



September 4, 2018
10:30-11:00



**Thematic presentation of country situation in
Greece and good practice**

PROMoting Youth Social Entrepreneurship



The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Thematic presentation of country situation in Greece and good practice

In this training session, the trainees will learn about the **existing situation of the social and solidarity economy in Greece** as well as about the **good practices that exist in the field of social enterprises**, particularly in the field of health and social welfare.



Existing situation of the social and solidarity economy in Greece

| Introduction

The social and solidarity economy sector in Greece is **young and has great potential for developing** and expanding its impact.

The Greek organizations of this sector are looking to address some of the country's most important challenges, especially **poverty and unemployment**, but they also seek to promote and present an **alternative economic model**.

The social and solidarity economy sector has a dynamic potential that can be distinguished in many of the **newly established organizations**, as well as in their ambition to develop their turnover and their workforce. These organizations also show a **large variety**, not only in their **legal form**, but also in their **social goals and areas of activity**.

Their economic and social contribution has scope and depth, but at the same time there are **many challenges**:

- each organization and category have different priorities, ways of networking, needs and obstacles to overcome.



Existing situation of the social and solidarity economy in Greece

|Main Characteristics of the Enterprises/ Organisations

The data of this presentation are based on the **most recent study of 2017** on the existing situation of the social and solidarity economy in Greece carried out by the **British Council** in the framework of an **EU-funded technical assistance programme to the Greek Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity**.

MAIN CHARACTERISTICS

➤ **Recently Established Organisations:**

68% of the Organisations that operate within the social and solidarity economy in Greece have been set up over the past 5 years, and over 40% of them over the last 3 years.

➤ **Operation at local level:**

Most organizations are active at neighborhood, local and regional level, while a very small number is active at national or international level.



Existing situation of the social and solidarity economy in Greece

|Main Characteristics of the Enterprises/ Organisations

➤ Wide Range of Industries and Sectors

The Greek Organisations of the social and solidarity economy are active in a wide range range of industries and sectors, including:

- **Education**
- **Food production**
- **Social care**
- **Tourism**
- **Recycling**



Existing situation of the social and solidarity economy in Greece

| Mapping of the Enterprises/ Organisations

Legal forms of Enterprises/ Organisations

There are 8 main categories of Organisations

1. **Social cooperative Enterprises (Koi.S.EP).** They are non-profit organizations with declared collective and social benefits
2. **Social Co-operatives of Limited Liability (Koi.S.P.E.).** They are social enterprises of a cooperative form and focus on the social and economic integration of people with psychosocial difficulties.
3. **Cooperatives of employees** with at least three members, non-profit-making
4. **Civil non-profit Organisation (A.M.K.E.)**
5. **Civil cooperatives**
6. **Agricultural cooperatives**
7. **Other legal entities** whose main goals are related to solving a social problem through **entrepreneurship**.
8. **Informal initiatives without legal form** (e.g. social networks, social kitchens, social grocery stores, time banks, exchange bazaars, solidarity education initiatives, hacker-spaces, free software initiatives, and self-organized social spaces related to some economic activity, and others



Existing situation of the social and solidarity economy in Greece

| Mapping of the Enterprises/ Organisations

Main fields of Activity of Enterprises/ Organisations

| | |
|---|------------|
| Education, culture and leisure | 17% |
| Food processing and Trade of food | 17% |
| Social care | 8% |
| Tourism | 7% |
| Environmental Protection (recycling, re-use) | 6% |
| Consulting to Enterprises | 5% |
| Catering services (cafes, restaurants) | 5% |
| Technology and communication (internet, Graphic design, printing services) | 5% |
| Agriculture / Livestock | 4% |
| Healthcare / Health services | 3% |
| Financial support and provision of services | 3% |
| Cleaning Services | 2% |
| Childcare | 2% |
| Transport | 1% |
| Other fields | 17% |



Existing situation of the social and solidarity economy in Greece

| Mapping of the Enterprises/ Organisations

Organisational Aims of Enterprises/ Organisations

| | |
|--|------------|
| Creating employment opportunities | 74% |
| Promoting social change | 50% |
| Supporting socially vulnerable people | 48% |
| Environmental Protection | 48% |
| Promotion of alternative employment models | 44% |
| Providing access to quality products / services at a fair price | 41% |
| Addressing economic exclusion | 40% |
| Support to other organisations of the Social and Solidarity Economy | 35% |
| Fighting inequalities | 33% |
| Improving a specific community | 32% |
| Improving health and well-being | 31% |
| Promoting education and literacy | 26% |
| Strengthening the position of women / gender equality | 23% |
| Other | 12% |
| Providing affordable housing | 3% |



Existing situation of the social and solidarity economy in Greece

| Mapping of the Enterprises/ Organisations

Beneficiary Groups supported by Enterprises/ Organisations

| | |
|--|-----|
| Long term unemployed | 55% |
| Elderly | 20% |
| People with physical disabilities | 18% |
| People with learning or mental / mental Disabilities | 17% |
| Refugees and asylum seekers | 14% |
| Homeless People or people with poor housing conditions | 13% |
| Victims of domestic violence | 10% |
| People with addiction problems (alcohol, drugs) | 8% |
| Delinquents who are re-inserted into society | 7% |
| Young Offenders | 6% |
| Victims of trafficking of human beings | 3% |
| Other types of beneficiaries | 25% |



Existing situation of the social and solidarity economy in Greece

| Legal Framework

Legal Framework

2011 Law No. 4019/2011

One of the most important and recent pieces of legislation is Law No. 4019/2011, which **provided definitions for the first time in Greece about the social economy and the social cooperative enterprises**. This law introduced in 2011 the new legal form of Social Enterprises, namely the Greek equivalent of “Social cooperative Enterprises (Koi.S.EP), giving citizens and residents of Greece the opportunity to create cooperative enterprises with a social purpose.

2016 Law 4430/2016

In October 2016, Law 4430/2016 was put into force, which focused on the Social and Solidarity Economy and the Development of its organisations. This law provided a **new framework for different types of organisations or enterprises with clear collective and social impact**, which at the same time respond to a social need. The aim of the new Law is to improve earlier 2011 legislation, including Law 4019/2011, which is no longer in force.



Existing situation of the social and solidarity economy in Greece

|Strengths

Strengths

✓ **People-centered Organisations:**

78% of Organisations attempt to tackle the problem of **unemployment**. This is, by far, the most common social objective of the Greek Organisations of the sector, while 37 % reinvests its financial surplus in **job creation**.

✓ **Assistance to those in need:**

55% of the Organisations support **long-term unemployed persons**, while a significant proportion helps **older people, people with learning or physical disability, refugees and asylum seekers**.

✓ **Less social exclusion:**

35% of the organisations is run by **women**, while female workforce in the sector is higher than in conventional enterprises.

✓ **Leaders having high levels of education**

41 % of those who lead an Enterprise operating in the social and solidarity economy in Greece **have a postgraduate Degree or a PhD Degree**



Existing situation of the social and solidarity economy in Greece

|Weaknesses

Weaknesses

☒ Underdeveloped sector in comparison to other European countries

The sector of Social and Solidarity Economy in Greece is currently **underdeveloped in comparison to other European countries**, with the majority of the Organisations in Greece being **small in size and newly established**, while at the same time facing extremely difficult economic conditions regarding the start-up of new enterprises, economic viability and market development.

☒ High Fragmentation

Greece has a **diverse landscape of different types of organisations** with different motives and means of operation. This diversity leads to a certain fragmentation among organisations.

☒ Low Turnover

74 % of Organizations has annual turnover below 50,000 euros, since their short operating period makes it difficult to establish themselves in the market.



Existing situation of the social and solidarity economy in Greece | Problems-Challenges

Problems-Challenges

➤ Access to Funding

Access to adequate funding is by far the **biggest obstacle** to the sustainability and growth of Greek Enterprises/Organisations, whether it means securing grants and start-up loans and / or cash flows for their day-to-day operations.

➤ Operational challenges

There is a range of internal and **operational challenges at "micro-level"** for Greek Enterprises/Organisations, in particular with regard to decision-making and dispute resolution.

➤ External factors

There is a series of **external factors at "macro level"** that prevent Greek Enterprises/Organisations to grow, including government regulation, limited access to financial instruments, and a wider lack of awareness around social and solidarity economy in society.



Existing situation of the social and solidarity economy in Greece | Future Prospects

Future Prospects

➤ **Need for a stronger social and solidarity economy sector**

The current adverse economic and social landscape in Greece is seen Greek Enterprises/Organisations as **need for a stronger social and solidarity economy sector in order to create new opportunities, tackle unemployment and establish new economic and business models** in areas where conventional models have failed.

➤ **Optimistic for the future**

68% of Enterprises/Organisations expects an increase in their turnover in the next 12 months, and a similar percentage expects an increase in the number of staff it employs. Over 90% believes that Social and Solidarity Economy Enterprises/Organisations has great growth potential in their industry and geographic area.



Existing situation of the social and solidarity economy in Greece | Future Prospects

Future Prospects

➤ **Growth Potential**

There is a conviction that the **Social and Solidarity Economy sector in Greece will develop over the coming years** thanks to its ability to combat unemployment and to support communities and social movements.

➤ **Sectors for further expansion**

Some areas where the Social and Solidarity Economy Enterprises/Organisations could potentially expand include **tourism, energy production, waste management and social services.**



Existing situation of the social and solidarity economy in Greece | Good Practice

Good Practice of Social Enterprise in the Health and Social Welfare

The Healing Tree

www.healingtreecommunity.com



The Healing Tree is social co-operative enterprise based in Creta Island (Heraklion), addressing the need to end the stigma against mental health problems, helping to improve the services, to raise understanding and gather help around those who need information and support.

Type of services provided

The Healing Tree is specialised in mental health problems and it provides services such as Experiential Laboratories, Yoga classes for people with mental disabilities, seminars and workshops and special programmes for children. The main pillars of intervention are 3: Nutrition, body exercise and psychotherapy.

Main target groups/beneficiaries

Adults and Children with mental disabilities and the wider community.

Thank you for your attention.