

OECD Recommendation on the Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation



A tool to achieve strategic policy objectives

The social and solidarity economy (SSE) is increasingly valued for its creation of jobs with impact, innovative solutions to social challenges, and support for an inclusive green and digital twin transition. Typically made up of associations, cooperatives, mutual societies, foundations and social enterprises and active in many sectors, it is people-centred, values democratic governance, cooperation and participation, and prioritises people over profit.

The SSE represents a significant share of employment and GDP in OECD countries and beyond. Based on preliminary estimates, it accounts for between 2% and 10% of national GDP in OECD countries. In the European Union, the sector employs over 13.6 million people, accounting for 6.3% of the total working age population. In Colombia, the solidarity economy represents about 4% of GDP and in Mexico, the social economy accounts for 3.2% of overall employment and 1.2% of GDP.

About the OECD Recommendation

The OECD Recommendation provides an internationally agreed policy framework to help countries, regions and cities achieve strategic goals including:

- Raise awareness and visibility of the social economy and its contributions to the economy and society.
- Understand how social economy ecosystems could perform better and adopt tailored policies.
- Expand the collection and production of reliable data on the social and solidarity economy.
- Measure the impacts of the social economy.

In June 2022, the OECD Recommendation on the Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation was adopted by the Council meeting at Ministerial level. It provides nine pillars and policy options to promote and develop the SSE.

➤ [Read the Recommendation](#)

The social and solidarity economy sparks inspiration, innovation and inclusion thanks to its unique characteristics



Diverse sectors of activity



Local, national and global scope



Long term perspective



Primacy of people over capital



Various entities and business models



Small, medium and large initiatives

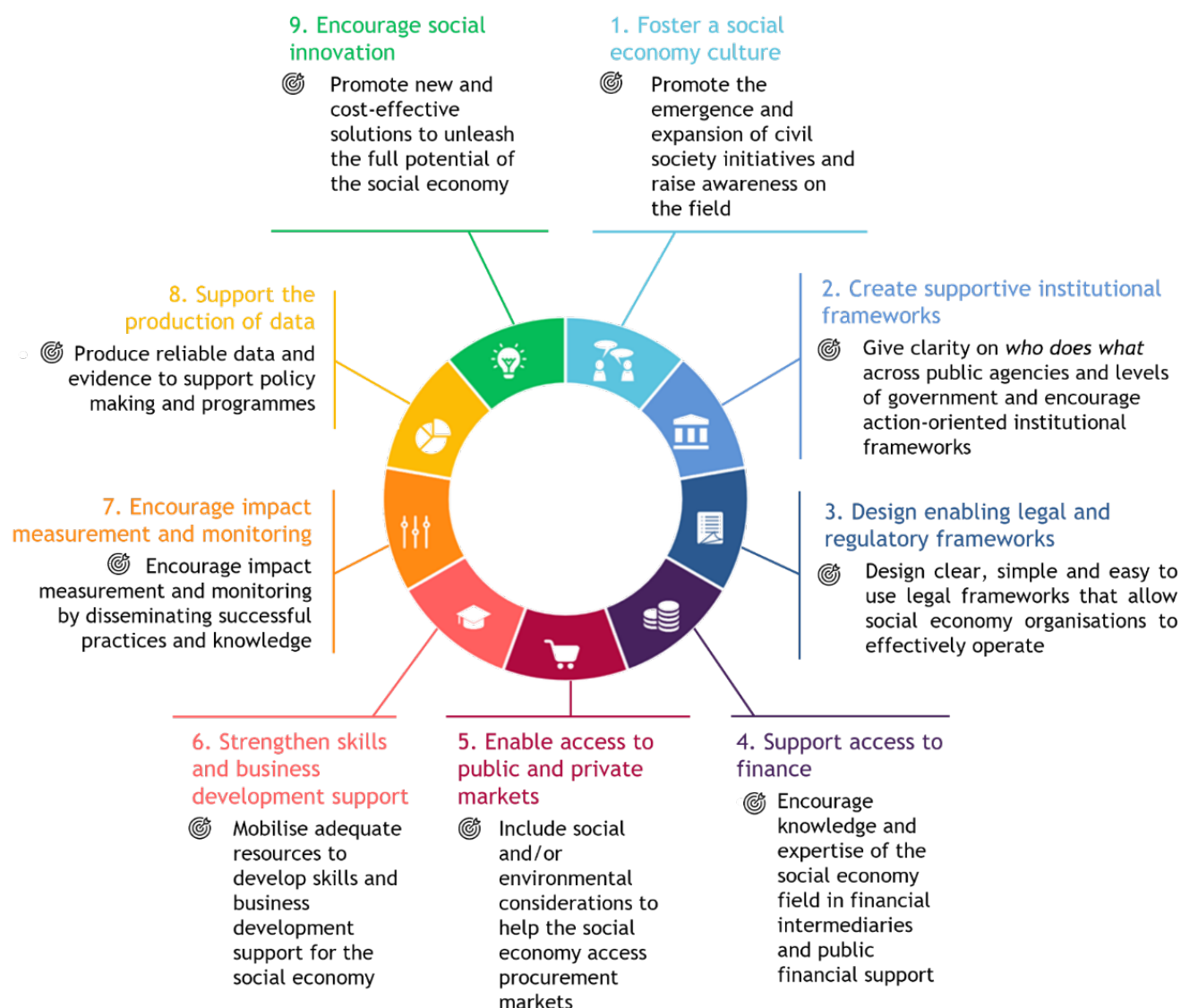


Democratic and participative governance



Pursuit of societal objectives

The nine pillars of the OECD Recommendation



Implementing the OECD Recommendation

Support for country implementation of the OECD Recommendation includes an **online toolkit** (*forthcoming*) and **numerous publications** that provide data and analysis on the social economy and concrete policy guidance. Resources include:



International Policy guides on legal frameworks and social impact measurement



Thematic papers on the social economy with a lens on gender, youth, and the green transition



In-depth country reviews of national policy frameworks and providing tailored guidance

The OECD hosts an **informal expert group on the social economy** to discuss SSE priorities, policies and strategies and to support policy making and data collection as well as efforts to measure the SSE.

Contact us to join the group, translate the Recommendation in your language, host an event to present the Recommendation, or launch an OECD in depth-review at: social.economy@oecd.org.

About the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

The Centre helps local, regional and national governments unleash the potential of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises, promote inclusive and sustainable regions and cities, boost local job creation, and support sound tourism policies. The mission of the Local Employment and Economic Development programme (LEED) is to build vibrant communities with more and better-quality jobs for all. Since 1982, the Programme has been supporting national and local governments through tailored reviews and capacity building activities, as well as research and good practice reports on innovative approaches to local development.