Evaluating the Formation of Enabling Public Policy for the SSE from a Comparative Perspective: The Effectiveness of Collaborative Processes or the Co-Construction of Public Policy

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Case studies considered:

• **OECD:**
  Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur and Alsace, France (2010); 
  Poland (2009); 
  Slovenia (2010); 
  South Korea (2010)

• **FIESS:**
  Canada (2011); 
  Bolivia (2011); 
  Brazil (2011); 
  Mali (2011); 
  Spain (2011); 
  South Africa (2011)

• **RELIESS** (forthcoming):
  Burkina Faso 
  Ecuador 
  Nepal 
  South Korea
What is co-construction?

A collaborative *process* involving civil society and government to design, develop, implement, evaluate and adjust public policy.
Why co-construction?

Allows the SSE to realise its potential

- The potential contribution of the SSE to socio-economic development is significant

- SSE requires collaboratively designed broad and targeted policy; “spatial” policy

  - Broad enabling policies
    - Fiscal and monetary macro policy
    - Labour market policy
    - Framework legislation
    - Government investment

  - Targeted policies
    - Sectoral
    - Specific social groups (women, youth, cultural communities, etc)

  - Meso “spatial” strategies
    - Regional and local level
Why co-construction?

Ensures policy effectiveness

- More innovative, adapted and *effective* policy than those designed or implemented unilaterally by government
- Reduces policy misalignment and incoherence
- Innovative arrangements between government and the SSE and “instituted flexibility” in contrast to inflexible top-down programmatic approaches, are best able to respond to ongoing innovation in the SSE
Why co-construction?

Reduces information asymmetry and transaction costs

- Multi-stakeholder dialogue spaces
- Continuous feedback: joint evaluation of impact & joint identification of new challenges/needs
- Complex legal landscapes and innovative types of enterprises increase the need to share information
Requirements for effective co-construction

Representative networks and intermediary bodies

• Networks, coalitions and other forms of broad representation

• Measures to facilitate optimal integration (SSE actors; government)
Requirements for effective co-construction

Government commitment and capacity

- Recognizing the SSE as a key element in government’s development strategy
- Budgetary allocation
- Well-informed government actors
- Ensuring continuity in government engagement (non-partisan; institutionally embedded SSE)
Requirements for effective co-construction

Intra-governmental collaboration

• Horizontal (inter-departmental/ministerial) collaboration

• Vertical (local, regional, national) collaboration

• “recombinant linkages”

Inter-governmental collaboration

• supra-national level (eg. EU)

• Coordination between supra-national institutions and country specificities and priorities (policy flexibility)
Requirements for effective co-construction

Appropriate time horizons

- Willingness to address both palliative measures and long-term planning requirements
- Variability of government support to reflect the life-cycle of SSE enterprises and their capacity to generate autonomous revenue
- Regardless, this necessitates a change in government mind-set: from “expenditure” to “investment” with a high social return ultimately reducing government costs
A Coherent Policy Framework for the Social and Solidarity Economy

To access the individual case studies, and for more information on public policy for the SSE: [www.reliess.org](http://www.reliess.org)