with the research process and consists of input and feedback through offline meetings and online consultations that shape the research agenda. It is bi-directional: from research to practice and from practice to research.

TSI pursues this approach as part of its commitment to a change in the culture of third sector research and dissemination, away from occasional consultations of selected stakeholders and generic dissemination, to outcome-oriented collaboration between researchers and practitioners, and co-building of understanding problems and solutions.

In addition, the project connects local and national levels with European networking initiatives, ensuring national support for European initiatives and European assistance in meeting national goals.

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- ▶ Austria
 - ▶ Croatia
 - ▶ France
 - ▶ Germany
 - ▶ Italy
 - ▶ The Netherlands
 - ▶ Norway
 - ▶ Poland
 - ▶ Spain
 - ▶ United Kingdom