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SOCIAL ECONOMY INSIDER

Unlocking SE's Global
Power and Potential

YOUR SOCIAL ECONOMY MAGAZINE

Picture: Pexels (Source: <https://www.pexels.com/>)



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— Welcome

In a world pulsating with rapid change, where the tapestry of our global community is becoming increasingly intricate, a new paradigm of economic thought and practice has emerged - one that marries the power of social economy with a profound commitment to the well-being of all.

We are thrilled to present to you the first edition of **Social Economy Insider**, a groundbreaking magazine dedicated to unravelling the social economy trends.

Journey with Us

As the pages of this inaugural edition unfold, you will embark on a journey into the heart of the social economy. Our mission is simple: to shed light on the fascinating interplay between economic advance and social progress.

Discover, Engage, Empower

Social Economy Insider is more than a magazine; it's a catalyst for change. Within these pages, you'll find thought-provoking articles, insightful interviews, and compelling cases that illustrate the immense potential of the social economy.

Whether you're a seasoned practitioner or simply intrigued by the notion of a more equitable economic landscape, our content is designed to inform, inspire, and ignite conversations that matter.

Why the Social Economy Matters

In an era marked by environmental challenges, wealth disparity, and complex societal dynamics, the principles of the social economy offer a beacon of hope.

This magazine is your gateway to understanding the intricacies of developing skills, impact investing, sustainable entrepreneurship, conscious consumerism, and innovative models that prioritise both people and planet. Together, we'll explore how businesses can flourish while contributing to a more just and compassionate world.

Let's cultivate a community of forward-thinkers who believe in the power of business as a force for good. Let's amplify the voices of those who strive for meaningful impact. Let's engage in a dialogue that sparks innovation, fosters collaboration, and drives change.

Thank you for embarking on this adventure with us. **The Social Economy Insider journey starts here.**

— Contents

SE at a glance

What's new?

In the Spotlight: SE Gateway	05
Interview: <i>Víctor Meseguer</i>	06

Global Pulse

OECD Recommendation	07
The Best of SE: <i>Social Economy Awards</i>	08

Skills Exchange

Article: <i>Into the Social Economy Future</i>	09
Research	10
EU Year of Skills	11
Resources - <i>Your Essentials</i>	12

Meet the practitioners

<i>Solawi Cooperatives</i> (Germany)	15
<i>AFIN</i> (Romania)	16
<i>Sociolab project</i> (Slovenia)	17

What's next?

Events	18
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Social Economy

START-UP
SCALE-UP

Picture: The Social Economy Gateway_ (Source: www.social-economy-gateway.ec.europa.eu/)

In the Spotlight: The SE Gateway

Welcome to the EU [Social Economy Gateway](http://www.social-economy-gateway.ec.europa.eu/), your window into Europe's thriving social economy.

Discover the core of social economy, explore the action plan, access EU funding, and map ecosystems across member states.

Find enlightening resources and hear from key stakeholders.

Empower yourself and embrace Europe's social economy movement. Welcome to the gateway of change.

[SE Gateway](http://www.social-economy-gateway.ec.europa.eu/)

— *Interview*

Víctor Meseguer

*Special Commissioner for the Social Economy
of the Government of Spain*



*“Social Economy Will Be an
Engine of the Future”*

TUlankide website - Mondragon Corporation

Víctor Meseguer emphasize that the social economy is based on values such as solidarity, democratic participation, and collective well-being. He states that this economic model, represented by cooperatives and participatory businesses, not only seeks financial profitability but also human and social development.

He mentions that the social economy has demonstrated its resilience during the economic and social crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. He emphasises that social enterprises have a greater ability to preserve employment and maintain the local economic fabric, thanks to their focus on balancing the interests of workers with business objectives.

Víctor stresses that the social economy has great potential for generating high-quality employment and promoting social cohesion in the current context of economic transformation.

He highlights the importance of education and training in this economic model, as well as the need to foster collaboration among social enterprises to address common challenges and promote sustainable development.

In summary, he advocates for the social economy as an engine of the future, highlighting its ability to generate high-quality employment, promote social cohesion, and contribute to sustainable development. Furthermore, he emphasises its resilience during the crisis and the importance of education and collaboration among social enterprises.

Interview by TUlankide

GLOBAL PULSE

— *Recommendation of the Council on the Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation*



The Recommendation on the Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation was adopted by the OECD Council at ministerial level on 10 June 2022 on the proposal of the Local Employment and Economic Development Directing Committee (LEED DC). The first international standard in this area, the recommendation provides adherents with an internationally agreed policy framework to foster social economy and social innovation development and ensure their ongoing expansion.

The SE is driven by the values of solidarity, the primacy of people over capital and democratic and participative governance. It can pioneer new business models, provide essential services, contribute to a fairer, green and digital transition, create jobs with impact, particularly for those experiencing a disadvantage, engage youth, and build cohesion. In addition to raising awareness and visibility of its various impacts, the recommendation aims to help adherents design and implement the policies needed to nurture and develop effective social economy ecosystems.

The Recommendation provides a ground-breaking policy framework, which embeds a holistic approach to finding concrete solutions to barriers and challenges that may hold back social economy organisations.

It recognises the diversity of practice and the need for policy tools applicable to a range of country contexts and varying degrees of development of the social economy. It is based on nine building blocks which provide the conditions for the social economy to thrive at international, national and local levels.

- 1) social economy culture;
- 2) institutional frameworks;
- 3) legal and regulatory frameworks;
- 4) access to finance;
- 5) access to markets;
- 6) skills and business development support;
- 7) managing, measuring, reporting impact;
- 8) data;
- 9) social innovation.

— *The Best of SE*



Following a successful 2021 edition,
Social Economy Europe presents the Second Edition of
the European **Social Economy Awards**

social innovation



skills

digitalization



green transition

271 applications

Who has participated?

Social economy enterprises and organizations, including cooperatives, associations, foundations and more, located in the 27 EU Member States, the Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership, Turkey, Southern Mediterranean Countries, the UK and the EFTA Member States.

A panel of experts will select three finalists in each category, and one representative from each finalist organisation will be invited to the **Awards Gala on 14 November in San Sebastián, Spain.**

SEE Awards

INTO THE SOCIAL ECONOMY FUTURE

Alessia Sebillo, Executive Director - DIESIS Network

In an era when societal and environmental challenges are mounting at an unprecedented pace, society must align its responses to secure a future that is, if not better, at least no worse than the present.

JOB SHORTAGE

The emergence of new technologies, coupled with environmental concerns and the aging of the workforce, has underscored the need for the acquisition of new skill sets and competencies. A glaring example of this need can be seen in Europe, as evidenced by the 2022 EURES report, which identifies a staggering 4,004 digital occupations as facing a shortage. The transition to a climate-neutral economy demands that the emphasis should not merely be on generating new green jobs but on reconfiguring the roles and responsibilities inherent in existing ones.

Education and training are pivotal in addressing this imbalance.

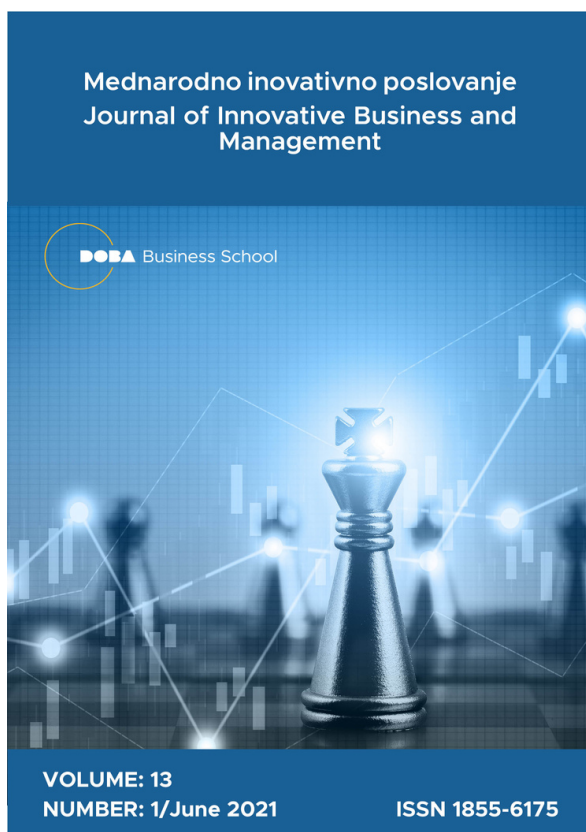
SOCIAL ECONOMY FUTURE

The social economy sector is not immune from the challenges presented by the digital and green transformations, and the concomitant demand for novel skill sets and competencies to facilitate the sector's growth. A deep discussion is currently under way about how we can equip and empower the workforce within the social economy, all the while upholding the principles of social inclusion and maintaining a human-centric approach.

In the inaugural edition of the "Social Economy Insider," our focus is exclusively dedicated to the theme of Skills.

This edition aims to shed light on ongoing developments in this field and bring into prominence noteworthy reports, podcasts, and tools that are already accessible for enhancing the social economy sector.





Inclusion of Social Economy Topics in Higher Education Business Study Programmes in Slovenia

*Sen. Lect. Dr Karolina Babič
DOBA Business School, Slovenia*

The author addresses the problem of systematically including social economy topics in accredited higher education study programmes in Slovenia. To support the actuality of the research problem, education in social economy is shown to be a public policy priority on the national and European levels.

The paper investigates whether social economy courses exist within business and management study programmes, and whether

the content meets competence needs of actors in the social economy sector.

The paper also presents different ways of including the social economy in Europe's higher education systems, so as to show possible directions for the further development of social economy education in Slovenia's in higher education system.

Article by DOBA Business School



EUROPEAN YEAR OF SKILLS

Picture: European Year of Skills (Source: European Commission https://year-of-skills.europa.eu/index_en)

The European Year of Skills helps people get the right skills for quality jobs and supports companies in addressing skill shortages in Europe.

Why? Having a workforce with in-demand skills is important for long-term sustainable growth and competitiveness. It will also ensure that the green and digital transitions are socially fair and just.

How? Thousands of events and activities on skill development will take place across Europe.

**Get inspired,
get involved,
get skilled.**

EU YEAR OF SKILLS

YOUR ESSENTIALS

01

Podcast: Leadership in the Social Economy

RevitaLESE EU

Do you want to learn more about leadership in the social economy? Are you wondering how you can improve your leadership skills?

This podcast features a Q&A with Sharon Hughes, Manager of the Leadership Academy. Sharon and Emma explore leadership in all its forms and discuss how important it is to invest in yourself.



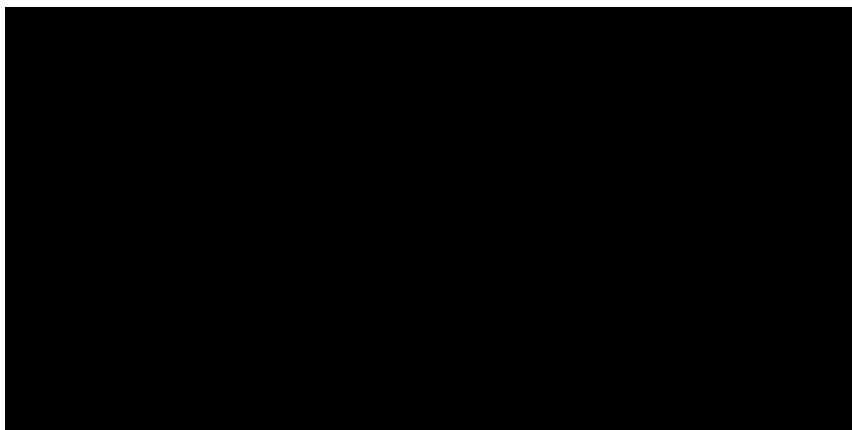
[FIND OUT MORE](#)

02

Interactive Map: Training providers directory in Europe

baSE project

The baSE project is the Blueprint Alliance for Social Economy and Proximity Skills. It has been selected by the European Commission as part of the Erasmus+ programme. The project, aligned with the European Year of Skills framework, introduces an interactive map to facilitate cross-border collaboration in education and skills development.



[FIND OUT MORE](#)

03

Certificate: Interuniversity certificate in SE Management CES ULiège

The Centre for Social Economy of the University of Liège (Belgium), together with the universities of Louvain-la-Neuve, Brussels and Mons, is launching a certificate of social economy enterprise management. This certificate is targeted at social economy workers and administrators who want to develop a project related to governance, finance or social impact, in their enterprise.



[FIND OUT MORE](#)

04

Video: GDB 2021 - Keynote Muhammad Yunus AICCON

Nobel prize winner Muhammad Yunus opened the 21st edition of the Bertinoro Days for the Civil Economy with a keynote speech entitled 'Social Business and Integral Sustainability'.



[FIND OUT MORE](#)



MEET THE PRACTITIONERS

We introduce you to a captivating section showcasing the remarkable endeavors of social economy practitioners across Europe. We delve into the inspiring stories and innovative practices that are reshaping our societies for the better.

Join us as we uncover the transformative power of social economy initiatives, highlighting the individuals and organizations that are making a profound impact on their communities.



ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT
SOLAWI
GENOSSENSCHAFTEN

Successfully founding Solawi Cooperatives ***Solidarity Farming Network (Germany)***

At the beginning of April 2023, the Solidarity Farming Network published an in-depth conversation with Dr Burghard Flieger, board member of innova eG and the Bundesverein zur Förderung des Genossenschaftsgedankens e.V., in its podcast series.

He discusses several issues that Solidarity Farming cooperatives (Solawi) should consider and discuss for a successful startup.

[WATCH IT HERE](#)

The idea of Solidarity Farming

Solawi cooperatives combine the principles of solidarity agriculture with those of the cooperative legal form.

The practice of solidarity agriculture promotes sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty.

Solidarity farming companies turn their understanding of the economy upside down with their innovative business model. There are already almost 500 Solawis in Germany, and the trend is rising.

Share responsibility and risk through contributions instead of prizes.

Would you like to know more about Solawi and the concept of solidarity farming?

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

AFIN will be a vehicle for shaping a future sector where no one is left behind.

Angela Achiței, AFIN IFN S.A. (Romania)

"Businesses developed through AFIN put people, environment and community first."

Interview with Angela Achiței, co-founder and board member of AFIN IFN S.A., about the story of the first non-bank financing institution with Romanian majority private capital.

What is the profile of the social entrepreneurs who receive a credit from AFIN? What are their challenges? What are the future plans of these institutions?

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

"We want to finance genuine social entrepreneurs who meet economic and social criteria on a daily basis."



AFIN
finance for doing good

Podcast #12 – Dr Marinka Vovk, Reuse Centre

Sociolab project (Slovenia)

Dr Marinka Vovk presents the creation of the first social enterprise in Slovenia - the Reuse Centre. She touches on the important challenge of how they deal with waste and how they prevent the loss of valuable resources.

The well-rounded presentation of reuse in theory and practice in various local environments and communities in Slovenia is also illuminated by what happens to our purchases, and finds that not everything we don't need is waste. It also touches on the importance of raising awareness and changing one's view of the world and attitude towards things. Enjoy listening!

Social enterprises in recycling sector in Slovenia



Podkast #12 - dr. Marinka Vovk, Center ponovne uporabe

Tokratna gostja dr. Marinka Vovk predstavi nastanek prvega socialnega podjetja v Sloveniji – Center...

 Sociolab / Nov 17, 2020

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

What's next?

European conference on Social Economy.

Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union

13 - 14 November 2023

San Sebastián, Spain

European conference on Social Economy.

Belgian Presidency of the EU Social Economy Event

12 - 13 February 2024

Liège, Belgium



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