



SOCIAL ECONOMY: COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

June 2023
#SocialEconomy #SocialRights

The **social economy** prioritises **people, social and environmental causes** over profit. It plays a key role in social innovation, inclusion and job creation, providing bottom-up solutions for key challenges.

Social economy entities can face **difficulties developing and scaling up their activities** because they are not sufficiently understood and recognised. They need more and better support to have an even bigger impact. The Council Recommendation will make it easier for social economy entities to **start up, scale up and be recognised**.

more than
13
million
paid jobs

2.8
million
social economy
entities in
Europe

The social economy encompasses many different sectors, requiring a **whole-of-government approach**. The proposed Council Recommendation sets out **comprehensive, coherent, and up-to-date recommendations** to Member States on how to promote the social economy across policy fields and legal frameworks.

The Commission invites Member States to **design and implement targeted and comprehensive social economy strategies** to create an enabling environment for the social economy to thrive, by looking at different policy areas.

The social
economy
accounts for
6.3%
of EU
employment

ACCESS TO THE LABOUR MARKET
SOCIAL INCLUSION **PUBLIC PROCUREMENT**
STATE AID **TAXATION**
SOCIAL INNOVATION **ACCESS TO FINANCING**
SKILLS **VISIBILITY AND RECOGNITION**
SOCIAL IMPACT MEASUREMENT

What are some of the recommendations?



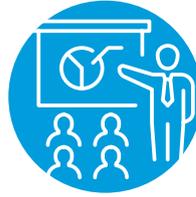
facilitate more **mentoring**, and collaboration between social economy entities and the wider business community



put in place **mechanisms for consultation** and dialogue between the public authorities and organisations representing the social economy



create **apprenticeship schemes** in social economy that support young people, as well as tailored career guidance and **training opportunities**



set up **national competence centres** for training on the social economy



create **social innovation hubs to harness the social economy potential**



acknowledge the **role of the social economy** in providing accessible and high-quality social and care services and housing, particularly for disadvantaged groups



encourage contracting authorities to **purchase goods and services** strategically and to pursue social impact and innovation



ensure that social economy entities have **access to financing** at the right stage of their development and tailored to their needs



make full use of the scope under **State aid rules** to support the social economy



assess whether **tax systems** sufficiently encourage its development and consider tax incentives

EU funding is available for the social economy under the ESF+, ERDF and InvestEU and other funding programmes.

New social economy gateway

The new Social Economy Gateway is a one-stop-shop website that provides social economy entities with information on EU funding, training opportunities, events, resources and more. It has the latest information about what's happening on the ground in the Member States, and where to go to find out more. *Go get immersed in the social economy!*

social-economy-gateway.ec.europa.eu

