

“Updating of the mapping of social enterprises and their eco-systems in Europe: Cyprus”

George Isaias, Director

Since 2010, SYNTHESIS' mission has been to

“Inspire, develop and support Social Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation in Cyprus.”

**1st Social Entrepreneurship Conference in 2010.
Under the auspices of the CCCI.**

Followed by European Conferences in 2012, 2013, and 2016.



Research & Policy:\

- “Social Entrepreneurship: A new paradigm that can help Cyprus to address its challenges” (2011)
- External consultant of the European Social Fund (Cyprus Unit) in the “Social Entrepreneurship Network” (2013-4).
- The Cypriot expert in the study undertaken on behalf of the European Commission “A Map of Social Enterprises and their Ecosystem in Europe.” (2014)
- “Policy paper for the creation of an ecosystem of social enterprises in Cyprus,” on behalf of the European Commission and the Government of Cyprus (2016-7)



- **Update of the 2014 Report**
- **Study undertaken by EURICSE and EMES on behalf of the European Commission**
- **Cyprus Report: Synthesis**



Advisory Committee:

- Mr. Charalambos Theopemptou
- Ms. Irene Piki, ex Head of Investment of Entrepreneurship and Better Regulation Unit
- Mr. Christopher Markides, European Social Fund, Cyprus
- Dr. Stephanos Spaneas, University of Nicosia
- Dr. Nicos Souleles, Cyprus Technological University

Stakeholders' Group:

Anyone interested in the field

Study's operational definition:

Dimension	General Definition	Minimum Requirement
Entrepreneurial/Economic	Social Enterprises (SEs) are engaged in carrying out stable and continuous economic activities and show the typical characteristics of an enterprise	Market oriented (trading should be ideally above 25%)

Dimension	General Definition	Minimum Requirement
Social dimension (social aim)	<p>SEs pursue the explicit social aim of serving the community or a specific group of people that shares a specific need.</p> <p>“Social” shall be understood in a broad sense so as to include the provision of cultural, health, educational and environmental services.</p>	<p>Primacy of social aim must be clearly established</p>
Governance / ownership dimension	<p>SEs limit the distribution of profits and have an asset lock</p>	<p>Interests of relevant stakeholders are duly represented in decision making process</p>

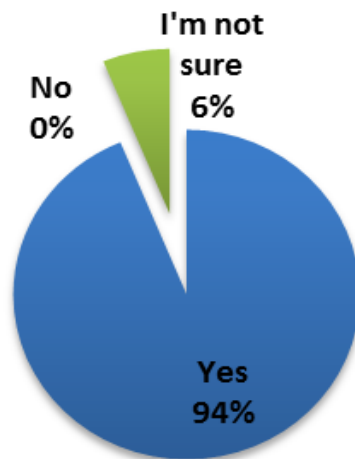
Main Content

1. Background
2. Concept, legal evolution and fiscal framework
3. Mapping
 - Social Enterprise Characteristics
 - Measuring SEs
 - Case studies
4. Ecosystem
 - Actors, Policy schemes, Funding and Financing, Support Structures
 - Research and Education, etc.
5. Perspectives
 - Debate, Constraining factors, Opportunities, Challenges, Trends

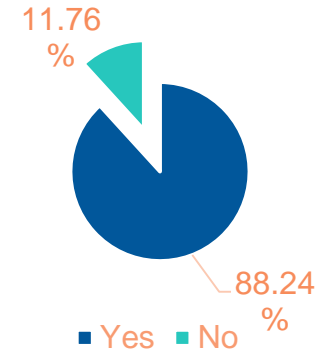
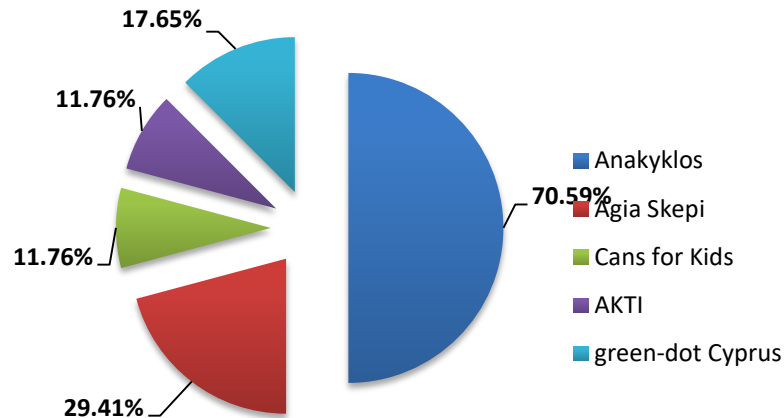
Survey with Experts / Practitioners / Policy Makers



Q. Do you know what Social Enterprise is?



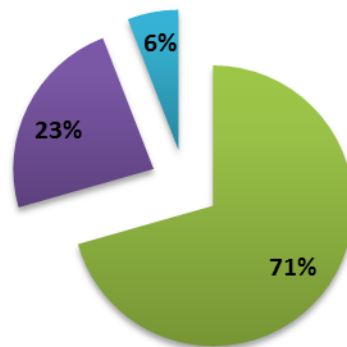
Q. Do you know Social Enterprises in Cyprus?



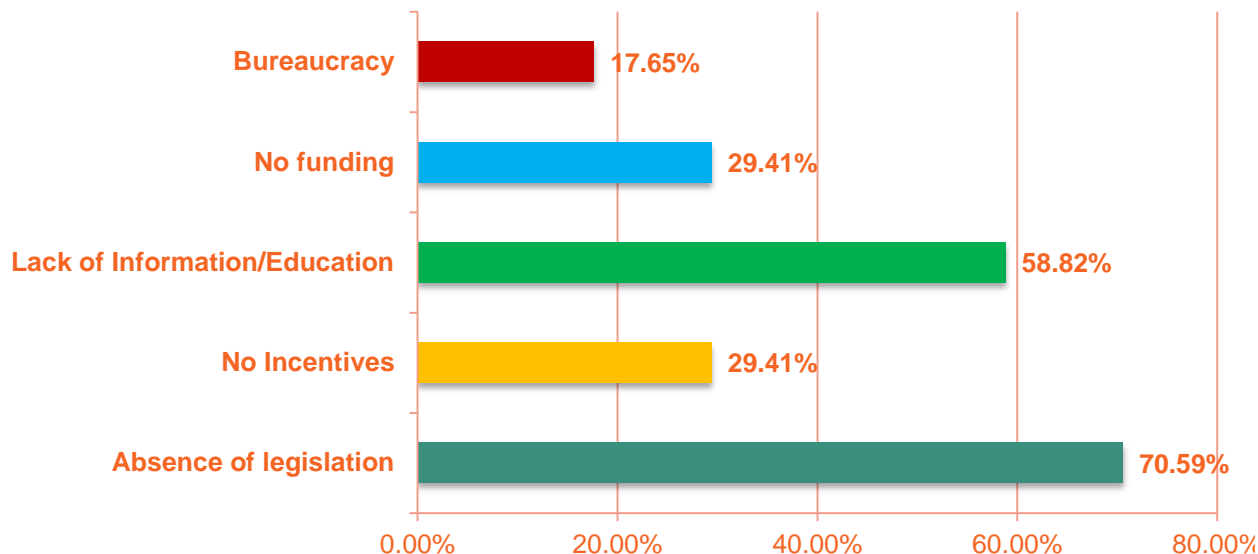
Other responses: Agecare Cyprus Ltd, Synthesis, Pasykaf, Cardet, and P.O.W.E.R.

Q. How well would you say that the various forms of social enterprise are recognized in Cyprus?

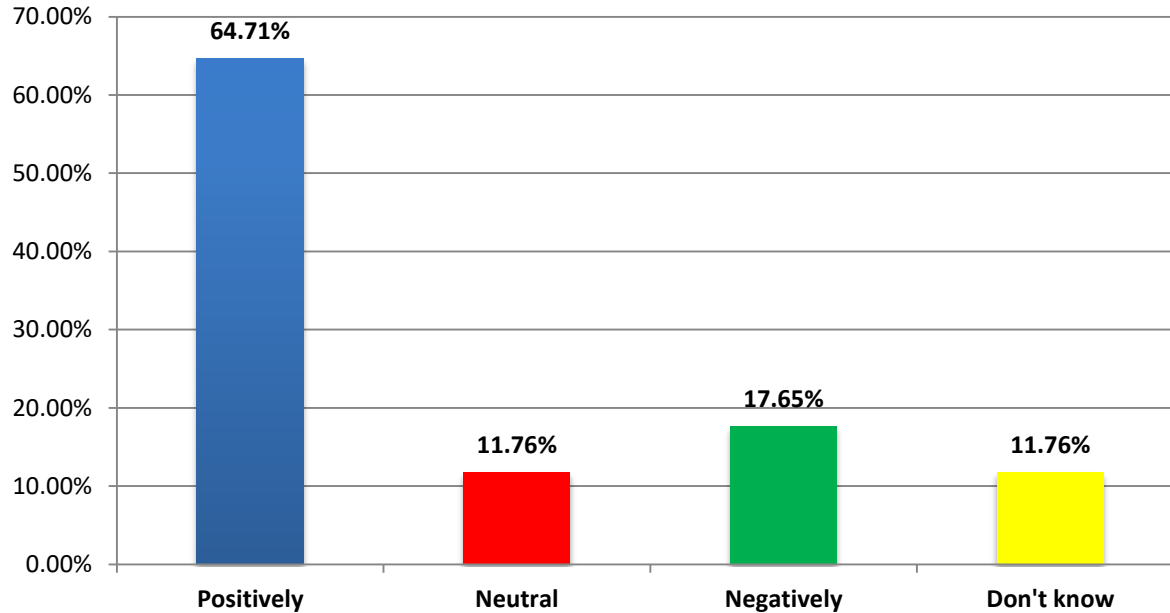
■ Very Well ■ Quite Well ■ Somewhat ■ Not at all ■ Don't Know



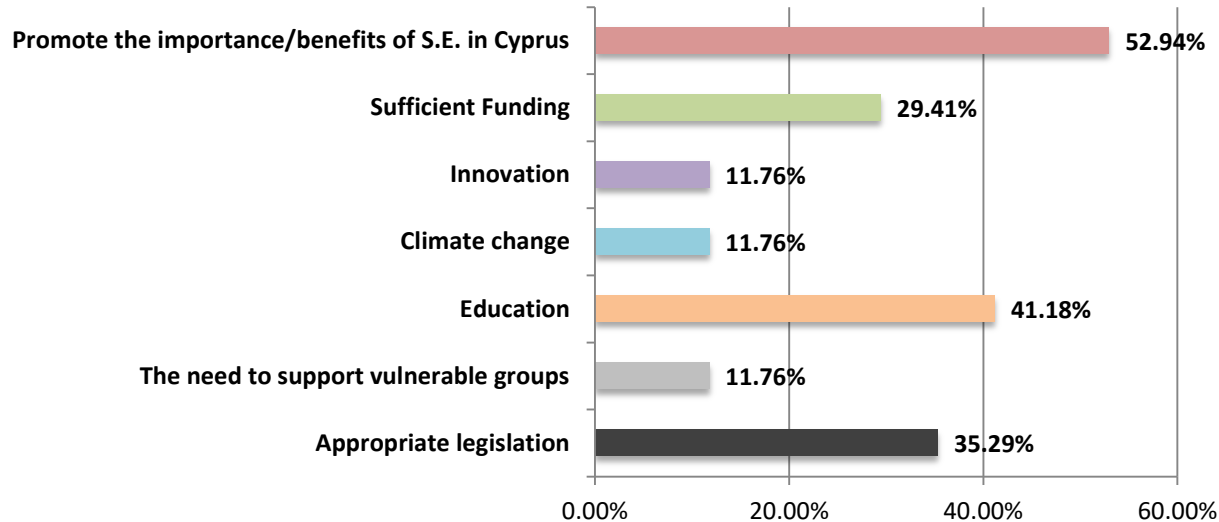
Q. What are the main barriers to the development of an eco-system for social enterprises in Cyprus?



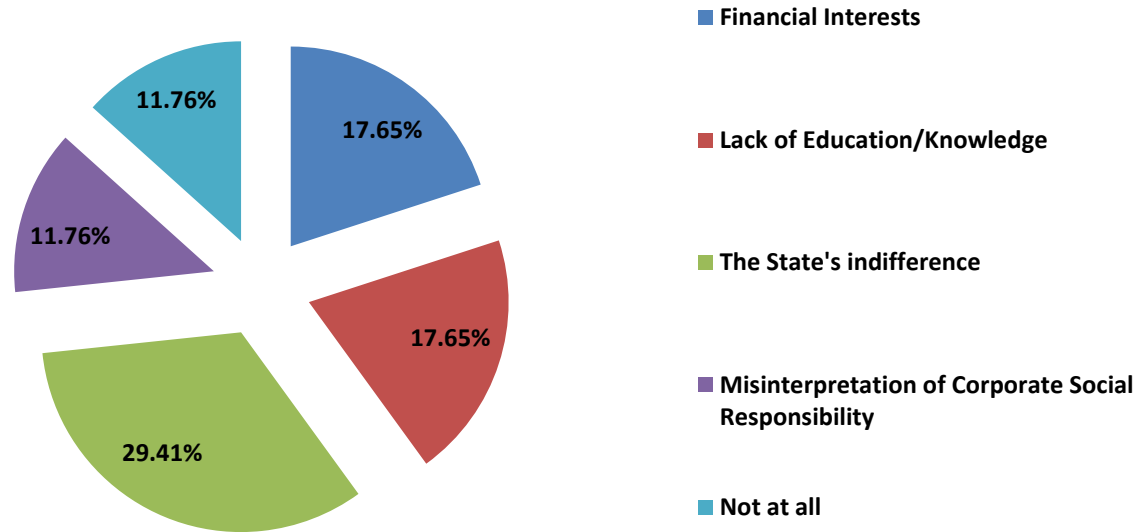
Q. How do you think the history and socio-political context of Cyprus has affected the development of social enterprise?



Q. What main factors would you say are enabling/could enable the development of social enterprise in Cyprus?



Q. Are there any trends that you think are threatening the development of social enterprises in Cyprus?



Q. What do you think are the two most likely scenarios for development of social enterprises in Cyprus

- The sector will succeed only if there is support by the Government
- No change without the Institutional Framework (law, action plan, incentives), Or worse, failure of the sector (in case there are no incentives which will support the competition and sustainability of the sector).

Primary Conclusions

- The most important barriers for the development of the sector of social enterprises are cited as the absence of legislation; the lack of funding and incentives, and lack of knowledge/education.
- The State is seen as the catalyst for the development of the sector: The success or the failure of the social enterprise ecosystem is placed upon the Government.

Next Steps

- ✓ **Draft Report to be completed by October 15**
- ✓ **To participate in the Research or participate in the upcoming stakeholders' meeting, please let us know by September 25, latest.**
- ✓ **Send us any information you have on social entrepreneurship related activities by 25 September**



Thank you!

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