



RaiSE

Interreg Europe



European Union
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Emilia-Romagna Policy landscape & Gaps

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Figures of Emilia-Romagna Social Enterprises ecosystem

	Population	GDP per capita 2017 (EURO)	Total Employment	# Social Enterprises	#People employed in Social Enterprises	Revenue generated by Social Enterprises (EURO)
Emilia - Romagna	4,461,612 people (ISTAT, 2018)	35,697 (Prometeia, 2017)	1,973,043 73.3 % (ISTAT, 2017)	750 social cooperatives 27 social enterprises registered (Unioncamere 2016)	51,374 Social Enterprises and cooperatives employees (Unioncamere 2016)	2.5 billions (Unioncamere, 2016)

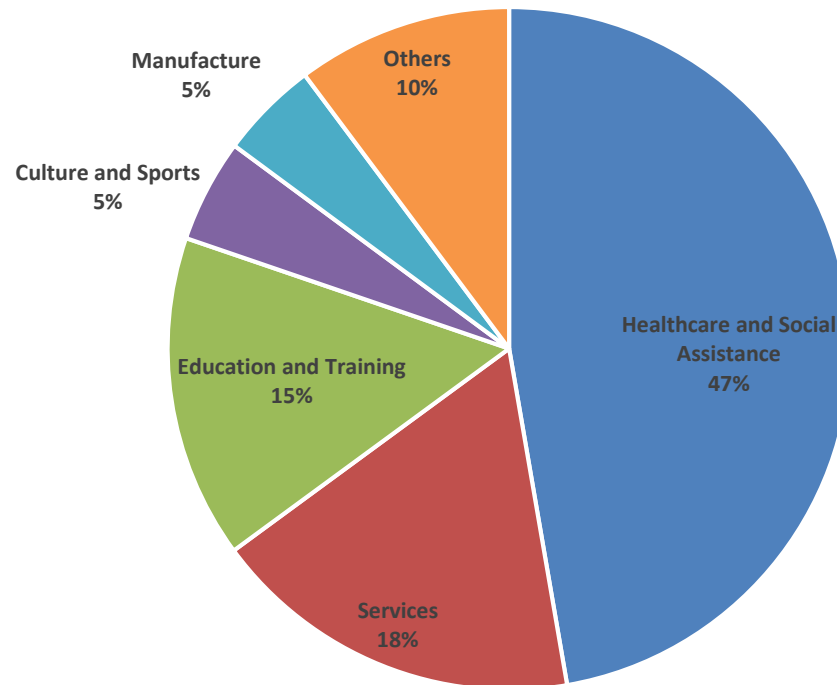
Actors

The organizations and actors that contribute in the social system of Emilia-Romagna comprise **750 cooperatives, 50,000 people employed and 27 Social Enterprises** (that are registered in the special section of the Company Register) **with 585 employees.**

Besides these figures, very relevant are the data concerning voluntary organization and social promotion associations which belong to the regional Third Sector.

Third sector counts in Emilia-Romagna for 8,000 entities - among voluntary organizations (3,099), associations for social promotion (4,192), with more than 1 million people engaged in their activities (Emilia-Romagna Region, 2018).

Social Enterprises & Cooperatives in E-R per Sector



Regional Strategies and policies

E-R Region has defined methods and paths **for co-design, co-management and the participation of the civil society** in the organization of public services in order to achieve more effective answers to new societal challenges.

Through its development agencies, ERVET (in-house regional development agency) and ASTER (regional Agency for technological innovation and research), the E-R Region takes part in the EU group on Social Innovation which is constituted by a number of regional development agencies gathered under the umbrella of EURADA.

In addition, ERVET and ASTER are members of the Regional Working Group on Social Innovation together with all the main regional territorial stakeholders, such as the cooperative association Legacoop Emilia-Romagna and Confcooperative Emilia-Romagna, the Regional Third Sector Forum, and the Regional Social Policy and Productive Activities Department - which are always engaged in all the projects and activities regarding social innovation.

Regional Strategies and policies

Regional strategies regarding the promotion and strengthening of social innovation and economy are horizontal and invest in different Departments of the E-R Region.

In 2016, the **Regional Agreement for Labour (Labour Pact)** was adopted tackling the **main themes of employment, innovation, education, social inclusion**. It was signed by the regional administration, local authorities, universities, chambers of commerce, industrial association, social parts, trade unions.

The Labour Pact includes the coordinated action strategy of Structural Funds in E-R.

According to the Labour Pact, the efficiency of the entire value chain is based on the enterprises potential of extending their view beyond production by including services - **even social services** – inside their processes in order to extend the creation of value and increase their response to the overall needs of society.

Regional Strategies and policies

The E-R Regional S3 – Smart Specialization Strategy identifies the principal focus of the action of the regional innovation policies and, for each of them, the technological trajectories, the innovative drivers and the factors of change to be pursued.

The S3 has so far stimulated the urban revitalization and the proliferation of techno poles, research centers on innovation and fab labs in which technological and social innovations are experimented and put in practice.

ERVET and ASTER are presently involved in the **S3 Innovation Platform aimed to influence the inclusion of the social innovation side into the next planning period of the Strategy (2021-2027).**

Regional law n. 12/2014 “Rules for the promotion and development of social cooperation”: recognizes and promotes the role and public function of social cooperatives in the management of public services and the participation of citizens in order to foster social cohesion. It sets up the Regional register of social cooperatives in fulfilment of the article 9 of the Italian Law n.381/91.

Deliberation of the Regional Council (DGR) 969/2016 “Adoption of regional guidelines on the awarding of services to social cooperation”: operational indications on the procedures of assignment and disbursement services in the relationship between Public Administration and social cooperatives and their consortia.

Deliberation of the Regional Council (DGR) 514/2014 “First provision of the Regional Government implementing the art. 23 of the Regional Law 4/08 on the accreditation of social and health services”. With the accreditation institute the regional welfare system is innovated to ensure that the delivery of services provide adequate answers to the needs of the population.

Regional law n.14/2014 “Promotion of the investments in Emilia-Romagna” promotes corporate welfare projects and the culture of corporate social responsibility and social enterprise.

Main regional stakeholders

- Emilia-Romagna Region - Policies for social integration and Third Sector Service
- Emilia-Romagna Region – Planning for Education, Training, Labour and Knowledge Policies Service
- Regional Representative bodies (Legacoop Sociali, Confcooperative – Federsolidarietà, AGCI General Association of Italian Cooperatives)
- Third Sector Forum Emilia-Romagna
- National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI) Emilia-Romagna
- University of Bologna (AICCON - Italian Association for the Promotion of the Culture of Co-operation and of Nonprofit, Faculty of Economics)

Regional Support Structures

Emilia-Romagna Region does not foresees specific support structure to SE. However, it has implemented different measures in support to SMEs competitiveness, mainly financed through the EU Regional Development Fund 2014-2020:

Contributions for small and medium-sized enterprises (ROP ERDF 2014-2020, Axis 1, Action 1.1.2) aimed at increasing market share or penetrating new markets through product or service innovation initiatives.

Contributions for small and micro businesses (ROP ERDF 2014-2020, Axis 1 Action 1.4.1) aimed at supporting the consolidation of innovative, knowledge-intensive startups.

Contributions for the most representative associations of cooperatives in the regional territory for the realization of "Integrated programs of development and cooperative promotion" through the establishment of new enterprises and training of new entrepreneurship, internationalization projects, research and innovation.

Access to subsidized credit for companies, self-employed and freelancers, Regional Microcredit Fund (established in 2017 within the Regional Law 23/2015).

Emilia-RomagnaSTARTUP initiative carried out by ASTER. It is addressed to startups and aspiring entrepreneurs with innovative business ideas and provides guidance, incubation and training advice.

STRENGTHNESS

Strong support from civil society to the development of social economy at National and Regional level (strong sense of community)

Emilia-Romagna socio-economic tissue traditionally linked to cooperativism and close cooperation among interested stakeholders in participative processes

Regional law 17/2015 “Rules for the promotion of employment, quality, safety and regularity of work” promotes work insertion for disabled people, but also creates a link between profit companies and social cooperatives. Social cooperatives have the opportunities to collaborate with for profit companies

Legislative Decree 117/2017 “Code of the Third Sector”: first systemic regulation regarding third sector, public and private relations and co-design methods for the assignment of services

Presence of big cooperatives/social enterprises with a strong entrepreneurial profile able to compete in the private market with for profit enterprises. These companies are bearer of innovative processes that can inspire both other companies and the political level to promote strategies that best suit the needs of society

WEAKNESSES

Until 2016 (before Legislative Decree 117/2017 “Code of the Third Sector) **no specific national planning regarding social economy & SE competitiveness** (implementing decree/regulations needed)

Lack of public calls/public funding specifically dedicated to SE

Lack of a system of reward with respect to the social value and environmental sustainability of a company (ref. to loans and public tenders for SMEs / ERDF ROP)

Twinning social enterprise and profit enterprise

Few social enterprises with managerial skills and a mature internal organization and lack of specific training paths

Targeted financial tools, fiscal benefits and guarantee funds are still too weak and fragmented

Lack of a unique and shared system of social impact measurement

Clear unequivocal definition of social enterprise accepted by all interested parties

OPPORTUNITIES

Exchange networks for social enterprises, profit companies and public sector (Regional, National, EU and International)

Internationalization and marketing

Exchange activities between innovative social enterprises (start-ups phase) and consolidated companies.

Shared **social impact measurement** method to orient public and private investments and deliver design thinking and targeted services

Digital transformation to innovate internal processes and services

Social economy/innovation value chains (regional and European)

THREATS

Digitalization of processes and services could provoke a decline in labor demand

Emerging needs (such as unemployment, immigration and poverty): new and more specific services required