

SPAIN

The concept of Social Economy

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In Spain the concept of social economy is well known and developed. It includes any economic activity following the principles of:

- Primacy of people over capital
- democratic organisation
- profits distributed with democratic criteria
- primacy of general or collective interest over individual interest
- contribution to social cohesion, solidarity and social responsibility.

According to the Spanish legislation the organisations sharing these principles and recognised as parts of social economy are:

- cooperatives,
- mutual societies,
- associations,
- foundations
- employee-owned enterprises (SAL – sociedades anonimas laborales)
- special employment centres (centros especiales de empleo)
- social insertion companies (empresas de insercion).

It should be underlined that the legal regulations concerning each of these categories may be slightly different in each region (Comunidad autonoma).

Essential figures

Essential figures

There are not updated and specific statistics about social economy as a whole or its families. The most recent data have been published by a research done by CIRIEC for the European Social and Economic Committee:

Co-operatives and other similar accepted forms		Mutual Companies and other similar accepted forms	Associations and other similar accepted forms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All cooperatives (2005: 313.972 jobs 26.146 enterprises) - Production Cooperatives (2005: 108.867 jobs 10.192 enterprises) - Cooperative Banks (2005 : 16.831 jobs 86 enterprises) - Agricultural Cooperatives (2005 : 68.413 jobs 3.659 enterprises) - Consumer Cooperatives (2005 : 12.344 jobs 327 enterprises) - Land workers Cooperatives (2005: 2009 jobs 356 enterprises) - Services Cooperatives (2005: 8.207 jobs 416 enterprises) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fishing Cooperatives (2005: 154 jobs 16 enterprises) - Transport Cooperatives: (2005: 854 jobs 214 enterprises) - Health Cooperatives (2005: 997 jobs 1 enterprises) - Education Cooperatives (2005: 10147 jobs 273 enterprises) <i>Other accepted forms:</i> - Labour Societies (2005 : 125.646 jobs 20.279 enterprises) - Labour special entities (2005: 47.370 jobs 1573 enterprises) - Labour insertion companies (2005: 1.618 jobs 60 enterprises) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mutual Societies (2001 : 3.548 jobs ** 487 enterprises) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Voluntary Associations (2001 : 233.123 jobs ** 123.228 entities) -Public Utility declared Associations (2001 : 22.992 jobs ** 1.277 entities) -Singular entities (ONCE, Cruz Roja and Cáritas) (2001 : 49.011 jobs ** 3 entities) - Foundations (2001 : 74.934 jobs ** 2.490 entities)
488.606 jobs 48.058 enterprises		3.548 jobs ** 487 enterprises	380.060 jobs * 126.998 entities

(*) Source: Ministerio de Trabajo y Asuntos Sociales, CEPES, García Delgado (2005) y CIRIEC-España (Observatorio español de la economía social).

** Equivalent Full time Jobs

**The horizontal representative
organisations: CEPES**

CEPES

Confederación Empresarial Española de Economía Social

Short history

The Spanish Social Business Confederation of Social Economy (CEPES, in the Spanish acronym) established in 1992, is a business confederation at national level with an inter sectoral nature that makes it a large institution able to establishing itself as a platform for institutional dialogue with the public authorities.

Members

CEPES, as an organisation that brings together several economic activities existing under the concept of Social Economy Enterprise, is made up of 25 organisations. All of them are national or regional confederations and social economy business groups that represent the interests of Cooperative Societies, employee-owned enterprises (SAL – sociedades anónimas laborales), Mutual societies, Social Insertion Companies, and Special employment Centres with more than 200 support structures at regional level.

Funding mechanism

The majority of CEPES financial resources come from CEPES members, while some Additional Funding is granted on the basis of a specific agreement signed with the Ministry of Labour. Specific projects are funded by additional public sources at national and international level.

CEPES

Objectives

CEPES acts to be a reference for the concept of social economy creating a unique platform in order to represent all the association based on solidarity action, analysing and proposing positive actions in favour of the development of social economy, defending social cohesion and insertion policies, developing training for entrepreneurship and providing tools for internationalization of business.

Activities

- CEPES main activities are to:
- increase social economy visibility at external level (towards mass-media, academic world and entrepreneurial community);
- represent and defend all its members interests working as a platform for institutional dialogue with the public authorities;
- spread the knowledge of the social economy in Europe, Mediterranean Countries and Latin America;
- create a strategic alliance with the organisations representing the civil society;
- to provide information on legal, fiscal and funding issues to its members;
- to support its members' activities;

CEPES

Present and future significant actions

The present strategic axes of CEPES action are the following:

- to ameliorate internal cohesion among members;
- to increase external visibility and recognition;
- to favour the development of positive and fruitful relationships with the other social partners and public institutions;
- to favour the development of the social economy through the participation in the Observatory of SMEs and in the Spanish Social and Economic Committee.

The sectoral federations:
Confesal, Coceta, Fedei

CONFESAL

Confederación Nacional de Sociedades Laborales

Short history

The origin of CONFESAL date to the 80s when the first workers' owned companies (SAL) were created in the four more industrialized regions of Spain: Catalonia, Navarra, Basque and Asturias. Afterwards, these four companies decided to join together and work for the creation of national confederation. Finally, in 1987, Confesal (National Confederation of Workers' Owned Companies) was established.

CONFESAL

Members

CONFESAL reunites Associations, Federations and Workers' Owned Companies all over Spain:

ACEL - Agrupación de Empresas Laborales y de Economía Social de Cantabria

AELIB - Associació d'empreses Laborals de les Illes Balears

AEMTA - Organización de Sociedades Laborales de Castilla-León

AEXEL - Agrupación extremeña de Empresas Laborales

AGALEL - Agrupación galega de Empresas Laborais

AMUSAL - Asociación de Empresas de Economía Social de la Región de Murcia

ANEL - Asociación navarra de Empresas Laborales

AREL- Agrupación riojana de Empresas Laborales y de Economía Social

ASALMA - Agrupación de Sociedades Laborales de Madrid

ASATA - Agrupación de Sociedades asturianas de trabajo asociado

ASES - Asociación aragonesa de Sociedades Laborales

ASESCAN - Asociación de Empresas de Economía Social de Canarias

ASLE - Agrupación de Sociedades Laborales de Euskadi

FEANSAL - Federación empresarial andaluza de Sociedades Laborales

FECMES - Federación empresarial de Economía Social de Castilla-La Mancha

FESALC - Federación de Sociedades Laborales de Cataluña

FEVES - Federación Empresas valencianas de Economía Social

CONFESAL associates 20.000 enterprises and almost 130.000 workers.

CONFESAL

Funding mechanism

CONFESAL is a non-profit organisation and its activities are financed by its members fees (associated members' dues are calculated by the number of votes) or by funding coming from several organisations:

- the costs of infrastructures are covered by the Ministry of Labour (Directorate-General for the Social Economy)
- other kinds of funding depend on the activities (for example publishing) or on the specific projects.

Objectives

CONFESAL main purpose is to develop the social economy by increasing competitiveness of the existing enterprises and by creating new ones. In particular, CONFESAL aims to:

- Represent and defend social, entrepreneurial and economic interests of Spanish workers' owned companies (SALs);
- Alert public administration and private entities to the main economic, political and social items concerning SALs' activities;
- Develop relationships and exchanges between similar organisations, namely within the social economy;
- Raise awareness of the public opinion on a new model of entrepreneurial organisation such as the SAL;
- Coordinate the Federations and Associations of SALs in order to supply and distribute their services to all members.

CONFESAL

Activities

CONFESAL is committed to work in several fields, such as:

- ✓ Communication: CONFESAL publishes the journal “Economía Social”, distributed to associated enterprises, territorial organisations, universities, public administrations and private citizens related to social economy.
- ✓ Relations and cooperation with several institutional bodies: CONFESAL cooperates with public institutions and private organisations to promote the SAL entrepreneurial model; furthermore, as a social economy organisation, CONFESAL participates and cooperates with institutional bodies and social agencies, such as: Confederación Empresarial Española de la Economía Social (CEPES), Consejo Económico y Social (CES); Confederación Europea de Cooperativas de Producción CECOP. Finally, CONFESAL signed agreements with two important trade unions like UGT (Unión General de Trabajadores) and CC.OO (Confederación Sindical de comisiones obreras) in order to augment its knowledge on the following issues: working risks prevention, education, promotion of workers’ companies, international cooperation and employment creation.
- ✓ Development of Workers’ Owned Enterprises model throughout new enterprises and employment creation. CONFESAL aims to develop SALs’ model in Spain and in other countries, within the European Union and in the rest of the World, especially in Latin America.

CONFESAL

Present and future significant actions

Currently, Confesal is working on a European project: “Social dialogue as a tool to fight against Age Discrimination in Employment; enhancing the ability of all age groups to participate in employment and employment-related activities”.

The main goal of this project is to contribute to initiate a social dialogue at the European level on active ageing between social economy actors and national social partners.

This project can therefore be presented as a kind of “avant-garde” of the social dialogue at the European level in the sector of the social economy through the participation of social partners actively involved in national social dialogue.

COCETA

Confederación Española de Cooperativas de Trabajo Asociado

Short history

The Spanish Confederation of Associated Work Co-operatives (COCETA) was established in 1986 in order to raise awareness on workers' cooperatives and to promote their growth and development.

Members

COCETA is formed by 15 Unions and Federations of Workers' Cooperatives. They are active in the following Spanish Communities: Andalucía, Aragón, Asturias, Castilla la Mancha, Castilla Leon, Catalonia, Basque, Extremadura, Galicia, Islas Balearic Island, Canaries, La Rioja, Madrid, Murcia and Valencia.

At the present time, COCETA includes almost 18.000 associated workers' cooperatives and more than 260.000 workers.

Funding mechanism

COCETA activities are financed by members' fees and State grants. Other kinds of funding depend on the activities or on specific European projects.

Objectives

COCETA main objectives are to represent and defend members' interests in the political, social and economic arena. COCETA coordinates entrepreneurial policy actions at national level, facilitating cooperation between cooperatives (inter-cooperation) in order to foster their development.

COCETA

Activities

COCETA aims to:

- Strengthen institutional external relations and contacts with other national cooperative and social economy organisations in order to carry on common actions to develop the sector;
- Promote collaboration agreements and protocols with universities on training for cooperatives;
- Increase the use of management methodologies helping cooperatives' performances and competitiveness and to draft a sectoral development plan.

Present and future significant actions

At the moment, Coceta is working on different significant actions and projects:

- Training dedicated to people willing to work in cooperatives.
- Coceta encourages the creation and the development of cooperatives and with this objective, Coceta stimulates public authorities to take new measures. These measures should facilitate the management and improve the competitiveness of the cooperative enterprises.
- Legal field: Coceta is working at the national and European level in the analysis and the development of legislative measures which can affect working cooperatives, in order to try to improve its conditions and development tools.
- Coceta has been involved as partner in the project Leonardo da Vinci UCE (European Cooperative University) in Network, whose promoter is the French organization of College Cooperatif and in which also participates the University of Warsaw as partner. In this Project, Coceta has been able to work jointly for the creation of a space in network directed to cooperative pedagogy training.

FAEDEI

Federación de Asociaciones Empresariales de Empresas de Inserción

Short history

FAEDEI officially starts to work on January 1st 2008. Its predecessor, FEDEI (Spanish Federation of Integration Enterprises) was constituted in 1998 and had a consolidated experience. Three are three key events that marked FAEDEI history:

- The agreement between CONPEEI and FEDEI signed in November 2005 and publicised during the “Fifth Integration Enterprises Days” organised by FEDEI.
- In May 2007 the representatives of the associations of 11 regions (comunidades autónomas: Aragón, Andalucía, Canarias, Castilla-La Mancha, Castilla-León, Cataluña, Extremadura, Madrid, Navarra, País Valenciano and País Vasco) signed the constitutional act of the Federation of Entrepreneurial Associations of Integration Enterprises. The act gave the task of creating the Federation to four already existing federations, lets’ say AREI in Aragón, EIDA in Andalucía, ADEICAN in Canary Islands and AMEI in Madrid. The federation was registered on July 11, 2007, under the Law 19/1977.
- The General Assembly held in October 2007 approved the cessation of FEDEI and the transfer of its task to the new federation.

FAEDEI

Members

- ADEICAN, Asociación Canaria de Empresas de Inserción
- AEIGA, Asociación de Empresas de Inserción de Galicia
- AMEI, Asociación Madrileña de Empresas de Inserción
- AREI, Asociación Aragonesa de Empresas de Inserción
- EIDA, Asociación de Empresas de Inserción de Andalucía

There are also other organisations which participate to the federation, without being members:

- Asociación de Empresas de Inserción del País Vasco
- AVEI, Asociación Valenciana de Empresas de Inserción
- FECLEI, Federación Castellano-Leonesa de Empresas de Inserción
- Centros de Inserción Social de Navarra
- ACEI, asociación Catalana de Empresas de Inserción,
- AIRES, Associació Intersectorial de Recuperador i Empreses Socials de Catalunya.

FAEDEI

Funding mechanism

The main financial resources come from membership fees. Since last year, FAEDEI receives also some core funding from public sources. Projects are funded by national and local authorities.

Objectives

FEDEI represents its members' interests at a national and international level. It promotes the role of social integration enterprises as a tool to fight social exclusion and to create employment.

FAEDEI

Activities

FEDEI aims to:

- Represent and defend interests of peoples who live in situation of social exclusion;
- Promote and harmonize the work integration enterprises' interests at a national and international level;
- Raise awareness of the general public on the role of social integration enterprises;
- Collaborate with institutions and other organisations in order to create a favourable environment for social integration enterprises;
- Claim attention on social work integration to Local Governments;
- Inform and advise its members about their interests;
- Participate in the social dialogue and negotiation of work conditions and contracts with public authorities and trade unions;
- Promote work integration enterprises committed to create new jobs;
- Promote information exchange between its members.

FAEDEI

Present and future significant actions

- Consolidation of integration enterprises through tools and measures that facilitate the integration of people at risk of social exclusion in transitional employment:
 1. Law on integration enterprises
 2. Exemption for integration enterprises of the “de minimis” regulation.
 3. Development of regulations to support integration enterprises.
 4. Follow up of processes of work integration within enterprises.
 5. Creation of protected markets.
 6. Training.
- To be the institutional reference point for all the public administrations and bodies working on inclusion in order to create a favourable environment for all the organisations working with social excluded groups and a common space of social relations and synergies.
- Promotion of the association model at national, regional and local level.