

OVERVIEW OF THE SOCIAL ECONOMY IN MACEDONIA

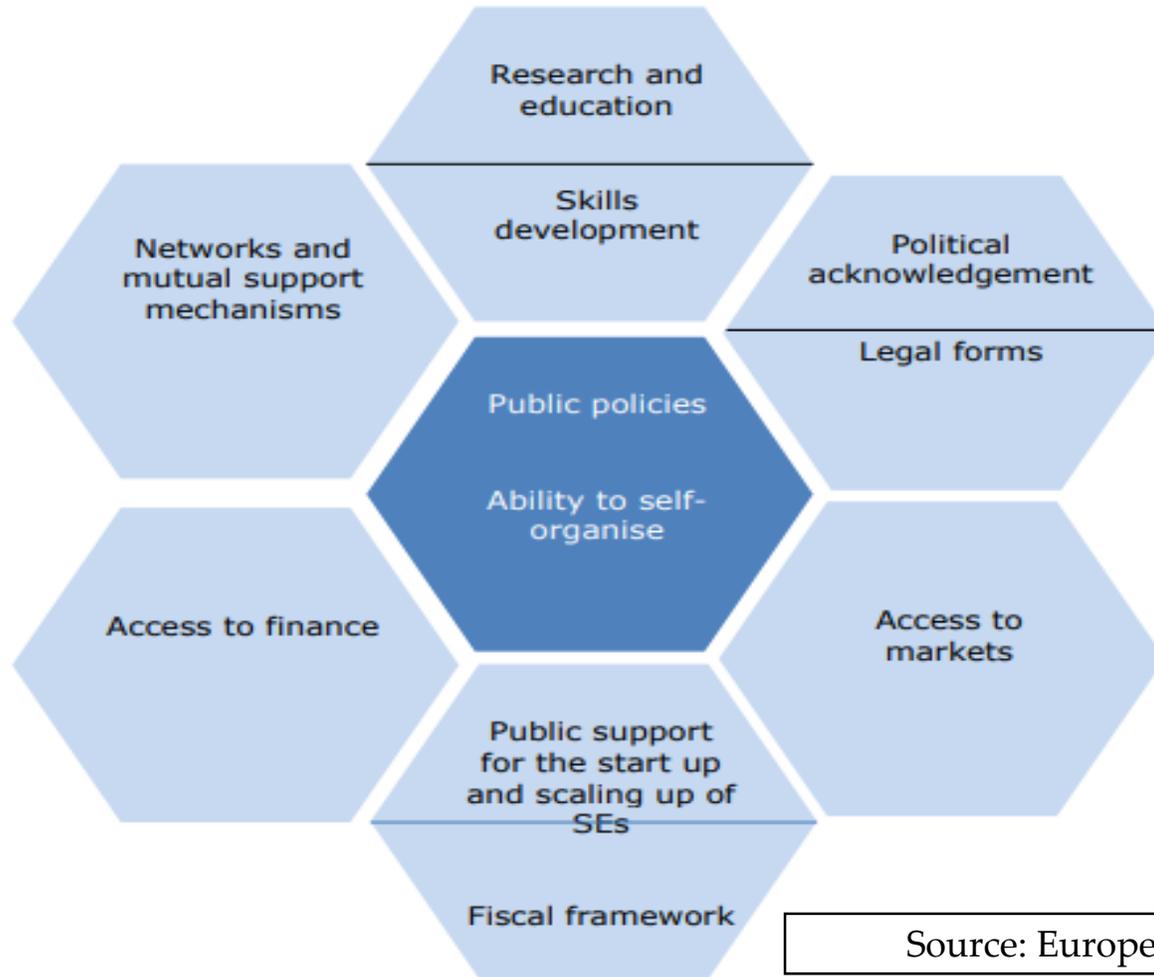
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About us

- ❑ Public is an independent, policy oriented-research and advocacy organization.
- ❑ Our programs: social inclusion; social entrepreneurship and social impact.
- ❑ Our vision: Inclusive society with equal opportunities for marginalized groups.
- ❑ Our major strength: The street paper “Face to face” a work integration social enterprise that keeps us close to the most socially deprived persons and to the social enterprises. In this way we ensure that our research and advocacy efforts are aligned with the real needs in the community.

Main strategic priority- develop eco-system for social-enterprises



Source: European Commission, 2016

Component 1: Research

- **The challenges and opportunities for social enterprises for employment of marginalized groups** (2014-2015, funded by RRPP program).
- **Nurturing social enterprises within the available frameworks of the active measures for employment** (November, 2016-April, 2017, BACID fund);
- **Mapping the potential of local informal recyclers to become social entrepreneurs and to drive up the local social economy** (pilot case study (September, 2017-December, 2017));
- **Mapping social enterprise ecosystem- Macedonia** (January, 2018-April, 2018). Assessment of the ecosystem in which social enterprise in Macedonia operate: roots and tradition; defining social enterprise borders; policy development; social enterprise characteristics and perspectives. Funded by European Commission.

Component 1: Research

- **Social Enterprises Connecting the Dots: Economic Growth, Community Development, and Social Inclusion-** (August, 2017-July, 2020). Systematic assessment of the capacities of existing social enterprises in Macedonia, the legal framework. Funded by USAID
- **Social Enterprise - Bridge Between the Social Sector and Traditional Business (SE-Bridge)** (November, 2017-November, 2019); Assessment of the capacities of existing social enterprises in the cross-border region (MK-ALB), assessment of public policies and provision of a strategic direction for social entrepreneurship development on local level. Funded by the IPA Cross border Macedonia-Albania.

COMPONENT 2: SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Capacity development schemes;
- Individual mentoring and consultations for emerging social enterprises since 2014;

POLITICAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

- ❑ Advocacy and lobbying with relevant ministries;
- ❑ Developed and distributed policy documents;
- ❑ Development of a strategy for developing social enterprises

Other advocacy efforts:

- ❖ Social innovators conference
- ❖ Companies doing good forum

ACCESS TO MARKETS

- Increase cooperation between the business sector and social enterprises

NETWORKS AND MUTUAL SUPPORT MECHANISMS

□ Establishing a social economy network- Macedonia

Its main role will be to provide a platform for communication and cooperation among the existing social economy entities, to advocate for improved public image of the sector, to cooperate with stakeholders on national, regional and EU level. Its focal point will be to address existing internal and external barriers of social economy entities and implement advocacy initiatives with main purpose to address them. Moreover, it will serve as an easily accessible central information point and one-stop shop for social economy entities to learn more on, and to get involved in the sector or render services.

SOCIAL ECONOMY ACTORS

- ❑ Ministry of Labour and Social Policies
- ❑ Ministry of Economy
- ❑ European Commission, USAID and Swiss Agency for Development
- ❑ Civil society sector
- ❑ Business sector

THE MOST CHALLENGING ISSUES

- ❑ **The absence of understanding and knowledge on the concept**
- ❑ **Lack of institutional capacity and knowledge** to recognize the value of the sector and support its development. There is no specialized governmental body in charge of the development of the social economy sector, which clearly demonstrates lack of knowledge among governmental bodies to this area.
- ❑ There are number of initiatives in the domain, but none of them are coordinated and with a shared vision for the sector