

Why social economy needs more visibility and representation in the national IR systems?

Sweden insights

MESMER+
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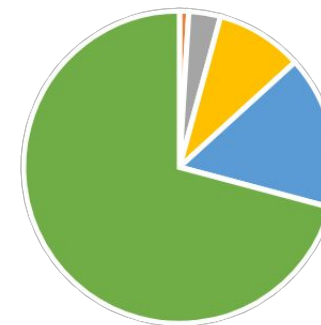


Social economy is relatively large in Sweden

- Stands for approximately 4,5 % of the labour force
- Only the Cooperative sector has a yearly turn-over of 75 B€ and employ over 120 000 people
- 230 000 organisations with economic activities in the social economy, employing 178 000 people (4,5 %)
- Still, limited possibility to influence the social dialogue or industrial relations.

Företagsform	antal	anställda (heltidsekvivalenter)
Ömsesidiga bolag	9	14 984
Trossamfund	2 198	17 977
Ekonomiska föreningar	7 597	80 606
Stiftelser	20 783	19 496
Samfälligheter	36 577	264
Föreningar	163 364	44 495
	230 528	177 822 (4,5 %)

Antal företag



Antal Anställda



Social economy is relatively large in Sweden

- The social partners (trade unions and employer organizations) play a central part
- Trade union density in Sweden is among the highest in the world and cover a proportion of 70% of employees.
- The institute of collective bargaining together with trade unions represent a pattern of robust historical interaction on national and local levels.
- High-level groups or other multi-stakeholder committee or governmental hearings and consultations are rarely used in Sweden.
- Involvement of the social economy sector in industrial relations and social dialogue in Sweden is limited compared to that of traditional social partners, trade unions and employers' organisations.

Social Economy representation

- Democratic forms of governance and the logic of economic sustainability/owner influence create other conditions that do not emerge in Sweden.
- There is a need for a general increase in knowledge about the social economy's special form, possibilities and conditions.
- The social dialogue in Sweden is structured based on two sides (employers and employees).
- The given decision-making and pace of the industrial relations in Sweden are barriers to increased participation of the social economy in the social dialogue, since it is based on traditional structures not including the social economy.

Policy recommendations

- The MesMer+ project finally open up for reflections
- **Recognition** by the other social partners are prerequisites of a better recognition of the social economy in the industrial relations system.
- Governmental responsibility to **secure representation** and making the social economy more visible in social dialogue.
- The social economy sector needs to **organise itself** so that it can participate with one voice and make sure that it is visible.
- Raise awareness, broaden civil dialogue and secure local and sectoral connections

Thank You!

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