

Social Economy in Europe

Krzysztof Pater

EESC

**President of the Section
for Economic and Monetary Union
and Economic and Social Cohesion**



European Economic and Social Committee

The Economic Importance of Social Economy in EU

- employs over 11 mln people, i.e. equivalent to 6.7% of the wage-earning population of the EU;



- in some countries this share exceeds 10% (Netherlands 10,7%, Ireland 10.6%).



The Political Importance of Social Economy in EU

- in 20 of 27 EU States the SE concept is recognized by the public authorities;
- Spain is the first country in EU working on special law;
- the European Parliament Social Economy Intergroup has been in operation since 1990.



Social Economy Charter (1980)

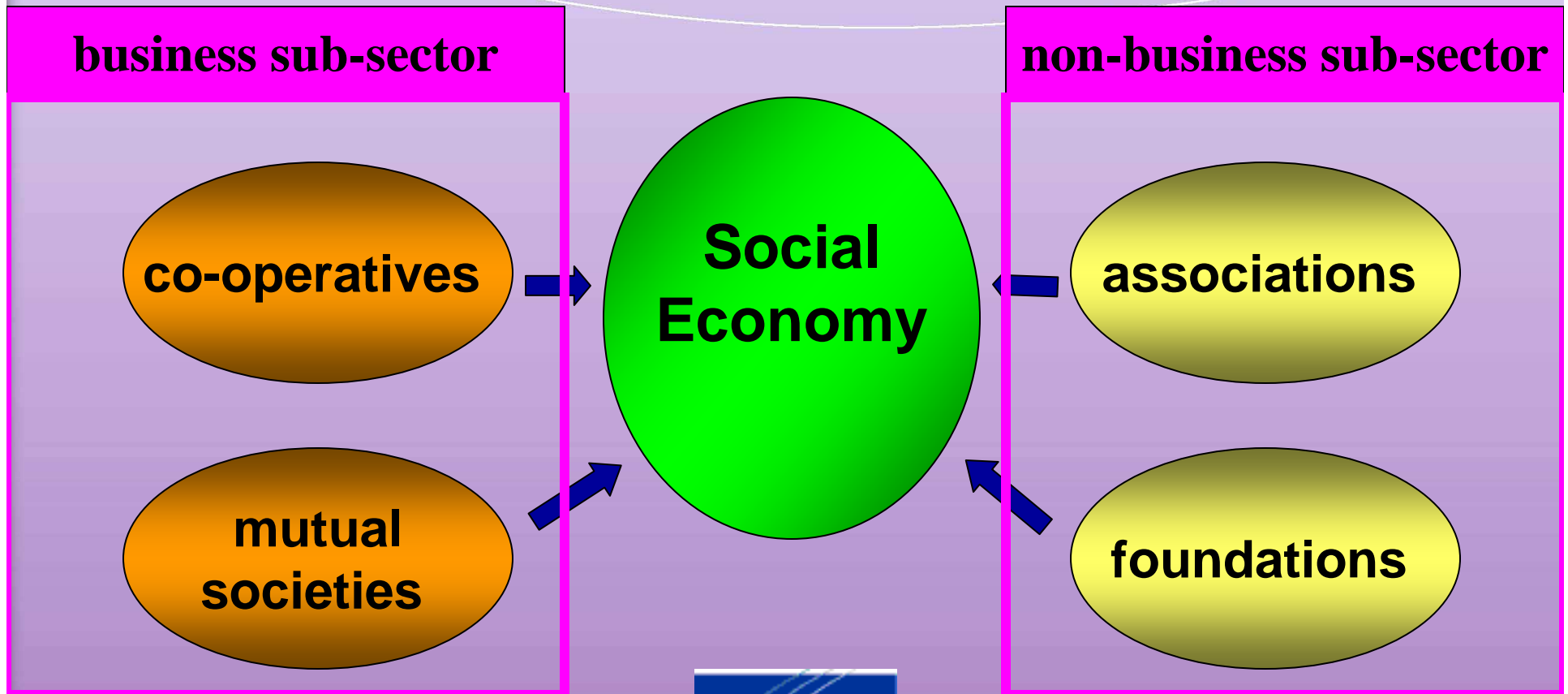
Social economy - set of organizations, that:

- do not belong to the public sector,
- operate democratically members have equal rights and duties,
- practice a particular regime of ownership and distribution of profits,
- employ the surpluses to expand the organization,
- improve its services to the members and society.



European Economic and Social Committee

Social Economy Main Families



EU Sector Representatives'

Definition (1/2)

- the primacy of individual and the social objective over capital,
- the combination of the interests of members / users / general interest,
- the principle of solidarity and responsibility,
- most of surpluses used in pursuit of sustainable development objectives, services of interest to members or the general interest.



EU Sector Representatives' Definition (2/2)

- voluntary and open membership,
- democratic control by members,
- autonomous management and independence from the public authorities.



Social Economy Companies (Business Sub-sector)



- created to meet their members needs,
- market producers,
- distribution of profits not proportional to the contributed capital.



European Economic and Social Committee

Social Economy

IS NOT Non-Profit Sector

	Social Economy	Non-Profit Sector
distribution of profits among members	YES (some)	NO
democratic decision making process	essential	not important
criterion of serving the people	YES	not necessary



Areas Recognised by the CSR Europe

Communication
& Transparency

R(E)volutionary
Business
Models

Human
Capital

Sustainable Production
and Consumption

Integrated
Workplace



European Economic and Social Committee

The Best Practices of CSR among SE Companies (1/2)

- Well-being in the workplace
- Social Inclusion



European Economic and Social Committee

The Best Practices of CSR among SE Companies (2/2)

- Enhancing skills for employability
- Stimulating Entrepreneurship
- Proactive Stakeholder Engagement



Japan's Strengths in Corporate Management Style

- group orientation and team work,
- employees' loyalty to the company,
- cooperation and trust between executives and employees,
- consideration for others



the same
are applicable
for the social economy
companies in EU



**social economy is the sector,
which provide employment for
many people less privileged
on the labor market: disabled,
immigrants, former prisoners,
low educated, ...**

**And additionally
it is important to
consider that ...**



European Economic and Social Committee

Thank You for Your Attention

Krzysztof Pater
EESC
President of the ECO Section



European Economic and Social Committee