

# **Preliminary metrics of the social impact of an education cooperative. The case of UnivSSE Coop**

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Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all is among the UN 17 SDGs. According to ICA World Cooperative Monitor, 19 world's largest cooperatives (out of the Top 300) manage educational services.

Social impact is a factor of success for a cooperative and social solidarity economy (SSE) organization. There are a lot of proposals regarding social impact measurement and simultaneously, there is a need for methodology and indicators that are easily used and understood.

There is a widespread dissatisfaction among cooperatives and SSE organizations, private funders and public decision-makers concerning the current systems of social impact assessment.

A European Commission and OECD report depicts impact scaling through four dimensions: Expansion, Replication, Partnerships and Knowledge Sharing.

An innovative assessment tool called SAVE (Social Added Value Evaluation) model on the basis of which it is possible to define a set of indicators for the evaluation of the social impact has been applied successfully to various cooperatives. Various aspects of the social impact are proposed by SAVE, such as: the ability to develop networks; to generate other collectives; to promote initiatives addressed to the citizens; to influence the actions of other organizations; to be involved in the planning processes of local policies.

Based on the above mentioned, a preliminary approach with social impact indicator measurements was applied to the social non-profit cooperative People's University of Social Solidarity Economy "UnivSSE Coop" (Thessaloniki, Greece).

Metrics of a set of ten social impact indicators for the period 2013-2021 are presented: 1) People reached by all actions, 2) Participants in events, 3) Partners and networks, 4) Presentations at events, 5) Ongoing European programs, 6) Audiovisual material hearings, 7) Website visits, 8) International geographic distribution of website visits, 9) National geographic distribution of website visits, 10) Followers on social media.