

## Expanded abstract

### The social economy as an instrument for economic recovery: the dynamising measures proposed in Galicia

The current economic scenario forces us to rethink whether traditional economic production models are prepared to face crisis situations, such as the current one associated with the recent health pandemic. Society must ask itself whether companies, in keeping with their social responsibility, are capable of successfully facing these challenges. To this must be added the need to continue to commit to the fulfilment of the SDGs, especially those most closely related to economic activity, such as those that refer to the eradication of poverty, the improvement of the well-being of the population, the equitable and egalitarian distribution of wealth, and the compatibility of economic growth with the environmental sustainability of the planet.

The principles and differential characteristics of the Social Economy (SE) give these entities a leading role in this new framework of business values, and a driving role in the way out of the crisis in which we are immersed. Cooperatives, associations, social enterprises, foundations and mutual societies guarantee a series of objectives such as the primacy of people and the social purpose over capital, democratic management, reinvestment of most of the surpluses for members and/or for the general interest, the combination of the interests of members and clients and the general interest, the defence and application of the principles of solidarity and responsibility, and management autonomy and independence from the public authorities. All these values are in line with the set of principles and values that prevail in the new framework of relations that emanates from the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda, where the SDGs are included.

In addition, the SE produces and distributes food, provides healthcare, provides social services, especially for the most vulnerable groups, guarantees financial support through ethical and cooperative banks, and ensures the provision of other basic services. All these are substantial pillars of sustainable business activity. To this economic and social relevance of the SE must be added its capacity for resilience in crisis situations (Melgarejo et al., 2007; García et al., 2010; Calderón and Calderón, 2012; Vaquero and Bastida, 2021) and the role that the entities that make it up can play in achieving the SDGs within the 2030 Agenda (Clemente et al., 2009; Lejarriaga et al., 2013; Mozas et al., 2021; Mozas and Bernal, 2006; Calvo and González, 2011), particularly in improving employment conditions (Díaz and Marcuello, 2014; Lejarriaga et al., 2013; Martínez-Carrasco et al., 2013; Puentes et al., 2009), and equal opportunities (Bastida et al., 2021; Melian et al., 2017; Melián and Campos, 2010; Nieto 2006).

From the above, we can guess the need for a well-structured SE ecosystem present in the different economic activities, which allows the dynamization of these entities, their growth

and improvement of competitiveness conditions, and through this, progress towards a new paradigm of economic activity. The Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan launched to repair the damage caused by the Covid-19 crisis, applying the funds articulated by the EU to build a more sustainable future, is an opportunity for economic recovery to be accompanied by the generation of quality and stable employment, with decent working conditions, and it is precisely the SE that presents all the best conditions for achieving this objective of materialising an inclusive and sustainable society.

The aim of this article is to analyse and evaluate the different actions that can be developed in relation to the Social Economy in order to favour an early economic recovery, both at a general level and in the particular case of the Autonomous Community of Galicia.