

# Social economy representation in the Swedish IR systems

MESMER+  
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# Social economy is relatively large in Sweden

- Stands for approximately 6 % of the labour force
- Only the Cooperative sector has a yearly turn-over of 75 B€ and employ over 120 000 people
- 250 000 organisations with economic activities in the social economy, employing over 300 000 people (6,25 %)
- Still, limited possibility to influence the social dialogue or industrial relations.

# Social economy is relatively large in Sweden

- The social partners (trade unions and employer organizations) play a central part
- Trade union density in Sweden is among the highest in the world and cover a proportion of 70% of employees. The institute of collective bargaining together with trade unions represent a pattern of robust historical interaction on national and local levels.
- High-level groups or other multi-stakeholder committee or governmental hearings and consultations are rarely used in Sweden.

# Social Economy representation

- The formal role of the social economy is limited, attempts are made with informal networks to create influence over legislative social and labour market issues.
- Democratic forms of governance and the logic of economic sustainability/owner influence create other conditions that do not emerge in Sweden.
- There is a need for a general increase in knowledge about the social economy's special form, possibilities and conditions.
- The social dialogue in Sweden is structured based on two sides (employers and employees).

# Policy recommendations

- The MesMer+ project finally open up for reflections
- Includes vital actors and may structure the social economy inclusion in IR and SD
- **The employer organizations** for the social economy need to collaborate closer in the manner of including social economy perspective in the industrial relations, as well as be able to be a voice in the governmental social dialogue.
- **The government** have the task to secure representation and to make the social economy more visible in the social dialogue.
- **The social economy** sector needs to secure that we may participate by one voice and make sure we are visible.

# Thank You!

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