

PRESS RELEASE

## **SDPI as “a starting point” to assess the contribution of the social economy – a report by the European Commission**

A recent report from the European Commission, titled, *Benchmarking the Socio-Economic Performance of the EU Social Economy*, underscores the pressing need for innovative indicators and methodologies to accurately assess the contributions of the social economy within the EU. The report draws attention to the Sustainable Development Performance Indicators (SDPI) and its platform developed by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) as a foundational tool in this endeavour.

The report examines the current obstacles and emerging opportunities in evaluating and measuring the contributions of the social economy. It notes that past methods of measuring social progress have often overlooked social economy entities, leading to their underrepresentation and exclusion from benefiting fully from such assessments. To address this gap, the report advocates for new, multidimensional indicators and approaches that capture the distinctive contributions of the social economy, emphasizing what it terms the "social economy difference" in comparison to conventional for-profit enterprises and public sector institutions.

In this context, the UNRISD's SDPI framework receives particular praise for its potential to fill these assessment gaps. The report commends the SDPI as a framework “to overcome the limitations of the traditional approach, which fails to take account of the social economy as an agent for sustainable development and at the same time preserves the social economy ability to function as an economic player.” The report points out that the SDPI “identified 12 areas where the social economy makes a strong contribution, such as training vulnerable groups, work integration, attendance at annual general meetings, democratic elections, legitimizing management, and stakeholder participation.”

The European Commission's report further highlights the SDPI's ability to evaluate “sustainability performance and progress at the organizational level,” and suggests that “it can be a starting point for a macro-level analysis of the contributions of the social economy.”

To read more on the European Commission report:

[Benchmarking the socio-economic performance of the EU Social Economy](#)