



SOCIAL ECONOMY ACTION PLAN

December 2021
#SocialEconomy #SocialRights

Social economy organisations can face difficulties developing and scaling up their activities because they are not sufficiently understood and recognised. They need more and better support to grow and thrive, and have an even bigger impact on society.



Social economy in figures!

2.8
million
organisations
and entities
in Europe

more than
13
million
paid jobs

6.3%
of the work
force

between
0.6-9.9%
of all jobs across
Member States

But what does it mean?

“Social economy” mainly refers to:



cooperatives



**mutual benefit
societies**



associations
(including charities)



foundations



**social
enterprises**

They are **private entities** running economic activities whose main purpose is to provide goods and services to their members or the community at large, with profits coming second.

They build on **local roots**, using solidarity and participation as core principles driving their activities.

What will the Social Economy Action Plan improve?



Business environment



**Opportunities
and building capacity**



**Awareness and
recognition**

Business environment: The Action Plan aims to ensure that policy and legal frameworks are right for the social economy to thrive, by addressing the diversity of its legal forms and looking at taxation policy, labels or certification systems, public procurement and State aid.

Opportunities and building capacity: The Action Plan improves access to funding for the social economy, it brings together in one place information on relevant EU funding, policies and initiatives, it supports scaling-up, and it maximises the social economy's contribution to the green and digital transitions.

Awareness and recognition: The Action Plan boosts the visibility of the social economy and obtains new data about it. It promotes the positive impact of the social economy among new audiences, including young people.

EU actions to look out for!

Council Recommendation	to help policy-makers adapt policy and legal frameworks to the needs of social economy organisations
EU Social Economy Gateway	with information on relevant EU funding, policies and initiatives
Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy	to improve prospects for young entrepreneurs, especially social entrepreneurs
European Competence Centre for Social Innovation	facilitating transnational partnerships, exchanges of experience, capacity building and networking
“Buy social” initiative	supporting the creation of local partnerships between social economy organisations and mainstream businesses
Financial products under InvestEU	aimed at mobilising private financing for social enterprises