

THE SELECTION GRID DEFINITIONS SUMMARY

Erasmus+ Youth project "Social Sustainability Strategies for Young People" (YESSS)
2022-1-FR02-KA220-YOU-000088895



Youth & Europe :
Social, Sustainability, Strategy



Co-funded by
the European Union

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1 Introduction

This document is a summary of the national and international definitions provided by the most relevant entities in the field of the Social Responsibility, Social Economy and 2030 Agenda.

The objective is to reach an agreement between the partners for the choice of a common vocabulary for all, easily understood by users. This common vocabulary also aims to unify these definitions when working, encompassing the fundamental aspects and above all the differences in concept and use in the different countries that have worked on this project. We all agree that users in a Youth Social Entrepreneurship Training need to know the real vocabulary established in the EU and in an international environment, this way they count on universal quality information.

The terms definitions have been researched by the partners about the list of topics and vocabulary for common use and understanding in this project. Useful links are provided.

1. Solidarity
2. Social entrepreneurship
3. Social and Solidarity Economy
4. Social Responsibility
5. Social Impact
6. Youth worker (only EU Commission definition)
7. Youth work (only EU Commission definition)

2 The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

It is an international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives. Our goal is to shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity, and well-being for all. We draw on 60 years of experience and insights to better prepare the world of tomorrow.

2. Social entrepreneurship

Social enterprises are identified by the OECD as “any private activity conducted in the public interest, organised with an entrepreneurial strategy, whose main purpose is not the maximisation of profit but the attainment of certain economic and social goals, and which has the capacity for bringing innovative solutions to the problems of social exclusion and unemployment.”

https://www.oecd.org/cfe/leed/Social%20entrepreneurship%20policy%20brief%20EN_FINAL.pdf



3 United Nations (UN)

1. Solidarity

International solidarity is the expression of a spirit of unity among individuals, peoples, States and international organizations. It encompasses the union of interests, purposes and actions and the recognition of different needs and rights to achieve common goals.

International solidarity is a foundational principle underpinning contemporary international law in order to preserve international order and to ensure the survival of international society.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/ie-international-solidarity>

2. Social entrepreneurship

Social entrepreneurship seeks to create value or generate a positive impact on society by offering services or products that answer unmet needs or by offering different solutions to social challenges. Social entrepreneurship is often perceived as a mechanism for addressing unfair situations that contribute to exclusion, marginalization or suffering within segments of society that are not empowered to change these situations on their own. The main “customers” of social entrepreneurs are marginalized or disadvantaged groups or individuals who do not possess substantial financial means. Although profits matter to social entrepreneurs, they do not represent the impetus behind their endeavours. The financial goals of social enterprises are in place to support and maximize the intended social impact.

WORLD YOUTH REPORT: Youth Social Entrepreneurship and the 2030 Agenda

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2020/10/WYR2020-Chapter1.pdf>

3. Social and Solidarity Economy

The social and solidarity economy (SSE) is a viable solution to re-balancing economic, social, and environmental objectives.

Although there is not an official definition proposed by ILO yet, the ILO Regional Conference on Social Economy, Africa’s Response to the Global Crisis (October 2009) defined the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) as a “concept designating enterprises and organizations, in particular cooperatives, mutual benefit societies, associations, foundations and social enterprises, which have the specific feature of producing goods, services and knowledge while pursuing both economic and social aims and fostering solidarity”.

https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/cooperatives/areas-of-work/WCMS_546299/lang--en/index.htm



4. Social Responsibility (it is only spoken of Corporate Social Responsibility)

Corporate Social Responsibility is a management concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and interactions with their stakeholders. CSR is generally understood as being the way through which a company achieves a balance of economic, environmental, and social imperatives (“Triple-Bottom-Line- Approach”), while at the same time addressing the expectations of shareholders and stakeholders. In this sense it is important to draw a distinction between CSR, which can be a strategic business management concept, and charity, sponsorships or philanthropy. Even though the latter can also make a valuable contribution to poverty reduction, will directly enhance the reputation of a company, and strengthen its brand, the concept of CSR clearly goes beyond that.

<https://www.unido.org/our-focus/advancing-economic-competitiveness/competitive-trade-capacities-and-corporate-responsibility/corporate-social-responsibility-market-integration/what-csr>

5. Social Impact

Social sustainability is about identifying and managing business impacts, both positive and negative, on people. The quality of a company’s relationships and engagement with its stakeholders is critical. Directly or indirectly, companies affect what happens to employees, workers in the value chain, customers and local communities, and it is important to manage impacts proactively.

<https://unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/our-work/social>

4 European Union (EU)

1. Solidarity

These acknowledged fundamental values include the securing of a lasting peace, unity, equality, freedom, security and solidarity. The principle of solidarity of the European Union is a fundamental principle based on sharing both the advantages, i.e. prosperity, and the burdens equally and justly among members.

The principle of solidarity is often used in the context of social protection.

<https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/en/european-industrial-relations-dictionary/solidarity-principle>

2. Social entrepreneurship (enterprise)

A social enterprise is an operator in the social economy whose main objective is to have a social impact rather than make a profit for their owners or shareholders. It operates by providing goods and services for the market in an entrepreneurial and innovative fashion and uses its profits primarily to achieve social objectives. It is managed in an open and responsible manner and, in particular, involves employees, consumers and stakeholders affected by its commercial activities.

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/proximity-and-social-economy/social-economy-eu/social-enterprises_en



3. Social and Solidarity Economy

"The social economy covers entities sharing the following main common principles and features: the primacy of people as well as social and/or environmental purpose over profit, the reinvestment of most of the profits and surpluses to carry out activities in the interest of members/users ("collective interest") or society at large ("general interest") and democratic and/or participatory governance.

https://social-economy-gateway.ec.europa.eu/about-social-economy/social-economy-definitions-and-glossary_en

4. Social Responsibility (Corporate Social Responsibility)

The responsibility of enterprises for their impacts on society and outlines what an enterprise should do to meet that responsibility.

Although there is no "one-size-fits-all" and for most small and medium-sized enterprises the CSR process remains in formal, complying with legislation and collective agreements negotiated between social partners is the basic requirement for an enterprise to meet its social responsibility.

Beyond that, enterprises should, in the Commission's view, have a process in place to integrate social, environmental, ethical human rights and consumer concerns into their business operations and core strategy in close cooperation with their stakeholders.

The aim is:

- to maximise the creation of shared value, which means to create returns on investment for the company's shareholders at the same time as ensuring benefits for the company's other stakeholders;
- to identify, prevent and mitigate possible adverse impacts which enterprises may have on society.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/MEMO_11_730

5. Social Impact

Social impact assessment is the systematic ex-ante assessment of the likely social impacts of policy measures, possibly defined more narrowly as the impact on specific target groups or areas. In some cases, social impact assessment is based on a legal commitment. The aim is to inform policy makers and the public opinion about the consequences, trade-offs, synergies, side-effects of alternative policy options, so as to feed into the policy debate.

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=8436&langId=en>

6. Youth worker (only EU Commission definition)

Connected to Youth Work



7. Youth work (only EU Commission definition)

Youth work is a broad term covering a wide variety of activities of a social, cultural, educational, environmental and/or political nature by, with and for young people, in groups or individually. Youth work is delivered by paid and volunteer youth workers and is based on non-formal and informal learning processes focused on young people and on voluntary participation. Youth work is quintessentially a social practice, working with young people and the societies in which they live, facilitating young people's active participation and inclusion in their communities and in decision-making.

Although there is a common understanding of the primary function of youthwork, it takes very different forms across EU Member States of the EU is defined or described differently and is associated with different perceptions, traditions, stakeholders, and practices. It takes place in different forms and settings. Youth work plays an important role in the personal and social development of young people, their participation in society and in the transitions, they are going through. It is aimed at all young people, including those less engaged with society and/or with fewer opportunities and / or whose full political and social participation is at risk due to individual or structural disadvantages or discrimination.

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2020.415.01.0001.01.ENG#:~:text=Youth%20work%20is%20quintessentially%20a,and%20in%20decision%2Dmaking.%20

5 Conclusions

All the entities whose definitions have been provided have one point in common: putting people's interests above others. That is, putting the human being and his well-being at the heart of any action.