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Mapping European Social Economy:
Employment, Social Dialogue
and the European Pillar of Social Rights



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Why social economy needs more visibility and representation in the Polish industrial relations system?

Weronika Chodacz

Definitions

Social economy: the activity of social economy entities for the benefit of the local community in terms of social and professional reintegration, creation of jobs for people at risk of social exclusion and provision of social services, implemented in the form of economic activity, public benefit activity and other paid activity (Social Economy Act, 2022).

Social enterprise: a social economy entity which:

- conducts economic or paid public benefit activity,
- employs and professionally activates vulnerable groups,
- does not privatise profit or balance surplus,
- is managed in a participatory manner.

Legal status: social&work cooperatives, non-governmental organisations, non-profit companies reintegration units.

Key Facts

Social Economy Entities

employed **428 700** persons in 2018*.

Non-Governmental Organisations

15% of NGOs employed a total of **167 300** workers**.

Employment in SE

Estimated share of employment: **2.3%**

SE Sector Size

Production volume in the social economy sector: **2.94% GDP*****

* EU Social Economy Gateway.

** Development of the social economy in 2019. The results of pilot studies. Statistics Poland 2021.

*** Social Economy Satellite Account for Poland 2018. Statistics Poland 2021.

Social Dialogue

3 Trade Unions

- ❖ 12,500 trade unions with a total membership of 1.5 million people*.
- ❖ 5.5% of Poles are trade union members.



6 Employers Organisations

- ❖ 400 active employers' organisations with 19,100 members. *
- ❖ Only 46% of Polish entrepreneurs know who is represented on the Social Dialogue Council.

* *Social dialogue partners - employers' organisations and trade unions in 2018.* Statistics Poland.

Benefits of greater visibility of the social economy in the industrial relations system

For the social economy

- ❖ Greater influence on legislation, e.g. public procurement law.
- ❖ Professionalisation.
- ❖ Improvement of working conditions and wage growth.

For the other stakeholders (and society in general)

- ❖ Development of economic sectors that are crucial to society.
- ❖ Better quality of social services.
- ❖ Performance of public benefit tasks.



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