



Policy Recommendations – Preliminary Findings Based on Introductory Desk Research

Introduction

Social entrepreneurship has emerged as a transformative force in addressing complex global challenges, including sustainability, inequality, and social exclusion. Educators, students, policymakers, and counsellors all play a pivotal role in fostering an environment conducive to the growth and impact of social enterprises. This document synthesizes recommendations for these stakeholders, highlighting strategies to advance social entrepreneurship education and policy frameworks across different contexts.

Recommendations for Educators and Students

- 1. Holistic Education for Social Change:** Educators must prepare students and social entrepreneurs to address multifaceted challenges in sustainability, politics, and the economy. Social entrepreneurship education should emphasize creating social value, promoting sustainability, and achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
 - 2. Transformative and Practical Learning:** Students should engage in diverse educational activities such as lectures, case studies, and hands-on workshops to develop skills in building and scaling social enterprises. Topics should include:
 - Legal structures for social enterprises
 - Characteristics of successful social entrepreneurs
 - Strategies for achieving social impact and sustainability
 - 3. Entrepreneurial Mindset and Competencies:** Educators must adopt an entrepreneurial mindset, viewing challenges as innovation opportunities. This includes:
 - Developing and testing innovative teaching methods
 - Facilitating learning processes over traditional lecturing
 - Incorporating ongoing research to refine educational practices
 - 4. Professional Development for Educators:** Training and professional development for entrepreneurship educators are essential. Effective educators inspire students to pursue social entrepreneurship and provide them with tools to address pressing societal challenges.
 - 5. Cross-Cultural Considerations:** Recognizing the diversity in social entrepreneurship experiences, educators should tailor curricula to reflect local socio-economic and cultural contexts.
-





Recommendations for Counselors and Policymakers

Country-Specific Recommendations:

Germany:

- **Integration into Economic Frameworks:** Support policies that position social enterprises as integral to economic and social transformation.
- **Diverse Policy Approaches:** Encourage multi-dimensional strategies addressing ecological, societal, and economic goals.

Italy:

- **Build on Third Sector Reforms:** Strengthen policies that enhance innovation, technology adaptation, and employability in the sector.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Design policies aligned with Italy's cultural dynamics to effectively address local challenges.

Romania:

- **Unified Vision for Social Entrepreneurship:** Align policies with Romania's socio-economic context to enhance impact.
- **Supportive Legal Frameworks:** Continue developing regulations that foster sustainability and innovation in social enterprises.

Slovenia:

- **Strengthen Ecosystems:** Improve access to finance, enhance legal frameworks, and ensure better social impact measurement.
- **Sustainable Development Focus:** Promote policies addressing ecological and social challenges to create an inclusive social economy.

European Union Recommendations:

1. Legal and Regulatory Frameworks:

- Establish EU-wide legal definitions and minimum standards for social enterprises to harmonize operations across member states.
- Develop directives facilitating cross-border activities of social enterprises to promote integration into the EU market.

2. Financial Support:

- To ensure sustainability, advocate for diverse funding sources, including public and hybrid models.
- Strengthen fiscal frameworks to foster innovation and resilience in social enterprises.

3. Cross-Border Cooperation:





Erasmus +, KA220-HED - Cooperation partnerships in higher education

DigiFunCollab - Developing Digital-Self-Learning Courses in Social Entrepreneurship for the future of collaboration between Universities and Community

Project Number: 2023-1-IT02-KA220-HED-00015873

- Leverage EU territorial cooperation programs to enhance regional cohesion through social entrepreneurship.

4. Educational and Training Initiatives:

- Address skills gaps with innovative training focused on sustainability, growth challenges, and management.

5. Broader Strategic Efforts:

- Develop comprehensive strategies emphasizing transformative social change over mere utility.
- Strengthen social procurement and explore new funding models to overcome existing barriers.

Conclusion

The success of social entrepreneurship lies in fostering an environment where education, policy, and practice converge to address global and local challenges. Stakeholders must collaborate to create supportive ecosystems, enhance legal and financial frameworks, and equip future leaders with the skills and mindset to drive sustainable, meaningful change. These recommendations are a foundation for policymakers, educators, and counsellors to build resilient and impactful social entrepreneurship landscapes.

Download the Full Report on Social Entrepreneurship in the Context of Higher Education

To download the full report or access translations, click the links below:

[English](#)

[Italian](#)

[Romanian](#)

[Slovenian](#)



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are, however, those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.