



OECD  
Global Action

Promoting  
**Social & Solidarity  
Economy Ecosystems**

In 2020, the OECD launched the Global Action “Promoting Social and Solidarity Economy Ecosystems”, which is funded by the European Union’s Foreign Partnership Instrument and will cover more than 30 countries over a period of three years.

### Why this project?

Growing inequalities, persistent unemployment and environmental imperatives have come to the fore as priority policy issues, even more so with the COVID-19 pandemic. In this context, the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) can contribute to building more inclusive and sustainable economies and societies. The SSE has indeed proved to be a longstanding agent of inclusive growth.

Traditional SSE organisations (such as associations, cooperatives, mutuals and foundations) and more recent forms, such as social enterprises, all share a common approach that puts people at the core of their mission and business models, while also paying attention to social and, often, environmental issues. Although the importance of the SSE is increasingly recognised, many countries still struggle to develop conducive ecosystems and to access good practices at an international level.

This project will thus focus on two critical policy levers that can help unlock the potential of the SSE, namely legal frameworks and social impact measurement.

### Objectives

As part of the OECD and EU strategic objectives to promote inclusive, smart, resilient and sustainable growth, this project aims to:

- Support the SSE, including social enterprise development and internationalisation;
- Raise awareness and capacity to build conducive national and local ecosystems for SSE development;
- Promote knowledge and exchanges at the international level.



#### PRIORITY COUNTRIES



Brazil



Canada



European Union



India



Korea



Mexico



United States



## How will this project achieve its goals?

Through the development of:

- An international Guide on Legal Frameworks for the SSE (end of 2022),
- An international Guide on Social Impact Measurement for the SSE (end of 2022),
- Peer-learning partnerships (PLPs), to create knowledge and experience sharing opportunities between different countries and stakeholders on different topics critical to SSE development (ongoing),
- A publication on SSE ecosystems at a glance (end of 2022), including qualitative and quantitative information on each of the countries analysed,
- Thematic papers (including: bringing clarity on concepts and definitions, the internationalisation of the SSE, women and the SSE, the SSE in the post COVID-19 recovery).

### Peer Learning Partnerships: grounding ideas in reality.

PLPs are consortia of actors in the SSE ecosystem and beyond, whose objectives are to share knowledge and promote learning to support the development of the SSE. Their activities might also inspire concrete actions policy makers can undertake to support the establishment of conducive ecosystems for SSE development.

### “The Social and Solidarity Economy: from the Margins to the Mainstream” Virtual Conference

This high-level virtual conference is taking place from 13 to 16 September 2021. It will be the first international conference under the OECD Global Action and will feature highly interactive and dynamic sessions, bringing together policy makers, practitioners, and experts in the SSE.

## Project Timeline



## CONTACT

If you are interested to learn more about the project or to get involved, please contact Antonella Noya, Head of the Social Economy and Innovation Unit | [Antonella.Noya@oecd.org](mailto:Antonella.Noya@oecd.org)  
OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

## About the OECD Social Economy and Innovation Unit

OECD began work on social entrepreneurship over 25 years ago. The OECD assists national, regional and local governments in designing and implementing strategies to support the SSE and social enterprises by providing them with tailored and evidence-based policy recommendations. The work supports the OECD's Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Programme.