Learning seminar

Designing legal frameworks for social enterprises

Practical guidance for policy makers

► What is the issue?

Social enterprises are expanding across EU countries and around the globe. In the European Union, while some form of legislation on social enterprises exists in 16 countries and explicit policies or strategies to boost their development exist in the other 11 countries, policy makers recognise that legislation can help address current shortcomings and facilitate future social enterprise development.

In the framework of the Action *Designing legal frameworks for social enterprises*, funded by the European Union, the OECD has developed a manual that analyses and explores the challenges and opportunities to support social enterprise development through legal frameworks in 10 EU Member States, namely Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

The Manual identifies the three phases of the life cycle of legal frameworks and equips policy makers with concrete policy guidance to navigate each of them:

- The **scoping phase** outlines legal definitions of social enterprises and helps policy makers to identify when to regulate social enterprises and understand why it can be beneficial to do so under certain conditions.
- The **development phase** explains how to navigate the often challenging policy making process while developing legal frameworks. This entails meeting stakeholder needs and remaining attuned to institutional constraints and achieve consensus. It presents different options and approaches to social enterprise regulation and fiscal policy measures countries leverage to develop the field.
- The **evaluation phase** presents possible actions policy makers can take to anticipate the important, but often overlooked, evaluation process to ensure the long-term success of legal frameworks for social enterprises. It also explores avenues to adopt a dynamic perspective of legal frameworks to further develop social enterprises.

► About the learning seminar

The learning seminar will present the manual's main findings and recommendations, shed light on specific issues related to designing legal frameworks for social enterprises in an interactive setting, and allow for a discussion with both practitioners and policy makers.

The specific objectives are to:

- Identify when and why to adopt legal frameworks (or not) for the social economy depending on national or subnational contexts;
- Discuss how to choose between legal forms, statuses and other types of legal frameworks;
- Share the success factors for effectively designing and adopting legal frameworks.

The seminar will be organised around two parallel breakout sessions:

- **Session 1** – From context to outcome: when and why to adopt legal frameworks for social enterprises?

- **Session 2** – From process to purpose: how to tailor legal frameworks to meet evolving needs?

► Agenda

Moderator		**Antonella Noya**, Head, Social Economy and Innovation Unit, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities
03.00 – 03.05		**Opening remarks** *Plenary*
		Anna Athanasopoulou, Head, Proximity, Social Economy and Creative Industries Unit, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission
03.05 – 03.20		**Presentation of the Manual: main findings and recommendations**
		Karen Maguire, Head, Local Employment, Skills and Social Innovation Division, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities
03.20 – 04.20		**Breakout sessions**

Moderator	James	*Breakout session 1 – From context to outcome: when and why to adopt legal frameworks for social enterprises?*
		
		 ► Setting the scene (OECD) *(6 minutes)*
		 ► Presentation by experts *(14 minutes)*
		     o Poland : Jakub Schimanek, Labour Market and Social Integration Unit, Department of the ESF, Ministry of Investment and Economic Development
		     o The Netherlands: Stefan Panhuijsen, Social Enterprise NL
		 ► Discussion *(40 minutes)*

Moderator	**A**mal	*Breakout session 2 – From process to purpose: how to tailor legal frameworks to meet evolving needs?*
		
		 ► Setting the scene (OECD) *(6 minutes)*
		 ► Presentation by experts *(14 minutes)*
		     o Belgium: Daphné Estoret, Employment Policy Directorate, Brussels Economy and Employment, Brussels Regional Public Service, Belgium
		     o EU : Victor Meseguer, Director, Social Economy Europe
		 ► Discussion *(40 minutes)*

04.20 – 04.50		**Wrap up and Q&A session** *Plenary*
		Takeaways (12 minutes) ► Breakout session 1: Toby Gazeley, EU Policy & Projects Officer, Euclid Network ► Breakout session 2: Julie Rijpens, Social Economy and Innovation Unit, OECD

Questions from the audience will be taken in the chat function (18 minutes)

04.50 – 04.55	**Closing remarks**

Way forward

Antonella Noya, Head of Social Economy and Innovation Unit, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

► Registration and meeting details

The meeting is organised via Zoom. Please register here.

The meeting will be recorded for internal purposes and the recording will not be shared externally.

The seminar will be held in English.

The OECD's configuration of the Zoom service reflects the following measures:
- Pre-registration, passwords, and the "waiting room" functions are enabled to prevent unauthorised access to the conference.
- Specific identity format (country, name) for remote participants for easy control of each attendee in the Waiting Room before admitting them into the meeting.
- Only the host (OECD) or co-hosts can enable a recording on their local computers. If the conference is recorded, a notice will show on the screen.
- No chats can be saved, and no private chats are permitted, except with the host or co-hosts.
- Participants enter the conference call muted and without video showing, unless and until they enable these features themselves.
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