

EU action plan for social economy:

Input by SLOGA, Slovenian NGO Platform on Development, Global Education and Humanitarian Aid

SLOGA Platform, the umbrella organization of Slovenian NGOs active in Development, Global Citizenship Education and Humanitarian Aid and a member of CONCORD Europe, welcomes the upcoming EU Action Plan for the Social Economy enhancing the EU and Member States' role as forerunners of the SDGs within the EU and globally. In this endeavour, the EU and its Member States should follow the **mainstreaming approach**, ensuring that it contributes to placing the well-being of people, including and especially those most at-risk to be left behind, at the core of all policies whilst respecting the planetary boundaries. Enhancing the social economy should strive to **challenge current constant economic growth models** and contribute to the transition to a sustainable, social, green and well-being economy, thereby ensuring full implementation of the SDGs.

The term of the social economy should be well-defined, considering diverse national contexts in the EU Member States and partner countries, as emphasized in the input submitted by **Cooperative BUNA**. The definition of social economy actors should encompass the **structural characteristics**, as highlighted by CONCORD Europe. **Governance models** of social economy actors should be based on **inclusivity and participation**.

Ensuring the **Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development**, the mainstreaming approach implies that the Action Plan should foresee measures and actions within the EU and in collaboration with partner countries. Fostering the social economy as an integral part of the EU and Member States' **international development policies** is of significant importance in the light of endeavours to strengthen the role of the private sector in development cooperation. As emphasized by **CONCORD Europe**, the Action Plan must **include a strong and ambitious external dimension, applicable to all non-EU regions**, calling for a genuine recognition of the potential of sustainable and inclusive business models (SIBMs) as well as a tailor-made approach to support them. Reiterating the CONCORD Europe position, the Action Plan should encourage a **strategic EU external action approach**, diversifying private sector actors and recognising the impact SIBMs have in empowering local communities and marginalised groups in the long-term, strengthening the social economy in the EU partner countries to provide decent jobs and reduce inequalities, but also providing support through trade, investment and economic diplomacy policies and programmes.

Furthermore, the institutional setting of the social economy is of crucial importance. We support the **CONCORD Europe's** call for the Action Plan to define **the regulatory and institutional body of a social economy enterprise** (project-based financing of non-profits vs. rules and regulations for for-profit companies); **improve social economy access to various tailored public and private finance sources**, across the EU and in EU partner countries; **support the Member States, local authorities, operators but also partner governments in building enabling eco-systems and legal frameworks**; and encourage social economy actors to scale-up through **better access to public procurement and by fostering multi-level networking and cooperation with private companies and local governments** to increase resilience and sustainability. Furthermore, coherent and complementary social economy Action Plan and the announced



legislation on **due diligence procedures for companies on human rights and environmental protection along their value chains** are of utmost importance.

The mainstreaming approach requires the **inclusion of social economy into awareness-raising activities and formal, non-formal and informal education**, to strengthen the understanding of its values and principles. Furthermore, **Global Citizenship Education** as a life-long learning process provides an important tool for promoting the social economy, especially in interrelation with other issues, such as human rights, labour rights, environmental protection etc.

About SLOGA Platform:

SLOGA is a Slovenian NGO platform/network bringing together NGOs active in the field of International Development Cooperation, Global Education and Humanitarian Aid. SLOGA has 40 member organizations and as an umbrella organization, mostly focuses on advocacy, capacity development, awareness-raising and information service activities. SLOGA is an active member of CONCORD Europe and Forus (as national NGDO network).

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