



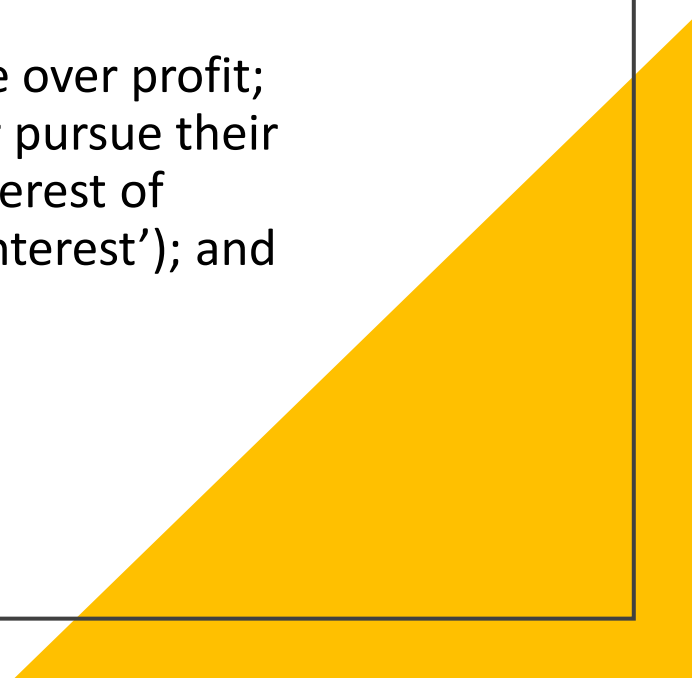
# JTF implementation and social economy

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First impressions

## **Council Recommendation on Developing Social Economy Framework Conditions:**

“Social economy’ means a set of private law entities, providing goods and services to their members or to society, encompassing organisational forms such as cooperatives, mutual societies, associations (including charities), foundations or social enterprises, as well as other legal forms, that operate in accordance with the following key principles and features:

- the primacy of people as well as social and/or environmental purpose over profit;
  - the reinvestment of all or most of the profits and surpluses to further pursue their social and/or environmental purposes and carry out activities in the interest of members/users (‘collective interest’) and/or society at large (‘general interest’); and
  - democratic and/or participatory governance.”
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- limited information so far on the use of JTF and involvement/development of the social economy

### **General observations:**

- Social economy development not seen as a priority everywhere: Many territorial just transition plans tend to focus more generally on the promotion of business creation, innovation, green transition, digitalisation...
- Some plans do integrate social economy development (social economy considered as a potential driver for transition and mobiliser of local communities).
- Other plans: The social economy finds 'indirectly' access through other priorities such as energy and fight against energy poverty, etc. ⇒ Yet: necessity for policy departments to overcome silo approaches and create links between different policy fields.



Picture: Cohesion Policy Pub Affairs Bruxelles

## Challenges at institutional level:

- at regional level: JTF-related programmes and information on implementation not always known across policy departments
- Diversity of fields of activity of the social economy as challenge and potential at once: uncertainty on the side of ministries/policy departments as regards possible delimitations between funds (mainly JTF and ESF+, but also ERDF...)
- Fear to lose *funds for* and *control over* certain policy areas?

## **Social economy as a driver for social green transition under the JTF - Examples:**

### **Ireland - Midlands: [Social Enterprise Exchange](#)**

- mapping and strengthening the existing social enterprise ecosystem
- mobilising different type of stakeholders and possible supporters
- capacity-building for policy-makers and civil servants
- encouraging policy action for the social economy

### **Poland – Eastern Wielkopolska:**

- National Association for Social Cooperatives: partner in a multi-actor consortium of public and private players in charge of planning and implementing a part of the Territorial Just Transition Plan (incl. creation of an ecosystem for social economy development)
- support from START technical assistance to regions in transition - assessment of development opportunities for social economy enterprises in Eastern Wielkopolska: repurposing of brownfield sites (incl. Tourism); circular economy; services; energy (communities); cooperative platforms, etc.
- support from organizations such as World Bank
- plans to establish more than 600 jobs in new and existing social economy enterprises in 5 years, from which more than 300 co-financed by JTF



Picture: [www.just-transition.info](http://www.just-transition.info)

## Some (first and tentative) Recommendations:

- Necessity to encourage stronger links between economic, ecological and social transition & related policies
- Need for some more guidance, but also (peer) exchange on good and bad practice in JTF implementation
- Cross-monitoring the implementation of JTF, ESF and ERDF
- Council Recommendation for Developing Social Economy Framework Conditions and obligation of Member States to develop strategies within 2 years & JTF review: encourage, where applicable, better consideration and use also of JTF-related instruments and results?
- Build on already existing good practice – also and in particular in the area of partnership and governance - to inspire the implementation also of other funds

