

SOCIAL ECONOMY ACTION PLAN

Social Economy Strategy Self-Assessment Sheet

This self-assessment sheet helps participants of the mutual learning workshops to assess progress on the social economy strategy in their country or in their region. The assessment sheet can also be completed by countries or regions that have not yet developed a specific strategy, as laws, action plans or programmes to promote the social economy may already be in place.

It is divided into five sections, which offer detailed explanations and considerations for the strategy building blocks discussed in the thematic paper.

The five building blocks



The building blocks stem from the [Council recommendation](#) on developing social economy framework conditions. The detailed considerations under each dimension are inspired by the [Better Entrepreneurship Policy Tool](#) referenced in the thematic paper (in section 3.1 and Annex 2). Each section starts with a description followed by statements that help assess the status quo or progress in the given area.

Assess each section on a scale from 1 to 10, 10 being the closest to the ideal situation. A few pointers in each section should help you understand what may constitute an ideal situation (high score=10) or a less ideal one (low score=1), and judge where your country is along the scale. You do not need to have all items in place to score high, but the more you have, the closer you will be to 10.



The vision is a fundamental building block of the social economy strategy that defines what the social economy represents and outlines the current and future role, size, impact, and importance of the social economy for both the economy and society. In this section, you are asked to assess not only whether your government has a comprehensive vision and strategy, but also whether they are aligned with policy and development goals, and whether they are clearly articulated and communicated. It will be important to consider if the priorities have been identified clearly and if they respond to the specific needs and opportunities of your country/region. You will need to assess the corresponding objectives and whether sufficient resources have been allocated to the design and implementation of action plans based on the strategy.



HIGH SCORE



- The government has a long-term vision and strategy for the social economy with dedicated resources.
- The vision is aligned with national/regional policies and development goals.
- The vision is clearly articulated and is available to the public.
- The strategy identifies priority areas (strategic axes) that are in line with economic and social objectives.
- The strategy is broken down into relevant and clear objectives based on stakeholder needs.

LOW SCORE



- There is no strategy or vision for the social economy.
- There is a vision and a strategy, but they have not been updated in recent years.
- The vision is not aligned with policy goals or is limited to one policy area only.
- The vision and the strategy do not reflect current and future needs and opportunities.
- The vision is not shared by social economy stakeholders.



The administrative and institutional setup refers to the various units, departments and other governmental bodies that are in charge and/or participate in the design, coordination, implementation and monitoring of the social economy strategy or other policy documents that aim to foster the social economy. The task of coordination may fall upon an existing government body, or a unit established specifically for social economy. The unit may or may not have the necessary knowledge and dedicated resources. It may carry political clout or be relatively unknown within the state administration. It is also important to consider whether the necessary mechanisms exist for effective information sharing and coordination between government departments and with stakeholders.



HIGH SCORE



- There is a unit within the government responsible for the design and implementation of social economy policies.
- The government social economy unit has the knowledge, capacity and resources to lead the policies that promote the social economy.
- The strategy enjoys political support and commitment.
- There are mechanisms and/or documents for inter-departmental coordination within the government in relation to social economy policies. It is clear who is responsible for overseeing the strategy process and its implementation.
- There are mechanisms for coordination and exchanges across levels of governance.

LOW SCORE



- There is no unit with a clear mandate to work on social economy policy within government or its activities are not well known.
- There is a lack of information sharing and coordination between government departments relating to social economy. It is unclear who is responsible for overseeing implementation.
- There are no mechanisms or documents for coordination and decision making in relation to the social economy strategy.



Stakeholder engagement and consultation are the cornerstones of a successful social economy strategy, from its design to its implementation phase. The main purpose of involving a diverse range of actors from the ecosystem is to gather information and feedback and obtain buy-in and support. Stakeholder support is key to bringing additional capacity and expertise to the social economy ecosystem. The assessment, therefore should consider not only whether stakeholders are involved, but also which stakeholders, to what extent and in what part of the process they are included. It is important to consider the existence or lack of communication channels and mechanisms that facilitate engagement.



HIGH SCORE



- A social economy consultative body is established and includes representatives of the social economy ecosystem.
- The government is aware of the main stakeholders and consults with them on a regular basis.
- The government ensures that a diversity of stakeholders is involved, and a balanced representation is achieved in stakeholder consultations.
- Established channels exist for stakeholder communication and feedback.
- Social economy entities and relevant stakeholders are involved in the delivery of the social economy strategy.
- Engagement with representatives of the social economy happens across various departments.

LOW SCORE



- There is no or limited involvement of stakeholders in policy design and delivery.
- There are no established channels for communication or consultation with relevant stakeholders.
- Stakeholder engagement is not inclusive enough to represent a diverse range of views and needs.
- The consultation process is not effective enough to deliver the input of stakeholders to the relevant fora.



Visibility and recognition refer to how well the government and the public are aware of the social economy and to what extent the role and impact of social economy entities are being recognised. In this section, you should assess the existing level of awareness and the existence of various awareness-raising measures, often in different policy dimensions. It is important, for example, to look at the role the legal framework plays in improving recognition, as well as the use of independent labels, certifications and registries. You will explore whether data and intelligence are collected on the social economy (e.g. via satellite accounts) and if the government supports communication campaigns, prizes, or awards.



HIGH SCORE



- Legal recognition of social economy entities exists in legal forms, legal statuses or a social economy/social enterprise registry.
- There is a regulatory body of social economy entities that maintains an up-to-date registry.
- The national accounts include a social economy satellite account, or the government initiates/supports regular large-scale data collection and research in the ecosystem.
- There are independent verification systems and labels for the social economy that are recognised by the government and the public.
- Official awards and prizes recognise the accomplishments and impact of the social economy.
- The government promotes social economy through its own channels or supports promotion through events and campaigns

LOW SCORE



- There is no formal or legal recognition of social economy entities.
- Social economy legislation is ineffective, as it is not in line with other regulations of concern.
- Independent social economy labels are not recognised by the government.
- There are no efforts on behalf of the government to raise awareness of the social economy.
- There is a lack of government initiative to gather research and data about the social economy and/or to use it for policy making.
- Social economy and/or social entrepreneurship are not covered by the national curriculum.



Monitoring and evaluation are essential parts of a strategy to ensure that progress against targets is measured. When assessing this building block, you should consider whether there is an M&E plan with relevant targets and indicators accompanying the objectives. Are the objectives and targets time-bound and measurable, and is there a system in place to collect and analyse data? It is also essential to check if feedback loops exist to ensure the integration of learnings and if reports are produced regularly to share findings.



HIGH SCORE



- The social economy strategy includes an action plan with relevant targets and indicators, including those related to social/environmental impact.
- Objectives of the action plan are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound.
- Progress against the objectives of the strategy is regularly monitored and measured and progress reports are created including impact assessment.
- Feedback mechanisms exist for integrating lessons learned.
- The monitoring system has appropriate tools and resources for data collection and analysis. The system is regularly updated to remain robust and relevant and to reflect changing conditions.

LOW SCORE



- The strategy does not include a monitoring plan or it is very high level, not operational.
- Targets are unrealistic; indicators are not measurable or irrelevant.
- Monitoring and measurement do not happen in practice or are too infrequent to be meaningful.
- The monitoring function lacks resources, knowledge or tools.
- Monitoring results are not fed into the strategic planning process.

	Score	Comments, next step
		
		
		
		
		