



Social
Economy
Europe

**SEE SEAP
MID-TERM
REVIEW**



SEE welcomes the **strong commitment of the social economy ecosystem and European institutions to implement the Social Economy Action Plan (SEAP).**

The **European Parliament** and **Member States**, notably through the **Luxembourg Declaration Monitoring Committee**, helped maintain **political momentum.**



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



1 A COMMON EUROPEAN DEFINITION

- The Council Recommendation established a **shared European definition of the social economy**.
- This is considered **one of the SEAP's most important achievements**.

2 STRONGER POLICY FRAMEWORKS

- Adoption of the **2023 Council Recommendation**.
- **21 Member States** had adopted or were preparing SE strategies.
- The SEAP contributed to growing **international recognition** of the SE.

3 IMPROVED ACCESS TO FINANCE AND SUPPORT

- Progress through **InvestEU, ESF+, and EaSI funding**.
- Creation of **business support** and **capacity-building tools**.

4 BETTER VISIBILITY AND COORDINATION

- Creation of the **EU Social Economy Gateway**.
- Continuation of **GECES** as a space for dialogue.
- **Guidance** on State Aid, taxation, public procurement, data, and impact measurement.

5 RECOGNITION IN INDUSTRIAL POLICY

- Stronger **cross-sectoral and cross-DG cooperation**.
- Recognition of "Proximity and Social Economy" as a **strategic industrial ecosystem**.
- Development of the **Transition Pathway** for the ecosystem.

6 NEW TOOLS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS

- SEAP **progress tracker**.
- Stronger **sectoral focus** on circular economy, tourism, energy, housing, democracy, and digitalisation.
- Support for **workers' buy-outs** and **local/regional social economy toolkits**.



WHAT NEEDS FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION AND ATTENTION



RECONNECTING SE WITH INDUSTRIAL POLICY

- SEE is concerned about the **reduced involvement of DG GROW** and the **removal of the Social Economy Unit**.
- This is **weakening the role of the social economy** in key EU policies.

PREPARING THE POST-2030 AGENDA

- The future social economy agenda **should be co-designed with the ecosystem**.

CRISIS RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE

- The **role of the social economy** in preparedness, civil protection, and crisis response should be **better recognised**.

ENSURING BALANCE ACROSS SE FAMILIES

- The review **focuses strongly on social enterprises**.
- **SEE calls for proportionate attention** to cooperatives, mutuals, associations, charities, and foundations.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND THE NEXT MFF

- SEE calls for **stronger commitments in the next EU budget**.
- **Concerns** remain about the **future of InvestEU's Social and Skills Window**.
- More **simplification, continuity**, and clearer access to **funding** are needed.



PRIORITIES FOR THE COMING YEARS



STRONGER INTEGRATION ACROSS EU POLICIES

- Better integration into **industrial policy, the European Semester, anti-poverty strategies, rural development, cohesion policy, and the Just Transition framework.**

IMPLEMENTING THE COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

- **Continued monitoring and support for Member States** remain essential.

BETTER DATA AND STATISTICS

- Improve **observatories, satellite accounts, and impact measurement frameworks.**

SKILLS AND EDUCATION

- **More education and training programmes** linked to social economy skills are needed.

ADAPTED LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

- **Progress needed** on taxation, public procurement, State Aid, and cross-border associations.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND DIGITALISATION

- The social economy should play a **stronger role in the future Circular Economy Act and digital transition.**
- The EU would gain from designing a digital world in line with its values. In this field, the social economy contributes to a **more inclusive, democratic digital transition** in which the sovereignty of people over the use of their data is respected.

DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY

- The social economy should **be considered a key actor in the European Democracy Shield and the EU Civil Society Strategy** as it promotes democratic participation, active citizenship and social cohesion.



SE CONTRIBUTION TO EUROPEAN COMPETITIVENESS



ENERGY

- Energy communities and cooperatives **support decentralised and sustainable energy systems.**



INDUSTRY AND TERRITORIAL COHESION

- Social economy actors strengthen **local value chains and strategic sectors.**
- They help **reduce regional disparities and support local employment.**



ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION

- The ecosystem promotes **inclusive entrepreneurship, worker buy-outs, and social innovation.**
- It contributes to **Europe's "Right to Stay"** agenda in rural and underserved areas.



DIGITALISATION

- Social economy supports a **democratic and inclusive digital transition** based on data sovereignty and European values.



HOUSING

- Social housing, cooperatives, and community land trusts help preserve **affordability and limit speculation.**



SOCIAL SERVICES

- Social economy organisations play a key role in **care, health, inclusion, training, and labour market integration.**



The social economy should be recognised not as peripheral, but as a **strategic pillar of Europe's competitiveness, resilience, social cohesion, and long-term sustainable development.**



Social Economy Europe

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