

## Chapter 1 : What Is Social Economy : BALTA

*The social economy is formed by a rich diversity of enterprises and organisations, such as cooperatives, mutuals, associations, foundations.*

Sitemap What is the Social Economy? However, the range of organizations and activities associated with them are as old as the nation of Canada. They include co-operatives, credit unions, non-profit organizations and other types of enterprise. By some definitions, wherever you have people gathering together to pursue economic activities with a view to meeting social as well as economic needs, you have elements of the social economy. The social economy can be defined in a variety of ways and there is ongoing debate about some of these definitional issues and the scope of what should be included in the social economy. One definition is that the social economy includes those organizations which are animated by the principle of reciprocity for the pursuit of mutual economic or social goals, often through social control of capital. This definition would include all co-operatives and credit unions, non-profit and volunteer organisations, charities and foundations, service associations, community enterprises, and social enterprises that use market mechanisms to pursue explicit social objectives. In this definition it would not include those non-profit and voluntary organizations that are entirely grant or donation dependent though some do include such organizations in their definitions of the social economy. The social economy is often contrasted to the public and private sector economies. In terms of intent, social economists are working towards the reinsertion of social goals, reciprocity and solidarity into economic thinking and decision making. The social economy viewed as one of three economic or market sectors. There is to date greater recognition of the social economy as a distinct sector in Quebec than elsewhere in Canada. The private sector, what John Pearce calls the first system, is profit-driven. It seeks to maximise financial returns to individual owners. The second system, the domain of governments, is about redistribution and planning. The third system is about citizens taking action to meet and satisfy needs themselves and working together in some collaborative way to do this. It includes what we can think of as the family or household economy and extends into the range of ways people exchange with each other in local areas on a voluntary basis barter, recreation, clubs, self-help groups, etc. It also extends to a wide range of more formally structured organisations, some of which organise their affairs as charities e. The values of mutuality, self-help, caring for people and the environment are given higher priority than maximizing profits. The economic principle that animates organisations is reciprocity. Organisations in this realm emphasize mutual and collective benefit. Within this third system, he situates the social economy as the more formally organized and market oriented part of the mutual and self-purpose system. BALTA has drawn from Pearce and others to elaborate a framework for defining, characterizing and researching the social economy. Towards a Strategic Approach Increasingly, a third pillar is being added to the blending of economic and social goals that has been the hallmark of the social economy, that of the ecological. Increasingly, social economists refer to a triple bottom line in defining the aims both of the sector and of aspirations for broader economic activity by all sectors of the economy. Some prefer to use a broader definition for the social economy which encompasses the whole non-profit sector, irrespective of whether organizations engage in market-based economic activity or not. While recognizing this viewpoint, BALTA has primarily focused its approach around definitions that emphasize the use of market-based practices for achieving social and ecological as well as economic aims.

## Chapter 2 : Social Economics

*The most powerful applications of social technologies in the global economy are largely untapped. By using social technologies, companies can raise the productivity of knowledge workers by 20 to 25 percent. In a few short years, social technologies have given social interactions the speed and scale.*

You can help by adding to it. September Third sector[ edit ] Social economy studies the relationship between economy and social behavior. It analyzes how consumer behavior is influenced by social morals, ethics and other humanitarian philosophies. The social economy examines activity that is related to economics amongst the community and exposes the information to the community, this includes the social enterprise and voluntary sectors. By using solutions to achieve not-for-profit aims, a social economy has a unique role in creating a strong, sustainable, prosperous and inclusive society. It is important for companies to be able to independently implement their own CSR initiatives as studies have shown that this will result be much more impactful than government-mandated CSR initiatives. Increasing productivity and competitiveness Contributing to socially-inclusive wealth creation Enabling individuals and communities to renew local neighbourhoods Demonstrating new ways to deliver public services Developing an inclusive society and active citizenship Defining the limits of a social-economy sector is difficult due to shifting politics and economics; at any time organisations may be "partly in, partly out", moving among sub-sectors of the social economy. Social enterprise compass[ edit ] Organisations may be placed on the social enterprise compass, which measures enterprises and organisations on a continuum between the private and public sectors. Horizontal axis On the horizontal axis, each enterprise or organisation is categorized by its ownership. On the left side ownership is by public authorities, and on the right side it is private industry. The owners supply financial capital and bear any risk. Vertical axis On the vertical axis each enterprise or organisation is categorized by its primary objective, from "social purpose" at the top to "commercial purpose" at the bottom. Social purpose is the primary objective of the enterprise if it meets the following criteria: Core definition Mission key identification: Social economic creation of value and appropriation of earnings qualitative key identification: Profits and resources are verifiably reinvested for the benefit of disadvantaged people. If these criteria are met, an organisation is at the top of the vertical axis. One criterion is a descriptive feature: Social economical enterprises and organisations have an intermediary function between public and private. If none of the above criteria is met, or the primary object of the enterprise is commercial, it is located at the bottom of the vertical axis. Between social and commercial purposes If the above criteria are partially met, the enterprise is located along the vertical axis according to its self-definition. The Social Economy is made up of association-based economic activities founded on values of: Service to members or the community rather than only generating profits and seeking financial returns; Autonomous management not government controlled ; Democratic decision making; Primacy of persons and work over capital; Based on principles of participation, empowerment and individual and collective responsibility. The Social Economy includes: The Canadian Community Economic Development Network CCEDNet is a national member-led organization committed to strengthening Canadian communities by creating economic opportunities that enhance social and environmental conditions. Over researchers, drawn from universities and Social Economy organisations, have created over products including e-books, occasional papers and paper series. The sector comprises four families of organisations: The social economy is a major sector, representing 10,3 percent of employment. Among its purposes was the promotion of social economy organisations and, for that reason, it created the Institute from among its members. Thus, this Council is set up as the institution that provides visibility to the various organizations in the social economy. All these organizations are covered, directly or indirectly, by the aforementioned articles of the Spanish Constitution. Their principles confer on them a distinct and specific character with regard to other types of commercial companies and organizations in Spain. Comparative data of the Spanish social economy relative to similar sectors in other parts of the world are also reported. European Union[ edit ] At the European level, the French concept predominates. A more recent study was carried out in focused on the emerging new concepts related to Social Economy and on the new public policies related to

social economy [14]. Social Economy represents 2 million enterprises, including mutuals and co-operatives and employs over 14 million paid employees in the European Union. In Ireland, the social economy is well-funded; an example is rural transport schemes to assist the socially disadvantaged in isolated locations. United Kingdom[ edit ] In the UK, the social enterprise movement is where the discussions of much of the social economy are centred, [15] with a Social Economy Alliance [16] created to support an ecosystem of social impact-focused businesses and charities. It is also a phrase used by the Labour Party [17] to describe the economy surrounding social enterprises in the UK. There is a Minister for Civil Society in the UK, who is expressly responsible for social enterprise and social investment. A sector can be a grouping of institutions, such as by government taxing authority , business taxable profit-making , philanthropy untaxed nonprofit , and household taxable personal income. In the United States, where business preeminence is emphasised, organizational form differentiates conventional and hybrid business forms with the latter, hybrid organization having a social mission while pursuing profit. This is acknowledged in the tax codes of several states with such entities as the benefit [20] and for-benefit corporations. This "fourth sector" differs from the third sector by its location in the United States and its emphasis on business as opposed to government leadership in the voluntary sector. Outside the United States governments establish national plans for the third sector, which formalizes the role of governments. A discussion of sectors and social economy is in Business with a Difference: India[ edit ] The cooperative movement in India has made remarkable progress, working more than , cooperatives and million members, making it the largest cooperative movement of the world. Cooperative provides third highest employment after private sector and government jobs. The cooperatives in India emphasize on equitable distribution of value amongst stakeholders.

Chapter 3 : 6 ways social media is changing the world | World Economic Forum

*A significant proportion of Europe's economy is intended to make profits for people other than investors or owners. Known as the 'social economy', it includes cooperatives, mutual societies, non-profit associations, foundations and social enterprises.*

By John Restakis , originally published by The Commons Transition January 15, With the prospect of a Syriza government, everyone is wondering what the future holds for Greece. Whether disaster or deliverance, or just the normal chaos, it is hard to ignore the potential for game-changing repercussions from a Syriza government. On the street however, embittered by the failures of leftist governments in the past to change a corrupt and dysfunctional political system, few people are expecting big things from Syriza. The feeling of popular cynicism and fatalism is palpable. How different will Syriza be? One thing is certain. If Syriza does what it says, it will be forging a courageous and desperately needed path in Europe, not only in opposition to the austerity policies that are devastating the country, but to the neo-liberal ideas, institutions, and capital interests that are their source and sustenance. For such a path to succeed, an entirely different view of economic development, of the role of the market, and of the relation between state and citizen is necessary. Like other parties of both the right and left in Europe, Syriza is taking cognizance of the role that the social economy can play in the current crisis. Even the Cameron government in the UK, the epicenter of European neo-liberalism, has promoted the social economy as a sector with a strategic role to play in job creation, in improving public services, and in reforming the role of government. In the last election, Mutualism and the Big Society were its slogans. It all sounds very nice, until it becomes evident just how little right wing governments understand, or care about, what the social economy is and how it functions. For the Cameron government co-operatives, and the social economy more generally, became a cover and a means for public sector privatizations, for weakening job security, and for reducing the role of government. Thousands of public sector workers have been coerced into joining pseudo-co-operatives to save their jobs. This is a travesty of the nature and purpose of co-operatives whose memberships must always be voluntary, whose governance is democratic, and whose purpose is to serve their members and their communities for their common benefit – not the ideological aims of government. For the right, the social economy is often viewed as a final refuge for the discarded of society and the victims of the capitalist economy. It is one reason why the right advocates charity as the proper response for the poor. Never solidarity or equity. More recently, the rhetoric and principles of the social economy have been used to expand the reach of capital into civil spaces. For these reasons co-operatives and social economy organizations in the UK, and elsewhere, have condemned the distortion of social economy principles for vested political interests. But what are these principles? The social economy is composed of civil organizations and networks that are driven by the principles of reciprocity and mutuality in service to the common good – usually through the social control of capital. The social economy is composed of co-operatives, non-profit organizations, foundations, voluntary groups, and a whole range of associations that operate both inside the market, as many successful co-operatives and fair trade groups do, or in non-market provision of goods or services. These include cultural production, the provision of health or social care, and the provision of food, shelter, or other necessities to people in need. In its essence, the social economy is a space and a practice where economics is at the service of social ends, not the other way round. It is not hard to see why Greece today is experiencing an unprecedented growth in the size and diversity of its social economy. Here, as elsewhere, co-operatives and social benefit enterprises have arisen as a form of social self-defense against economic recession and austerity. For many young people, the formation of a co-operative or a social enterprise is the only way to secure a job with some autonomy, and dignity. Something more rewarding than serving tables for tourists. The social economy is growing – but compared to other European nations, Greece lags far behind. This weakness is due to many factors. One reason is the absence of institutional supports such as sources of social investment, of professional development and training, of representative organizations to unite, develop, and give voice to the sector. Outdated, fragmented, and inadequate legislation is another reason. A third, more complex reason, has to do with the manner in which civil society and the state

have evolved in Greece. Unlike other Western European nations that underwent the revolutionary processes of the Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution that provided the seedbed from which modern political, social, and economic institutions emerged, Greece remained relatively untouched by these developments while under Ottoman rule. Today, it is still struggling to establish a political culture that has moved beyond the autocratic clientelism that characterized the political system that reigned immediately after the Ottoman era. Autocracy breeds hierarchy, individualism, and relations of dependence, not mutuality and social solidarity. The emergence of a healthy civil society, of democratic civil institutions and a democratic culture, has been undermined by this fact. The inheritance of clientelism has been deadly in Greece and it has been catastrophic for the healthy evolution of the social economy, as has been shown in the case of its co-operatives. Just as the right uses the social economy as a proxy for the promotion of capital and markets, so does the left consistently view the social economy as a vehicle for the advancement of the aims of the state. When a culture of clientelism is added, it is a recipe for failure on a grand scale. This is what happened in the PASOK era when state support and subsidization of co-operatives produced a corruption that not only failed to achieve legitimate economic ends, but more disastrously, destroyed the image and reputation of co-operatives among the public. Moreover when the state subsidies ended, the co-ops collapsed. Today, the work of promoting co-operation as a viable strategy for economic and social development has to contend with this false and negative public image of co-operatives as inherently corrupt. Greece is not alone in this. Just as in Greece, the co-operative model has had to be retrieved from a ruined reputation in all the former Soviet nations, in Africa, and throughout Latin America where governments see co-ops, and the broader social economy, as instruments and extensions of government power. The reason for this is that the left has traditionally viewed the state as the sole legitimate engine of social and economic reform. In this, it is the mirror image of the right that sees legitimacy for economic and social development only in the market. Both make the same tragic mistake in ignoring or manipulating the very institutions of civil society that are essential to realizing the radical changes that are needed if any alternative to the present paradigm is to succeed. And this, in very large measure, will be the true test of the character of Syriza if it comes to power. How will it relate to the broader civil society, and to the fledgling organizations and institutions of the social economy as it tries to rebuild the economic and political complexion of Greece? Will it revert to the traditional statism of the left, a command and control government, or will it seek to expand and re-imagine a leftist program for change that mobilizes the institutions of civil society and the social economy as meaningful partners in nation building? Moreover, will it understand and utilize the social and economic principles of co-operation, of mutuality and common good, as central to the re-building of the economy and the society? In short, will the party recognize and mobilize the vast potential of civil power in realizing its vision? If it does, it will be the first in Europe to do so. That Syriza is taking the social economy seriously is a good sign. The social economy represents one of the very few bright spots in Greece, with hundreds of new groups being formed to provide goods and services in a way that is entirely new. Often rejecting organizational hierarchy, promoting inclusion and democratic decision-making, focusing on service over profit, these organizations see themselves as models for a new economic and political order. But it is for this reason too, that many of these groups want little or nothing to do with political parties, or the state. This is not good news for the parties of the left as they struggle to articulate a vision and method for a new political economy. They need a new approach if they are to build a leftist vision for a new age. The old ways of party and state control have been discredited and rejected. For a truly effective political party of the left today, the social economy represents a crucial resource and ally. The principles of economic democracy in service to the common good are practiced here. The most innovative, entrepreneurial, and socially productive young leadership is active here. The organizational forms and practices that have the potential to reform the closed, bureaucratic, dysfunction of government services are also being developed here. And this points to an unlooked for grace in the midst of this crisis – that these hard times have sparked a renewal of community and genuine human connections between people. The social economy is where these connections are flourishing. What then, must a progressive government do with respect to the social economy? First, it must move beyond traditional leftist statism to develop a role for government that understands how to democratize and share power with its citizens. This means understanding

that the primary role of government in a non-paternalistic and non-clientelistic paradigm is the empowerment and support of civil society for the production of social value – the creation of goods and services that place social needs ahead of private profit. Second, it means the creation of institutions, both legal and social, that can sustain the development and growth of the social economy independently of any political party that is in power. This means the reform of co-operative and social economy legislation, the creation of financial instruments for the social and ethical financing of social economy organizations, the establishment of educational and training institutes for the study of the theory and practice of co-operation, reciprocity, and service to the common good that are fundamental for a new political economy and the advancement of social and economic development. Third, it means the application of these principles beyond the non-profit and community service sector to the support and development of the wider economy, in particular for the small and medium firms that form the bedrock of the national economy. The principles that animate the social economy are a framework for the recovery and reform of the whole economy. And fourth, it means the reform of public services through the provision of control rights, transparency, accountability, and decision-making power to the users of these services. The insular, autocratic power of bureaucracy must be broken. Greece has no option but to try new approaches to solve its social, economic, and political problems. At the macro level, a Syriza government will have to do everything it can to address the fundamental questions of debt restructuring, of trade relations and export policy, of increasing revenue through tax policies aimed at capital, of resurrecting agricultural and industrial production, and of addressing the humanitarian crisis. The social economy can help. But it is obviously not able to act as an engine of recovery on its own and without the support of an astute government that understands its strengths and limitations. The danger here is that false expectations of the social economy will set the stage for failure and disappointment. They conveniently ignore the fact that the survival rate of co-ops is more than twice as high as that of private companies. What the social economy offers are the ideas, the methods, and the models by which an alternative paradigm may be built. The social economy is the experimental ground of a new political economy, and its organizations are the social antennae of a possible, and more humane, future. Today, this prefiguring of another paradigm is perhaps the most important contribution that the social economy can make in Greece, particularly since basic institutional supports are still lacking. The building of these institutions is crucial. This is true whether a new government succeeds in re-negotiating the debt and its relations to its European counterparts, and even more so if it does not. There are grave doubts whether the changes that Greece needs to make toward a more humane and socially responsible economics can be developed within the Eurozone as it is currently structured. The ideological and institutional inertia of neo-liberalism is suffocating any prospects for reform. Regardless, Greece can learn from the wealth of experience that has already been accumulated in other countries where the social economy has played an important role in advancing economic and social development – particularly in times of crisis. Greece is a latecomer to this field, but that is not without its advantages. It can learn from the experience of others. In the region of Emilia Romagna in Italy, the principles of co-operation and mutual help are the reason why its small and medium enterprises have been able to flourish in a global marketplace. It is among the top ten performing economic regions in Europe. They employ over 1 million people. In Quebec, credit unions are the largest providers of loans and financial services to individuals and small businesses. The same is true in Germany. In Japan, consumer co-ops work closely with producers to supply locally produced, organic food to millions of consumers.

**Chapter 4 : What is the "Social Economy"? - Resilience**

*Measured efficacy will unlock the new social economy. Data will tell the value creation story of how well one person supports the growth of another.*

Further Information What is the Social Economy? The Social Economy, which puts "people before profits", has a long and illustrious history, especially in Europe. In Canada we are not as used to the concept, but that does not mean that the social economy has not been important to Canada! This section of our website will help you explore what this term means. Your comments and reflections are welcome – contact us. We do not all define the social economy in the same way, and for most members of the team the concept is not a familiar one. However, we find the term social economy to be useful as an inclusive term that challenges us to think in different ways about the many facets of the economy – the processes and institutions through which we meet in our needs. After all, we humans create our economy, so why not open up new ways of thinking, of valuing the many ways we do this? Drawing on a wide range of writings on the social economy, including ones mentioned below, L. Brown Director, Social Economy and Sustainability Research Network finds it useful to think of the social economy in the following way: While they may intend to make a profit, they do so in a context that sees profit as a means to meet social goals, not primarily as a means to create individual wealth. They may rely on volunteer labour as well as, or instead of, paid employees. The Social Economy is characterized by mutual self-help initiatives, and by initiatives to meet the needs of disadvantaged members of society. While the lines between the private public and social economy sectors are often blurry, they offer a classification system that can be very useful. For these authors, the social economy includes public sector nonprofits e. For Mook et al. Return to top Definitions There are many definitions of the social economy. Here we present numerous definitions to give a sense of the range of variation. In an interesting article on defining the SE, the federal government department, Western Economic Diversification Canada , includes the following as examples of SE organizations: They are not part of the private sector or government, but form a third sector. A social economy enterprise operates like a business, produces goods and services for the market, but manages its operations and redirects its surpluses in pursuit of social and environmental goals". Human Resources and Social Development Canada has explored a variety of federal government-supported initiatives studying the social economy in Canada. In a fact sheet about the Social Economy developed in , they indicate that: Think about how the local school is run – are there any volunteer organizations there? What about people who are shut-in at home or have reduced mobility? Are there any groups that help them out? Do you have a United Way in your community? What groups do they support? Are there any co-operatives or credit unions in your community? What do they do? Has anyone set up a business that has as its main objective a social purpose? If so, is that part of the social economy – maybe as a social enterprise? Organizations that are usually considered to be part of the Social Economy are: How important are these types of organizations to the quality of life in your community? Return to top Two publications provide an introduction to the role of non-profit and co-operative organizations in Atlantic Canada: This report, one of a series of regional reports, profiles the Atlantic region. Preliminary Analysis , L. Accompanying maps see fact sheet for project 1. Social Enterprises and the Social Economy: One type of social economy organization that is receiving a lot of attention right now is the social enterprise. They offer this as one definition: Return to top Why Research the Social Economy? There are many gaps in the knowledge known about the social economy and the impact it has on individuals, communities and society. Research can help to expand the understanding of the contributions of social economy organizations to:

### Chapter 5 : GSEF – Global Social Economy Forum

*The social economy is defined by the collection of different social objectives of the various organizations that make it up. According to the European Commission, social economy organizations are classified as cooperatives, mutual societies, voluntary organizations, foundations, and social enterprises.*

Explore the latest strategic trends, research and analysis Around the world, billions of us use social media every day, and that number just keeps growing. We use it for every part of our lives – in our personal relationships, for entertainment, at work and in our studies. To put it into some context, every minute we collectively send more than 30 million messages on Facebook and almost , tweets. Here are six observations and predictions for the way social media is changing the world from experts from the Global Agenda Council. Social media skills are no longer considered niche, and solely the responsibility of a small team in the newsroom. Instead social media affects the way the whole organization runs. Social media platforms may be the banks of the future Imagine being able to pay your rent or make an investment through your favourite social network. That might not be too far off, says Richard Eldridge of Lenddo. New financial technology companies are using social media to help people simply open a bank account. Social media can even impact your ability to get a loan. Banks will also have to implement sophisticated social media policies. Social media is changing how we govern and are governed Civic participation and engagement has been transformed with social media: In the future, we can expect more and more leaders to embrace this type of transparent governance, as it becomes easier for them to interact with their constituents: Before the dawn of social media, governments, along with the traditional media, were the gatekeepers of information. This relationship has been turned on its head, says Taylor Owen of the University of British Columbia: In fact, more and more of us will be using social media to contribute to disaster relief from wherever we are: Individuals and teams are activated based on skill sets of volunteer and technical communities. These digital responders use their time and technical skills, as well as their personal networks in an attempt to help mitigate information overload for formal humanitarian aid in the field. This capacity for social media to bring together disparate but like-minded people is also helping fight another enormous challenge: Have you stopped to think how social media is impacting you, your business or your community? This blog series was edited by Shannon M. Read more about the ways social media is changing the world in *The Impact of Digital Content*:

### Chapter 6 : Social Economy Growth Fund: round 1 guidance and application form - racedaydvl.com

*The social economy is composed of civil organizations and networks that are driven by the principles of reciprocity and mutuality in service to the common good - usually through the social control of capital.*

### Chapter 7 : Social Economy & Sustainability Research Network

*Social innovation seeks new answers to social and societal challenges for instance by identifying and delivering new services that improve the quality of life of individuals and communities or new labour market integration processes, new competencies, new jobs, and new forms of participation and inclusion.*

### Chapter 8 : The Social Economy: Building Inclusive Economies - OECD

*Social Enterprises and the Social Economy: One type of social economy organization that is receiving a lot of attention right now is the social enterprise. For example, the Fraser Valley Centre for Social Enterprise is promoting social enterprises.*

### Chapter 9 : The Social Economy in the News | The Canadian Social Economy Hub

*Social economics is a branch of economics that focuses on the relationship between social behavior and economics. It examines how social norms, ethics and other social philosophies influence.*