



Regional Strategies for the Social Economy Examples from France, Spain, Sweden and Poland

Main Findings and Policy Orientations

9 July 2020

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Outline

- **Social Economy in EU27 and Selected Countries**
- **Main Findings**
- **Policy Orientations**

Social Economy in EU27 and Selected Countries



The social economy is a driver of job creation and economic activity with social impact at national, regional and local levels







Across **27 EU countries**



6.4% of employment **11.9 million jobs**



6 to 8% of **GDP**

	France (FR) : 9.1% of GDP 2.3 million jobs
	Poland (PL) : 2.3% of GDP 365 900 jobs
	Spain (ES) : 7.7% of GDP 1.3 million jobs
	Sweden (SW) : 4.4% of GDP 195 832 jobs



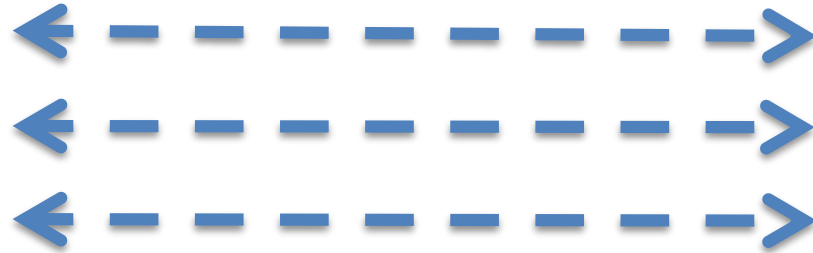
Main findings



Regional development and the social economy : mutually reinforcing dynamics

Effective Regional Development

- Differentiation
- Place-based approaches
- Governance
mutual accountability,
citizen ownership
among other values,
decentralisation reforms aim to achieve



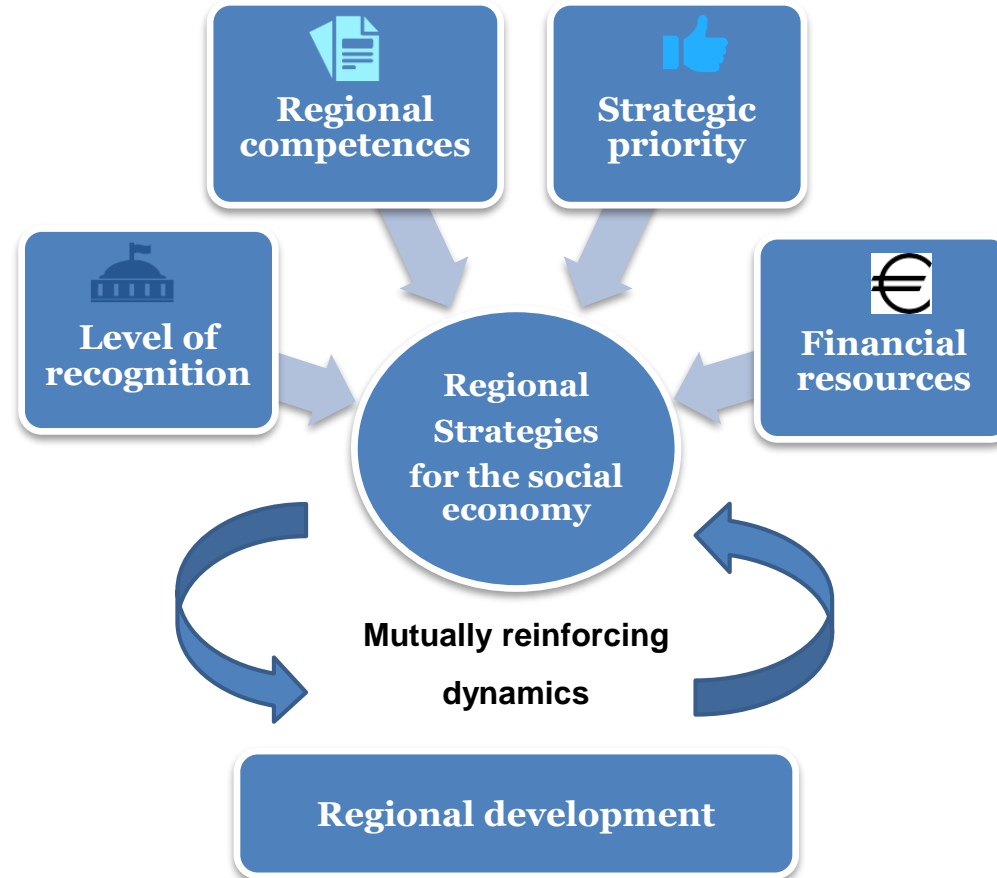
Social Economy Principles

- Social & Economic Capital
- Local dimension
- One man-One vote
- Involvement of stakeholders
- Mutual trust
- Collective private action

The interest for the social economy increased with the shift to place-based policies, the adoption of major territorial reforms and the decentralisation of competencies to EU regions over the past 50 years.



Factors enabling the development of regional strategies for the social economy





Main conclusions from selected countries



The social economy is increasingly recognised at national, regional and local levels



Recognition at national level influences the level of support at regional/local levels



Regions follow different approaches in involving stakeholders and social economy networks



Funding is critical especially EU funds from ESF



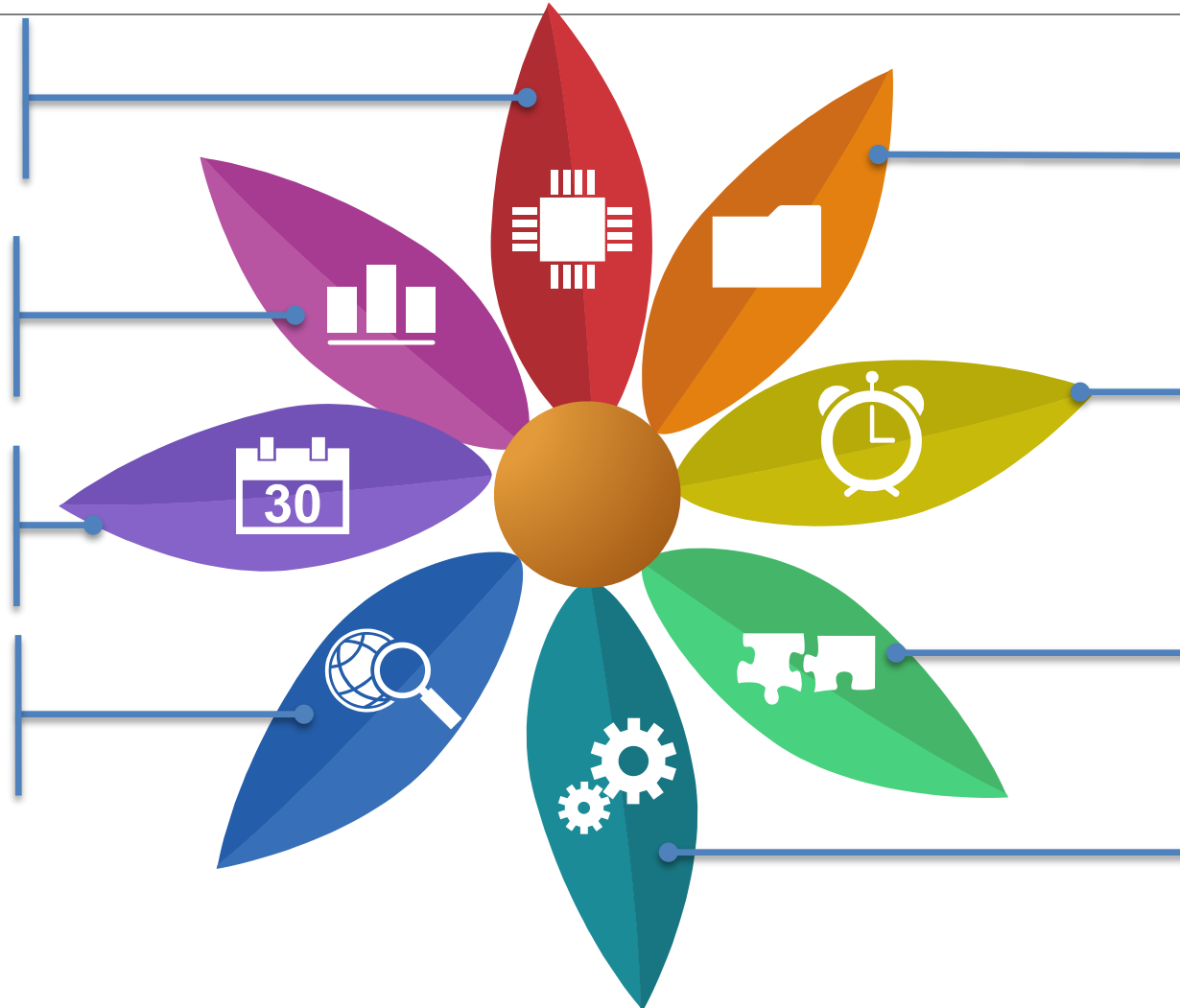
Lack of systematic impact evaluation

	Orientations of the strategies	Allocation of funding	Involvement of stakeholders	Contribution of SE to RD	Impact Assessment
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of new business models • Digital transformation of businesses • Reducing disparities between urban and rural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 regional guarantee funds, and 95 investment tools were available at the end of 2014, representing EUR 2.2 billion to support regional development • Some of these funds benefit the social economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CRESS are an example of how to engage with stakeholders over time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CRESS publish key figures and data on the contribution of the social economy to various sector and places. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No systematic impact measurement of the strategies
Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job creation • Social responsibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESF funds : EUR 31 million are targeted specifically to the social economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership model with strong networks: CEPES, an umbrella organisation created in 1992 to represent the companies of the social economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for qualitative evaluations on the contribution of the social economy to regional development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal monitoring committees • No systematic impact measurement of the strategies
Sweden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable society through social entrepreneurship and social innovation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2018-2020 National Strategy for Social Enterprises has a budget of SEK 50 million (EUR 11.5 million) per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional agreements between public authorities and civil society, and social economy organisations to foster dialogue 	Measurement of the contribution of social enterprises, especially WISEs, to job creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Örebro county, progress against the Action Plan for social economy is reported on a yearly basis to the Department for Regional Development
Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job creation • Integration of vulnerable and socially excluded groups • Development of rural areas and marginalised districts • Boosting tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU funds, mainly the ESF and the National Operational Programme KED, operating within the framework of 16 regional operational programmes • public funds • private funds 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A monitoring system is being developed by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy, to reinforce regional monitoring of SE strategies

Policy Orientations



- Better capitalise on the potential of the social economy
- Develop coherent strategies that pursue local objectives while integrating national priorities
- Focus strategies on a few clear priorities and objectives
- Encourage impact assessment



- Secure financial resources
- Ensure Stakeholders involvement over time
- Strengthen coordination mechanisms with stakeholders
- Promote knowledge sharing among EU regions and cities



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