Social economy statistics

Current practices and emerging approaches in the EU Member States

Thematic discussion paper

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1. Introduction

Social economy entities (SEEs) exist across all EU Member States, although their visibility and recognition vary significantly. In some countries, SEEs operate below the institutional radar and the extent to which they are acknowledged by policymakers, the general public or by SEEs themselves as part of the social economy differs greatly depending on historical, cultural and institutional traditions (European Commission, 2024).

These differences in conceptualisation have important statistical implications. Limited visibility of the added value of the social economy often stems from insufficient understanding of the diverse roles played by its organisations and from the lack of high-quality, comparable data. Only a small number of Member States have national statistical systems that explicitly measure the social economy, capturing the various types of organisations involved, their employment, volunteering and, where possible, their economic value.

On this basis, the 27 EU Member States can broadly be divided into two groups. The first group consists of countries where statistics on the social economy as a whole are available: —namely Belgium, France, Portugal and Spain, which have a long tradition of recognition, and Luxembourg and Poland, where recent legislative and policy actions have strengthened this recognition. In Portugal, Poland and Spain, producing statistics is mandatory, either under the Social Economy Law or a national Social Economy Development Plan. The existence of permanent social economy observatories (Belgium, France and Spain) and the direct involvement of national statistical offices (France, Luxembourg, Poland and Portugal) facilitates the regular publication of statistics, typically covering the number of entities, employment and, where available, economic aggregates, complemented by sector-specific detail.

By contrast, in the remaining 21 Member States, aggregate statistics on the social economy are not yet being compiled. Building a national picture therefore requires piecing together information from multiple sources, often limited to specific organisational families. This results in estimates of varying completeness and comparability.

Against this background, this paper examines the practices and methodological developments observed in the six Member States that currently produce regular statistical information on the social economy. It first analyses the experiences of Portugal, Luxembourg and Poland that have developed social economy satellite accounts. It continues by examining the approaches adopted in Belgium, France and Spain, countries where permanent social economy observatories support the systematic collection, consolidation and dissemination of data.

These experiences raise a number of questions for discussion, including how far the satellite account approach can be generalised to other Member States; what minimum conditions are needed in terms of data and institutional capacity; and how it can be combined with other tools such as surveys or observatories.

To shed light on these issues, the paper also explores the institutional context in which these initiatives have emerged, the methodological choices guiding their design, the data sources mobilised, and the challenges that have surfaced across the experiences reviewed.

Rather than providing an exhaustive mapping, the paper offers a set of illustrative national experiences and methodological options intended to inform and stimulate the discussion during the second mutual learning workshop on social economy data and statistics organised by ICF under a framework contract with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL).

2. Satellite accounts

The System of National Accounts (SNA) provides the standard framework for macroeconomic accounting, offering a coherent representation of major economic flows such as production, consumption, investment, income and employment. However, this central framework does not always capture specific sectors or thematic areas with the level of detail or analytical logic needed to reflect their distinctive characteristics. For this reason, satellite accounts, referred to as thematic accounts in 2025 SNA (European Commission et al., 2025), are designed to extend or refine the standard system. This allows for a more targeted and consistent analysis of sectors, activities or economic functions than is possible within the core national accounts.

For the social economy, the development of such accounts is particularly important, as the sector is often only partially visible in conventional macroeconomic statistics. A dedicated accounting framework enhances its visibility and supports more effective policy design and resource allocation.

Two key international documents guide the compilation of a satellite account for the social economy:

- The first is the 2006 CIRIEC Manual (Ciriec, 2006), which expanded the perspective of the 2003 UN Handbook on Non-Profit Institutions (UNSD, 2003) by including the market-oriented segment of the social economy. The manual covers private, formally established entities with autonomous decision-making and voluntary membership that operate as market producers, supplying goods and services mainly intended for sale at economically significant prices, with the primary objective of meeting their members' needs through principles of self-help. They are governed through democratic arrangements in which capital does not determine control or the allocation of surpluses.

- The second reference is the 2018 UN Handbook on Non-Profit Institutions and Related Institutions and Volunteer Work, which introduced the Third or Social Economy framework (UNSD, 2018), now incorporated into the 2025 SNA. This framework describes the relevant organisations as identifiable institutional units that are separate from government, subject to significant restrictions on profit distribution, autonomously governed rather than controlled by other units, and based on voluntary rather than automatic participation or membership.

Among EU Member States, only three countries have so far published a satellite account of the social economy: Portugal, Luxembourg and Poland. All three participated in Eurostat's 2020 call inviting national statistical offices (NSOs) to develop a social economy satellite account in line with international guidelines[1]. Although seven countries

[1] However, Portugal and Luxembourg had already initiated work on their satellite accounts before the launch of the Eurostat call, building on earlier national efforts and institutional collaborations.

responded to this call:Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain (Archambault, 2022), only Portugal, Luxembourg and Poland have published their accounts to date. Other countries are now considering the development of a satellite account or planning to publish one in the near future, as in the case of Spain, where the Social Economy Satellite Account is included in the official Statistical Plan for 2025–2028 (Government of Spain, 2024), with the first release planned for the 2021 reference year (INE-Spain, 2024). However, the limited availability of information on accounts that are not yet published or still under development requires focusing exclusively on the three publicly available cases.

2.1. Portugal

Since 2013, Portugal has published four editions of the Satellite Account of the Social Economy (SESA)[2], produced by Statistics Portugal (INE-Portugal) in cooperation with CASES – the António Sérgio Cooperative for the Social Economy.

The SESA produces a full sequence of economic accounts, fully aligned with national accounting criteria and international standards, for the sector as a whole and, where possible, for specific sub-groups such as cooperatives and mutual associations. The most recent edition (INE-Portugal and CASES, 2023), covering 2019 and 2020, follows the same methodological references as earlier editions: the Social Economy Framework Law (Law No. 30/2013), the European System of National and Regional Accounts (ESA 2010), the 2018 UN Handbook (UNSD, 2018), and the 2006 CIRIEC Manual.

The starting point for the satellite account is the standard national accounting system used by INE, which includes all economic units registered as active. From this universe, entities meeting the national legal definition of the social economy are selected. According to the Social Economy Framework Law, the sector includes cooperatives, mutual associations misericórdias' (holy houses of mercy)[3], foundations, private social solidarity institutions (IPSS), as well as altruistic associations active in cultural, recreational, sporting or local development fields. It also includes community and self-managed organisations, as well as other legally recognised entities that respect the core principles of the social economy.

In practice, SEEs are grouped into cooperatives, mutual associations, Holy houses of mercy, foundations, associations with altruistic goals, and community and self-management subsectors. Additional estimations were produced for institutions with IPSS status or equivalent, as these organisations may take different legal forms and are present across all groups. The 2019-2020 edition also includes estimates for entities with special status, such as NGOs active in development, people with disabilities, women's or migrants rights. In line with the legal framework, entities classified in the general government sector were excluded, except for régie cooperatives[4] due to their specific nature. Public non-financial corporations were also excluded, with the exception of a small number of cooperatives in that subsector.

[2] https://www.ine.pt/xportal/xmain?INST=116634832&contexto=cs&perfil=104012510&selTab=tab3&xpgid=ine_contas_nacionais&xpid=INE

[3] Holy houses of mercy or Misericórdias are institutions of social care of Portuguese origin that emerged at the end of the fifteenth century for the development of the so-called actions of Christian mercy.

[4] Public-interest cooperatives are entities in which public bodies (the State or other public-law entities) associate with cooperatives, service users, or private non-profit entities in order to pursue objectives of general interest related to the production of goods and services (Portugal, 1984).

In June 2019, INE launched the Social Economy Sector Survey, in collaboration with CASES, to complement the information provided by the SESA, with data enabling a comprehensive assessment of the diversity, operational models, and strategic orientations that characterise the Social Economy in Portugal (INE-Portugal and CASES, 2020). The survey was designed to collect detailed information on the structure of the social economy sector and its management practices for the year 2018. It covered several key dimensions, including organisational characteristics; governance and management practices; human resources and employment structures; the role and integration of volunteering; financial models and funding sources; organisational size and scale; and the broader social contribution and impact of SEEs.

2.2. Luxembourg

In 2019, STATEC, the National Institute of statistics in Luxembourg, together with the Ministry of Labour and the Johns Hopkins University, launched a project to develop satellite accounts for the social economy in Luxembourg. The methodology follows the 2018 UN Handbook (UNSD, 2018) and is fully aligned with 2008 SNA and ESA 2010.

The compilation of the account also draws on the principles set out in the 2016 Law on Societal Impact Companies. Under this law, social economy enterprises are private legal entities that must carry out continuous economic activity, whether in the production, distribution or exchange of goods and services, while pursuing clearly defined social purposes. These purposes range from supporting individuals in vulnerable situations to contributing to social inclusion, gender equality, territorial cohesion, environmental protection and the development of cultural, creative or educational activities. The law also requires independent governance and the reinvestment of at least half of any generated profits.

On this basis, the satellite account covers organisations combining economic functions with explicit social and often environmental objectives; operating through cooperative, associative or solidarity-based relationships; and applying democratic governance or forms of workplace self-management (STATEC, 2022). The scope includes women's self-help groups, community forestry initiatives, local aid and proximity services, fair-trade organisations, informal workers' associations and societies of societal impact. Cooperatives and mutuals are partially included.

The satellite account is available as an annual time series from 2015 to 2023[5], with the most recent update published in July 2025.

2.3. Poland

In 2021, Statistics Poland published the country's first satellite account for the social economy, based on 2018 data (Statistics Poland, 2021)[6]. Its development built on more

[5] https://lustat.statec.lu/vis?fs[0]=Th%C3%A8mes%2C3%7C%C3%89conomie%20totale%20et%20prix%23E%23%7CComptes%20nationaux%23E2%23%7CComptes%20satellites%23E25%23%7CComptes%20de%20l%27%C3%A9conomie%20sociale%20et%20solidaire%23E255%23&pg=0&fc=Sp%C3%A9cification&snb=2&df[ds]=ds-release&df[id]=DF_E2550&df[ag]=LU1&df[vs]=1.0&dq=.A&pd=2015%2C2023&to[TIME_PERIOD]=false&isAvailabilityDisabled=false

[6] https://stat.gov.pl/en/topics/social-economy/

than fifteen years of experience in the collection of information on non-profit institutions, supported by regular surveys since 2008.

The scope of the account follows the 2018 UN Handbook (UNSD, 2018) and aligns with the definition of the social economy used in the Polish National Programme for Social Economy Development up to 2023. Within this framework, the account covers three broad components. The first corresponds to non-profit institutions, such as associations, volunteer fire brigades, sports and hunting clubs, foundations not controlled by the State Treasury, and a wide array of membership-based organisations including farming and business associations, employers' organisations, trade unions, political parties and religious organisations. The second component covers cooperatives and mutuals, although only specific categories—social cooperatives, work cooperatives and cooperatives for persons with disabilities or visual impairments—are included. Other cooperative forms (housing cooperatives, cooperative banks, credit unions) fall outside the national definition of the social economy and are therefore excluded. The third component concerns volunteer work, defined as unpaid activities performed for others outside the household. This includes both organisation-based and individual volunteering. Not-for-profit limited liability companies, even when considered social enterprises, were excluded due to technical difficulties: they are typically small, difficult to identify in business registers and of limited economic weight.

At present, the 2018 satellite account remains the only full version published. However, updated information has been released for 2021 and 2023 through national surveys. These surveys reflect the definition introduced by the Polish Social Economy Act of 5 August 2022 and provide detailed statistical information on the number and types of SEEs, their fields of activity, employment levels and the inclusion of groups at risk of social exclusion, their engagement in reintegration activities, as well as their revenues, costs, and main sources of funding. In addition, a further publication released in 2025 (Statistics Poland and Statistical Office in Kraków, 2025), also based on a dedicated national survey, offers an in-depth examination of the forms, intensity, and determinants of cooperation among SEEs, as well as between these entities and public institutions or private-sector partners. It thereby sheds light on the collaborative dynamics that underpin the functioning of the social economy in Poland.

2.4. Challenges in compiling satellite accounts

During a seminar organised by the OECD and the European Commission, several foundational challenges for the implementation of a satellite account for the social economy were highlighted (OECD, 2017). These include the need for a clear and shared definition of the relevant units, transparent and operational procedures for identifying them across data sources, and stable commitments to ensure the continuous provision of high-quality information with the required level of detail. These broad requirements align closely with the practical challenges encountered in the country cases.

The experiences of Portugal, Luxembourg and Poland point to a number of recurrent considerations in compiling satellite accounts for the social economy. A first aspect concerns the operational delineation of the statistical perimeter. Although legal frameworks indicate which organisations belong to the social economy, establishing an exhaustive and regularly updated inventory of all relevant entities remains a complex technical task. As noted by Ramos (2019), it involves identifying and classifying units, verifying their status, and addressing issues related to incomplete registration, inactivity, changes in legal form or uncertainties in classification. Challenges in nominal and fiscal

identification, as well as occasional inconsistencies between registry data and actual activities, can make this phase resource-intensive. The establishment of a dedicated Social Economy Registry, as foreseen by Portuguese legislation but still under development, may help streamline procedures even if some degree of complexity is likely to remain.

A second aspect relates to the availability and consistency of accounting data. While some groups, such as cooperatives and mutual associations, benefit from relatively comprehensive financial information, other categories show more limited data coverage or quality. Many organisations, particularly small, voluntary or non-market entities, use accounting and reporting systems that are not fully aligned with national accounts requirements. This can affect the completeness and coherence of the information needed to estimate output, value added, employment and surplus, sometimes requiring the use of complementary estimation methods. Overall, the three country cases suggest that developing a satellite account for the social economy depends on progressive improvements in administrative data, ongoing methodological adaptation and continued cooperation between statistical offices, sector organisations and public authorities.

These operational challenges highlighted in the country cases were also reflected in discussions held during the seminar organised by the OECD and the European Commission (OECD, 2017). Participants underlined that technical work on satellite accounts interacts with broader institutional and organisational constraints. NSOs must operate within predefined budgets, staffing levels and established IT infrastructures, which can limit the scope for methodological adjustments or system improvements. For offices already producing satellite accounts, an additional difficulty consists in balancing adherence to internationally agreed standards, such as those in the UN Handbook or the CIRIEC Manual, with national definitions and policy expectations, while preserving continuity and comparability of long-term data series.

At the same time, the joint OECD and European Commission seminar emphasised that progress depends not only on technical capacity but also on a supportive institutional environment. Participants noted the importance of explicit political commitment, clear and feasible guidance, and additional resources to adapt existing procedures or to initiate work in countries that have not yet developed a satellite account. In this perspective, the establishment of social economy satellite accounts emerges as both a methodological and an institutional undertaking, requiring sustained coordination among policymakers, statistical authorities and sector representatives.

While the seminar provided evidence of consensus on the need for robust and coherent satellite accounts, it also drew attention to the broader challenge of capturing the full economic and social weight of the social economy. This issue is reflected in the practices adopted in Portugal and Poland, where satellite accounts are complemented by dedicated sectoral surveys. Satellite accounts represent only one possible approach, and their implementation should be considered alongside alternative methodologies that differ in how well they capture the different dimensions of the social economy’s contribution, how costly they are to use, and how easily they are understood and accepted by users. A comprehensive understanding of the social economy may therefore require a combination of approaches, calibrated to national contexts and information needs.

3. Social economy observatories

In three Member States, social economy observatories have been established as instruments to support the collection, consolidation and dissemination of statistics on the social economy. The experiences of France, Belgium and Spain show how these observatories have developed over time, often evolving from bottom-up initiatives led by sectoral organisations and regional networks into more structured statistical arrangements, with varying degrees of institutional recognition and integration within national statistical systems. The following sections provide a brief overview of these three national experiences.

3.1. France

The *Observatoire national de l'ESS* (National Observatory of the Social and Solidarity Economy - ONESS) is the central statistical and analytical infrastructure of the French social economy. Its origins lie in the cooperative, mutual and associative movements which, from the 1960s onwards, began to organise themselves at regional and national level. As these movements expanded, they required a shared statistical information system to promote their activities, make their economic contribution visible, and support their development.

During the 1980s, these movements created a network of regional observatories, based on the Regional Chambers for the Social and Solidarity Economy (CRESS). This network gradually strengthened and, in 2008, evolved into the National Observatory of the SSE, coordinated by SSE France, the national representative platform of the French social economy. In the same year, the SSE perimeter defining which organisations fall within the statistical scope of the social economy, was jointly agreed by national SSE representatives, the State and the French NSO (INSEE - the National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies).

The observatory system is built on a strong, long-standing partnership with official data producers. It works closely with INSEE to ensure that SSE statistics are coherent, reliable and aligned with the national statistical system. It also collaborates with scientific and academic experts, including researchers and statisticians organised within ADDES, an association created in the 1980s to promote research on the SSE. The statistics produced by the observatory combine INSEE data with additional sources from government ministries, the social security collection agency, the agricultural social protection fund, the *Banque de France* (National Bank of France), and other public and private bodies. The adoption of the French SSE Law in 2014 turned the production of SSE statistics into a public mandate. The law institutionalised the observatory system and assigned a dual role to the CRESS at regional level and to SSE France at national level: producing statistics and studies, and maintaining, updating and publishing the official list of SSE enterprises. While the 2014 law did not modify the statistical perimeter defined in 2008, it clarified and formalised the methodology, including sources, classifications and data fields. At regional level, observatories have also developed a broad set of analytical and support functions. They prepare detailed territorial assessments that help local authorities identify strategic sectors and future economic opportunities. They conduct opinion surveys, document illustrative initiatives, carry out sourcing activities, and support organisations in assessing their social and environmental impact.

One of the main outputs of the observatory is the *Atlas commenté de l'économie sociale et solidaire,* a key reference publication offering updated data, maps and analytical insights on the structure, evolution and territorial distribution of the SSE. Its fifth edition was published in 2023 (Observatoire national de l'économie sociale et solidaire, 2023), following earlier editions in 2009, 2012, 2017 and 2020.

3.2. Wallonia (Belgium)

ConcertES is the official coordination and representation body for social economy federations in the Walloon Region and the Brussels-Capital Region. This mandate was assigned in 2008 following the adoption of the Walloon Decree defining the social economy. In addition to its coordination and representation functions, ConcertES is responsible for promoting the social economy and managing the Social Economy Observatory[7].

The Observatory was initially developed through the 'Development of the Interregional Social Economy' (D.E.S.I.R.) project, implemented in partnership with the CRESS Hauts-de-France under the Interreg IV programme of the European Regional Development Fund. The project ran from June 2008 to December 2012. Since 2014, the Observatory has received structural funding from the Walloon Region and has also benefited from complementary support from the Brussels-Capital Region.

The Observatory is supervised by a scientific committee composed of university researchers specialising in the social economy, representatives of the Walloon Regional Statistics Office, and representatives of the various legal families within the social economy. This committee plays a central role in shaping the statistical scope, refining methodological approaches, offering technical guidance, and fostering effective cooperation with data providers.

The Observatory functions as the main statistical interface for the French-speaking social economy sector in Belgium. Since 2003, it has collected and published annual statistical updates with the support of public authorities. Although its mandate focuses on Wallonia and Brussels, its datasets cover the whole country, with the caveat that data from Flanders are generally less complete. It produces a wide range of official statistics, including annual figures on the number and characteristics of social economy enterprises, employment volumes, worker profiles (such as age, gender and working-time regimes), legal forms, sectors of activity, enterprise size, and longer-term trends across the ecosystem.

The Observatory identifies social economy organisations according to the definition used by ConcertES: enterprises that conduct economic activities aimed at producing goods or services while upholding the principles of serving a collective interest, autonomous management, democratic and participatory governance, and prioritising people and work over capital. This definition closely aligns with the Walloon Government Decree of 20 November 2008 (ConcertES, 2025). The statistical scope therefore includes all enterprises with the legal status of non-profit association, accredited cooperative and/or social enterprise, foundation, or mutual society—forms that incorporate rules aligned with social economy principles.

[7] https://concertes.be/project/observatoire/

Data are collected from a broad range of national and regional sources, including administrative registers, tax and business records, and annual accounts submitted by organisations. Additional ad hoc surveys are occasionally conducted, particularly to gather information from smaller organisations (Bouchard & Salathé Beaulieu, 2021).

3.3. Spain

The Spanish Observatory of the Social Economy and Self-Employment was established in 2005 by CIRIEC-Spain[8] with the support of the Ministry of Labour, the University of Valencia (IUDESCOOP) and several other organisations and networks engaged in social economy research. In 2025, the Observatory launched the CIRIECSTAT statistical portal[9], a major step forward in its mission to provide a unified, accessible and methodologically consistent system for gathering and publishing reliable, comparable and regularly updated statistics on the social economy in Spain.

The CIRIECSTAT statistical perimeter aligns with the definition of the social economy set out in Spain's Social Economy Law (Law 5/2011). The portal adheres to national and international accounting standards (ESA 2010 and SNA 2008) and is also consistent with the methodological principles of the 2006 CIRIEC Manual for Satellite Accounts. In line with this framework, CIRIECSTAT organises data into two major components: the market social economy, which includes cooperatives, labour societies, mutual societies, special employment centres, work integration companies, agricultural societies and fishermen's guilds; and the non-market social economy, which covers associations and foundations, including major nationwide organisations such as ONCE, the Spanish Red Cross and Cáritas.

Most of the data in CIRIECSTAT originates from official sources such as government ministries, the national tax agency, the Bank of Spain, regional governments and the Spanish National Statistics Institute (INE). The database is complemented by information from cooperative registries, association reports and academic centres such as IUDESCOOP, enabling the integration of administrative, fiscal and sector-specific data. In addition, CIRIEC collects certain types of information directly through surveys and sectoral studies, allowing the portal to incorporate indicators not otherwise available in official statistics and to provide a more comprehensive view of the scale, performance and evolution of the social economy in Spain.

3.4. Strengths and challenges of social economy observatories

By combining official data with sector-specific knowledge, these observatories improve the understanding of territorial patterns, organisational characteristics and longer-term developments across the different components of the social economy.

At the same time, several challenges remain. Even where observatories benefit from formal recognition and stable cooperation arrangements, issues related to data completeness, coverage of small or informal organisations, and the quality and interoperability of administrative records may persist. Indeed, one key difficulty concerns

[8] CIRIEC-Spain

[9] https://ciriecstat.com/en/

access to more granular data specific to the social economy, such as on volunteers and members, where availability often depends on long-term partnerships with public and private institutions.

Moreover, national legal definitions and methodological choices can differ considerably, limiting international comparability and complicating efforts to establish harmonised indicators at EU level. Differences in resources, technical capacity and institutional coordination may naturally lead to some variation in the quality and frequency of the statistics produced.

Finally, a major challenge lies in securing independent and durable recognition together with stable long-term funding, conditions without which observatories cannot consolidate their role in producing statistics.

4. Concluding reflections and questions for discussion

The experiences reviewed in this paper illustrate the diversity of approaches currently used across Member States to generate statistics on the social economy. Satellite accounts and permanent observatories operate under different institutional and technical conditions, yet both contribute to enhancing visibility, improving data quality and building a more coherent evidence base.

A key advantage of satellite accounts is their alignment with internationally agreed standards, which strengthens the coherence and comparability of statistics across countries. By positioning the social economy within the national accounts framework, they also allow its scale, structure and economic contribution to be compared directly with the broader economy and with other types of enterprises. At the same time, their compilation presents several challenges, including the need for a clear statistical perimeter and the accurate identification of units, often hindered by incomplete or inconsistent administrative records. Data completeness can also be limited where organisations use accounting systems not fully aligned with national accounts requirements. Finally, variations in administrative data quality and resource constraints within NSOs can affect the scope, detail and frequency of the accounts.

Regarding observatories, the report describes how several of them originated within cooperative, mutual or associative movements before being formalised through legislation or supported by regional authorities. Over time, these observatories have developed partnerships with official data producers, including NSOs, and have expanded their analytical functions through the integration of administrative, fiscal and sector-specific sources. Their evolution reflects different institutional pathways and shows how stable collaboration frameworks can support regular statistical production. At the same time, variations in national definitions, data sources and methodological approaches may limit the comparability of statistics across countries.

Taken together, these experiences underline that there is no single model for producing statistics on the social economy across Member States. Each approach reflects specific legal frameworks, institutional capacities and data environments. At the same time, the observed initiatives raise broader questions about how national efforts can support increased comparability and consistency at EU level:

- What conditions would be necessary for countries that do not yet produce a satellite account to consider developing one?
- What would be the key initial technical steps for a NSO to take when starting to compile a social economy satellite account?
- To what extent can different approaches—such as regular surveys, registries or observatories—serve as effective alternatives or complements to satellite accounts?
- What institutional or organisational conditions are needed to establish or strengthen social economy observatories, particularly in countries where they do not yet exist?
- Which forms of cooperation between NSOs, ministries, sector organisations and researchers appear most effective in improving statistical production?
- How can methodological development be supported in contexts where resources or technical capacity are constrained?
- How can continuity and stability in statistical work be ensured, particularly when mandates, funding or staffing change?
- What role could EU-level guidance or coordination play in supporting more consistent and comparable data practices across Member States?

The upcoming mutual learning workshop will offer an opportunity for Member States, NSOs and social economy stakeholders to reflect on these issues collectively, share practical experiences and explore possible avenues for improving the coherence, comparability and policy relevance of social economy statistics across the EU.

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