BACKGROUND RESEARCH

IO1

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Introduction

1. About the CASYE project

The CASYE (Cultural and Social Youth Entrepreneurship) project aims to develop innovative, CPD accredited tools to support marginalised young people in becoming entrepreneurs in the social and cultural sectors. This will be done through the capacity building and certification of youth workers and other professionals by giving them new approaches to support and strengthen their work, improve their skills, and increase the quality of their interventions.

The goal of CASYE is to support youth entrepreneurship in the creative sector through the development and piloting a social economy model, with an emphasis on empowering young people with fewer opportunities (social obstacles, geographical obstacles and/or economic obstacles). Through the CASYE programme, the development of a sustainable ecosystem for supporting youth entrepreneurs in the creative European cultural and social sectors will be created.

Given the powerful influence of technology and virtual media on the young, especially the adolescent population, it is important to develop methodologies that are adapted to the current situations in which they are living. The effectiveness of youth work methodologies and tools are closely related to the ability to motivate the recipient and promote their participation in the proposed activities. CASYE aims to help youth workers reach young audiences who have hunger for social and cultural entrepreneurship through actions that are widely followed by youth, and which directly and indirectly influence them and their behaviour. Our project will empower youth workers to upgrade their current work with young people, while also validating this new knowledge through the provision of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Certificates.

The project aims to product and pilot two Intellectual Outputs and one training event:

- The CASYE Mentoring Model Programme for youth workers
- CASYE Implementation Handbook
- Short-term joint staff training event with 12 delegates

2. The partnership

The Cultural & Social Youth Entrepreneurship (CASYE) project brings together a strategic partnership of four organisations from the UK, Belgium, Italy and Spain to address a number of sectorial and horizontal priorities for Erasmus.

- IARS, UK
- DIESIS Network, Belgium
- Fondazione Triulza, Italy
- Caminos, Spain

3. About IO1 - CASYE Mentoring Model Programme for youth workers

The first outcome of the CASYE project, the Intellectual Output 1 (IO1), is an active inclusion support programme for youth workers aiming at helping them to bring out the existing, hidden and latent talents of youth and engaging them in co-produced social innovations in the cultural sector. The model intends to develop a sustainable ecosystem in supporting youth entrepreneurs in the CCIs.

The intellectual output 1 (IO1):

INTENDS to be a starting point and to supply with the key elements needed to develop a quality group mentoring programme for youth; engaging them in social innovations in the CCIs.

IS CUSTOMISED to suit the specific features of the different communities in which it is situated but incorporates common 'core' components, which result from the articulated process of good practice exchange and scalability assessment during the first project year.

IS ADDRESSED to youth workers and contains the fundamental principles, the modus operandi, and the guidelines to support youth entrepreneurship and social innovation in the field of culture and creative industries.

The model will be useful for mentors who assist both individual entrepreneurs and social enterprises, which can develop their activity and include social innovation in the business model and tackle social cohesion in local communities through cultural activities.

4. About this document

This document is the first part of Intellectual Output 1. It provides the background analysis carried by the partners at national level – in UK, Belgium, Italy and Spain, a collection of 12 good practices and policy recommendations.

The second part of the Intellectual Output 1 is the Mentoring Model Programme framework.

Methodology

1. Collection of data and topics covered

The project partners come from very different realities, mirroring different situations in terms of population and density. We asked them to provide background data at both national level, and also at regional/local level (when it is possible). In this way, we were able to develop a detailed analysis of needs of the communities involved in the project.

In order to have a background analysis about "Youth: the situation, the needs and the challenges", we asked the partners to focus on the following aspects:

- **General socio-economic overview about the country**
- **Demographic trends and other relevant data about youth** that gave an insight into the past, current and future situation of our youngest fellow citizens. The objective was to shed the light on what it means 'to be young in Europe today', ranging from attending school and participating in sport and leisure activities, to leaving the parental home and entering the professional life. This section shows some demographic trends about youth and gives an overview about the role and the needs of the young generation in each country. We recommend including the following information in these chapters:
    - General youth demographic trends
    - Youth and Education
    - Youth and Labour market: access and participation
    - Living conditions such as: young people living in households with their parents, at risk of poverty and/ or at risk of social exclusion, young people with a migrant background, young people living in suburbs or rural areas
    - Digital world
    - What are the main challenges and needs?
    - What are the enablers for promoting the youth empowerment in your country?
- **Creative Cultural Industries and Social Economy enterprises.** Each partner includes a brief description of the Creative Cultural sectors and the Social Economy enterprises in the country and the role/ involvement of young people in it
- **A short paragraph about existing mentoring programmes in each country.**

2. Type of sources used

The sources used to develop this report were:

- Official statistics published from national institutes or regional authorities
- Official publications issued by local agencies and municipalities
- Reports and studies published by NGOs, think tanks, universities or further local institutions
- Interviews, articles, documentaries or further studies released by experts of the sector or professionals covering the main topics.

UNITED KINGDOM

Background research

1. UK

a. General socio-economic overview of the UK

Much of the UK`s recent socio-economic history has been characterized by a series of shocks. The UK is one of the world's largest economies as measured by GDP and Purchasing Power, however a combination of the 2008 crisis, uncertainty around Brexit, and finally the COVID-19 crisis has significantly affected growth.[1]

The 2008 crash caused the UK economy to shrink after 16 years of growth, taking five years to return to its pre-rescission size. Of particular interest in understanding the UK's economic and political climate is the fact that even as unemployment has fallen, real wage earnings have barely risen since 2008; seeing a brief rise from 2015-16 before being to fall again. Because of inflation and the rising cost of goods this means that for many wages have effectively fallen over this period.[2]

In terms of specific details regarding Covid's effect on the UK economy, analysis suggests that the UK's economic decline has been steeper than both that of the EU and the US, with the UK economy being 9.7% below pre-pandemic levels in July-September 2020. These effects are in addition to potential damage to many areas of UK industry caused by a loss of trade with the EU. The manufacturing sector alone, which accounted for 17.41% of UK GDP in 2019 conducted 49% of its trade with the EU.[3]

b. Being young today in the UK

Many of the economic downturns mentioned above had an outsized negative effect on young people. The number of young people who are designated as NEET (not in employment, education or training) has been hovering around 15% since 2002, and whilst it has been a declining trend, the COVID-19 crisis appears to have affected that decline. Between October and December 2020, the decline had stopped, and the number of NEET young people was up 0.6 percent compared to the previous year to a total of approximately 797,000 young people.[4]

Moreover, youth unemployment has increased by 13% since the start of the pandemic. More troublingly, looking to the future we have reasonable grounds for thinking that young people will be experiencing the knock-on effects of Covid-related economic downturn for the next few years. Employment prospects for young graduates are projected to be 13% lower than usual for the next three years. Indeed, further evidence for the economic precarity

[1] Office Of National Statistics, The 2008 recession 10 years on, first published 30th of April 2018
[2] Office Of National Statistics, The 2008 recession 10 years on, first published 30th of April 2018
[3] Impact of Covid-19 and Brexit for the UK economy, TUC analysis, Published December 2020
[4] Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), UK: March 2021, Office for National Statistics, Published March 2021

of young people can be found in the research which shows that a quarter of 20-34-year-olds still live with their parents, a number that has been steadily rising for the past decade.[5]

This corresponds with research into home ownership among young people, which indicates that there had been a fall in the number of 16-24 years olds among first time buyers from 21.3% in 1995-96 to 7.5% in 2015-16.[6]

It should be noted as well that those young people who are in employment will be subject to the same wage stagnation described above. In conjunction with the data about the social and creative sectors below, the present economic situation of the UK demonstrates the precise need for a program like CASYE. The precarity of employment among young people combined with the poor wages for those employed creates a gap for social enterprise to act as either supplementary income to make up for low income or hours, or possibly as a workable substitute to more traditional employment.

c. Creative Cultural Industries and Social Economy Enterprises

The cultural and creative sectors in the UK make a substantial contribution to the economy. As of 2018 the size of the creative sector was £32.3bn, with film, TV, and music making up three fifths of that sector. Indeed in 2018 the sector experienced growth five times larger than the UK economy as a whole.[7] Clearly the creative sector represents an active and productive part of the UK economy. It should be noted that in addition to generating a profit themselves, creative undertakings in the UK are also in receipt of public funds. Arts Council England is one of the principal bodies responsible for distributing public funds to the cultural and creative sectors and invests roughly £407 million per year. It should of course be noted that in the more recent term the cultural and creative sectors have been among the worst affected by the COVID pandemic, which saw a 44 percent reduction in the sector's monthly GDP output during June of 2020 compared to three months prior.[8]

Likewise, the UK has a thriving social economy. As early as 2005 there were around 60,000 social enterprises operating in the UK with a total turnover of 18 billion pounds.[9] According to data by Social Enterprise UK (one of the leading authorities on social enterprises), in 2019 52 percent of social enterprises grew their turnover in the previous 12 months and that 42 percent were under five years old. This indicates that the sector is growing in both size and value. Moreover, their data further reflected the commercial viability of the sector since 77% of enterprises who provided data made between 76% and 100% of their income via trade. According to that same research about 10% of social enterprises operate in the cultural and creative sectors.[10]

A final interesting note on the creative industries that will doubtless by relevant to CASYE is not merely the economic state of these industries but young people's attitudes towards them. In particular research conducted

[5] Youth unemployment statistics, House Of Lords Research Briefing, Published February 2021
[6] Rise and Fall: The shift in household growth rates since the 1990s, CIVITAS, Daniel Bentley and Alex McCallum, February 2019
[7] UK's Creative Industries contributes almost £13 million to the UK economy every hour, Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport , Published February 6th 2020
[8] Covid-19: Impact on the UK cultural sector, House Of Lords Library, Published September 2020
[9] The Social Economy in the UK, Roger Spear, The Open University, Published 2011
[10] CAPITALISM IN CRISIS? Transforming our economy for people and planet, Social Enterprise 10 UK, Published 2019

in London found that, whilst many young people were motivated to try and join this sector, there are high levels of pessimism about their prospects. Young people have grown to accept that poor to non-existent pay, unreliable employment, and irregular freelance work are simply expected parts of trying to break into the industry.[11] This is something that a potential mentoring programme will need to address.

d. Mentoring programmes in the UK

Most sectors in the UK, commercial or otherwise, put a premium on development and mentoring. Further to this there are also many NGOs which have mentoring, in particular of young people and often of disadvantaged young people, as their primary focus.

One such organisation is Reach Out a charity which focuses its attention on raising the academic attainment, aspirations, and potential of disadvantaged young people. Of particular interest in their particular approach is the holistic view they take, emphasising the various different aspects of character such as confidence, good judgment, self-control, and staying power. Whilst no doubt for the purposes of CASYE specific skills will be required, it will be important not to lose sight of the value of these general positive attributes that mentoring can help strengthen.

In a similar vein the social mobility NGO Brightside provides online mentoring to young people across the UK. They too focus on traits like confidence and resilience but also specific goal setting and how to turn to others for advice and support. They make for a particularly interesting example for our purposes in part because of the online focus of their approach-which it might prove beneficial to try and integrate into our own mentoring programme. At the very least, it is important to consider how our programme might be adaptable to being implemented online if needed.

[11] Self-Made Sector: Working in the creative industries, Research report by Young London and Roundhouse, published July 2019

BELGIUM

2. Belgium

a. General socio-economic overview of Belgium

Overall, Belgium's economic environment and employment growth provide opportunities regarding the labour market participation and competitiveness. Nevertheless, the COVID-19 had an impact on the economy and on the market. The economy of Belgium was severely hit by the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, as domestic demand suffered from restrictive measures and a large drop in confidence. Consequently: GDP is expected to contract by 6.2% in 2020. After a deep contraction in the first half of 2020, exports and imports are projected to recover quickly as global trade recovers and reflecting Belgium's position as a trade hub.[12]

Table 1. Economic Forecast for Belgium[13]

Indicators	2019	2020	2021	2022
GDP growth (%, yoy)	1,7	-6,2	3,9	3,1
Inflation (%, yoy)	1,2	0,4	1,8	1,8

Thankfully, according to the Statbel, the Belgian statistical office, the results of the Labour Force Survey for 2020 show that the overall impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the general population remains limited. The number of employed persons decreased by 29,000 (-0.6 %) between 2019 and 2020. Furthermore, the number of unemployed persons increased by 8,800 (+3.2 %). The unemployment rate of people aged 15-64 slightly increased from 5.4 % in 2019 to 5.6 % in 2020. It has to be noted that the evolution of the labour market situation is worse in some subgroups than others. For instance vulnerable groups, such as young people, low-skilled and medium-skilled people and people with a non-EU nationality, were more hit by unemployment. Moreover, there is an increase in the number of unemployed persons among people with a diploma of higher education (+13.8 %).[14] In December 2020, the employment rate of people aged 20-64 increased to 69.5 %; while the unemployment rate of people aged 15-64 decreases from 6.2 % to 5.2 %.[15]

[12] European Commission, European Economic Forecast – Winter 2021 (Interim), 2021 https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/economy-finance/ip144_en_1.pdf
[13] European Commission, Economic forecast for Belgium, 2021 https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-performance-and-forecasts/economic-performance-country/belgium/economic-forecast-belgium_en
[14] Statbel, Overall, the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on the Belgian labour market in 2020 remains limited, 2021, https://statbel.fgov.be/en/themes/work-training/labour-market/employment-and-unemployment
[15] Statbel, Monthly figures on the labour market, 2020, https://statbel.fgov.be/en/themes/datalab/monthly-figures-labour-market

Some differences can be noted between the regions of Belgium. Indeed, in June 2020, a new rising trend was noted in employment levels in the Brussels-Capital and Flanders regions. Employment stood at 75.5% in Flanders and 61.7% in Brussels, marking a return to the levels recorded pre-crisis. In Wallonia, employment rose slightly in April and May, before falling to 62.7% in June. In Flanders, unemployment remains low, at 2.9%, whereas in Brussels and Wallonia, the trend is clearly upward. In June 2020, unemployment stood at 12.9% in Brussels and 7.7% in Wallonia.[16]

In general, Belgians are more satisfied with their lives than the OECD average and rate their general satisfaction with a 6.9 grade on average, higher than the OECD average of 6.5.[17] This satisfaction level could be explained by the facts that Belgium ranks above the average in work-life balance, income and wealth, civic engagement, education and skills, subjective well-being, jobs and earnings, health status, housing, social connections, and personal security.

b. Being young today in Belgium

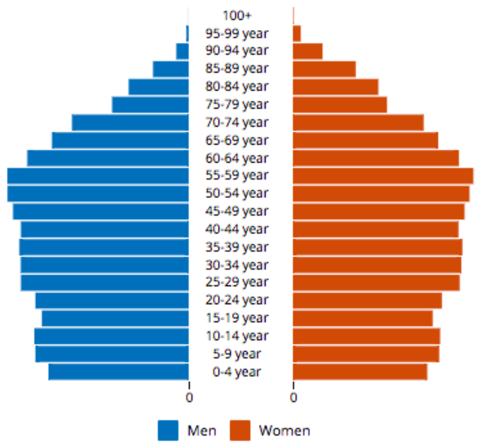
Demographic trends

On 1st January 2020, the resident population in Belgium was 11,492,641, 51 % of which were women (or 5,832,577 in absolute figures) and 49 % were men (or 5,660,0649). The Belgian population has grown by 61,235 people, or 0.54% on a yearly basis, which is in line with the growth of previous years.[18] The population growth is mainly driven by two demographic factors:

- the positive "natural balance": more births than deaths;
- the positive migration balance: more immigrations than emigrations.[19]

[16] European Commission – EURES, Labour market information – Belgium, 2020 https://ec.europa.eu/eures/main.jsp?countryId=BE&acro=lmi&showRegion=true&lang=en&mode=text&regionId=BE2&nuts2Code=null&nuts3Code=null&catId=2595
[17] https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/2018-european-semester-country-report-belgium-en.pdf
[18] Statbel, Strucutre of the population, 2021 https://statbel.fgov.be/en/themes/population/structure-population
[19] Statbel, Strucutre of the population, 2021 https://statbel.fgov.be/en/themes/population/structure-population

Population pyramid of Belgium, the Regions and the Provinces



Graphic: Population pyramid of Belgium[20]

Education

In 2019, 47% of 25-34-year-olds had a tertiary degree in Belgium compared to 45% on average across OECD countries. Women perform much better than men in this area. In Belgium, 54.4% of women aged between 30 and 34 have a higher education diploma, compared to 40.6 % of men of the same age group. Among the total population aged 15 and over, 32.7% have a higher education diploma.[21]

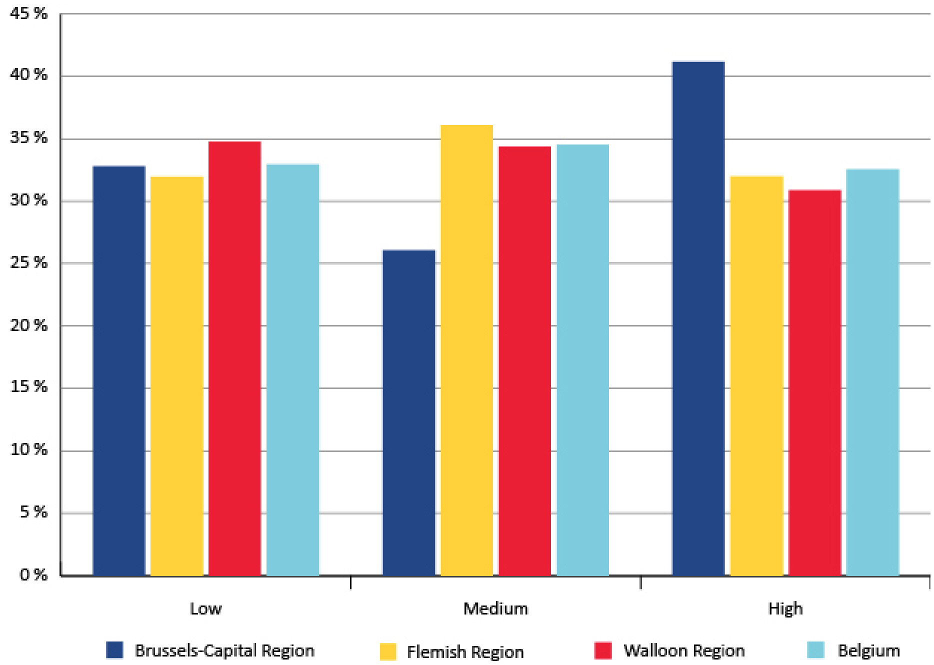
The Brussels-Capital Region has a very comprehensive school and university infrastructure. Among the three Belgian regions, the Brussels Region has the highest percentage of residents with a diploma of higher education. In all regions, one-third of the population has little or no qualifications.

In Belgium, in 2017, 25-64-year-olds with a tertiary degree with income from full-time, full-year employment earned 39% more than full-time, full-year workers with upper secondary education compared to 54% on average across OECD countries.[22]

Although Belgium has good overall education performance, high educational inequalities exist[23]. Children with a disadvantaged background, including those with a migrant background, do not have equal opportunities to access high quality education. The proportion of graduates in science, technology and mathematics is one of the lowest in the EU.

[20] Statbel, Strucutre of the population, 2021 https://statbel.fgov.be/en/themes/population/structure-population
[21] Statbel, 2019, https://statbel.fgov.be/en
[22] GPS education – Belgium, 2021
https://gpseducation.oecd.org/CountryProfile?primaryCountry=BEL&treshold=10&topic=EO
[23] https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/2018-european-semester-country-report-belgium-en.pdf

Graphic: Breakdown of the population (25 years of age and older) of each region by level of education, in 2016



Source: 2016 Labour Force Survey, Statbel (Directorate-General Statistics - Statistics Belgium), calculations by BISA

The percentage of people aged 18 to 24 who did not complete upper secondary education and who are no longer involved in any form of education or training has been on a downward trend for years in Belgium. In 2020, the percentage of people aged 18-24 who left school early was 8.1%, the lowest percentage in the last 20 years.

However, the percentage remains above 9.5% for men and reached 10.2% in 2020, compared to 5.9% for women.[24]

Youth employment

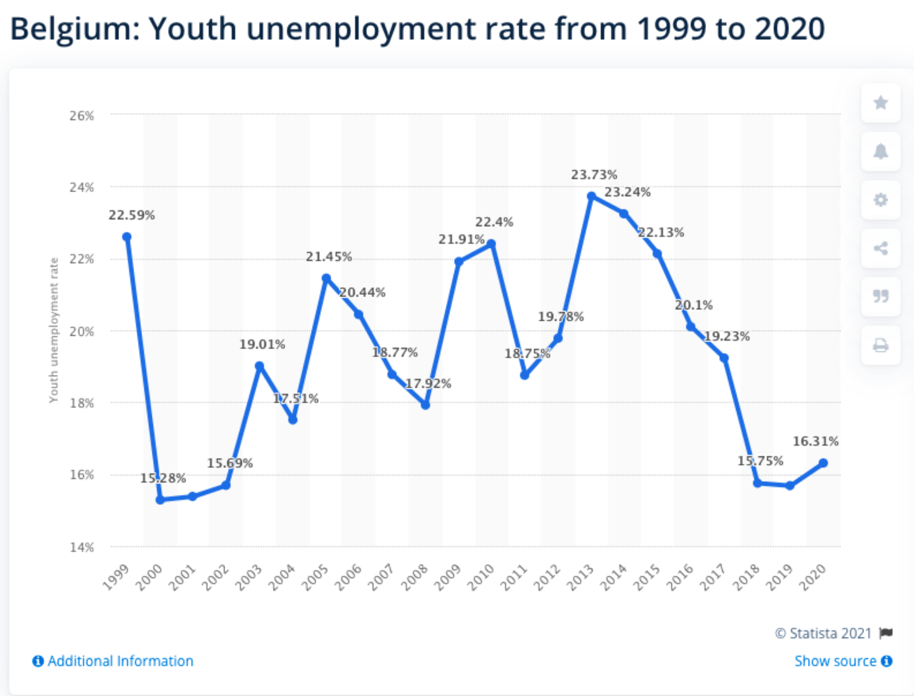
In 2020, the youth (15-24) unemployment rate was at 16,31%. [25] Moreover, the NEET (young people Neither in Employment nor in Education or Training) represent 9.2% of the 15-24 aged population in Belgium in 2020. The NEET indicator is 9.8% for men and 8.6% for women.[26]

[24] Statbel, Early school leavers, 2021 https://statbel.fgov.be/en/themes/work-training/training-and-education/early-school-leavers

[25] Statista, Belgium: Youth unemployment rate from 1999 to 2020, 2020 https://www.statista.com/statistics/811674/youth-unemployment-rate-in-belgium/

[26] Statbel, In 2020, 9.2% of people aged 15-24 were not in education, employment or training, 2021, https://statbel.fgov.be/en/themes/work-training/training-and-education/neet

Graphic: Belgium Youth unemployment rate from 1999 to 2020[27]



c. Creative Cultural Industries and Social Economy Enterprises[28]

The social economy landscape

Belgium has a very specific and unique political asset, which is why the definition of social enterprise slightly changes from region to region. In fact, there is not a real consensus in Belgium as to what constitutes a social enterprise and, more precisely, where the boundaries should be placed around this notion.[29]

[27] Statista, Belgium: Youth unemployment rate from 1999 to 2020, 2020 https://www.statista.com/statistics/811674/youth-unemployment-rate-in-belgium/

[28] For the development of this part, we based our research on the Erasmus+ project YSEH, The Y- SEH kit for start-up and management of social enterprises, 2020. The document can be accessed here: http://www.diesis.coop/the-y-seh-kit-for-start-up-and-management-of-social-enterprises/

29 European Commission, Social enterprises and their eco-systems: A European mapping report. Updated country report: Belgium, 2016

The definition of social enterprises changes from the regions:

- In Wallonia and Brussels

In Wallonia and Brussels, a social enterprise is defined as the more entrepreneurial subset of the social economy, or as a synonym for the social economy. It is seen as any economic activity developed by associations, cooperatives, mutuals, SFS (société à finalité sociale) and foundations that do not aim for profit maximisation.[30]

- In Flanders

'Social enterprise-social entrepreneurship' and 'social economy' are not used as synonyms. Indeed, social economy is legally defined as a set of 'social entrepreneurial values' developed within various organisational forms and activity sectors. Social economy appears as one sub-set of social enterprise and social entrepreneurship in Flanders.[31]

We can identify three ideal types of social enterprise in Belgium:[32]

Ideal type	Model 1: Entrepreneurial approach to general interest	Model 2: Combining mutual and general interest	Model 3: Combining private and general interest
Underlying dynamics	General interest	Mutual interest + general interest	Private interest + general interest
Social aim	Inherent in the statutes	Either present from start or added to mutual interest	Variable; Challenge of social aim demonstration and prioritization
Economic dimension	Under certain conditions (e.g., >25% market resources)	OK	OK
Participatory governance	Democracy OK Challenge of participation (members ≠ beneficiaries)	Democracy OK Participation OK (members = beneficiaries)	Democracy and participation not inherent in this model
Privileged organisational vehicle	Non-profit, foundation or company with social purpose	Cooperative, mutual or company with social purpose	Various (incl. business and independent worker)

30 https://www.econosoc.be/

31 https://www.socialeeconomie.be

32 The table if from European Commission, Social enterprises and their eco-systems: A European mapping report. Updated country report: Belgium, 2016

Main resources	Public subsidies with growing public and private contracts	Mixed incomes	Mixed incomes
Boundary line	Economic dimension	Social dimension (general interest)	Social dimension & democratic/ participatory governance

Most of the Belgian social enterprises operate as associations. Less numerous, but still with a high relevance, are foundations, mutuals, cooperatives and 'social purpose companies' – the last two categories often being combined with each other.[33]

Table 2. Growth rated on social enterprises and workers in Belgium, 2020[34]

Table 5. Growth rates of social enterprises and workers

Growth rates	Number
Number of social enterprises	**18,004**
Growth since 2011	stable
Number of workers (FTEs)	**371,478**
Growth since 2011	+9%
Associations (89%)	350,084
Foundations (3.7%)	10,723
Cooperatives and/or social purpose companies (3.6%)	18,039
Mutuals (3.7%)	14,161

Youth working in the field of social economy

As you can see from the graphic below, the percentage of people for the following ages working in the field of social economy, in 2016, are:

- Less than 20 years old: around 0,2%
- Between 20-24 years old: around 4,2%
- Between 25-29 years old: around 13%
- Between 30-34 years old: around 13,2%

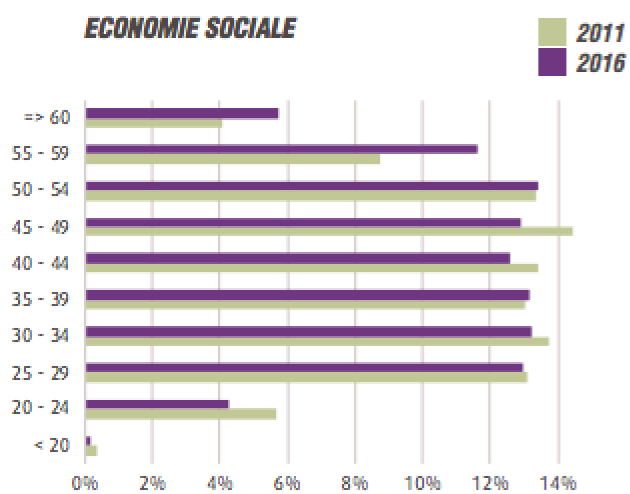
33 European Commission, Social enterprises and their eco-systems: A European mapping report. Updated country report: Belgium, 2020 https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/988e9b5a-73ec-11ea-a07e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-202774723

34 Source: European Commission, Social enterprises and their eco-systems: A European mapping report. Updated country report: Belgium, 2020 https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/988e9b5a-73ec-11ea-a07e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-202774723

Therefore, the young people (18-35) working in the field of social economy in Belgium is the sum of these number, which is around 30,6 %. This number is encouraging, because it shows that almost one third of the people working in this field are young.

However, there is an increasing trend in the proportion of workers aged 50 and over between 2011 and 2016, in the social economy (from 26.2% to 30.7%).[35]

Graphic: Workers of the social economy[36]



Cultural industries

In Belgium, there are 11,034 social economy enterprises. This number has grown by 8% in 2015. Out of this number, 1,632 are involved in the arts and creative sectors (14.8%). The creative economic development in 2015 increased to 75% compared to 37% in 2007. However, a larger creative economy occurs in Brussels than in other regions of Belgium; this may be the result of Brussels urban character, where the creative economy appears to have a different composition than in Flanders and Wallonia.[37] Actually, arts, entertainment and recreation enterprises provide a higher share of jobs in Brussels (5.2%) than in Wallonia (4.3%)[38]. While in Flanders alone, the Creative Industries represent 3% of the total added value and creates work for 13.5% of the self-employed (main job).[39]

[35] Observatoire de l'économie sociale, Les cahiers de l'Observatoire (Numéro 14), 2018. http://www.observatoire-es.be/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/OES_LesCahiers14_WEB_pg.pdf
[36] Source : Observatoire de l'économie sociale, Les cahiers de l'Observatoire (Numéro 14), 2018
[37] Lazzaro, Elisabetta. Studies on Culture and Creative economics in Belgium (Brussels, Flanders and Wallonia). 2018.
[38] Costantini, Anastasia. (2018). Social economy enterprises and cultural and creative industries - Observations and best practices. 10.13140/RG.2.2.24974.20800.
[39] Flanders DC Knowledge Centre – Antwerp Management School

<u>Table: Fields of the social economy[40]</u>

Sections		Wallonie	Bruxelles	Total en 2016
A	Agriculture, Sylviculture et Pêche	100	2	102
C	Industries manufacturières	36	2	38
D	Production et distribution électricité, gaz, vapeur et air conditionné	2		2
E	Prod. et distrib. eau - assainissement, gestion déchets et dépollution	23	1	24
F	Construction	30	7	37
G	Commerce de gros et de détail - réparation d'auto et moto	93	21	114
H	Transports et entreposages	19	9	28
I	Hébergement et restauration	99	47	146
J	Information et communication	60	89	149
K	Activités financières et assurances	17	31	48
L	Activités immobilières	56	36	92
M	Activités spécialisées, scientifiques et techniques	211	227	438
N	Activités de services administratifs et de soutien	232	95	327
O	Administration publique et défense - sécurité sociale obligatoire	41	52	93
P	Education et enseignement (hors enseignement obligatoire)	404	325	729
Q	Santé humaine et action sociale	1 787	944	2 731
Q- ETA	Entreprises de Travail Adapté ETA	54	12	66
Q AFT/OISP- CISP	Insertion socio-professionnelle AFT/OISP - CISP	139	59	198
R	Arts, spectacles et activités récréatives	1 057	613	1 670
S	Autres activités de services	1 291	1 879	3 170
T	Activités des ménages comme employeurs ou producteurs de biens et services pour usage propre	4	1	5
TS	Activités titres-servives	214	22	236
U	Activités des organismes extra-territoriaux	1	8	9
SOUS-TOTAL		**5 970**	**4 482**	**10 452**
PEns	Enseignement obligatoire	532	182	714
QHop	Hôpitaux	36	21	57
TOTAL		**6 538**	**4 685**	**11 223**

d. Mentoring programme in Belgium

A number of mentoring programmes addressed to youth in the creation of social enterprises have been identified, mainly in the French part of Belgium and the city of Brussels. Some of these initiatives are showcased below:

<u>The 1819</u>

The 1819 is a free public service of the region of Brussels. It is a unique information point for anyone who wants to start, expand or develop their business in Brussels in a professional way and who seeks information and help to do so.

The 1819 service is also focused on spreading a culture of entrepreneurship and raising awareness in particular among young people, women and job seekers in Brussels.

They provide free support by telephone, via the website, via e-mail, via information sessions and networking events, or at their offices (information point), in French, Dutch or English.

[40] Source : Observatoire de l'économie sociale, Les cahiers de l'Observatoire (Numéro 14), 2018.

The 1819 advisors don't just offer an attentive ear for questions. They also help articulate the entrepreneur needs more clearly as well as to better structure the entrepreneurial idea and give feedback. The advisors will be able to identify the specific organisation (incubator, hub, financial institutions, etc.) that can best guide the entrepreneur or provide him/her with specific information, adapted to him/her profile, needs or activity, branch, etc.

On their website, the entrepreneur will also be able to complete its business plan: https://1819.monbusinessplan.be/main/?locale=en

Coopcity

Coopcity aims to inform, educate and inspire future entrepreneurs on social entrepreneurship in Brussels, with the objective of promoting a responsible and sustainable form of doing business. Through its various support programs, Coopcity helps entrepreneurs to set up their projects and supports existing social enterprises in the development of their activities.

Coopcity set up a centre for social, cooperative and collaborative entrepreneurship in Brussels by providing entrepreneurs with incubator programs and a co-working space.

In a nutshell, Coopcity provides:

- A single contact point for aspiring entrepreneurs and/or entrepreneurs
- Collective support
- Tailor-made coaching
- Innovative tools and expert advice from the Coopcity mentors, tutors and staff
- Spaces for working, discussing and being inspired
- A network of entrepreneurs and partners

Coopcity proposes four programmes:

- The SEEDS programme is aimed to help one or more people who wish to turn their idea into reality by launching a project that meets a social and/or environmental need in Brussels. The selected projects will also aim to create sustainable jobs and be part of a spirit of collaboration.
- The BLOSSOM programme is aimed at social enterprises that have been in operation for two years and wish to be supported in their development strategy.
- The POLLINIZE programme supports socially innovative and job-creating multi-actor projects in Brussels.
- The INNOVATE programme gives tailor-made support to a collective, company or association active in the Brussels Region to assess their social impact, test new products or services in a secure environment or involve their employees or beneficiaries in decision-making.

Declic en PerspectivES

Déclic en PerspectivES wishes to raise awareness about social economy as an option for aspiring social entrepreneurs.

Declic en PerspectivES offer, through different training programmes, to support people who wish to start a social business, but who have yet to find or test their project idea and/ or have not yet dared to take the first step. Their approach promotes the development of a critical spirit and is based on the use of tools of collective intelligence and structuring of ideas.

They have programmes for different entrepreneurial phases:

Explore	For the ones that want to take action and bring a deeper meaning to their life, but don't know how to do it yet	“La tournée des possible” programme 3 days in a group to discover the challenges of a social economy sector and meet inspiring actors
Dare	For the ones that want to start a project but don't know where to start	“La Ruche” programme 6 days of training on weekends to develop a project “Declic Tour" programme 8 days to go from idea to action
Create	For the ones that wish to join a community of change and network	“Recherche associées” project An evening to join a project or to find teammates

Crédal

Crédal is a cooperative whose purpose is to promote a more just and supportive society, particularly with regard to the use of money. Crédal proposes in Belgium:

- Credit via micro-credits options: These are loans intended to start or develop a small business or larger entrepreneurial projects with social, societal or environmental added value.
- Project support and mentoring: Crédal informs, supports, leads, initiates the development of activities and alternative and participatory economic models and puts itself at the service of people, groups and

institutions carrying emancipatory projects, respectful of people and the environment, and concerned about the common good.

Village Partenaire

The Village Partnaire is part of the network of business centres in the Brussels-Capital Region. Its actions contribute to the economic dynamics of urban neighbourhoods of Brussels by developing activities and jobs.
The Village Partenaire offers:

- Accomodation. The Village Partenaire provides entrepreneurs with offices and a series of services. The mission of the Partner Village is to provide the best possible conditions for the viability of projects carried out by entrepreneurs or small and medium-sized enterprises in the launch phase.
- Mentoring. The local economy office is a coaching service for business creation. Its mission is to support anyone wishing to create or develop their own activity in Brussels.
- Networking and cooperation. The Village Partenaire is also a place of collaboration and sharing, a place to work while taking advantage of the synergies and the dynamism created by exchanges between the other hosted enterprises.

Group One

Group One is an organisation whose mission is to facilitate the transition to a sustainable economy. It aims to help everyone to reveal their potential to take action and create the job of their dreams: every entrepreneur should be able to become an incredible lever of change towards a sustainable economy.

Their objective is for young people to develop new skills, human and entrepreneurial, because they are the entrepreneurs of tomorrow.
They offer four types of services:

- For the entrepreneurs: Support aspiring entrepreneurs from the beginning of their idea to the creation of their business. Aspiring entrepreneurs can benefit from a personalized support to create their sustainable project. Group One considers a sustainable entrepreneur an individual who seeks to develop a project with a sustainable economic model and who, mindful of environmental and social issues, aims to bring societal added value.
- For the young people: Raise curiosity and develop an entrepreneurial spirit among young people.
- For the territories: Facilitate the economic and sustainable development of a territory
- Support structures: Train and support within other support structure

ITALY

3. Italy

a. General socio-economic overview of Italy

The crisis caused by the health emergency hit the Italian economy in 2020 in a phase characterised by a prolonged weakness of the cycle. In 2019, GDP grew by just 0.3% and its level is still 0.1% lower than that recorded in 2011. In the first quarter of 2020, the partial blocking of activities led to widespread and profound effects in all the economic and social spheres. Over 70% of companies declared a reduction in turnover in the two-month period from March-April 2020 compared to the same period of the previous year; over 40% of companies reported a drop-in turnover of more than 50%. Istat forecasts estimate for 2020 a sharp decline in activity (-8.3%), spread to all sectoral components, with a contraction in GDP which is expected to be only partially recovered the following year.

During 2019, the long phase of employment growth ended, with a moderate decline in the second half of the year. In the first months of 2020, the number of employees recorded a sharp decline (about 450 thousand fewer in March and April) which mainly concerned the youth component and the female component.

The Covid-19 pandemic has grafted into a social situation characterized by strong and growing inequalities. In 2020 poverty in Italy grew significantly, setting the record compared to the data collected by Istat since 2005: over 2 million families are in absolute poverty (7.7% of the total against 6.4% in 2019) with an increase of 335,000 families. Overall, the people in absolute poverty in Italy, on the other hand, are 5.6 million (9.4% against 7.7% in 2019), is over a million more than the previous year. Thus, the turnaround recorded in 2019 is up in smoke.

The preliminary estimate of the average monthly expenditure of households resident in Italy is equal to 2,328 euros per month in current values, down by 9.1% compared to 2,560 euros in 2019, essentially in line with the general decrease in GDP.

b. Being young today in Italy

<u>Demographic trends</u>

As a consequence of a persistent low fertility regime, the generations of children who are between 15 and 34 years old in Italy today are numerically lower than those that preceded them. Italy is one of the oldest countries in the world, with 173.1 people aged 65 and over for every hundred people under the age of 15 as of 1st January 2019. The population forecasts to 2050 point to a further decline in this segment of the population, both in absolute value and in relation to the elderly population. The demographic dynamics of the last decades are associated with an important postponement of the main events associated with the transition to adulthood: the entry into the labour market, the exit from the family of origin, the formation of a union and the birth of children.

Up to the age of 17, 82.5% of young people live with both parents and 12.1% with only one. About 30% of people aged 18 to 34 have either formed their own household with their partner, with or without children (14.7 and 7.4

% respectively) or have gone to live alone (7.57%). Young people are also the most mobile segment of the population from a territorial point of view: the flows of entry into our country contribute precisely to the numerical growth of this age group; at the same time, young people residing in Italy show an increased propensity to emigrate abroad.

Education

Regarding the education level, in Italy, the share of graduates between the ages of 25 and 64 is estimated to be 61.7% in 2018 (+0.8 percentage points on 2017), a value much lower than the European average which is equal to 78.1% (+0.6 points on 2017). This difference is affected by the low share of 25-64-year-olds with a degree: less than two out of ten in Italy (19.3%, +0.6 points compared to the previous year) against over three out of ten in Europe (32.3 %, +0.8 points compared to the previous year). The trend of recent years is positive. However, between 2014 and 2018 the share of the population with a university degree had a more contained growth than that of the EU (2.4 points versus 3 points). The youngest are also the most educated: 75.9% of 25-34-year old have at least a secondary school diploma against 47.9% of 60-64-year-olds. Considering the share of 30-34 year-olds holding a degree, Italy ranks among the last places, with one of the lowest graduate rates in Europe, equal to 27.8% in 2018, compared to an average European Union equal to 40.7%, and an employment rate of recent graduates of 56.5% in 2018 (compared to a European average of 81.6%); higher only than that of Greece.

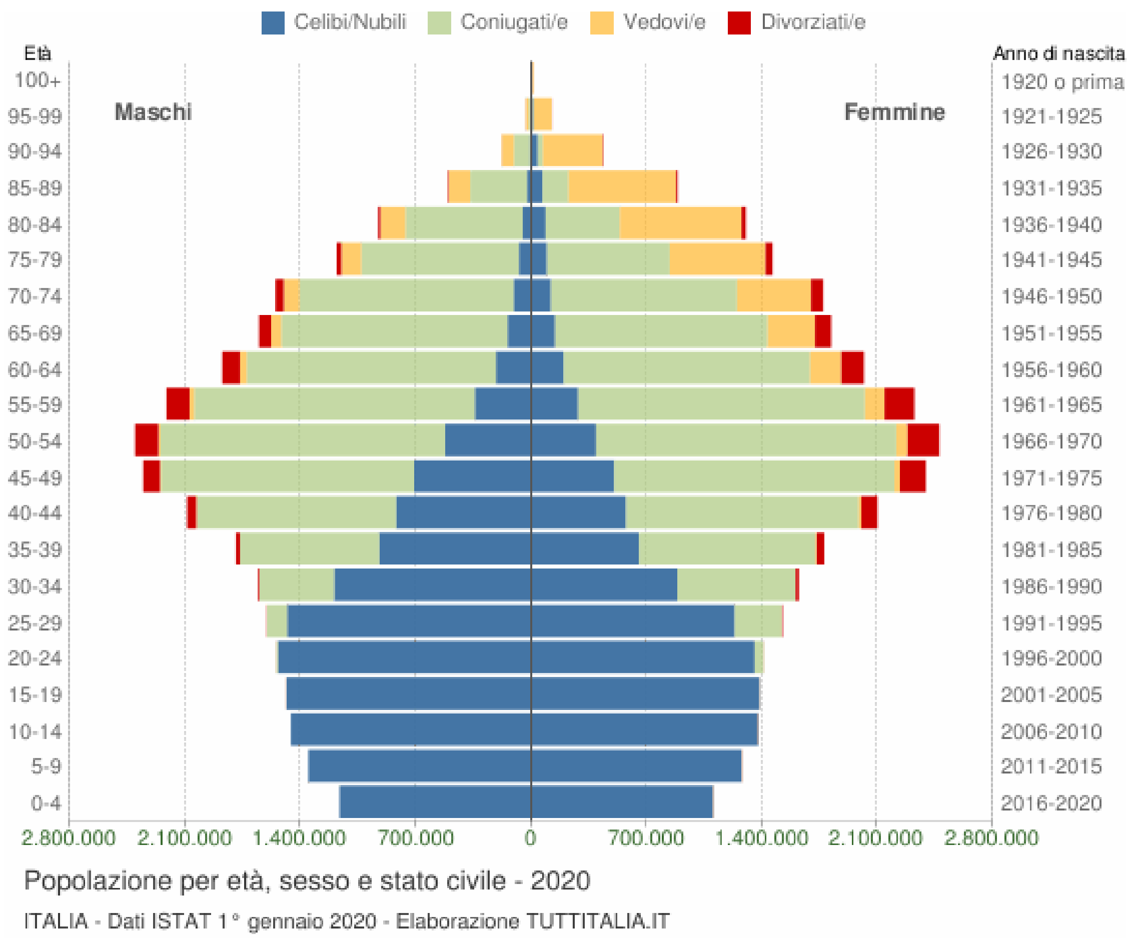
In Italy, the share of 18-24-year-olds who have at most a lower secondary qualification and are already outside the education and training system, the Early Leavers from Education and Training (ELET) is 14.5% in 2018 (598,000 young people). The European target is 10%. As of 2018, in Italy there were 2,116,000 young people aged 15-29 who are NEETs (Neither in Employment or in Education or Training) (23.4%); the highest share among the EU countries (12.9%). The incidence of NEETs is 24.8% among graduates, 22.7% among those with at most a lower secondary qualification, while it drops to 20.2% among graduates.

The photograph of the pre-pandemic labour market shows growing inequalities. Men, young people, those in the south of the country and the less educated have not yet recovered the levels and rates of employment of 2008. In 2019 the number of employed people exceeded the 2008 value in the Centre-North by 519,000 units while in the South the balance is still negative of 249,000. Among the 25-34-year-olds, there are over 1.400 million fewer people in employment. On the contrary, women recorded an increase of 602,000 units while men employed in sectors particularly exposed to trend cycles suffered a decrease of 332,000 units. With respect to the quality of work, inequalities increased to the detriment of women, young people and workers in shifts.

Youth employment

The health emergency, combined with the failure of some measures put in place by the government, hit young people quite hard. In December 2020, the latest Istat data shows that youth unemployment returned close to 30%; up 1.3 points at 29.7% on December 2019 (just before the coronavirus emergency started). The employment rate of the 25-34 age group also decreased by -1.8 points. The use of ICT among families and individuals increased significantly in 2020, bringing the share of regular Internet users to 69.2% (it was 43.9% in 2010). However, women still lag behind (65.8%), the elderly (44% for the 65-74 age group; 12.9% for those over 75) and those who live in the South, with a difference of 9 percentage points compared to residents in the Centre-North (72.3%). 12.6% do not have internet connection and computer. In 2019 just over half of 25-64-year old in employment had at least basic digital skills (53%), a value well below the European average (68%). The gap between Italy (17.6%) and the EU28 average (23.9%) also remains wide with regard to those employed in scientific and technological professions with university training, even if the weight of this segment of employment has grown steadily in recent ten years.

Graphic 1. Population by age, sex and marital status- 2020 [41]



Blue: singles – Green: married – Orange: widowers/widows – Red: divorced

[41] Source: ISTAT data January 2020

c. Creative Cultural Industries and Social Economy Enterprises

The social economy landscape

Out of the 4.4 million Italian companies, there are 59,027 cooperatives (equal to 1.3% of private companies operating on the national territory) for a total of 1,151,349 employees and an added value of 28.8 billion in 2015 data). In the years of the economic crisis, Italian cooperatives observed a growing trend: in 2015 they increased by + 16.4% compared to 2007. This growth, in addition to being counter-cyclical, is even more significant if we take into account that, in the same period, other companies in Italy had a negative trend of -3.2%. The increase in employment in cooperatives was + 17.7%, against a decline of -6.3% recorded in other companies.

Social cooperatives (aimed at providing services to the person or the job placement of disadvantaged people) are numerically 24.2% of the total but represent 28% of added value and 33% of total workers employed in cooperatives; values above the average for the entire sector.

Employees of cooperatives are mainly concentrated in the 30-49 age group (58.5%), 13.1% are aged between 15 and 29 and more than a quarter are over 50. As a territorial distribution, the majority of the cooperatives are located in the South (40%) where, however, they are small enterprises: in fact, the added value and number of employees are concentrated at 60% in the North.

The synthetic index "Digitization" (use of ITCs) assumes an average value for cooperatives equal to about half that of other companies (0.17 against 0.33). Cooperatives also have a lower propensity to introduce product and process innovations, a gap which however is halved for organizational innovations and tends to close for marketing ones.

Youth cooperatives

Youth cooperatives are cooperatives whose participation of people under the age of 35 among the members is more than 50% of the total. At the end of 2019 there were 5,347 youth cooperatives in Italy, equal to 6.8% of the total number of registered cooperatives. On a territorial basis in the South there is a greater weight of the cooperation of young people.

Another positive fact is the strong increase in Italy of the so-called SIAVS - innovative start-ups with a social vocation that cover areas ranging from healthcare to education, from wellness to digital transformation. The SIAVS in 2020 were 267 and have increased 19 times since 2013. A positive trend is also confirmed by the Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) according to which between 2013 and 2020 innovative start-ups grew by 42%, while the SIAVS by 52%. These social start-ups are characterized by a higher rate of highly qualified personnel (31% against 26% of innovative start-ups) and by the weight of the female and youth component: 7% of SIAVS has an exclusive female presence and the 10% an exclusive presence of young people under 35.

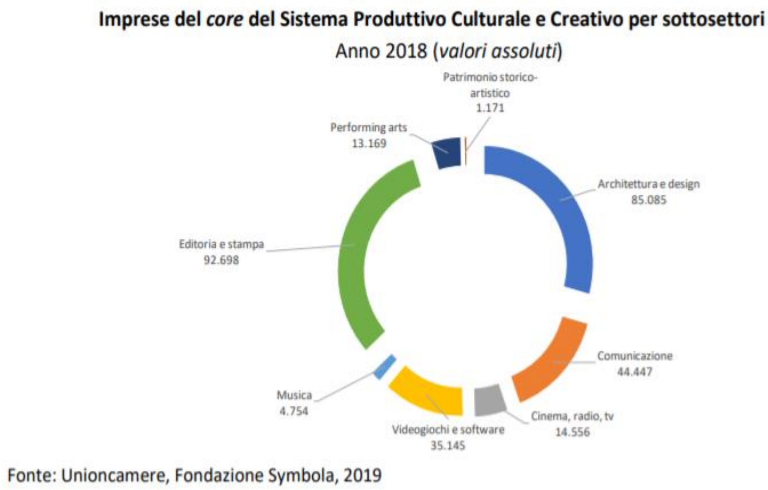
Cultural industries

Italy boasts the highest share of cultural sector companies in Europe, ahead of France, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom. The Italian Cultural and Creative Production System (made up of businesses, PA and non-profit organizations) counted 416,080 businesses at the end of 2018 (6.8% of total economic activities), generates almost 96 billion euros, and activates other sectors of economy, moving, overall, 265.4 billion (16.9% of the national added value). In particular, the companies operating in the Core Culture sectors, directly connected to cultural and creative activities, are 289,792, to which is added the estimate relating to the creative driven component, which includes all the economic activities not strictly attributable to the cultural dimension but characterised by close synergies with the sector (125,054 companies). More than 95% of the enterprises operating in the Core Culture sector belong to only two areas: cultural industries (147,153 enterprises, equal to 50.6% of the total) and creative industries (129,533 enterprises, equal to 44.5% of the total)

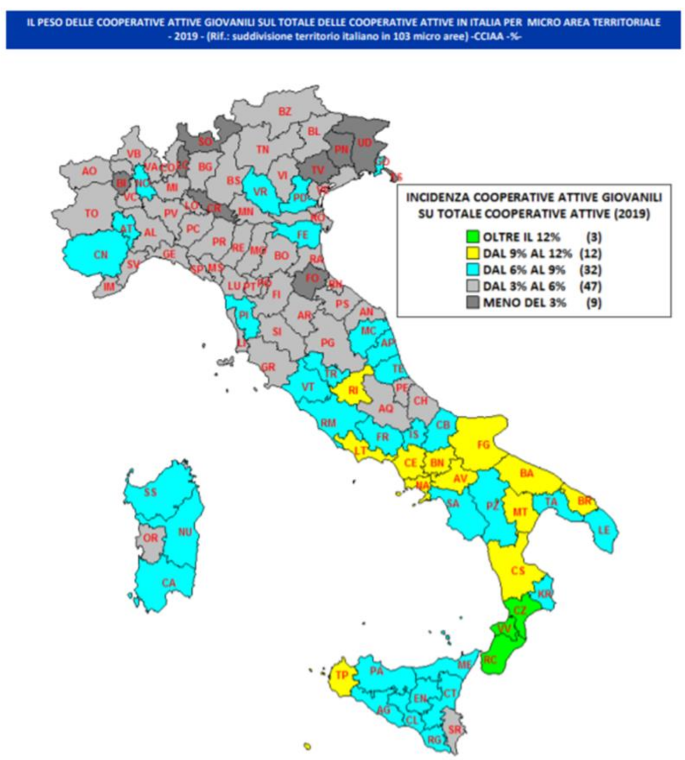
Cultural and Creative Production Systems employ 1.55 million people, representing 6.1% of the total employed in Italy. Female enterprises are increasing in the supply chain: they number 52,391, equal to 18% of Core Culture enterprises. The presence of women is particularly high in historical and artistic heritage companies (31.8%), while it is lower in the fields of architecture and design (6.5%) and video games and software (9.6%). Youth businesses (run or mainly run by people under the age of 35) are 21,993 and account for 7.6% (for the total economy the share is 9.3%). In this case they are particularly present in video game and software companies (10.0%), and very little in the architecture and design sector (3.8%).

At the end of 2019 there were 5,630 cooperatives active in the tourism sector (50%), art, culture, events (27%) and sports and leisure (23%). 523 of these cooperatives were born since 1 January 2016. This sector has 74,336 total employees, generates over 3.2 billion euros in turnover with a total operating profit of 12.6 million euros. From a dimensional point of view, almost all of these cooperatives are SMEs. There are only five large companies of which three are in the catering sector, one in the activities of libraries, archives, museums and other cultural activities, and one in the micro-sector ticketing and support activities for artistic performances.

Graphic 2: Businesses of the "core" of the Production and Creative System by subsectors. Year 2018 (absolute values).[42]

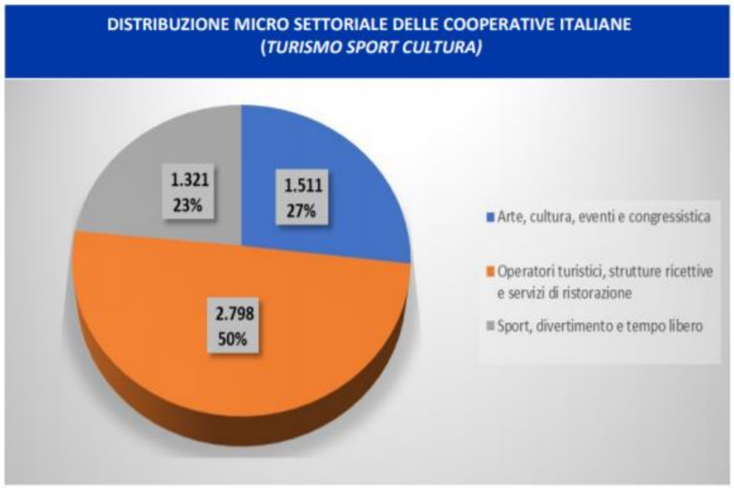


Graphic 3: The weight of active youth cooperatives on the total of cooperatives active in Italy by micro-territorial area – 2019 [43]

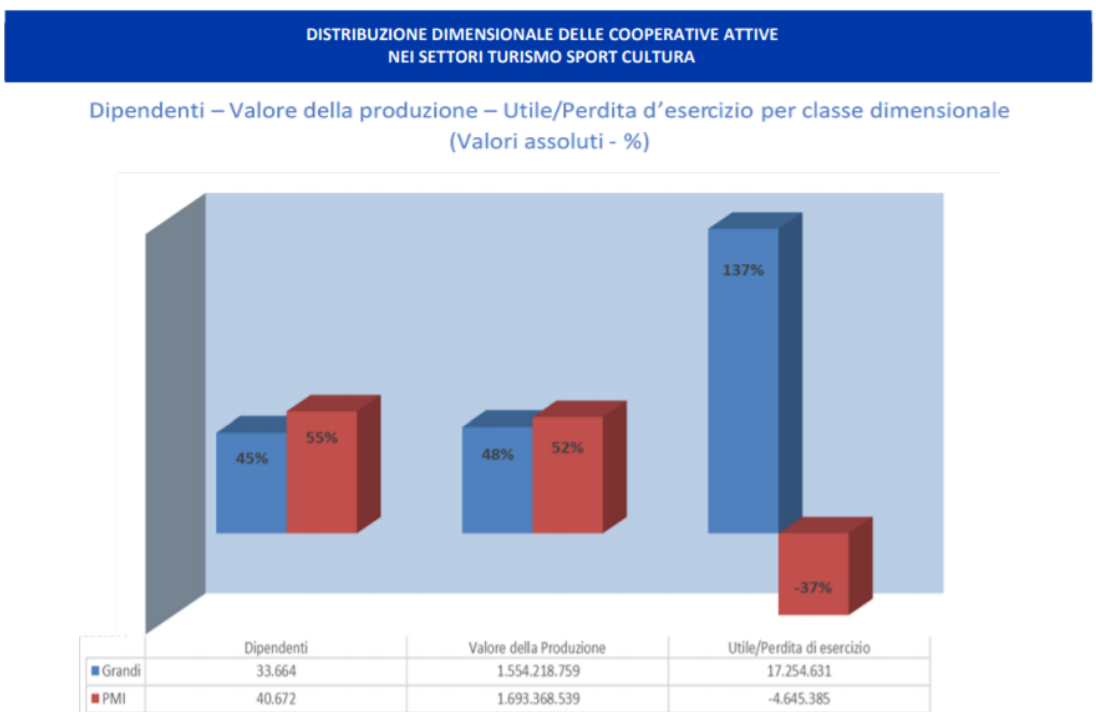


[42] Source: Unioncamere, Symbola Foundation, 2019
[43] CCIAA Chamber of Commerce

Graphic 3: Micro-sectoral distribution of Italian cooperatives (Tourism, Sport, Culture) 2019[44]



Graphic 4: Dimensional distribution of cooperatives active in the tourism, sport and culture sectors. Employees - value of production - profit / loss for the year by size class (absolute heat -%) 2019[45]



[44] Source: Alliance of Italian Cooperatives
[45] Source: Alliance of Italian Cooperatives

d. Mentoring programmes in Italy

From the world of the social economy

CoopUP is the project of the Confcooperative network which between 2014 and 2017 had the goal of creating cooperative business incubators throughout the country in synergy with the territorial offices of Confcooperative. It is a network of spaces, services and people created to encourage, also thanks to co-working, the birth of start-ups and new youth and women's cooperatives; accompanying them in their growth path with specific tools. The participating territorial Confcooperatives, after selecting candidates through calls for ideas, make available a training and mentoring course, as well as financial tools for the organizations of their network, in particular Fondosviluppo and Federcasse-BCC.

Coopstartup is the program of Coopfond, the mutual fund of Legacoop, to promote the birth of new cooperative start-ups. Launched in 2013, it has already seen the activation of 23 territorial projects with calls for tenders that are aimed at groups of at least three people who intend to set up a cooperative enterprise, or to cooperatives established less than a year ago. Groups and neo-cooperatives registered in the call have free access to the training programme aimed at setting up cooperative start-ups through the “10 Steps and Go” e-learning platform.

From Government and Chambers of commerce

Futurae Project (Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and Unioncamere) is developed by the Chambers of Commerce, which take care of information activities at local level, the selection of future entrepreneurs, the provision of training services aimed at improving operational and managerial knowledge and skills for the realization of entrepreneurial projects (including knowledge of available financial products), assistance in the preparation of business plans and the credit support phase. The project is conceived as an integrated initiative aimed at supporting the development of migrant entrepreneurship through actions that also favour generational turnover.

From the Municipality of Milan in the suburbs

FabriQ is the social innovation incubator of the Municipality of Milan, operationally managed by an ATI (Temporary Business Association) composed of the Giacomo Brodolini Foundation and Impact Hub Milan. The Municipality of Milan and FabriQ are launching tenders to promote the creation of business projects in suburban areas such as Quarto Oggiaro - where the FabriQ incubator is based - and neighbouring areas characterized by situations of social and economic fragility but also by the presence of important social infrastructures. Available are economic incentives of up to € 35,000 per project to cover 50% of costs (1 euro public x 1 euro private); reward equal to +10% of the co-financing share for projects that achieve certain result objectives defined in the application; administrative bureaucratic support and logistical support at the FabriQ incubator spaces; four months of support during the start-up phase of the project and to facilitate meetings with potential investors.

From the Cariplo Banking Foundation

Get it! is an empowerment programme for impact ideas and start-ups, promoted by the Giordano Dell'Amore Social Venture Foundation in partnership with Cariplo Factory, thanks to the support of the Cariplo Foundation. The initiative aims to encourage and support the development of new projects with a social, environmental and cultural vocation throughout Italy. The Get it! Call For Impacts, active since 2017, is open to start-ups that are capable of generating an intentional impact in different areas of interest and that include at least one person under the age of 35 in the team. The programme allows the selected initiatives to access an incubation or acceleration and mentorship path at one of the partners accredited by the network, provided on the basis of specific business, technical and geographical needs. The call also offers the opportunity to benefit from a direct investment by the Social Venture GDA Foundation and to present the initiative to a network of over 45 national and international investors.

From the Company Foundations

There are several business foundations in Italy that promote and support projects to support the birth of new companies with a strong social impact created by young people, such as:

Welfare, che Impresa !, the capacity building programme for welfare projects with a high potential of social, economic and environmental impact, promoted by the Italian Accenture Foundation together with UBI Banca Banca (Banca of the Intesa Sanpaolo Group), the Snam Foundation, the Bracco Foundation, the Foundation with the South, the Peppino Vismara Foundation. The prizes: prizes ranging from 20,000 to 40,000 euros for those classified in the first four positions, an individual and personalised mentorship course provided by the partner incubators, a loan at favourable conditions; special prizes to start a crowdfunding campaign or participate in initiatives such as the Open Camp.

SPAIN

4. Spain

a. General socio-economic overview of Spain

The economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have affected Spain from the first quarter of 2020. The impact that the measures taken to counteract the virus have had on statistical activity and on the economic situation has posed a major challenge. Spain's gross domestic product in 2020 fell by 11% from the previous year. In 2020 the GDP figure was €1,119,976 million.[46]

The tourism sector is one of the most important drivers of the Spanish economy, so the damage of the current crisis has been particularly severe in the country. According to the most recent data from the Encuesta de Población Activa (Labour Force Survey) compiled by the National Statistics Institute (INE), the total number of people unemployed in Spain is 3,719,799.97, which represents 16% of the country[47].

On the political scene, the country has been very agitated for several years. It began in 2011 as a result of the global economic crisis, when two political parties emerged at the national level that gradually gained strength and ended the traditional bipartisanship. In a very short time several important events have taken place for the first time in Spain's current democratic stage: the first motion of censure to prosper or the first time that there is a coalition government.

If we combine all those factors, we obtain the current climate of social tension and political polarisation in Spain. Also, the problems related to the economy have led to an 'us versus them' issue: racism and xenophobia, two different and opposing models of country.

b. Being young today in Spain

Demographic trends

Below are some figures related to the **social inclusion** of young people in Spain based on Eurostat data collected during 2019:

- 64.5% of young adults aged 18-34 are living with their parents, while the EU average is around 50%[48]. For the 20-24 years age group, the percentage of young people living with their parents is even higher, at 91.6%[49].

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[46] INE (2021) *Contabilidad Nacional Trimestral de España: principales agregados,* page 13 https://www.ine.es/daco/daco42/daco4214/cntr0420a.pdf [Last checked 25/03/2021]

[47] INE (2020) *Encuesta de Población Activa. EPA. Cuarto Trimestre 2020* https://www.ine.es/dyngs/INEbase/es/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica_C&cid=1254736176918&menu=ultiDatos&idp=1254735976595 [Last checked 25/03/2021]

[48] Eurostat (2021) *Share of young adults aged 18-34 living with their parents by age and sex*, Data Browser https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/ilc_lvps08/default/table?lang=en [Last checked 26/03/2021]

[49] Eurostat (2021) *Young people – Social inclusion. Living with parents,* Statistics Explained https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Young_people_-_social_inclusion#Living_with_parents [Last checked 26/03/2021]

- The share of young people (aged 16-29 years) at risk of poverty or social exclusion is 31.7% (EU average is 25.1%). Spain is the country with the highest difference between men and women in this indicator at 4.1 percentage points, with women being the worst off[50].
- Young migrants in Spain between 15 and 29 number approximately one million, which represents 2.1% of the total Spanish population, and 13.85% of the youth population[51].
- Although more than 85% of the Spanish territory is considered rural, most young people live in cities because of their studies or because there is a higher possibility of finding a job. Therefore, only around 3.5% of the total Spanish population are young people living in rural areas[52].
- As for the digital world, according to a study by the FAD, 75% of young Spaniards prefer the internet over going out in their leisure time[53]. The same organisation offers the following ICT indicators[54]and level of digital skills[55]:

	Rate (%) of young people with "above basic" level of digital information skills	Rate (%) of young people with "above basic" level of digital communication skills	Rate (%) of young people with high level of digital skills
Andalusia	90.99	94.17	62
Spain	93	92	65
Total EU	85	90	57

The delay in the age of emancipation of young Spaniards is due to the difficulty to afford a home. Although Spain has traditionally been a country where buying has taken precedence over renting, this has been changing in recent

[50] Eurostat (2021) *Young people – Social inclusion. Young people at risk of poverty or social exclusion*, Statistics Explained https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Young_people_-_social_inclusion#Young_people_at_risk_of_poverty_or_social_exclusion [Last checked 26/03/2021]
[51] INE (2021) *Anuario Estadístico de España 2020: Demografía*, page 9 https://www.ine.es/prodyser/pubweb/anuario20/anu20_02demog.pdf [Last checked 26/03/2021]
[52] INJUVE (2018) *Juventud Rural y Desarrollo,* Revista de Estudios de Juventud nº 122, page 23 http://www.injuve.es/sites/default/files/adjuntos/2019/11/injuve_122.pdf [Last checked 26/03/2021]
[53] RTVE (2019) *El 75% de los jóvenes españoles prefiere internet a salir de fiesta en su tiempo de ocio* https://www.rtve.es/noticias/20191127/75-jovenes-espanoles-prefiere-internet-salir-fiesta/1992685.shtml [Last checked 26/03/2021]
[54] Centro Reina Sofía sobre Adolescencia y Juventud (2020) *Índice Sintético de Desarrollo Juvenil Comparado*, pages 51-52 https://www.adolescenciayjuventud.org/publicacion/indice-sintetico-de-desarrollo-juvenil-comparado-isdjc-2020/ [Last checked 26/03/2021]
[55] Centro Reina Sofía sobre Adolescencia y Juventud (2019) *Tasa (%) de jóvenes con nivel alto de competencias digitales (16-29 años)* https://www.adolescenciayjuventud.org/indicador/alto-nivel-de-competencias-digitales/ [Last checked 26/03/2021]

years. In any case, renting is not even very affordable nowadays, especially in some areas of the coast, Madrid, and Barcelona. A large part of this problem are the numerous properties available for holiday and tourist rentals. This, together with the precarious economic and working conditions of young people, is at the root of a problem that has now become urgent. This issue needs to be tackled, as it is not viable for a young person to have to spend 90% of their salary on rent if they want to live independently, and around 40% if they share a flat. They would have to double their average salary to be able to spend less than 30%[56] on a mortgage or rent, which is the maximum percentage of their income that a person can devote to housing in order to be able to meet the rest of their expenses. There is no long-term housing policy, but rather short-term responses by young people depending on the socio-economic situation. The administrations have to stop offering short-term responses to this problem and must opt for a long-term housing policy.

On the other hand, the problems derived from Spain's productive structure; focused on the service sector, as well as its labour duality, which facilitates the dismissal of young people at times of cyclical adjustment; generates a scenario that hinders the employability of a large part of Spanish youth.

All these issues mean that young people view their present and their future with little hope. Moreover, it is the first time that a generation feels that they will not prosper and will live in worse conditions than their parents' generation. How policy makers respond to this problem will determine the stability and prosperity of an entire country.

Education

In terms of education, according to data provided by the Ministry of Education in 2020 the early drop-out rate from education and training in Spain stood at 16%; early school leavers in the EU-27, however, stand at 10.2%[57]. Moreover, three out of four young people aged 20-24 have completed at least upper secondary education, and 50.2% of the population aged 25-29 have completed tertiary education[58]. According to various international organisations and education experts, boosting vocational education and training, especially at the intermediate level, can help reduce early school leaving in the country. In fact, almost 30% of the Spanish university students would opt to study a VET course if they could choose their studies again, and 60% consider that they lack the preparation to face the labour market when they finish their university studies[59].

[56] El Mundo (2020) *Los jóvenes españoles tendrían que cobrar el doble para poder comprarse una vivienda* https://www.elmundo.es/economia/vivienda/2020/08/12/5f33cf58fdddfff35d8b45be.html [Last checked 26/03/2021]
[57] Ministerio de Educación y Formación Profesional (2020) *Abandono temprano de la educación-formación en la UE por país, sexo y periodo*, EDUCAbase http://estadisticas.mecd.gob.es/EducaJaxiPx/Datos.htm?path=/laborales/epa/indi//l0/&file=indi02.px&type=pcaxis [Last checked 25/03/2021]
[58] Ministerio de Educación y Formación Profesional (2020) *Explotación de las variables educativas de la Encuesta de Población Activa*, page 2 https://www.educacionyfp.gob.es/dam/jcr:59f6b4f0-b2a9-4781-b298-96fb27eea0c8/notaresu.pdf [Last checked 25/03/2021]
[59] EducaWeb (2021) *9 de cada 10 universitarios necesita formación adicional para conseguir trabajo* https://www.educaweb.com/noticia/2021/03/22/9-cada-10-universitarios-necesita-formacion-adicional-19494/ [Last checked 25/03/2021]

Youth Employment

According to Eurostat data estimates for Spain, the youth unemployment rate was supposed to reach 31.13% last year. Now with COVID-19, the statistical office of the European Union shows that youth unemployment in Spain stands at 39.9%[60]. Meanwhile, in Andalusia the figures are even more dramatic, with youth unemployment rising to 52.2%.[61]

In Andalusia there has been a general stigmatisation of unemployed youngsters by adults. The so-called NEETs suffer from the consequences of the financial crisis of 2008; and even those who were highly qualified to work in the fields which they had studied for were unable to find a job suitable for them, or were either forced to leave the country or take low-quality, poorly paid jobs. Now these young people have been hit again, this time by the crisis caused by the COVID-19 epidemic, which is currently having a major impact on the socio-economic situation of young people. And these consequences are expected to worsen in the near future. A report published in February by the Ministry of Education shows that the percentage of 15–29-year-olds who are inactive (i.e., neither studying nor working) rose to 17.3% in 2020[62].

The pandemic has had a direct impact on the concerns of Spanish youth. The results of a survey carried out by the consulting firm Deloitte show that the situation of the labour market is among the main concerns of young people[63].

For years, the young population in Spain has been one of the most precarious groups in terms of job insecurity due to a much higher temporary employment, lower salaries, greater part-time work, higher discontinuity and a greater risk of over-qualification[64]. In just over a decade, the way that young people define and project their socio-economic expectations in the medium term has been transformed - for the worse.

This period has seen a series of major social mobilisations and a social decline that has led to the impoverishment of a sector of the popular classes through increased unemployment and the precariousness of work, with a particular effect on the younger generations.

[60] Eurostat (2021) *Euro area unemployment at 8.1%*, EuroIndicators https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/portlet_file_entry/2995521/3-04032021-AP-EN.pdf/cb6e5dd6-56c2-2196-16b7-baf811b84a4f [Last checked 24/03/2021]

[61] Expansión/DatosMacro.com (2021) *EPA de Andalucía* https://datosmacro.expansion.com/paro-epa/espana-comunidades-autonomas/andalucia [Last checked 24/03/2021]

[62] Ministerio de Educación y Formación Profesional (2020) *Explotación de las variables educativas de la Encuesta de Población Activa,* page 9 https://www.educacionyfp.gob.es/dam/jcr:59f6b4f0-b2a9-4781-b298-96fb27eea0c8/notaresu.pdf [Last checked 25/03/2021]

[63] El Español (2020) *¿Cuáles son las principales preocupaciones de los jóvenes tras el Covid-19?* https://www.elespanol.com/invertia/economia/empleo/20200721/principales-preocupaciones-jovenes-espanoles-covid-19/506949863_0.html [Last checked 10/02/2021]

[64] CJE (2020) *La recuperación económica será más difícil para los jóvenes* http://www.cje.org/es/sala-de-prensa/notas-de-prensa/la-recuperacion-economica-sera-mas-dificil-para-las-personas-jovenes/ [Last checked 25/03/2021]

c. Creative Cultural Industries and Social Economy Enterprises

The social economy landscape

In 2011, Law 5/2011 of 29th March on the Social Economy [65] passed in Spain, which marked a turning point for the recognition, visibility and development of this sector. Years later, in 2015, Law 31/2015 of 9th September[66] was passed, which amends and updates the regulations on self-employment and adopts measures to encourage and promote self-employment and the Social Economy. The first of these laws created the Consejo para el Fomento de la Economía Social (Council for the Promotion of the Social Economy), which has been inactive since then until February 2021, when its renewal was approved by the Council of Ministers[67]. The Council for the Promotion of the Social Economy is a collegiate, advisory and consultative body, integrated in the Ministry of Labour and the Social Economy (so called since 2020), which acts as a body for collaboration, coordination and dialogue between the representatives of the Social Economy and the General State Administration.

In 2019, Fundación Alternativas published a report titled *The Social and Solidarity Economy: interim balance and prospects for Spain*[68]. The report states that the agricultural and manufacturing sectors are the most prominent in the country and that, according to CEPES statistics, 43,000 Social Economy entities employ 2.2 million people and have a turnover of around 150 billion euros, equivalent to 10-12% of GDP. This means that Spain is the ninth country in the world in terms of number of people employed in the Social Economy in relation to the total employed population.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Economy launched the Plan de Choque por el Empleo Joven (Shock Plan for Youth Employment) 2019-2021, one of its axes being entrepreneurship as a labour alternative[69].

According to CEPES, the Spanish Social Economy Business Confederation, the types of entities that form part of it are:

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[65] Ministerio de la Presidencia (2015) *Ley 5/2011, de 29 de marzo, de Economía Social*, Agencia Estatal Boletín Oficial del Estado https://www.boe.es/buscar/act.php?id=BOE-A-2011-5708 [Last checked 29/03/2021]

[66] Ministerio de la Presidencia (2015) *Ley 31/2015, de 9 de septiembre, por la que se modifica y actualiza la normativa en materia de autoempleo y se adoptan medidas de fomento y promoción del trabajo autónomo y de la Economía Social*, Agencia Estatal Boletín Oficial del Estado https://www.boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=BOE-A-2015-9735 [Last checked 29/03/2021]

[67] CEPES (2021) *CEPES celebra la renovación del Consejo para el Fomento de la Economía Social* https://www.cepes.es/noticias/656_cepes-celebra-renovacion-consejo-para-fomento-economia-social [Last checked 29/03/2021]

[68] Fundación Alternativas (2019) *La Economía Social y Solidaria: Balance provisional y perspectivas para España*, ZOOM Económico, page 13-14 https://www.fundacionalternativas.org/public/storage/laboratorio_documentos_archivos/39044ff5943883782452797062e38d26.pdf [Last checked 29/03/2021]

[69] Ministerio de Trabajo y Economía Social (2019) *Plan de Choque por el empleo joven 2019-2021*, SEPE https://www.sepe.es/HomeSepe/Personas/encontrar-trabajo/plan-de-choque-empleo-joven-2019-2021.html [Last checked 26/03/2021]

- Cooperatives: 18,635 in Spain, creating 314,119 jobs[70]. 3,852 in Andalusia, creating 60,980 jobs[71]
- Worker-owned companies: 8,160 in Spain, creating 62,175 jobs[72]. 1,781 in Andalusia, creating 12,365 jobs[73]
- Mutual societies
- Insertion companies
- Fishermen's guilds
- Special employment centres

Cultural and creative industries

According to the Report on Policies for the Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries 2019 published by the Ministry of Culture and Sport, the data on cultural and creative industries in Spain are as follows[74]:

- Contribution to GDP 2016: 3.3 %
- ICC companies 2017: 118,407, or 3.6% of the total number of companies. 13.2% of the companies in this sector are located in the region of Andalusia.
- The sector is mainly made up of micro and small enterprises

That same report states that one of the main problems of the sector is the access to finance, in addition to the scarcity of business networks and the lack of collaboration between companies and sectors of the CCIs, or the lack of adequate knowledge to face a digitalisation process.

Among the strengths of the sector are a) innovation as a distinctive feature, b) the increase of young professionals with extensive training able to respond to the new challenges faced by CCIs, and c) the existence of specialised training and production centres in the different sectors that make up CCIs.

In Spain, under the Ministry of Culture and Sport, we find the Dirección General de Industrias Culturales, Propiedad Intelectual y Cooperación (Directorate General for Cultural Industries, Intellectual Property and Cooperation). Its lines of action include the following:

- Grants for the modernisation and innovation of the cultural and creative industries
- Grants for cultural action and promotion
- HISPANEX grants

[70] CEPES (2019) *Cooperativas* https://www.cepes.es/social/entidades_cooperativas [Last checked 26/03/2021]

[71] CEPES (2019) *Evolución del número de cooperativas y trabajadores - 4º trimestre 2019*, Estadísticas Estatales https://www.cepes.es/social/estadisticas&t=cooperativas [Last checked 26/03/2021]

[72] CEPES (2019) *Sociedades laborales* https://www.cepes.es/social/entidades_sociedades_laborables [Last checked 26/03/2021]

[73] CEPES (2019) *Evolución del número de sociedades laborales y trabajadores*, Estadísticas Estatales https://www.cepes.es/social/estadisticas&t=sociedades [Last checked 26/03/2021]

[74] Ministerio de Cultura y Deporte (2019) *Memoria de políticas de fomento de las industrias culturales y creativas 2019*, page 11 https://www.culturaydeporte.gob.es/dam/jcr:87dfd2bb-b456-40f3-b164-83f850596654/memoria-politicas-fomento-icc-2019.pdf [Last checked 26/03/2021]

- IBEREX Programme grants
- FORMARTE Scholarships
- CULTUREX Scholarships

In addition, in 2005 the Ministry of Culture created CREA SGR, the only mutual guarantee company specialised in cultural and creative industries, which has so far participated in the implementation of more than 1,760 guarantees and 390 million euros in guarantees[75].

In terms of CCIs in particular, the following data stands out[76]:

- The cultural and creative sectors employ 584,300 people, 3.1 % of total employment in Spain
- There are 114,099 active cultural enterprises
- Cultural activities contribute more than 30 billion euros per year to the Spanish GDP, representing around 3% of the total GDP

In Andalusia, we can find 2 relevant areas:

- Andalucía Emprende [77], Andalusian Public Foundation. It depends on the Regional Ministry of Employment, Training and Self-Employment: it has a territorial network and is dedicated to the research and study of the sector. Statistics and monographs are published and it has an Observatory of entrepreneurial activity
- Cultural and Creative Industries Area[78] of the Andalusian Agency for Cultural Institutions. It depends on the Regional Ministry of Culture and Historical Heritage: it offers services and programmes to entrepreneurs, professionals and cultural industries to facilitate their initiatives, promote their competitiveness and thus strengthen the business fabric of culture in Andalusia through advisory services, training, support and promotion of innovation in companies and professionals in this sector.

The Junta de Andalucía, through Andalucía Emprende, has developed *Proyecto Lunar*[79], the first public support programme for entrepreneurs in the Andalusian creative-cultural industry with the aim of helping them turn their ideas into real projects. Among the services that are offered, we can find the following:

- Expert advice and training for the development of individualised business plans

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[75] Ministerio de Cultura y Deporte (2019) *Memoria de políticas de fomento de las industrias culturales y creativas 2019,* page 46 https://www.culturaydeporte.gob.es/dam/jcr:87dfd2bb-b456-40f3-b164-83f850596654/memoria-politicas-fomento-icc-2019.pdf [Last checked 26/03/2021]
[76] Cultura Creativa Iberoamericana (2018) *Las industrias culturales y creativas en España: una aproximación cuantitativa*, page 3 http://culturacreativaiberoamericana.edu.umh.es/wp-content/uploads/sites/1321/2018/01/Espa%C3%B1a.pdf [Last checked 26/03/2021]
[77] Consejería de Empleo, Formación y Trabajo Autónomo (2021) *Andalucía Emprende. Fundación Pública Andaluza* https://www.andaluciaemprende.es/ [Last checked 29/03/2021]
[78] Consejería de Cultura y Patrimonio Histórico (2021) *Agencia Andaluza de Instituciones Culturales* https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/cultura/aaiicc/ [Last checked 29/03/2021]
[79] Consejería de Economía, Innovación, Ciencia y Empleo (2018) *Proyecto Lunar* https://proyectolunarandalucia.wordpress.com/about/ [Last checked 29/03/2021]

- Help in the search for business opportunities and funding sources
- Advice on company incorporation procedures

The initiative has contributed to the creation of more than 100 creative-cultural companies, generating more than 140 new jobs in Andalusia, 51% of which have been for women.

d. Mentoring programmes in Spain

At national level

AECU[80] (National Association of Cultural and Creative Entrepreneurs) offers support and training services to entrepreneurs and cultural industries, and has a project incubator and accelerator. In addition, they have launched a call named "Rural Emprende", a free programme to support rural entrepreneurship in the creative and cultural sector, which offers resources, methodologies, and tools for the development and sustainability of rural projects.

The **Creative Industries Network**[81] has the RIC Executive Programme, which offers freelancers and entrepreneurs in the cultural and creative industries a series of business methodologies and tools through strategic design, business management, networking and mentoring.

A training, advice and tutoring programme is offered by the **Creative Industries Factory**[82] aimed at cultural and creative entrepreneurship projects with a team of mentors.

The Spanish Chamber of Commerce, through **España-Emprende**[83], offers support and advice in all the phases that make up the life of the company, with personalised guidance adapted to the peculiarities of the specific entrepreneurial initiative.

Young entrepreneurs who have launched their business project and wish to consolidate and grow their business can apply for the one-year personalised support service provided by **Youth Business Spain**[84].

Fundación CYD[85], through the CYD Mentoring Programme, seeks to contribute to and expand the links between universities and companies, interacting with students who are in the final year of their university studies.

[80] AECU (2021) *Asociación nacional de emprendedores culturales y creativos* https://www.emprendedoresculturales.es/ [Last checked 29/03/2021]
[81] Red de Industrias Creativas (2020) *Programa Ejecutivo RIC* https://reddeindustriascreativas.com/programa-ejecutivo-ric/# [Last checked 29/03/2021]
[82] Factoría de Industrias Creativas (2020) *Programas Emprende* https://www.factoriadeindustriascreativas.es/ [Last checked 29/03/2021]
[83] Cámara de Comercio de España (2021) *España-Emprende* https://www.camara.es/creacion-de-empresas/espana-emprende [Last checked 29/03/2021]
[84] Youth Business Spain (2021) *Mentores* https://www.youthbusiness.es/mentores/ [Last checked 29/03/2021]
[85] Fundación CYD (2021) *Mentores CYD* https://www.fundacioncyd.org/mentores-cyd/ [Last checked 29/03/2021]

Fundación Tomillo[86] works on a personalised basis with each entrepreneur, depending on their current situation and the objectives they are pursuing; prioritising attention to young people and immigrants, and offers social mentoring.

At regional level: Andalucia

Andalucía Emprende[87] tutors projects with personalised advice and accompanies them throughout the process of business creation, development and consolidation, with a specialised consultancy service.

The area of **Cultural and Creative Industries**[88] of the Junta de Andalucía provides advisory, monitoring, support and mentoring services to develop and improve the competitiveness of cultural professionals and companies.

The **Escuela de Impacto Social La Noria**[89] in Málaga does not have a permanent mentoring programme, but from time to time it usually reaches agreements with different entities for the mentoring of social entrepreneurship projects.

Malaga City Council created the Promálaga Mentoring programme[90], aimed at entrepreneurs from the Municipal Network of Incubators of Promálaga.

CEM[91] (Club de Emprendedores de Málaga) has the Mentoriza programme, a non-profit professional network for the transfer of knowledge and learning between mentors and mentees who are starting their project.

Asociación Arrabal-AID [92] (with offices in Málaga and Chiclana de la Frontera) promotes entrepreneurial culture and accompanies entrepreneurs in the process of drawing up their Business Plan through personalised itineraries. In addition, once it has been created, they continue to provide support to entrepreneurs, offering them the chance to participate in mentoring and networking activities.

[86] Fundación Tomillo (2021) *Emprendimiento* https://tomillo.org/que-hacemos/emprendimiento/ [Last checked 29/03/2021]
[87] Consejería de Empleo, Formación y Trabajo Autónomo (2021) *Servicios*, Andalucía Emprende – Fundación Pública Andaluza https://www.andaluciaemprende.es/servicios/ [Last checked 29/03/2021]
[88] Consejería de Cultura y Patrimonio Histórico (2021) *Industrias Culturales y Creativas – Asesoramiento*, Agencia Andaluza de Instituciones Culturales https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/cultura/aaiicc/industrias-culturales-y-creativas-asesoramiento [Last checked 29/03/2021]
[89] La Noria – Fuente de Innovación Social (2021) Diputación de Málaga https://www.malaga.es/lanoria/ [Last checked 29/09/2021]
[90] ProMálaga (2021) *Promálaga Mentoring*, Ayuntamiento de Málaga https://www.promalaga.es/promalaga-mentoring/ [Last checked 29/03/2021]
[91] Club de Emprendedores de Málaga (2019) *Mentoriza* https://www.cem-malaga.es/portalcem/novedades/2019/Adhesion_Mentoriza.pdf [Last checked 29/03/2021]
[92] Asociación Arrabal (2021) *Apoyo y recursos para emprendedores* https://asociacionarrabal.org/emprende [Last checked 29/03/2021]

Conclusions

After a careful analysis of the research done by the partners in each country, these main conclusions can be drawn:

- The COVID-19 had consequences in all the countries analysed in this report: both on the economy and on the labour market. This impact was particularly hard for young generations who, being an economically vulnerable group, have even more difficulties to find and/or keeping a job
- In all the countries analysed, youth unemployment and the phenomenon of NEETs (Not in education or training) among young people remains a significant problem
- In all the countries, the creative and cultural sector plays a crucial role in the economy (being active in many and diversified fields) and employs a large number of people. Nevertheless, it was also severely hit by the negative consequences of the pandemic and needs further support
- The social economy field is well developed in all the countries and plays a wide role both from an economic and social point of view; contributing to the wellness of many communities and proving its resilience especially in these times of crisis. Indeed, in all the countries, there is a long-term existence of the social economy and its enterprises and normative frameworks; albeit different in each country
- In all the countries mentoring programmes for social entrepreneurs and/or cultural and creative industries exist, nevertheless not all are equally known and/or accessible.

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