

# HIGHLIGHTS

2nd OECD Global Action Summit

## Inspiration, innovation and inclusion: Shaping our future with the social and solidarity economy

20-21 March 2023



Funded by the  
European Union





Acteur Nord-européen  
Projet de loi sur l'économie sociale  
Innovation, prospective et inclusion  
sociale d'aujourd'hui

**Façonner notre  
avenir avec  
l'économie sociale  
et solidaire**

20-21 MARS 2023

Réception  
M04 & M05  
Conférence  
CC16 to CC24  
Auditorium

Bookshop  
Librairie

L'Expresso

Cash machine  
DAB



## The Summit in numbers



2 days



60+ speakers



60+ countries



210+ in-person  
participants



470+ online  
participants



11 thematic sessions



10 discussion groups



1 podcast



3 publications



16 interviews



1 poem

## The social and solidarity economy inspires new ways of thinking, promotes innovation and supports inclusive transitions.

Moving from the margins to the mainstream, the social economy is gaining momentum and political backing to provide new opportunities for nations, regions, cities and rural areas to navigate present crises and be more resilient in the face of future shocks. It is at the forefront of assisting refugees, supporting the green transition, tackling housing and food security issues, creating jobs and providing goods and services, notably for disadvantaged individuals.

**International organisations are rising to the challenge to support better policies and guidance on the social and solidarity economy.** In December 2021, the European Union released the EU Social Economy Action Plan, followed by the OECD Council's and Ministers' adoption of the OECD Recommendation on the Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation and the adoption of the ILO Resolution Concerning Decent Work and the Social and Solidarity Economy, both in June 2022. In April 2023, the United Nations approved the UN Resolution on Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development.

Building on this momentum, the second high-level Summit "**Inspiration, innovation and inclusion: Shaping our future with the social and solidarity economy**" of the OECD Global Action on Promoting Social and Solidarity Economy Ecosystems, a three-year programme funded by the EU, was hosted in person at the OECD Headquarters in Paris and

online on 20-21 March 2023. The Summit built on the achievements of this programme and its previous Summit "From the Margins to the Mainstream", held online in September 2021 and attended by more than 680 participants from over 60 countries.

**This meeting was the opportunity to further strengthen the social economy community** built by the OECD Local Employment and Economic Development Programme (LEED) over two decades, and the 33 countries of the OECD Global Action (European Union countries, Brazil, Canada, India, Korea, Mexico and the United States). It also brought together six consortia of peer-learning partnerships created under the framework of the Global Action, bringing together 130 partners. These 6 peer-learning partnerships were featured throughout the Summit.

**The Summit was a milestone of the OECD's Global Action.** It convened policy makers, practitioners and experts to focus on the transformative power of the social and solidarity economy to improve economic outcomes through innovative business models that build social cohesion and resilience. Many hot topics were addressed, such as young people's expectations for the future, the place of women in the social economy and beyond, its contributions to the green and digital transitions, and legal frameworks and social impact measurement as a means to boost visibility and recognition for the social economy.

**Missed a session?** [Watch the replay here](#)

**Questions? Email us at:** [socialeconomyandinnovation@oecd.org](mailto:socialeconomyandinnovation@oecd.org)

**Visit our website:** <https://www.oecd.org/cfe/leed/social-economy/>

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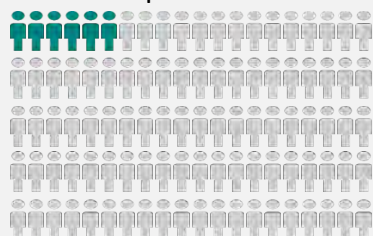
## Setting the scene



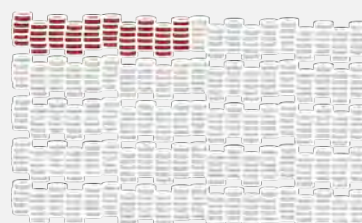
At the high-level opening session of the Summit, OECD Secretary-General **Mathias Cormann**, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, **Nicolas Schmit** and ILO Director-General **Gilbert F. Hounbo** set the scene emphasising the importance of the social and solidarity economy (SSE) in promoting inclusive and resilient societies and economies, fighting climate change and creating decent work. They discussed ongoing initiatives and plans for the future, including the OECD Recommendation on the Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation, the ILO Resolution Concerning Decent Work and the Social and Solidarity Economy, the European Union Action Plan on the Social and Solidarity Economy, the OECD-EU Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy, the ILO Global Coalition for Social Justice and the UN Resolution on Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development (approved 18 April by the United Nations General Assembly).

### Did you know?

The SSE makes important contributions to economies:



SSE entities employ  
**>6% of labour force** in the EU



SSE entities contribute  
**2-10% of GDP** in OECD countries

Source: European Commission and OECD calculation.

In a panel moderated by [Lamia Kamal-Chaoui](#), Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE, OECD), [Yolanda Díaz Pérez](#), 2nd Vice-President of the Government, Minister of Labour and Social Economy (Spain), [Jung Sik Lee](#), Minister of Employment and Labour (Korea), [Marlène Schiappa](#), Secretary of State for the Social and Solidarity Economy and Associations (France), [Sven Giegold](#), Secretary of State, Ministry for the Economy and Climate Action (Germany), and [Matevž Frangež](#), Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport (Slovenia) discussed their countries' activities to support the SSE in shaping our future.

For instance, Korea is committed to supporting the SSE by strengthening legal frameworks and access to finance for social enterprises and has increased the number of social enterprises in the country to 3 500 as of 2022, creating nearly 66 000 jobs within the last year alone. The Spanish Social Economy Strategy and Comprehensive Act on the Social Economy are two frameworks designed to further promote the social economy. France, Germany and Slovenia are working to increase financing for social innovation development.

[Karen Maguire](#), Head of Division, Local Employment, Skills and Social Innovation/LEED Programme, (CFE, OECD) and master of ceremony for the Summit, launched the thematic sessions.

## Related resources

- [OECD Recommendation on the Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation](#)
- [EU Social Economy Action Plan](#)
- [OECD-EU Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy](#)
- [ILO Resolution Concerning Decent Work and the Social and Solidarity Economy](#)
- [ILO Global Coalition for Social Justice](#)
- [UN Resolution Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development](#)
- [Data on the social and solidarity economy in France](#)
- [Les contrats à impact - France](#)
- [Efforts towards a German national strategy on social enterprises and social innovation](#)
- [The social economy in Korea](#)
- [OECD in-depth policy review on social entrepreneurship in Slovenia](#)
- [Study on the value added of the social and solidarity economy in Spain](#)



## Beyond pink-collar jobs: Women and the social economy



OECD Deputy Secretary-General and Gender & Diversity Champion, [Ulrik Vestergaard Knudsen](#) launched the report “Beyond pink-collar jobs for women and the social economy”, which explores the role of the SSE in advancing gender equality in pay and working conditions. Across the economy, women still hold most jobs in so-called pink-collar roles and sectors, such as childcare and social work. This is also where the SSE is often most active. Even though women in the social economy frequently have higher gender equality in employment, leadership and pay than women in the wider economy, things are not always rosy. Because women and the SSE are concentrated in occupations and industries that have historically been associated with them, the SSE has poorer job security and pay, and some discrepancies still exist. Strong policy action is needed to accompany both the SSE and women outside of these roles. In addition, bringing men into those roles will advance gender equality further and move “beyond pink-collar jobs”.

### Did you know?

The SSE is already a role model for advancing gender equality in many areas:



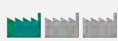
More than two in five **leaders** are women



Almost two in three **workers** are women



More than one in two **volunteers** are women



Around one in three social enterprises target women **beneficiaries**

Source: [OECD \(2023\)](#), “Beyond pink-collar jobs for women and the social economy”, *OECD Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Papers*, No. 2023/07, OECD publishing, Paris.



[Marlène Schiappa](#), Secretary of State of the Social and Solidarity Economy and Associations (France) affirmed that equality can only be achieved with a holistic approach and discussed four laws passed to improve women's prospects and protect them from violence. [Carmen Maeztu Villafranca](#), Regional Minister for Social Rights in Navarra (Spain), shared that 63% of workers and 64% of leaders in the SSE are women and highlighted the transversality of gender equality. [Zarah Bruhn](#), founder of Social Bee and Special Advisor on Social Innovation to the Ministry of Education and Research (Germany) suggested that the social economy could become a role model to drive gender equality.

[Åsa Skogström Feldt](#), Managing Director of IKEA Social Entrepreneurship BV, noted that the SSE has the capacity to accompany marginalised women into the formal economy. [Jean-Louis Bancel](#), Honorary president of Coop FR and President of the *Fondation du Credit Coopératif*, highlighted the need to get more young women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) tracks in higher education.

[Nitya Nangalia](#), Strategic Advisor and Co-Founder of the Women's Enterprise Support System at SEWA Bharat, flagged that women who lack access to basic digital infrastructure will have difficulties accessing digital industries in general. For example, in some regions of India, less than 18% of women have smartphones. Speakers also acknowledged that more work and policy action are needed to improve capacity building for women, particularly in rural areas with limited resources.

## Related resources

- [Beyond pink-collar jobs for women and the social economy](#)
- [OECD podcast with Nitya Nangalia](#)
- [Egali'Care game combatting gender stereotypes in education and care by Artemisia](#)
- [Award for women in the social economy \(France\)](#)
- [SEWA Women's Enterprise Support System \(India\)](#)
- [Ikea Social Entrepreneurship](#)
- [Cogito blog - Pink collar jobs: New shades for the social economy](#)



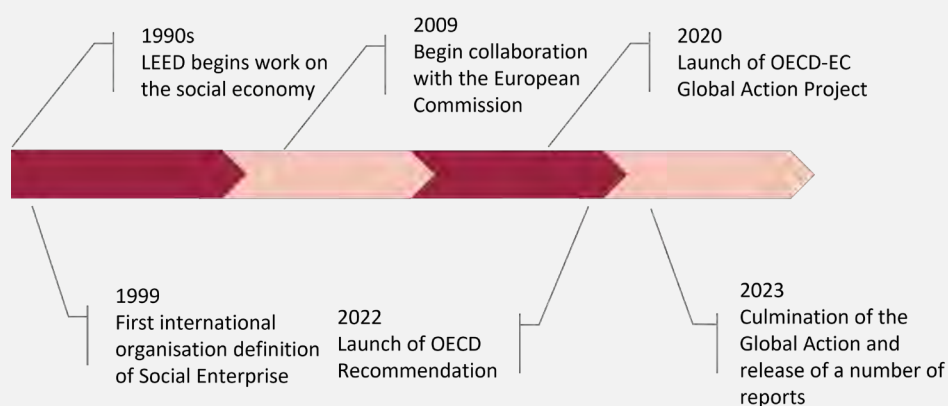
## Collective ambitions for action



Inclusive growth and environmental sustainability are at the heart of social and solidarity economy values. It prioritises social missions over profits and is gaining traction worldwide. The OECD is supporting the development of country-level SSE ecosystems through the Recommendation on the Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation, in-depth country reviews and an SSE-focused informal expert group created in 2023.

### Did you know?

The OECD has worked on the SSE and social innovation for more than 25 years.



LEED: Programme for Local Employment and Economic Development

Source: OECD.

In discussion with [Lamia Kamal-Chaoui](#), Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE, OECD), ambassadors to the OECD [Madeleine Chenette](#) (Canada), [Luis Fernando Medina Sierra](#) (Colombia), [Luca Sabbatucci](#) (Italy), [Lina Viltrakiene](#) (Lithuania) and [Alexandre Guido Lopes Parola](#) (Brazil) highlighted their countries' efforts to develop the SSE. These include initiatives such as social impact reporting, dedicated platforms for social enterprises and investment readiness programs.

In Lithuania the social economy generates about 5% of GDP and includes over 7 000 organisations. Meanwhile, the third sector in Italy has played a central role in addressing various societal and economic challenges, from providing social services to promoting circular economy practices. OECD ambassadors also emphasised the importance of peer-learning and coordination among different actors in the SSE development, and Colombia noted the need for Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure progress. They highlighted the important role of the informal expert group on the SSE in supporting countries to implement the OECD Recommendation and to advance work on data collection for the social economy.

## Related resources

- [Boosting social entrepreneurship and social enterprise development in Lithuania: In-depth policy review](#)
- [Boosting social enterprise development: Good practice compendium](#)
- [From informal to formal jobs: The contribution of cooperatives in Colombia](#)
- [Boosting social entrepreneurship and social enterprise development in Slovenia: In-depth policy review](#)
- [Boosting social entrepreneurship and social enterprise development in Brandenburg, Germany: In-depth policy review](#)
- [And 13 additional OECD in-depth country policy reviews on the social economy, social entrepreneurship and social enterprise](#)

## What the future holds for the social economy

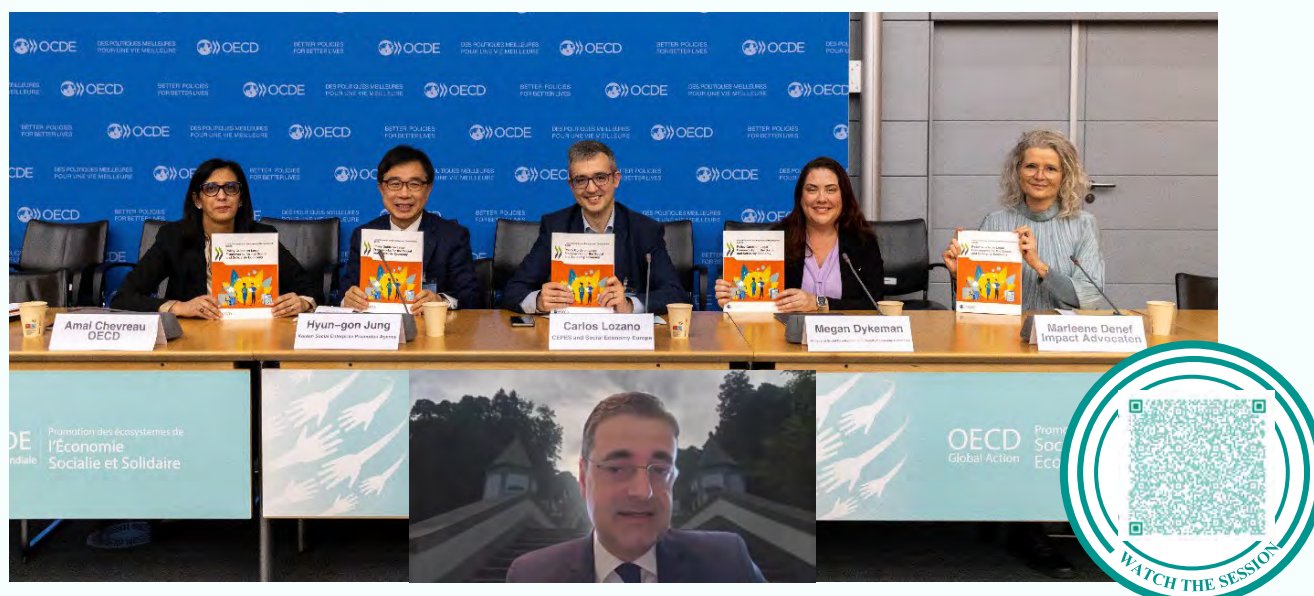


While not a new concept, the social and solidarity economy has gained interest due to the realisation that the current economic model is unbalanced. [Professor Sir Geoffrey Mulgan](#) from the University College London (United Kingdom) explained how market economies support both creators and predators, and policy needs to reward creators and rein in predators. In the labour market, the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed that essential workers are often the lowest-paid. Though the digital world brought great opportunities, it also increased tension points such as for teenage mental health that is deteriorating due to the increasing use of mobile phones. With environmental changes, Sir Mulgan believes that solutions must be found upstream, by “understanding why people are falling in instead of just pulling them out of the river”. He proposed an exercise to imagine better futures and how to realise them through seven areas:

- **Law:** Legal forms are evolving nowadays, but laws still need more creativity and innovation to allow for a dynamic and thriving social sector.
- **Capital:** New asset distribution is emerging around climate and social values. Financing needs to be more conscious and well-distributed.
- **Innovation:** Social innovation needs to be seen on an equal footing with hardware innovation.
- **Data:** In addition to data creation, the use and ownership of essential data needs to be reshuffled in a socially conscious manner.
- **Technology:** Platforms have modified our ways of working and our social norms. They can bring innovation and development if used consciously.
- **Procurement:** States have a vast, little used power to shift the economy.
- **Partnerships:** Co-creation between the public sector, the private sector and citizens is essential when facing challenges such as for the green and digital transitions.



## Laying down the law: Legal frameworks for the social economy



**Amal Chevreau**, Policy Analyst (OECD), launched the Policy Guide on Legal Frameworks for the Social and Solidarity Economy to support policy makers in determining when and how to regulate the SSE. Globally, countries use different terms and have developed different legal frameworks when it comes to the SSE. This might create confusion for policy makers. Legal frameworks can support the visibility, recognition and development of the social and solidarity economy if designed and implemented in consultation with stakeholders.

After the launch event, **Ricardo Rio**, Mayor of Braga and OECD Champion Mayor for Inclusive Growth (Portugal), **Megan Dykeman**, Parliamentary Secretary for Community Development and Non-Profits, British Columbia (Canada), **Hyun-gon Jung**, President of the Social Enterprise Promotion Agency (Korea), Carlos and **Marleen Denef**, *Impact Advocaten* discussed with **Carlos Lozano**, Coordinator of International Affairs at CEPES and Social Economy Europe, about their local social economy landscape and legal frameworks.

In British Columbia, non-profits contribute over CAD 6.7 billion to the provincial economy and are registered as “societies” under the Societies Act. In Korea, the Promotion Act has had a significant impact on the development of social enterprises, with over 3 500 certified enterprises as of 2022. Legal frameworks can facilitate the expansion of the SSE by raising the visibility and recognition of its entities, providing access to new markets and finance, and creating a supportive legal ecosystem. However, they may also inhibit innovation if poorly designed and implemented.

### Did you know?

Legal frameworks can create important opportunities for the development of the SSE and establish a legal basis for a comprehensive set of support measures. Policy makers can go through four steps:



Source: OECD (2023), Policy guide on legal frameworks for the social and solidarity economy, Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED), OECD Publishing, Paris

## Related resources

- [Policy guide on legal frameworks for the social and solidarity economy](#)
- [Report on legal frameworks for the social and solidarity economy](#)
- [Designing legal frameworks for social enterprises: Practical guidance for policy makers](#)

## Making it count: Better data on the social economy

*In cooperation with Euclid Network*



The social and solidarity economy generates an increasing share of employment and value-added in many countries, with estimates suggesting it contributes 6-8% of GDP in the European Union. However, data on the scale and impact of the SSE remains limited, highlighting the need for improved statistics and reporting to increase its visibility and inform policy making. The OECD will soon publish Country Fact Sheets to provide a comprehensive overview of national SSE ecosystems, including the existence of an official definition of the SSE as well as its size, employment patterns, economic contribution, legal frameworks and social impact measurement initiatives.

The European Social Enterprise Monitor (ESEM), published annually by Euclid, is another initiative to collect data on social enterprises (a part of the SSE) across Europe. Despite efforts to produce information on the SSE, there are differences when defining its scope and in the methods used to compile information, which can complicate cross-country comparisons.

During the discussion in breakout groups, participants focused on four different themes around data collection and statistics for the SSE: (i) understanding employment trends in the SSE, (ii) navigating geographical variation of the SSE activity, including the urban-rural divide, (iii) the importance of having disaggregated SSE data on age and gender, and finally (iv) building social economy databases and meaningful indicators.



## The power of the purse: Buying social

*In cooperation with SAP*

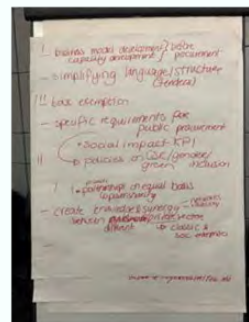
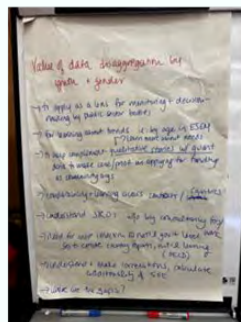
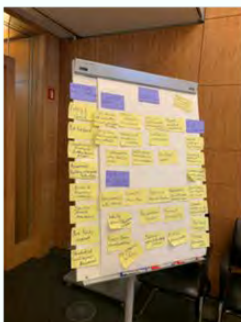
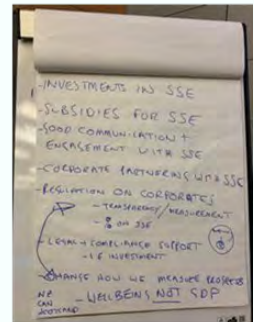
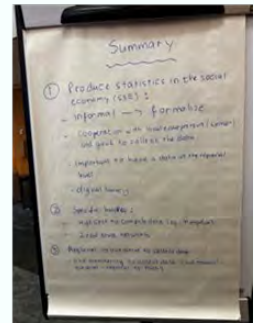


Public procurement represents 11.8% of GDP on average across OECD countries. Governments are increasingly using it to promote secondary policy objectives such as positive social or environmental impact. Well-designed procurement policies can also be a way to support the social economy sector. In Brazil, social value, understood as non-monetary return for citizens, is included in various programs. Public schools must procure at least 30% of their food from family farm cooperatives. SAP highlighted the importance of private sector procurement for SSE development, estimating the social economy's market opportunity of around USD 500 billion per year.

The break-out groups focused on capacity building for social enterprises, creating conducive ecosystems for social procurement and promoting the visibility of social enterprises to buyers. Participants shared best practices, identified challenges and opportunities, and brainstormed solutions and recommendations for policy makers and stakeholders. The insights and ideas generated in the break-out groups will be used to inform the upcoming OECD policy paper on social procurement, as well as other initiatives aimed at promoting the social and solidarity economy.

**MAKING IT COUNT: BETTER  
DATA ON THE SOCIAL ECONOMY**

## THE POWER OF THE PURSE: BUYING SOCIAL



## Visible, valuable & visionary: Taking stock of the social economy's impact



Social and solidarity economy entities are increasing their use of social impact measurement, an important tool to effectively allocate resources to their social mission, learn from experimentation and foster stakeholder collaboration. The development of a better social impact measuring culture that is shared by all participants in the SSE ecosystem can be encouraged by policy makers. [Irene Basile](#), Policy Analyst (OECD), presented the different policy initiatives identified in the new Policy Guide on Social Impact Measurement for the Social and Solidarity Economy.

In a panel discussion facilitated by [Cathy Clark](#), Faculty Director CASE (Duke University), [Giulio Pasi](#), Policy Officer Social and Sustainable Investments (DG Employment, European Commission), [Belissa Rojas](#), Impact Measurement & Management Lead, SDG Impact Team (UNDP), [Gregory Spencer](#) from the Common Goods Market Place and [Giuseppe Guerini](#), Spokesperson of the EESC and President of CECOP-Cicopa discussed progress on social impact measurement among SSE entities.

For Giuseppe Guerini, European cooperatives, in particular the social cooperatives, have achieved significant social impacts by improving the economic and working conditions of many people. Gregory Spencer shared how impact assessment depends on the final use of the products and services proposed, therefore also on education and customer relations.

Giulio Pasi and Belissa Rojas highlighted how national and international policy makers are committed to building an enabling environment and developing the right tools to support SSE entities in their impact measurement efforts.



### Did you know?

Social impact measurement can be an important lever for SSE entities to demonstrate their contribution to social, economic and environmental objectives. To support them, policy makers can:



Source: OECD (2023), *Policy guide on social impact measurement for the social and solidarity economy*, Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED), OECD Publishing, Paris.



## Related resources

- [Policy guide on social impact measurement for the social and solidarity economy](#)
- [Social impact measurement for the social and solidarity economy](#)
- [Policy brief on social impact measurement for social enterprises](#)
- [Policy brief on scaling the impact of social enterprises](#)

## Making digital liveable: The social economy and the digital age



A more inclusive and just digital transition is possible with the social and solidarity economy, as initiatives such as platform cooperatives favour people-centred approaches and create economic and social value locally. The digital economy is rapidly growing, with over 28 million people currently working through digital labour platforms in Europe. This number is expected to reach 43 million by 2025. However, there are concerns about the social security of platform workers and the poor working conditions they face.

Social economy organisations can act, for example, in the platform economy to help workers to get access to social security and fill the gaps in social protection. Digital innovation can also play a role in boosting SSE organisations' productivity, enabling them to work better and improve their social benefits for people and places. For example, with increased internet presence and 5G coverage, entities can provide access to information and knowledge through online schooling or implement platforms that connect project leaders with funders.

[Daniela Freddi](#), Delegate of the Mayor of Bologna for the Social Economy Plan (Italy), [Anita Gurumurthy](#), IT for Change, [Trebor Scholz](#), New School NY (United States), [Vera Vidal](#), *Coopérative des Communs* and [Rowan Barnett](#), Google.org Europe, Middle East and Africa, discussed with [Daniel Nowack](#), Head of the Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship (World Economic Forum), about the SSE's role in the digital transition. The Municipality of Bologna is a leading example in Italy by developing a Social Economy Plan to sustain its local development, with a component to support the SSE in taking active part in the digital transition.

Among the social economy initiatives, platform cooperatives can provide support for individuals who may fall through the cracks of programmes provided by governments, markets, or communities. They can also empower women through collective ownership, access and control over data, a supportive community, inventive communal funding and democratic governance. While SSE actors can drive the transformation, they still struggle with scale, and digital tools can help overcome barriers if digital access and training are reinforced. For example, Google.org Social Innovation Fund and the Impact Challenge Tech for Social Good run initiatives that aim to boost this transformation.

## Related resources

- [Policy brief on improving the effectiveness of inclusive and social entrepreneurship training schemes](#)
- [Policy brief on access to finance for inclusive and social entrepreneurship: What role can fintech and financial literacy play?](#)



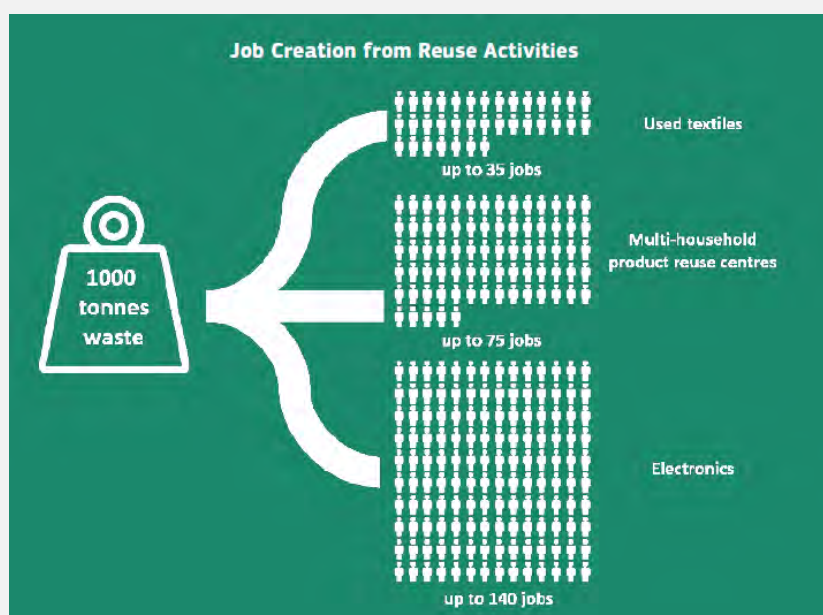
## Going green with the social economy



The OECD report *Job Creation and Local Economic Development: Bridging the Great Green Divide* shows that 18% of workers in OECD countries have jobs that include green tasks such as to improve environmental sustainability or reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Efforts to reconcile economic and green policy agendas are growing in many regions, with the social economy increasingly referenced, including at the EU level with the launch of the Transition Pathway of the Proximity and Social Economy. The involvement of social economy actors is seen as key to develop local and circular value chains and to drive local green transitions.

### Did you know?

Social enterprises active in the circular economy create between 20 and 140 jobs per 1 000 tons of material collected and valorised in reuse activities.



Source: RREUSE (2021), *Job creation in the re-use sector: Data insights from social enterprises*, RREUSE, as reported in OECD/EC (2022), "Policy brief on making the most of the social economy's contribution to the circular economy", *OECD Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Papers*, No. 2022/01, OECD publishing, Paris.



[Anna Athanasopoulou](#), Head of Unit, DG Grow (European Commission), [Apostolos Tzitzikostas](#), Governor of the Central Macedonia Region (Greece) and 1st Vice-President, European Committee of the Regions, [Barbara Trachte](#), State Secretary of the Economic Transition, Brussels-Capital Region (Belgium), [Juan Manuel Martinez Louvier](#), Director, *Instituto Nacional de la Economía Social* (Mexico) and [Michal Len](#), Director, RREUSE Network, discussed how the SSE is already involved in the green economy and can make the green transition more inclusive and just. The discussion was moderated by [Antonella Noya](#), Head of the Social Economy and Social Innovation Unit (OECD).

At the EU-level, local green deals, partnerships with local administrations and organisations, and the Green Deal Local Handbook are being used to locally implement the Green Deal and drive regional green transition projects. The Commission also launched the Transition Pathway on Proximity and Social Economy to drive the twin transitions. In Brussels-Capital Region, the regional government has launched the economic strategy Shifting Economy to move towards social responsibility and sustainability, recognising the pioneering role of the SSE in this transition.

SSE organisations are also playing a role in strengthening other green issues such as biodiversity and energy autonomy. Social land ownership is being reinforced in Mexico through *ejididos*, which are a tract of land held in common by the inhabitants of a Mexican village and farmed cooperatively or individually. The upcoming change to the European Waste Law is expected to be helpful for social enterprises in the waste management sector. Combining practices from the circular economy, such as reuse and repair activities, with a social economy model can be a powerful catalyst for skills and jobs, especially for individuals distanced from the labour market. This is further supplemented by strategic partnerships between local authorities, private companies and social economy actors.

## Related resources

- [Job Creation and Local Economic Development 2023: Bridging the Great Green Divide](#)
- [Policy brief on making the most of the social economy's contribution to the circular economy](#)
- [Proximity and social economy transition pathway \(europa.eu\)](#)
- [Green Deal Going Local Handbook](#)

## Social economy in the city



Social and solidarity economy entities are collaborating with local authorities to address ongoing challenges including climate change, refugee flows, increasing inequality and food insecurity. These collaborations aim to find new solutions to advance future transitions, such as the green and digital transitions. For example, social enterprises in Canada are primarily local, with 58% operating at the scale of their neighbourhood or local community and 61% at the city or town level.

**Dagur Eggertsson**, Mayor of Reykjavik (Iceland) and Chair of the OECD Champions Mayors for Inclusive Growth Initiative, cited partnerships with citizen groups, including the local chapter of the Red Cross, as a key element in the city's success in reducing youth drinking, smoking and drug use. He also noted extensive collaboration with non-profit housing providers, resulting in the creation of thousands of affordable housing units in the last five years.

**Neil Mcinroy**, Global Lead for Community Wealth Building (CWB) in Scotland (United Kingdom), seeks to make the entire economy socially and ecologically sustainable by promoting economic democracy and inclusive ownership models, such as social enterprises, cooperatives, employee-owned firms and social/community businesses.

**Tatiana Glad**, Executive Director of Impact Hub Network, emphasised the role of Impact Hub in sourcing innovation from around the world and helping stakeholders implement these innovative models in other places. Impact Hubs in Türkiye have focused on programs to build back better after the February 2023 earthquake, including an Access to Market and Better Procurement Program and an Innovation Transfer Program.



[Luigi Martignetti](#), Secretary General of REVES, promotes partnerships between the public administration and SSE entities to serve the general interest of citizens. Successful examples include the city of Brescia in Italy, where 90% of welfare services are provided by the SSE because of a co-programming process. However, working between local authorities and the SSE actors can be complex due to bureaucracy and limited agility.

The discussion was moderated by [Nadim Ahmad](#), Deputy Director CFE (OECD).

## Related resources

- [OECD Champions Mayors for Inclusive Growth Initiative](#)
- [Regional strategies for the social economy: Examples from France, Spain, Sweden and Poland](#)
- [Building local ecosystems for social innovation: A methodological framework](#)
- [Social economy and the COVID-19 crisis: Current and future roles](#)

## Shaping our future: A youth call to action



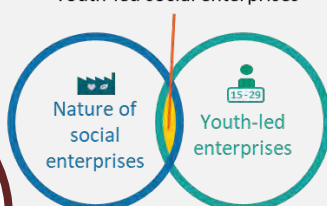
Today's young people are tomorrow's leaders who envision a better future and aspire to participate in activities that have social impact. In her introduction to the discussion, **Natalie Laechelt**, Policy Analyst (OECD), highlighted how young people advocate for social change, innovation and inclusiveness but are often the first to be affected by economic downturns. The SSE can engage youth by offering meaningful employment and giving them a seat at the table. A 2017 Global Shapers survey showed that more than 40% of young people prioritise a sense of purpose or social impact when considering job opportunities. Additionally, almost half of young people in OECD countries prefer entrepreneurship over working as an employee, and over 40% of university students in OECD countries plan to become entrepreneurs within five years after graduating.

### Did you know?

While youth-led social enterprises offer a double dividend, they also face a double bind that intensifies the challenges they face.

Youth-led social enterprises face **a double bind...**

Youth-led social enterprises



... intensifying **four main challenges:**



Source: OECD (2022), "Unlocking the potential of youth-led social enterprises", *OECD Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Papers*, No. 2022/11, OECD publishing, Paris.



[Yasmin Morais](#), Master student in Power, Participation and Social Change at the University of Sussex, [Zeezy Qureshi](#), CEO and co-founder of Motion Exercise CIC and [Djémilah Hassani](#), International strategy expert for the SSE (ESS France/Mayotte), discussed how social entrepreneurs face several challenges, such as access to finance, know-how and capacity building resources. It is particularly challenging for young people to access financing and meet certain criteria, as funders' expectations do not align with what young social entrepreneurs can realistically provide.

In addition, mental health challenges affect more than half of changemakers, with 60% lacking personal financial security. The SSE offers opportunities for young people, particularly those affected by unemployment, to find solutions to their challenges. Therefore, collaboration and networking among young social entrepreneurs are essential to support their initiatives.

## Related resources

- [Unlocking the potential of youth-led social enterprises](#)
- [OECD Recommendation on Creating Better Opportunities for Young People](#)
- [OECD Stand by Youth](#)
- [OECD Youthwise](#)



## Looking beyond with the OECD and the European Commission



Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE, OECD) and Stefan Schleuning, Head of Unit at the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (European Commission) closed the event. The European Union (EU) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) have launched the Global Action on Promoting Social and Solidarity Economy Ecosystems to better understand the patterns and main issues in the SSE, which has played a vital role in Europe, especially for refugees' integration into the labour market and providing access to basic services such as health and education. The EU will continue its work on the social and solidarity economy and EU-OECD cooperation on the SSE will continue beyond this Global Action.

**Want to co-host the next  
OECD social and solidarity economy Summit?**

Get in touch with us at [socialeconomyandinnovation@oecd.org](mailto:socialeconomyandinnovation@oecd.org).



## What do you see? (a poem by Yasmin Morais)

Written during the Summit

from wherever you are now  
 look behind  
 at the systems the rules the binaries  
 that previously defined us  
 the beliefs the buildings the excuses  
 that confined us  
 the world that gave us no other option  
 than the adoption of it as it was  
 the horizon unimagined  
 untouched  
 from wherever you are now  
 look inside  
 into what brought you here  
 your fears your desires  
 leaving the world worse  
 than you found it  
 using your power  
 to ground it  
 from wherever you are now  
 look ahead  
 what do you see?  
 I see  
 the flourishing  
 of tiny seeds we planted long ago  
 the remnants  
 of greed we decided to let go  
 the beauty  
 of life built from below  
 I see  
 innovation that goes beyond smartphones  
 imagination turning into reality  
 where power is shifted  
 towards us  
 and the systems rules binaries beliefs buildings excuses  
 that once confined us  
 are broken down and we're finally  
 lifted up



## The OECD organising team

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Cocktail catered by [La Bande de Cheffes](#), a Parisian social enterprise



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