



socialplatform

The contribution of social economy to health equity and well-being

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*Health 2020 vision for health equity and well-being in the Nordic and
Baltic States
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Who is Social Platform

- Largest civil society alliance fighting for social justice and participatory democracy in Europe (48 pan-European networks of NGOs)
- Campaigning to ensure that EU policies are
 - developed in partnership with the people they affect,
 - respecting fundamental rights,
 - promoting solidarity, and
 - improving lives





Strategic objectives 2014-2020



EU policies on social economy & social enterprises

- Commission's **Social Business** Initiative (2011): measures to develop social enterprises across the EU
- Council conclusions (7 December 2015) on the promotion of **social economy** as key driver of economic and social development in Europe
- Luxembourg Declaration (4 December 2015): FR, LU, IT, SK, SI, ES



Concepts: social enterprises

Three main broad criteria:

- a social or societal objective of the common good
- surpluses are “mainly” (= or > 50%) reinvested
- democratic or participatory governance



Concepts: social economy

Economic and social players active in all sectors of society, set up to respond to people's needs.

Three main broad criteria:

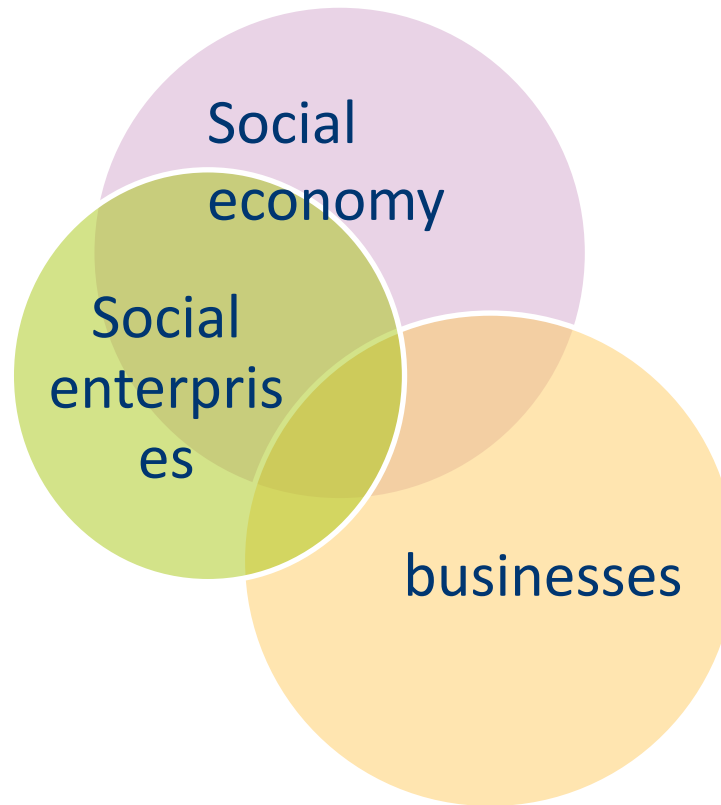
a different way of doing business which continuously associates:

- the **general interest**
- economic performance
- democratic governance.

4 main legal forms: cooperatives, associations, foundations and mutual societies



Social economy = social enterprises ?



Two main types of social enterprises /SE org.

Those whose mission is the social and professional inclusion of people in vulnerable situations



Those which provide social, health, education services and other services to the community



SE and health equity

Social economy and social enterprises contribute to essential social and economic determinants of health:

- Gender equality
- Childhood development
- Employment
- Social inclusion
- Education
- Integration of migrants
- Better health
- Social relations



Gender equality

WEstart project by European Women's Lobby:

- Over 90% of women feel that they have been empowered as a woman by starting and running a social enterprise
- 85% feel that they are empowering other women with their social enterprise activity
- Almost 90% of women feel they are contributing to gender equality in their country, through their work as a social entrepreneur
- 55% have care responsibilities both when start, and growing their social enterprise. Social enterprises seem to allow a better work-life balance for women than traditional jobs.



Childhood development

Many SE provide early childhood and education care.

Case: PAN consortium in Italy

ESF project: Partnership between a national consortium of social cooperatives and a major bank

Services offered:

- planning, start-up assistance and loans to organisations and people interested in establishing new types of services for children in the form of social enterprises
- quality trademark and quality check tools to adhering social enterprises
- loans to families to make the access to early childhood services less expensive.



Employment

In 2010 social economy provided work to 14.5 million Europeans.

It currently accounts for EU 10% of jobs and 8% of GDP.

It seems social enterprises with a traditional enterprise status account for additional 2% GDP.

Capacity to create and maintain employment during the crisis: in ES SE created more than 31,000 enterprises & 210,000 jobs in 2008-2015.



Employment of people in vulnerable situations

- SE employ people that otherwise would not be able to find a job
- working environment where disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged workers work together efficiently
- workers take part in the control and management of their enterprise
- work integration social enterprises & social cooperatives of type B invest in training of vocations skills ensuring tailored jobs also for persons with specific needs (persons with disabilities, social exclusion etc).
- they can provide a sustainable job or
- act as a stepping stone towards traditional enterprises



Case: Italy (social cooperatives of type B)



Social impact of work integration of disadvantaged people in 2016



Disadvantaged workers = 67.134



Input = 373.856.159€



Present value = 716.364.855 €



Net value = 342.508.696€



SROI = 1,92



Monetary and non monetary impact



- increased income for people in vulnerable situations
- increased tax revenues
- better work-life balance
- less hospitalisation and medicines



- improvement of the relationship with the family and the local community
- increased perception of security
- reduction of prejudice
- greater willingness to solidarity
- reduced rates of contact with the criminal justice system



Education and training

Education and training as tools for:

- **Employment**
- **Full participation in society**

Examples:

- Providing ECEC where welfare systems do not provide a public solution such as in IT and ES
- ESF in Finland has a strategic objective entrepreneurship education
- In 2007-2013 ESF national intersectoral plans for life-long learning: special programme for social economy which trained 20,371 people in ES



Integration of migrants

Many examples:

- [Magdas Hotel](#), set up by Caritas Austria in Vienna, employs refugees from 14 different nations
- [Taste of Home](#), a culinary-cultural-research project that introduces the culture, customs and countries of origin of refugees and migrants in Croatia by recording their memories of home, smells and tastes of their cuisine. This is an experiment in sharing life stories and culinary skills of refugees and people from Croatia.



Better health

How:

- **DIRECTLY:** By providing health or integrated social care and health services
- **INDIRECTLY:** refurbishment of social housing dwellings (including fuel poverty programs and energy efficiency of homes); through social and professional integration: better mental health, better health, reduction of addictions, better social integration, more empowerment and less dependency, better nutrition, better informed consumers, tenants and citizens.

Example:

- Welfare Italia servizi is a social enterprise that offers medical and dental services at affordable prices at national level in Italy



Better social relations

- Better ties with families
- Better integration in the local community
- Strengthened self-esteem
- Capacity to make decisions and choices
- Participation and active involvement in decisions concerning health or social care pathway
- Sense of belonging to an enterprise, community, common cause
- Reduced stigmatisation
- Less isolation



Main challenges for SE

1. Building, developing and maintaining relationships with public authorities, even in countries where social economy is well developed.
2. Decreased public funding in times where social needs are more prominent and complex.



Main recommendations

1. Increase the visibility, recognition and identity of social economy and social enterprises
2. Improve access to funding (private and public)
3. Improve the legal environment



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