



UN

Inter-Agency Task Force on  
**Social and Solidarity Economy**

KNOWLEDGE HUB WORKING PAPER

# **Producing Statistics on Social and Solidarity Economy**

The State of the Art

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AUGUST 2021



The logo consists of the letters 'UN' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid blue square.

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## Opportunities and Challenges of Statistics on SSE

This is one of three papers commissioned for a research project of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSSSE) Knowledge Hub for the SDGs.

The project, Opportunities and Challenges of Statistics on SSE, aims to enrich discussions around statistics on the social and solidarity economy (SSE) both within and beyond the UN system. It provides policy makers with current information on SSE statistics and makes recommendations for their improvement.

Working Papers:

***Producing Statistics on Social and Solidarity Economy: The State of the Art***, by Marie J. Bouchard and Gabriel Salathé-Beaulieu (August 2021)

*Mapping International SSE Mapping Exercises*, by Coline Compère and Jérôme Schoenmaeckers with Barbara Sak (August 2021)

*Producing Statistics on Social and Solidarity Economy: Policy Recommendations and Directions for Future Research*, by Rafael Chaves-Avila (August 2021)

The project has been led by UNRISD as the implementing agency of the UNTFSSSE Knowledge Hub for the SDGs. The project is coordinated by Ilcheong Yi (Senior Research Coordinator, UNRISD) and Marie J. Bouchard (Professor, Université du Québec à Montréal and President of the CIRIEC International Scientific Commission “Social and Cooperative Economy”), and funded by the Government of the Republic of Korea (represented by Statistics Korea). Support from CIRIEC International is also acknowledged.

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## Acronyms

<b>ADDES</b>	Association pour le développement de la documentation sur l'économie sociale
<b>CIRIEC</b>	International Centre of Research and Information on the Public, Social and Cooperative Economy
<b>CNCRESS</b>	Conseil national des Chambres régionales de l'économie sociale et solidaire
<b>CNP</b>	Johns Hopkins' Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project
<b>COPAC</b>	Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives
<b>CRES</b>	Chambres régionales de l'économie sociale et solidaire
<b>DIES</b>	Délégation interministérielle à l'économie sociale
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>ESA</b>	European System of Accounts
<b>GDP</b>	Gross domestic product
<b>ICLS</b>	International Conference of Labour Statisticians
<b>ICNP/TSO</b>	International Classification of Non-profit and Third Sector Organizations
<b>ICNPO</b>	International Classification of Non-profit Organizations
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>INE</b>	Instituto Nacional de Estadística
<b>INSEE</b>	Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques
<b>ISIC</b>	International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities
<b>ISQ</b>	Institut de la statistique du Québec
<b>NACE</b>	Nomenclature statistique des activités économiques dans la Communauté européenne (Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community)
<b>NAICS</b>	North American Industry Classification System
<b>NPI</b>	Non-profit institution
<b>NPISH</b>	Non-profit institution serving households
<b>NPO</b>	Non-profit organization
<b>NSO</b>	National Statistics Office
<b>SIRENE</b>	Système d'identification du répertoire des entreprises
<b>SIRET</b>	Système d'identification du répertoire des établissements
<b>SNA</b>	System of National Accounts
<b>SocEnt</b>	Social enterprise
<b>SSE</b>	Social and Solidarity Economy
<b>TSE</b>	Third or social economy
<b>TSI</b>	Third Sector Impact
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNTFSSSE</b>	United Nations Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy
<b>WP</b>	Working Paper

## Acknowledgments

The authors thank all those who collaborated in this project to make each other's work better and more coherent, and, in particular, Samuel Brülisauer, Research Analyst at UNRISD.

## Summary

This paper first provides an overview of the existing conceptual frameworks and international standards related to building statistics about the social and solidarity economy (SSE). It then looks at how the perimeter for SSE is set in the cases of the two main frameworks presently at hand: the “social economy approach,” as embodied in the CIRIEC Manual on drawing up satellite accounts and in the ILO Guidelines concerning statistics on cooperatives, and the “NPO approach”, as embodied in the United Nations NPI and TSE handbooks on non-profit and related institutions. The third section of the paper discusses how constructing statistics about SSE typically entails identifying sources, such as registers, surveys and censuses, that will serve as the basis for the statistical construction of the SSE population. The next two sections explore how the SSE organizations thus selected are then classified, based on criteria such as the sector of activity and the type of organization, and how the information that relates to them is collected, based on methodologies such as satellite accounts or observatories. Section six then shows how indicators related to employment, membership and economic contribution could complement this work of measurement. The paper concludes with an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of each approach, as well as recommendations for future work.

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