



The Spanish Social Economy in development cooperation

The Spanish Business Confederation for the Social Economy (CEPES)

CEPES, the Spanish Business Confederation of Social Economy, is the senior organisation representing the Social Economy as a whole in Spain, currently engaging 90% of the entire sector.

Its 28 member partners represent the interests of more than **44,500 companies** and over **2,215,000 direct and indirect jobs, generating turnover in 2013 in excess of 150,978,000 euros**. Moreover, the number of persons linked by association, without an occupational connection, has increased in recent years to more than **16,500,000**.

- 10% of Spanish GDP.
- 12.5% of employment.
- 30% of the population is linked to some entity in the Social Economy.

Social Economy Enterprises

The present shape of the Spanish Social Economy was defined by passage of the Social Economy Act, Act No. 5/2011 of 29 March, a turning point of the Sector's recognition, visibility and development within both the Spanish State and the European Union.

Cooperatives, worker-owned societies, mutual societies, insertion companies, special employment centres, fishermen guilds and associations in the disabled sector are the bodies making up this enterprise model, where business efficiency is combined with the values of solidarity, responsibility and social cohesion.

They form an entrepreneurial model which is articulating a new economic scenario where people take precedence over capital, where profits are redistributed amongst individuals or to fulfilling their social ends, or are reinvested to continue growth and job-creation. A democratic spirit predominates in decision-making, and their management is governed by principles of solidarity, competitiveness, viability and social cohesion.

The following are the principles guiding the Social Economy in Spain:

- Primacy of the individual and of the social purpose over capital. This materializes in an autonomous and transparent, democratic and participative management, which prioritises a decision-making process based more on individuals and the contribution they make to the organisation with their work and services or on the social purpose, than on their contributions to the capital.
- Distribution of the profits obtained from the economic activity mainly according to the work contributed or the service or activity performed by members and, if applicable, according to the entity's social purpose.
- Promotion of solidarity internally and with society that favours commitment to local development, equal opportunities between men and women, social cohesion, the insertion of persons with the risk of social exclusion, the generation of stable and quality jobs, the conciliation of private, family and work life and sustainability.
- Independence with regard to the public authorities.

The Social Economy as a strategic private sector player in development cooperation

The Fourth Spanish Cooperation Master Plan, 2013-2016, considers the Social Economy a priority in the creation of employment and of promotion of entrepreneurship in partner countries. Moreover, various strategic Spanish Cooperation documents recognise the Social Economy as a part of the private business sector which contributes to the aims of cooperation.



The Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

Social Economy Spanish enterprises must play a relevant role in development cooperation, especially in sectors associated with promoting the economic fabric.

THE THIRD SPANISH COOPERATION MASTER PLAN. 2009-2012.



The Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

“The cooperative and Social Economy Enterprises have a significant role in a strategy aimed at promoting the productive fabric, placing it at the service of a swifter and more effective reduction in poverty”.

SPANISH COOPERATION’S STRATEGY FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROMOTION OF THE BUSINESS FABRIC. 2011.

The Social Economy’s contribution to development policies is also acknowledged by International Institutions:



The European Union

“Cooperatives, social enterprises and other forms of people-centred business are often leading the way in providing decent jobs, sustainable livelihoods and inclusive solutions to social problems”.

A EUROPEAN COMMISSION COMMUNICATION. “STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN ACHIEVING INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES”. 2014



The United Nations

“Cooperatives, in their various forms, promote the fullest possible participation in the economic and social development of all people, including women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples, are becoming a significant factor of economic and social development and contribute to the eradication of poverty”.

A UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION IN DECEMBER 2009: “COOPERATIVES IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT”.

The main fields of action of the Social Economy in development cooperation

	%
Creation of enterprises, promoting entrepreneurship, training, advise to entrepreneur consultancy, access to financing, improved commercialisation of products, investment in infrastructures in rural and depressed areas, for all collectives (women, disabled people, young people or rural population).	54.39
To guarantee the participation of women in all economic and social spheres.	13.16
The participation of civil society in the local and institutional realms.	10.52
Access to healthcare and hospital services.	7.02
Access for all to educational social services.	6.14
Food and agricultural development and combating hunger.	2.63
Humanitarian crises.	1.75
Environmental sustainability.	1.75
Cultural activities with impact on development.	0.88
Science, technology and innovation for human development.	0.88
Promotion and awareness of the Social Economy in development cooperation.	0.88



Between 1998 and 2014, Social Economy entered in cooperation funds, co-financing

What does the Social Economy contribute to development cooperation?



It generates wealth in rural and depressed areas by creating and supporting entrepreneurship initiatives which are economically viable and sustainable medium- and long-term.



It promotes and supports the enterprise and business management capacities of socially excluded collectives.



It creates financing instruments through credit or microcredit cooperatives to guarantee access to funding.



It guarantees livelihoods to vulnerable collectives by improving access to food and basic social services such as healthcare, education or housing.



It creates equitable and sustainable economic growth benefiting collectives at risk of social exclusion, especially women, disabled people, indigenous peoples, young people and small-scale producers or farmers.



enterprises handled more than 47.8 million euros
financing 26.5% (12.6 million euros)

Some significant results



Since 2007, more than 1,000 persons, 400 of them women, have joined cooperatives.



Since 2007, more than 3,000 rural families have been involved in an agricultural technical assistance network.



Between 2011 and 2014, 568,000 persons associated with disability throughout Latin America benefited from educational and training programmes, programmes in occupational training, rehabilitation and accessibility, and in actions in defence of the rights of the disabled.



Since 2011, more than 120 km of roads have been built and 200 systems for gravity irrigation and technologies have been installed, making it possible to irrigate more than 600 hectares.



Microcredit management has granted over 225,000 euros to 2,890 persons for the creation of farming enterprises. The repayment rate exceeds 90%.



Assistance is currently being given to more than 5,000 families in Mozambique who are cultivating an estimated annual production of 800,000 euros.



Between 2010 and 2014, 2,419 independent enterprises were set up by visually impaired persons, 1,150 jobs were adapted technologically, and professional and occupational counselling was offered to than 37,000 visually impaired persons.



Public-private alliances for development have built 5 schools in depressed areas, benefiting 1,400 families of between eight and ten members.



The creation of hospital services in regions of Africa with the technical support of Spanish Healthcare Cooperative Movement, offering healthcare cover to 420,000 people.



Countries where the Social Economy operates

The Social Economy operates in 43 countries, most projects concentrated in Latin America, Africa and the Mediterranean.

Projects implemented by the Social Economy are aligned with the countries where Spanish Development Cooperation is active, operating in 17 of the 23 priority countries defined in the Fourth Master Plan, for example in Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Equatorial Guinea, Honduras, Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Senegal, the Sahrawi population and the Palestinian Territories.

Country	% of projects with presence in the country		
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	9.6	Country	% of projects with presence in the country
COLOMBIA	8.8		
EL SALVADO	7.2	Country	% of projects with presence in the country
NICARAGUA	6.4		
PANAMA	6	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	0.8
HONDURAS	6	EGYPT	0.8
GUATEMALA	5.6	CHAD	0.8
PARAGUAY	5.2	VENEZUELA	0.4
COSTA RICA	4.8	UGANDA	0.4
MOROCCO	4	TURQUIA	0.4
ECUADOR	4	SERBIA	0.4
CUBA	3.6	SENEGAL	0.4
BRAZIL	2.4	WESTERN SAHARA	0.4
PERU	2.4	RUANDA	0.4
MEXICO	2.4	PALESTINE	0.4
ARGENTINA	2.4	MADAGASCAR	0.4
ALGERIA	2.4	LEBANON	0.4
BOLIVIA	2	JORDAN	0.4
URUGUAY	1.6	INDIA	0.4
CHILE	1.6	GUINEA BISSAU	0.4
TUNISIA	1.2	CAMEROON	0.4
MOZAMBIQUE	0.8	CAPE VERDE	0.4
		BOSNIA	0.4
		ANGOLA	0.4
		ALBANIA	0.4

Source, CEPES: List of countries according to descending presence in projects.

Members of CEPES

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

- AEDIS:** Business Association For Disability (www.asociacionaedis.org)
- AGRO-ALIMENTARY COOPERATIVES** (www.agro-alimentarias.coop)
- CERMI:** Spanish Committee of Representatives for Disabled People (www.cermi.es)
- CNEPS:** Spanish Confederation of Mutual Benefit Societies (www.cneps.es)
- COCETA:** Spanish Confederation of Worker's Cooperatives (www.coceta.coop)
- CONCOVI:** Spanish Confederation of Housing Cooperatives (www.concovi.es)
- CONFESAL:** Spanish Confederation of Worker-Owned Societies (www.confesal.es)
- FAEDEI:** Federation of Insertion Companies' Bussiness Associations (www.faedei.org)
- FEACEM:** Spanish Business Federation of Sheltered Employment Centers Associations (www.feacem.es)
- FNCP:** Spanish National Federation of Fishermen' Guilds (www.fncp.eu)
- HISPACOOOP:** Spanish Confederation of Consumers' and Users' Cooperatives (www.hispacoop.es)
- ONCE:** Spanish National Organisation for the Blind (www.once.es)
- REAS:** Alternative and Solidarity Economy Network (www.economiasolidaria.org)
- UECOE:** Spanish Union of Education Cooperatives (www.uecoe.es)
- UNACOMAR:** Spanish National Union of Seafarers Cooperatives

REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

- CCC:** Catalonia Cooperative Confederation (www.cooperativescatalunya.coop)
- CEPES-ANDALUCIA:** Business Confederation of Social Economy in Andalusia (www.cepes-andalucia.es)
- CEPES EXTREMADURA:** Business Confederation of Social Economy in Extremadura (www.cepes-extremadura.org)
- CEPES NAVARRA:** Confederation of Social Economy Entities of Navarra
- FECOMA:** Federation of Cooperatives in Madrid (www.cooperativasdemadrid.com)
- VALENCIAN COOPERATIVE CONFEDERATION** (www.concoval.es)

SOCIAL ECONOMY BUSINESS GROUPS

- ATLANTIS GROUP:** (www.atlantis-seguros.es)
- CAJAMAR, CAJARURAL, Credit Cooperative** (www.cajamar.es)
- ESPRIU FOUNDATION:** (www.fundacionespriu.coop)
- FUNDOSA GROUP:** (www.grupofundosa.es)
- GROUP CLADE:** (www.grupclade.coop)
- MONDRAGON Corporation:** (www.mondragon-corporation.com)
- UNIDE:** Spanish Union of Retailers Cooperative Society (www.unide.es)

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