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**WP 1.1 Labour Market, Employment Strategies and Social Economy**

**The work so far and the way ahead**

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## 1. The work so far



# WP 1.1 Labour Market, Employment Strategies and Social Economy

## 1. HISTORICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Q1: What are the main historical and ideological foundations of socially creative strategies (SCS) within the field of the labour market, employment strategies and social economy?

## 2. THE EMERGENCE OF SCSs

Q2: What does “SCS” mean? Why are they socially creative?

Q3 : How do SCS arise? What are they new responses *to* (challenges and/or threats)? Who appropriates the SCS?

Q4: Considering the broad diversity of SCS in this field, how can the main types be identified?

## 3. THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCS

### 3.1 SPACE, TIME AND PLACE

Q5: At what scale(s) can SCS typically be found? Does it make sense to adopt a multi-scalar perspective in analysing them? If so, which levels should be taken into account and how do they relate to each other?

Q6: How should the “local” be regarded in order to be the privileged *locus* of creative social economy initiatives?

Q7: What about the temporality of socially creative strategies?

### 3.2 SOCIAL RELATIONS, INSTITUTIONAL DYNAMICS AND GOVERNANCE

Q8: Who are the protagonists/agents of SCS?

Q9: What are the core principles that drive the social relations that consubstantiate those strategies? What is their social relevance? How empowering are SCS in the sphere of the social economy?

Q10: Which specific governance characteristics do social economy SCS exhibit?

Q11: What role does social capital play with regard to SCS?

Q12: What are the specific gender dimensions or implications of SCS?

# WP 1.1 Labour Market, Employment Strategies and Social Economy

## Featured Author Texts

- *Governance and the Solidary Economy* (Bernhard LEUBOLT)
- *Social Economy as a Basis for Local Development Initiatives: a Methodological Reflection* (Juan-Luis KLEIN)
- *Some notes on the informal* (Dina VAIYOU)
- *Short contribution to WP1.1. based on "Social enterprise at the crossroads of market, public policies and civil society"* (Marthe NYSSSENS)
- *Activation, innovation, labour market inclusion - and some experience from the Czech Republic* (Tomáš SIROVÁTKA)
- *Ethnic entrepreneurship and social innovation* (Felicitas HILLMANN)
- *Social creative strategies in the economic domain – a reading of three experiences involving immigrants* (Jorge MALHEIROS)

## WP 1.1 Labour Market, Employment Strategies and Social Economy

**Q1: What are the main historical and ideological foundations of socially creative strategies (SCS) within the field of the labour market and social economy?**

- *Ancient origins in a variety of historical and geographical contexts*
- *Workers' movements of the 19th and 20th centuries: socialism, anarchism, social democracy*
- *Catholic social theory, philanthropy*
- *"Roll-back neoliberalism"*
- *Social economy initiatives from a large variety of alternative social movements with a wide range of agendas*
- *State pursuit of social cohesion as hegemony (e.g. EU, Canada)*

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### Q2: What does "SCS" mean? Why are they socially creative?

- *SCS in the social economy are the crossroad between visions to change the world (from local to global) and pragmatic answers to exclusion dynamics*
- *Typically they are new responses to problems not addressed by state and market*
- *They are creative because:*
  - ✓ *They are based on social innovation*
  - ✓ *Often pursued by weak agents*
  - ✓ *They promote the empowering of agents and actors involved*
  - ✓ *They challenge pre-established social relations*

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Q3 : How do SCS in the social economy arise? What are they new responses *to* (challenges and/or threats)? Who “takes over” SCS?

- *New responses to either opportunities or threats*
- *General threats: economic restructuring, state reorganisation, adverse, political and institutional change*
- *Threats at the individual level: insufficient demand for certain skills profiles, i.e. in certain segments of the labour market (demand side), skills and competences (supply side), cultural and social disadvantages (conditions of access to the market)*
- *Specific opportunities: e.g. allocation of resources by the state, the generalised access to NICT*
- *“Taking over” of SCS by the state and the private for-profit sector largely*  
*serving to neutralise foci of resistance and “stabilise the overall structure”*

## WP 1.1 Labour Market, Employment Strategies and Social Economy

**Q4: Considering the broad diversity of SCS in this field, how can the main types be identified?**

- *Main distinction: (i) SCS that take an organisational form and (ii) SCS*

*embodied in practices*

*(i) broadly corresponds to the realm of the social economy*

*(ii) can be found anywhere, but, due to their inherent logic and underlying principles, will be found to occur first and foremost within the ambit of the social economy and that of the non-commodified household and community economy*



## WP 1.1 Labour Market, Employment Strategies and Social Economy

**Q5: At what scale(s) can SCS in the social economy sphere typically be found? Does it make sense to adopt a multi-scalar perspective in analysing them? If so, which levels should be taken into account and how do they relate to each other?**

- *SCS are most typically associated with the local scale (the most vulnerable and less powerful political context)*
- *The local level plays a mediating role between the state and the citizens*
- *Transfer of powers and responsibilities to the local scale by the state allows*
  - for gains in efficiency and democratic control; however, it also increases*
  - centralised control and the fragmentation and neutralising of social change*

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Q6: How should the “local” be regarded in order to be the privileged *locus* of creative social economy initiatives?

- *As compared with technological and business innovation, social innovation is typically less demanding in terms of critical mass and more demanding in terms of proximity – hence “place” and the “local” as the optimal, prototypical scale*
- *Social innovation and creativity requires more than just (geographical and relational) proximity, however: it requires that the milieu be “plastic”, i.e. capable of changing without losing their identity*
- *That plasticity will arguably be found with greater likelihood when the milieux (places) are diverse, tolerant and foster participation*

## WP 1.1 Labour Market, Employment Strategies and Social Economy

### Q7: What about the temporality of socially creative strategies?

- *Places, and local communities, make it possible to detach social practices from the usual short-run time spans of individual decisions or of business and political cycles – and make it possible for the strategies to be adopted that take into account the long-run time span of the communities and places themselves*

## WP 1.1 Labour Market, Employment Strategies and Social Economy

### Q8: Who are the protagonists/agents of SCS in the social economy?

- *The partially marginalised, since those suffering from the most extreme forms of exclusion lack the means to pursue them, whereas those not subject to exclusion or domination lack the motivation*
- *However, there can also be some very significant socially creative dimensions to the actions taken by the state and the for-profit sector (e.g. new forms of working time organisation, time banks, ...)*

## WP 1.1 Labour Market, Employment Strategies and Social Economy

**Q9: What are the core principles that drive the social relations that consubstantiate those strategies? What is their social relevance? How empowering are SCS in the sphere of the social economy?**

- *Definition of the social economy based on its underlying and overarching principle – reciprocity, as opposed to efficiency and centralised redistribution*
- *By extension, reciprocity is also the core, defining principle underlying SCS, both those embodied in practices and those embodied in institutionalised entities*
- *Self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity are the main values that shape the principle of reciprocity*

## WP 1.1 Labour Market, Employment Strategies and Social Economy

**Q10: Which specific governance characteristics do social economy SCS exhibit?**

- *Most relevant feature: their multifaceted character*
- *Recourse to hybrid resources: mercantile, non-mercantile and non-monetary*
- *Plural forms of management and organisation*
- *...but cooperation and mutual aid (as opposed to competition and rigid hierarchical decision-making) in management and organisation is in itself socially creative*
- *Joint construction of supply and demand*
- *Strong presence of volunteers*

## WP 1.1 Labour Market, Employment Strategies and Social Economy

### Q11: What role does social capital play with regard to SCS?

- *Bonding social capital, i.e. trust and shared values within the group, association or community, is not only an essential means to achieving collective aims, but also a direct expression of collective well-being*
- *Bridging social capital, i.e. linkages and the ability to draw on outside resources, are, in the case of “weak” agents and communities, often the main resource on which the success of the initiatives rests*

## WP 1.1 Labour Market, Employment Strategies and Social Economy

### Q12: What are the specific gender dimensions or implications of SCS?

- *Women as main beneficiaries of employment created in the social economy*
- *Greater attention to gender equality in many social economy organisations (compared with the remainder of the economy)*
- *Greater visibility given to the non-productive/reproductive work traditionally performed by women*
- *Women as main beneficiaries of SCS insofar as they are also the main victims of many ED, mainly those related to the conciliation between work and family*



## 2. The road ahead



# WP 1.1 Labour Market, Employment Strategies and Social Economy

STRUCTURE OF THE SURVEY PAPER	CONTENTS (FROM THE DRAFT SURVEY PAPER)
<p>1 - Definition of existential field and of main mechanisms of exclusion and inclusion, with a major focus on creative, socially innovative strategies to overcome conditions of severe inequality</p>	<p>Q2: What does “SCS” mean? Why are they socially creative?            Q3 : How do SCS arise? What are they new responses to (challenges and/or threats)? Who appropriates the SCS?            Q4: Considering the broad diversity of SCS in this field, how can the main types be identified?            Q5: At what scale(s) can SCS typically be found? Does it make sense to adopt a multi-scalar perspective in analysing them? If so, which levels should be taken into account and how do they relate to each other?            Q6: How should the “local” be regarded in order to be the privileged locus of creative social economy initiatives?            Q7: What about the temporality of socially creative strategies?</p>
<p>2 - Identification of: particular foci per country (region, city); truly international approaches</p>	
<p>3 - Overview of theoretical dimensions, taking into account school of thought and communities of science and practice which developed them (contextual theory surveying, with a sociology of knowledge approach)</p>	<p>Q1: What are the main historical and ideological foundations of socially creative strategies (SCS) within the field of the labour market, employment strategies and social economy?</p>
<p>4 - Overview of main empirical information concerning ‘good’ and ‘best’ practice to overcome conditions of exclusion and deprivation</p>	

# WP 1.1 Labour Market, Employment Strategies and Social Economy

STRUCTURE OF THE SURVEY PAPER	CONTENTS (FROM THE DRAFT SURVEY PAPER)
5 - Identification of relations to literature in other existential fields	
6 - Identification of particular bottom-up creative and socially innovative initiatives (links to WP2 and WP4)	
7 - Identification of dimensions of multi-level governance (link to WP3)	<p>Q8: Who are the protagonists/agents of SCS?</p> <p>Q9: What are the core principles that drive the social relations that consubstantiate those strategies? What is their social relevance? How empowering are SCS in the sphere of the social economy?</p> <p>Q10: Which specific governance characteristics do social economy SCS exhibit?</p> <p>Q11: What role does social capital play with regard to SCS?</p> <p>Q12: What are the specific gender dimensions or implications of SCS?</p>
8 - Identification of methodological dimensions (links with WP5);	
9 - Identification of key-researchers in this and other fields, who could play a key role in the coordination of future research within and among fields	
10 - Executive abstract per existential field	

# WP 1.1 Labour Market, Employment Strategies and Social Economy

STRUCTURE OF THE SURVEY PAPER	TABLE OF CONTENTS - FINAL REPORT
<p>1 - Definition of existential field and of main mechanisms of exclusion and inclusion, with a major focus on creative, socially innovative strategies to overcome conditions of severe inequality</p>	<p>1.1 - The meaning and diversity of SCS in social economy and employment            1.2 - The emergence and taking over of SCS in social economy and employment and their relations with exclusion dynamics            1.3 - The space, time and place of SCS in social economy and employment</p>
<p>2 - Identification of: particular foci per country (region, city); truly international approaches</p>	<p>2.1 - Main features of the social economy as a creative field in 14 countries (UK, IT, PT, OS, NL, CZ, HE, FR, BE, CA) - survey            2.1.1 – Historical trajectory            2.1.2. – Current diversity: initiatives and governance            2.1.3 – Employment in the social economy            2.1.4 – Public policies regarding the social economy</p>
<p>3 - Overview of theoretical dimensions, taking into account school of thought and communities of science and practice which developed them (contextual theory surveying, with a sociology of knowledge approach)</p>	<p>3 - Main historical and ideological foundations of SCS in social economy and employment in different contexts</p>
<p>4 - Overview of main empirical information concerning 'good' and 'best' practice to overcome conditions of exclusion and deprivation</p>	<p>4 - Survey of "good" and "best" practices:            - public/private/third sector            - cultural/social/economic spheres            - urban/rural            - dynamic/devitalized areas            - sustainable/gender-friendly initiatives</p>

# WP 1.1 Labour Market, Employment Strategies and Social Economy

STRUCTURE OF THE SURVEY PAPER	TABLE OF CONTENTS - FINAL REPORT
5 - Identification of relations to literature in other existential fields	
6 - Identification of particular bottom-up creative and socially innovative initiatives (links to WP2 and WP4)	6 - Discussion of bottom-up creativity and social innovation based on cases surveyed in 4.
7 - Identification of dimensions of multi-level governance (link to WP3)	7.1 Protagonists and agents of SCS in the social economy 7.2 - Core principles driving the social relations underlying SCS in the social economy 7.3 - The role of social capital in SCS in the social economy 7.4 - Gender dimensions of SCS in the social economy
8 - Identification of methodological dimensions (links with WP5);	
9 - Identification of key-researchers in this and other fields, who could play a key role in the coordination of future research within and among fields	
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## WP 1.1 Labour Market, Employment Strategies and Social Economy

Questionnaire: 1. Cross-country survey of the main features of the social economy as a creative field

**UK, IT, PT, OS, NL, CZ, HE, FR, BE, CA**

1. *Historically, what have been the main driving forces of the social economy in your country (e.g. workers' movements, the church, the state, grassroots activism?)*
2. *In which sectors (e.g. production, health and social support, education,...) has it played the most decisive and/or innovative role, both in the past and in the present?*
3. *What are the main institutional forms of the social economy in your country?*
4. *Which are the greatest challenges that it is currently faced with?*
5. *To what extent does the social economy account for total employment in your country?*
6. *In general terms, what is the position of the state towards the social economy in your country?*

## WP 1.1 Labour Market, Employment Strategies and Social Economy

### Questionnaire: 2. Cross-country survey of “good” and “best” practice SCS UK, IT, PT, OS, NL, CZ, HE, FR, BE, CA

*Please name and briefly describe 1-3 SCS from your own country/region/city (either of an organisational form or as practices; not necessarily confined to the realm of the social economy) that you consider to be particularly innovative. For each of them, please indicate (whenever possible):*

- a) Name, geographical location and website (if applicable) of the initiative*
- b) Its sphere of activity (e.g. social, economic, cultural,...), aims, formal/informal nature and beneficiaries*
- c) Whether it is primarily undertaken within the ambit of the third/state/for-profit sector and on which resources it draws upon*
- d) The characteristics of the milieu in which it is undertaken (e.g. rural/urban, dynamic/devitalised,...)*
- e) Whether it has any particularly relevant ethnic- and gender-sensitive dimensions*
- f) Its level of sustainability and vulnerability towards external determinants*
- g) Why it is particularly socially creative and why it may be considered a “good” or “best” practice*