METHODOLOGY NOTE · SEI 2026 PROVISIONAL EDITION · V0.9

Social Entrepreneurship Index 2026: how the provisional SEI Diamond is built

How 40 indicators from public statistics, published indices and coded policy documents become comparable scores for 45 European countries, and how far those scores can be trusted.

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1 · What the index measures

The Social Entrepreneurship Index (SEI) measures the **conditions a country offers social enterprises**, not the size or performance of the social-enterprise sector itself. It asks whether the political, economic, legal, institutional and financial environment makes it easier or harder to start, run and grow an enterprise with a primary social or environmental mission.

The framework is the **SEI Diamond**. The political dimension sits at the centre as a circle, because political stability and political will condition everything else. The four corners are the economic, legal, institutional and financial environments. A larger, more even Diamond means a more supportive ecosystem; a lopsided one shows where a country is strong and where it is holding social enterprises back.

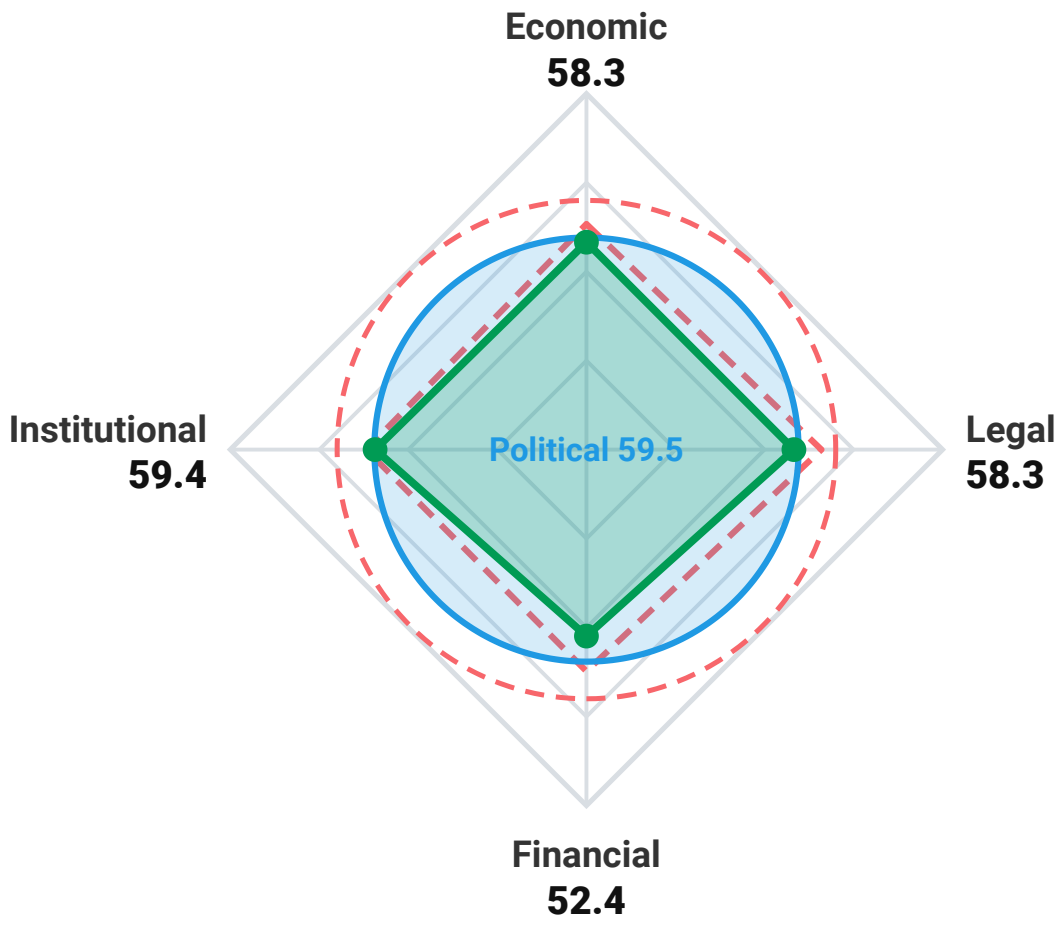


Figure 1. The SEI Diamond, illustrated with the 45-country average (green) and the EU-27 average (dashed). The political dimension is drawn as the radius of the central circle; each corner is a dimension score on a 0–100 scale.

The index was designed in a doctoral study of the conditions for social entrepreneurship in North Macedonia (Chichevaliev, 2020), which built on an earlier analysis of the same conditions (Chichevaliev, 2019) and proposed the five dimensions, their sub-dimensions and an indicator matrix, with the Diamond as the way of showing them. It was first applied to North Macedonia, with survey data, in 2020, and its framing was extended to the Western Balkans in Chichevaliev et al. (2023). Its premise is that social entrepreneurship depends on its environment as much as on the entrepreneur: on the ecosystem of resource providers, partners, markets and rules around an enterprise (Bloom & Dees, 2008; Isenberg, 2010), and on formal institutions, which can support social enterprises or leave voids that they step in to fill (Dacin et al., 2010; Mair & Martí, 2009; Scott, 1995; Stephan et al., 2015). Cross-country studies find that political, economic and institutional conditions shape how much social entrepreneurship a country has (Estrin et al., 2013; Griffiths et al., 2013; Hoogendoorn, 2016).

Each dimension follows a strand of that literature. The political dimension combines political stability with political will, expressed in strategies and in the structures that carry them. The economic dimension covers social need (poverty, inequality, joblessness), business dynamics and access to markets. The legal dimension asks whether social enterprises are defined and recognised in law, which European countries do in very different ways (Defourny & Nyssens, 2010; Fici, 2016), and how heavy the general regulatory and judicial environment is. The institutional dimension covers the quality of public institutions, education and support structures. The financial dimension covers the sources of funding open to social enterprises and access to them, a constraint the literature treats as specific to enterprises

that pursue a social mission (Austin et al., 2006). The composite is built following the OECD and Joint Research Centre handbook on composite indicators (OECD et al., 2008).

The full matrix has **63 indicators**: 8 political, 20 economic, 12 legal, 16 institutional and 7 financial, grouped into sub-dimensions. They draw on three kinds of evidence: public statistics and published indices; a review of laws, strategies and programmes; and a survey of social entrepreneurs and ecosystem experts. This edition uses the first two. It scores the **40 indicators that can be filled for all 45 countries today**; the 23 survey-based indicators complete the index once fieldwork is done.

2 · Countries and reference periods

The index covers 45 countries in five groups: the EU-27, the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia), the Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine), EFTA (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland) and the UK and Turkey. Regional figures are unweighted means of member countries.

Version 0.9.4 adds indicative scores for ten countries beyond Europe: South America (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay), Sub-Saharan Africa (Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal) and North Africa (Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia). They are scored on the same indicators, method and goalposts as the 45, with their policy criteria coded on the same rules, but they are not ranked with the 45 and enter no regional figure. No comparable source covers five indicators for them (2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.2, 2.2.3 and 2.2.4), and values outside the European range are capped at 0 or 100, so their scores are indicative; each profile sets out what limits its score.

Statistics use the latest year available, mostly 2024 or 2025. This edition takes each country's most recent observation whatever its age, so a few values date from 2014 to 2018 (some GEM surveys, NEET for Ukraine, the UK's statistics after it left EU-SILC); the year of every value is in the data, and version 1.0 will apply a maximum age. The policy layer describes the situation at **end-2025**. A few sources exist for one year only and are used as published: the Heritage Index of Economic Freedom 2020, the World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report 2019 (its last edition), the ease-of-getting-credit measure carried in the Global Innovation Index 2020, and the Open Budget Survey 2023.

3 · Indicators and sources

Table 1 lists every row of the SEI indicator register: the 40 live indicators with their sources, and the indicators still pending. Some pending rows group several survey indicators, which is why the register has fewer rows than the matrix has indicators. Full references for the data sources are listed at the end of this note (Cornell University et al., 2020; Eurostat, 2024a, 2024b, 2026a–2026g; Freedom House, 2025; Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, 2026; International Budget Partnership, 2024; Schwab, 2019; The Heritage Foundation, 2020; World Bank, 2026a, 2026b). The governance indicators are described in Kaufmann et al. (2011) and, for the 2025 revision used here, in Kaufmann and Kraay (2024).

CODE	INDICATOR	SOURCE	STATUS
POLITICAL DIMENSION			
1.1.1	Government effectiveness **Political stability**	WGI governance score (2025 revision)	Live · 45
1.1.2	Political & operational stability **Political stability**	WGI – Political Stability (2025 revision)	Live · 45
1.1.3	Rule of law **Political stability**	WGI – Rule of Law (2025 revision)	Live · 45

CODE	INDICATOR	SOURCE	STATUS
1.1.4	Control of corruption **Political stability**	WGI – Control of Corruption (2025 revision)	Live · 45
1.1.5	Civil liberties **Political stability**	Freedom House FIW, D. Freedom of Expression and Belief	Live · 45
1.2.1	Policies for development & promotion of SE **Political will**	Laws, strategies and programmes coded to the SEI rubric (public sources per code)	Live · 45
1.2.2	Collaboration of institutions with sectors **Political will**	Laws, strategies and programmes coded to the SEI rubric (public sources per code)	Live · 45
1.2.3	Concerns & risks **Political will**	Expert survey	Field survey
ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT			
2.1.1	Severe material and social deprivation **Socioeconomic**	Eurostat ilc_mdsd11 (API)	Live · 36
2.1.2	At risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE) **Socioeconomic**	Eurostat ilc_peps01n (API); income-only AROP ilc_li02 as wider proxy	Live · 37
2.1.3	Inequality (Gini) **Socioeconomic**	Eurostat EU-SILC ilc_di12; World Bank PIP outside EU-SILC	Live · 43
2.1.4	NEET (youth not in employment/education) **Socioeconomic**	Eurostat sdg_08_20 (15–29); World Bank/ILO (15–24) for gaps	Live · 42
2.1.5	Unemployment **Socioeconomic**	World Bank WDI SL.UEM.TOTL.ZS (ILO modelled)	Live · 43
2.1.6	Youth unemployment **Socioeconomic**	Eurostat yth_empl_100; World Bank/ILO modelled for gaps	Live · 43
2.2.1	Taxation (tax burden) **Microeconomic**	Heritage IEF	Live · 44
2.2.2	Firm birth rate **Microeconomic**	Eurostat business demography bd_size (2021–) + bd_9ac_l_form_r2 (to 2020), all enterprises	Live · 36
2.2.3	Firm death rate **Microeconomic**	Eurostat business demography bd_size (2021–) + bd_9ac_l_form_r2 (to 2020), all enterprises	Live · 36
2.2.4	Survival rate of new enterprises **Microeconomic**	Eurostat business demography, 3-year (bd_9bd_sz_cl_r2 to 2020, bd_size 2024), all enterprises	Live · 33
2.2.5	Investment in business sector **Microeconomic**	World Bank WDI NE.GDI.FTOT.ZS (total investment as proxy)	Live · 44
2.2.6	Ease of getting credit **Microeconomic**	Global Innovation Index 2020 (Doing Business “getting credit”)	Live · 43
2.3.2	Public authorities use social clauses (SRPP) **Access to market**	Laws, strategies and programmes coded to the SEI rubric (public sources per code)	Live · 45
2.3	4 other indicators (market access, tender support, partnerships, private-market measures) **Access to market**	SE survey	Field survey
2.4	Sustainability of HR **Human resources**	SE survey	Field survey
2.5	2 indicators **Financial & tech resources**	SE survey	Field survey
LEGAL ENVIRONMENT			

CODE	INDICATOR	SOURCE	STATUS
3.1	Official SE definition (in law or strategy) **Definition**	Laws, strategies and programmes coded to the SEI rubric (public sources per code)	Live · 45
3.2.1	SEs are legally recognised **Legal identity**	Laws, strategies and programmes coded to the SEI rubric (public sources per code)	Live · 45
3.2.2–4	Legal forms, pertinence of legislation, admin procedures **Legal identity**	Legal/policy desk + survey	Policy review
3.3.1	Ease of starting a business **Regulation**	Heritage Business Freedom / GII	Live · 44
3.3.2	Ease of resolving insolvency **Regulation**	WEF Global Competitiveness Report 2019 (Doing Business insolvency data)	Live · 42
3.3.3	Subjective experience of regulation **Regulation**	SE survey	Field survey
3.3.4	Experience of illegitimate restrictions **Regulation**	SE survey	Field survey
3.3.5	Burden of government regulation **Regulation**	WEF Global Competitiveness Report 2019	Live · 42
3.4.1	Judicial effectiveness **Judiciary**	Heritage IEF	Live · 44
3.4.2	Independent judiciary **Judiciary**	WEF Global Competitiveness Report 2019 — judicial independence	Live · 42
INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT			
4.1	Legal framework & govt spending efficiency **Efficiency**	WEF Global Competitiveness Report 2019 — legal framework in settling disputes	Live · 42
4.2.1	Strength of auditing & reporting standards **Protection**	WEF Global Competitiveness Report 2019	Live · 42
4.2.2	Shareholder governance **Protection**	WEF Global Competitiveness Report 2019	Live · 42
4.2.3	Strength of investor protection **Protection**	Heritage (Investment Freedom / Property Rights)	Live · 45
4.3.1	Tertiary education enrolment **Education**	World Bank WDI SE.TER.ENRR (UNESCO)	Live · 44
4.3.2	Quality of education system **Education**	WEF Global Competitiveness Report 2019 — skillset of graduates	Live · 42
4.3.3	Staff training **Education**	SE survey	Field survey
4.3.4	Dedicated SE training available **Education**	SE survey	Field survey
4.3.5	Coaching & mentoring programmes **Education**	SE survey	Field survey
4.3.6	Business-development support for SEs **Education**	Laws, strategies and programmes coded to the SEI rubric (public sources per code)	Live · 45
4.3.7	Entrepreneurship **Education**	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor — early-stage activity (TEA)	Live · 37
4.4.1	Transparency of policymaking / integrity **Govt transparency**	Heritage Government Integrity	Live · 44
4.4.2	Budget transparency **Govt transparency**	Open Budget Survey 2023 (International Budget Partnership)	Live · 27

CODE	INDICATOR	SOURCE	STATUS
4.5	3 indicators **SE inclusion**	SE survey	Field survey
FINANCIAL ENVIRONMENT			
5.1.1	EU funds mobilised for SE **Available funding**	Laws, strategies and programmes coded to the SEI rubric (public sources per code)	Live · 45
5.1.2	Sources of funding **Available funding**	Desk + survey	Field survey
5.1.3	Private funders **Available funding**	SE survey	Field survey
5.2.1	Access to sources of funding **Access to funding**	SE survey	Field survey
5.2.2	Dedicated national funding lines **Access to funding**	Laws, strategies and programmes coded to the SEI rubric (public sources per code)	Live · 45
5.2.3	Financing SMEs **Access to funding**	WEF Global Competitiveness Report 2019 — financing of SMEs; Heritage financial freedom (2020)	Live · 45
5.3	Grant dependency / revenue mix **Financial independence**	SE survey	Field survey
SUPPLEMENTARY · SEAP ALIGNMENT			
+1	SEAP relevance, effectiveness, coherence (1–5) and their mean **EU policy fit**	SEAP MTR Criterion Matrices · Dashboard (national experts; country averages by the Observatory)	Context · EU-27

4 · From raw values to scores

Every indicator is turned into a score from 0 (least favourable) to 100 (most favourable), in one of three ways.

- **Published indices already on a 0–100 scale** (Worldwide Governance Indicators, Heritage, WEF, Open Budget Survey) are used as published.
- **Statistics** (poverty, inequality, unemployment, firm demography and so on) are rescaled between goalposts set at the 5th and 95th percentiles of all country-year values for that statistic across the 45 countries (the panel runs from 2014, 2015 or 2016 to 2024 or 2025, depending on the series). Investment and tertiary enrolment enter with one latest value per country, so their goalposts are the percentiles of those 44 values. Values beyond a goalpost are capped. Where lower is better, the scale is reversed. A country's score uses its latest value.
- **Policy indicators** are the mean of their criteria, each answered 0, 33, 67 or 100 (section 6).

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score = 100 × (x − p5) / (p95 − p5),  capped to [0, 100]
score = 100 − score                      where lower values are better
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Percentile goalposts keep a single outlier from compressing everyone else. Because they are set on the whole panel, they stay fixed when the index is recomputed for earlier years, so a change in score reflects a change in the underlying value. Table 2 gives the goalposts.

CODE	STATISTIC	UNIT	P5	P95	BETTER
2.1.1	Severe material and social deprivation	% of population	1.67	28.42	lower
2.1.2	At risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE)	% of population	13.66	39.51	lower

CODE	STATISTIC	UNIT	P5	P95	BETTER
2.1.2	At-risk-of-poverty rate (AROP, income only)	% of population	11.33	23.4	lower
2.1.3	Inequality (Gini coefficient)	Gini, 0–100	23.7	38.31	lower
2.1.4	Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET)	% of ages 15–29	6.12	24.48	lower
2.1.5	Unemployment rate	%	2.84	17.52	lower
2.1.6	Youth unemployment rate (15–24)	% of labour force 15–24	6.8	35.9	lower
2.2.2	Enterprise birth rate	% of enterprises	6.45	16.77	higher
2.2.3	Enterprise death rate	% of enterprises	3.93	13.5	lower
2.2.4	3-year survival rate of new enterprises	% of enterprises	43.51	72.59	higher
2.2.5	Investment (gross fixed capital formation)	% GDP	16.91	26.66	higher
4.3.1	Tertiary education enrolment (gross ratio)	%	45.58	109.64	higher
4.3.7	Early-stage entrepreneurial activity (TEA)	%	3.93	14.27	higher

5 · Aggregation

Scores are averaged in three steps, each an unweighted arithmetic mean: indicators into sub-dimensions, sub-dimensions into dimensions, and the five dimensions into the composite. Each sub-dimension therefore carries equal weight within its dimension, whatever its number of indicators, and each dimension carries a fifth of the composite.

Two indicators combine sources. Where a country has no AROPE figure, indicator 2.1.2 uses the income-only at-risk-of-poverty rate. Indicators 4.2.3 (investment and property protection) and 5.2.3 (SME financing and financial freedom) average two sources. A missing indicator is left out of its sub-dimension's average rather than imputed, and the number of indicators behind each dimension is reported with every score.

> The composite is the mean of the five dimensions; the political dimension is not double-counted for being drawn at the centre of the Diamond. A country scores well only by doing well across the board: a high score on one dimension can offset a low one, but the profile still shows the gap.

6 · The policy layer

Eight indicators come from coding laws, strategies, programmes and procurement rules, with 31 December 2025 as the reference date. From version 0.9.3 each indicator is coded on a set of criteria, two to five per indicator and 33 per country in all. Each criterion is a factual question answered on four levels, 0, 33, 67 or 100, and each level has a written description (Table 3). The indicator score is the mean of its criteria. Scoring explicit questions on four described levels follows the Open Budget Survey (International Budget Partnership, 2024), whose answers are also scored 0, 33, 67 or 100. Earlier versions gave each indicator a single code with two to four levels; criteria make the steps between scores smaller and let each answer be checked on its own.

The law indicator (3.2.1) records five facts: the adoption stage of the law (none, bill, enacted or in force: 0, 33, 67 or 100) and, on a scale of 0, 50 or 100, its scope, its implementing rules, the status or register it creates and the bodies it provides for. A law that is not yet in force scores 0 on the last three. Beside the score, the explorer shows a headline level from 0 to 3: 0 no law; 1 a bill, a law enacted but not in force, or a law in force with nothing implemented; 2 in force and partly implemented; 3 in force and fully

implemented. A law for a single type of social enterprise, such as social cooperatives or work-integration enterprises, is capped at level 2. The index uses the score from the five facts; the level is a reading aid.

General rules settle borderline cases. Only adopted instruments count, except where a level names a draft or bill, and then only if it was pending on 31 December 2025; a body or measure that appears only in a draft does not count as provided for. Where an instrument does not exist, the criteria that describe it score 0. A strategy or action plan approved by a ministry or a programme body, rather than by the government, counts as adopted and is marked in the evidence as sectoral or programmatic adoption. A broader strategy reaches the second-highest level of dedication only with an SE objective, section or several SE measures; a single measure counts as a mention. Where no national strategy was adopted, adopted regional strategies count at that level, and the remaining strategy criteria describe the regional strategy documented. Where the codebook left the reading of a document open, the authors ruled; those answers are marked as author rulings in the evidence. Disability-employment regimes (sheltered workshops, protective or integrative companies) are not counted as social-enterprise law or policy unless the law calls them social enterprises. A social-enterprise status placed in another act, or a single legal form open to any purpose, counts as general in scope. Where competence is regional by constitution, regional frameworks stand in for national ones: the regions in Belgium, and the two entities and Brčko District in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A procurement law that transposes Article 77 of Directive 2014/24/EU, which lets contracting authorities reserve certain health, social and cultural service contracts for organisations with a public-service mission, reinvested profits and participatory ownership, reaches the top level of the legal basis for social clauses (2.3.2), as does an equivalent national provision reserving such contracts for non-profit or social-economy organisations (Georgia, Norway). EFTA countries and the UK score 0 on EU funds (5.1.1), as in earlier versions (section 10).

Every answer states the fact, the level description applied and the public source it rests on, so each can be checked on its own: under each country in the explorer, and in the policy-criteria file of the open dataset. Sources are official texts and pages first, then public reviews such as the European Commission's Social Economy Gateway country pages, the OECD country fact sheets and notes (OECD & European Union, 2025) and the European mapping of social-enterprise ecosystems (Borzaga et al., 2020). The codes of version 0.9.2 and their sources served as leads. For the EU member states those codes had started from the national country reports prepared in 2025 for the mid-term review of the EU Social Economy Action Plan; the reports are not public (the Commission's review itself is: European Commission, 2026), and no answer rests on them.

The criteria were tested before use. Under a first draft of the codebook, two coders coded four countries independently (Georgia, Italy, North Macedonia and Senegal): they gave the same level to 88 of 112 answers (79%) and levels at most one step apart to 96% (Cohen's $\kappa = 0.71$; 0.88 with quadratic weights). The criteria on which they disagreed were reworded. Under the final codebook a second coder independently coded eight countries (Brazil, Spain, France, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Tunisia and Ukraine): the same level for 77% of 224 answers and at most one step apart for 98% ($\kappa = 0.68$; 0.88 with quadratic weights). Countries outside the 45 were included to test the codebook on a wider range of frameworks. Both codings were done with an AI model working from public sources, under rules and rulings set by the authors, so these figures measure how consistently the codebook can be applied rather than agreement between independent experts. Every answer the first coder marked as low-confidence, and every criterion of an indicator whose score moved 40 points or more from version 0.9.3, was then re-checked against a public source: 679 answers in the 45 countries, of which 195 changed. Of the 1,260 answers outside the law indicator, 297 rest on an official source (high confidence), 870 on a reliable secondary source (medium) and 93 remain low-confidence; they are marked as such in the explorer and the data.

CODE	CRITERION	0	33 (LAW: 50)	67	100	MEAN
1.2.1	**SE strategy / action plan**					**45**
S1	Status	none	in preparation (drafting announced officially, or a draft published and pending)	adopted, lapsed before 31 Dec 2025, not renewed	adopted and in force on 31 Dec 2025	58
S2	Dedication	SE absent from adopted national strategies	SE mentioned in an adopted broader strategy, without measures	SE chapter or pillar with measures in an adopted broader strategy, or dedicated regional strategies only	dedicated national SE strategy or action plan	64
S3	Operational content	no adopted instrument	objectives only, or measures without named responsible bodies	measures with named responsible bodies	measures with responsible bodies, quantified targets and a budget	36
S4	Monitoring	none	monitoring foreseen in the text	monitoring body or indicator set in place	progress or evaluation report published in 2021–2025	39
S5	Participation of SE organisations	no evidence	public consultation only, or a general statement that stakeholders took part	SE organisations named as members of the drafting group or of the monitoring body	named in both	26
1.2.2	**Institutional structure & dialogue**					**51**
I1	Lead responsibility	none identified	SE handled informally or split, no lead named in any official text	a ministry named responsible in a law, decree, adopted strategy or its statutory functions, within a broader unit	a dedicated unit, directorate or agency for SE	65
I2	Breadth of mandate	none	one type only (e.g. a cooperatives regulator)	several types (e.g. cooperatives and mutuals)	the social economy / SE broadly	78
I3	Consultative body with SE organisations	none, or only in a draft	foreseen in an adopted law or strategy, not set up	set up	set up and met in 2024–2025 (dated record)	36
I4	Inter-ministerial coordination	none	foreseen in an adopted text	a standing mechanism, or a one-off coordination body	standing mechanism that met in 2024–2025	27
2.3.2	**Social clauses in public procurement**					**51**
P1	Legal basis	none	social considerations allowed in general (criteria, conditions)	contracts reservable for a subset (sheltered workshops, WISE, disadvantaged workers; Directive 2014/24 Art. 20) or preferences for cooperatives/SMEs that include SE	reservation or preference explicitly for SE/SSE entities (e.g. Directive 2014/24 Art. 77 transposed, a national SSE quota)	79

CODE	CRITERION	0	33 (LAW: 50)	67	100	MEAN
P2	National policy push	none	general guidance mentioning social considerations	national socially responsible procurement guidance or plan	national plan or rule with a target or quota for social clauses or the SE share	51
P3	Evidence of use	none	individual cases reported	national figures on use for one year	national figures for two or more years	36
P4	Capacity support	none	donor- or project-based training only	a government training programme or helpdesk documented to cover social clauses or reserved contracts, for contracting authorities or for SEs	both	39
3.1	**Official SE definition**					**69**
D1	Where defined	nowhere (a lapsed draft counts as nowhere)	in an official draft pending on 31 Dec 2025, or a non-binding document	in an adopted national strategy or policy document	in law	69
D2	Content (social aim; participatory governance; limits on profit distribution)	none of the three, or no definition	one	two	all three	70
3.2.1	**Legal recognition of SEs**					**49**
L1	Adoption stage	none, announced, or consultation draft	bill approved by government or before parliament	enacted, not in force	in force	58
L2	Scope	none	one type or several types only	—	general: SE broadly, including a status open to several legal forms or any purpose	56
L3	Implementing rules	none adopted, or law not in force	some adopted	—	all adopted, or none required	46
L4	Status or register	foreseen with no entity recognised, or law not in force	not foreseen	—	operating, entities recognised	44
L5	Bodies foreseen by the law	foreseen, not set up, or law not in force	not foreseen	—	set up	40
4.3.6	**SE support ecosystem**					**64**
E1	National programme	none	project-based only (donor, EU or NGO projects without government lead)	national SME/start-up programme with an SE strand, or a government-run SE programme funded mainly by donors	national programme dedicated to SE, run by government or a public agency	60

CODE	CRITERION	0	33 (LAW: 50)	67	100	MEAN
E2	Territorial coverage	none	capital or one region	several regions	all regions (national network of support centres)	71
E3	Public funding of support	none	mainly donor or EU funded	mixed national and EU/donor	national budget line	48
E4	Continuity	none	under two years	two to four years	five years or more	73
E5	Range of services	none	one	two	three or more	70
5.1.1	**EU funds mobilised for SE**					**56**
F1	Programming	SE not mentioned	SE mentioned	SE an explicit priority or target group in the national programme(s), or in the EU country programme	a dedicated SE measure or priority with an allocated budget	62
F2	Calls and instruments	none	general calls whose themes name social economy or social entrepreneurship, or documented SE grantees in general calls	at least one call dedicated to SE in 2021–2025	recurring dedicated calls, or an EU-funded financial instrument for SE	56
F3	Channel	none	civil-society grants only	government as co-partner	managed by national or regional authorities as part of national SE policy	61
F4	Evidence of take-up	none	anecdotal	number of SE beneficiaries or projects reported	monitoring data on SE beneficiaries or amounts published	42
5.2.2	**Dedicated national funding**					**41**
N1	Dedicated line	none	only general SME/employment programmes open to SE	dedicated line for one type (e.g. WISE subsidies, a cooperatives fund)	dedicated line for SE broadly	64
N2	Instrument types	none	one type	two types	three or more	24
N3	Continuity	none	one year	two to four years	five years or more	39
N4	Execution	no evidence	budgeted or announced only	disbursement reported (awards announced, beneficiaries named)	amounts or beneficiary numbers published for 2024 or 2025	36

7 · The Diamond over time

The provisional Diamond recomputed for each year 2015–2024 on the same goalposts (the 5th and 95th percentiles of all country-year values for each statistic, so a change in score reflects a change in the underlying value). Time-varying indicators — governance (WGI, Freedom House), poverty and deprivation, inequality, unemployment, youth unemployment and NEET, firm birth, death and survival rates, and early-stage entrepreneurship — take each year's value (nearest survey within one year). One-off sources are

held at their single value: the SE policy layer (end-2025), Heritage 2020, WEF 2019, GII 2020, Open Budget Survey 2023 and the latest WDI investment and tertiary-enrolment figures. Change over time therefore comes from the political and economic dimensions and early-stage entrepreneurship; the legal and financial dimensions stay flat until their sources gain time series. Across the 45 countries the composite rose by 0.8 points on average between 2015 and 2024: the economic dimension rose by 4.2 and the political dimension fell by 0.6. The largest gains were in Croatia (+3.5), Italy (+3.4), Serbia (+2.8); the largest falls in Austria (−1.0), Turkey (−0.7), Luxembourg (−0.7).

> Change over time is therefore a statement about governance, social and labour-market conditions, firm demography and early-stage entrepreneurship. It says nothing yet about how SE policy, the legal environment or access to finance have moved.

8 · Weighting sensitivity

Equal weights are a choice, and the policy layer is the part of the index most open to dispute: it is coded from documents, it records what exists on paper rather than how well it works, and in some sub-dimensions it is the only evidence. Five of the 15 scored sub-dimensions consist only of policy codes, so the eight policy indicators, a fifth of the 40, carry about 43% of the composite weight in the median country (70% in Liechtenstein). We therefore recompute the index under two alternatives.

- **Policy indicators at half weight.** The eight policy-coded indicators count half within their sub-dimension, and each sub-dimension's weight within its dimension falls with its share of policy codes, to one half where it consists only of policy codes.
- **Without policy coding.** Statistics and published indices only. Sub-dimensions with no other indicator drop out, and Liechtenstein, which has no other legal or economic data, cannot be scored.

SCHEME	COUNTRIES	SPEARMAN ρ VS EQUAL	MEDIAN RANK SHIFT	LARGEST SHIFT	WITHIN 3 PLACES
Equal weights (SEI method)	45	1	0	0	45
Policy indicators at half weight	45	0.966	3	8	32
Without policy coding	44	0.518	8	34	11

Halving the policy weight barely changes the ranking (ρ = 0.97; 32 of 45 countries move three places or fewer). Removing the policy layer reorders it (ρ = 0.52). Countries with strong general conditions but little SE-specific policy rise sharply (Switzerland 36→2, Iceland 33→5, Netherlands 24→3, Austria 27→8); countries that have legislated and planned for social enterprise ahead of their general conditions fall (Poland 3→24, Greece 20→39, Spain 4→22, Bulgaria 18→35). **The SEI composite therefore combines two things that do not move together: how favourable the general environment is, and how deliberately a state supports social enterprise.** We keep both in the index because the framework is about the ecosystem for social enterprises specifically, and report the policy layer separately so readers can see which is driving a score. Table 5 shows the largest movers.

COUNTRY	EQUAL	POLICY HALF	CHANGE	NO POLICY	CHANGE
Switzerland	36	28	▲ 8	2	▲ 34
Iceland	33	26	▲ 7	5	▲ 28
Netherlands	24	18	▲ 6	3	▲ 21

COUNTRY	EQUAL	POLICY HALF	CHANGE	NO POLICY	CHANGE
Poland	3	9	▼ 6	24	▼ 21
Austria	27	22	▲ 5	8	▲ 19
Greece	20	27	▼ 7	39	▼ 19
Spain	4	8	▼ 4	22	▼ 18
Norway	22	17	▲ 5	4	▲ 18
Bulgaria	18	21	▼ 3	35	▼ 17
Armenia	44	42	▲ 2	29	▲ 15

9 · Provisional status and the field survey

Of the 23 pending indicators, three (legal forms, the pertinence of legislation and administrative procedures) need a further legal review; the other 20 cover what only social entrepreneurs and ecosystem experts can report: perceived political risks, access to public markets and tender support, staff and skills, experience of regulation, training and mentoring, sources and dependency of funding. The questionnaire is drafted. Until it is fielded, the provisional Diamond leans on general conditions and on the formal policy framework, and should be read as a first approximation.

North Macedonia illustrates what the survey may add. Its 2020 pilot, which included the survey items, scored 45.3; the provisional Diamond scores it 47.8. Most of the gap is in the financial dimension (39.0 in the pilot against 58.2 now), where the provisional score rests on whether EU and national funding lines exist, while the pilot also asked social enterprises whether they could reach them; the political dimension shows the same pattern (46.3 against 55.1). The 2021 strategy and support centres also postdate the pilot. For this one country, the comparison suggests that provisional scores may exceed final ones where policy exists on paper but is hard to use in practice; its provisional legal and institutional scores, by contrast, are lower than the pilot's (44.6 against 56.2, and 40.6 against 46.6).

10 · Limitations

- **Dated, one-off sources.** Heritage 2020, WEF 2019 and GII 2020 are the latest comparable figures for 45 countries on these topics, but they predate the pandemic and the war in Ukraine. The Doing Business data behind the credit indicator has been discontinued.
- **Coverage gaps.** Eurostat does not cover Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo or the Eastern Partnership for several social statistics; World Bank and ILO modelled estimates fill some gaps and are flagged. Liechtenstein, Kosovo, Azerbaijan and Belarus have the thinnest coverage. Liechtenstein's legal score rests on the policy codes alone.
- **De jure, not de facto.** The policy layer records whether strategies, laws, bodies and funding lines exist, not how well they work. The field survey is designed to capture implementation.
- **Relative goalposts.** Statistic scores are relative to the 45 countries. A score of 100 means "at or above the 95th percentile of all country-year values in this group", not an absolute standard.
- **Shared policy codes.** The political dimension correlates with the legal and financial dimensions (r = 0.61 and 0.56 across the 45 countries), mainly through the policy codes all three contain: political will correlates with them at 0.61 and 0.65, political stability at 0.27 and 0.10. The legal and institutional dimensions correlate at 0.11.
- **EU funds outside the EU.** Indicator 5.1.1 records EU external assistance in candidate and neighbourhood countries and scores EFTA countries and the UK at zero, largely because they are not eligible. As the only indicator in its sub-dimension, it makes up half of the financial dimension,

which lowers EFTA's and the UK's financial scores and raises the Eastern Partnership's. Treating it as not applicable was considered and not adopted: with sub-dimension 5.1 dropped, these countries' financial scores would rest on access to funding (sub-dimension 5.2) alone, and the UK would move from 9th to 1st and Norway from 22nd to 17th.
- **Measures narrower than the literature.** Taxation is scored on the overall tax burden, although the literature stresses the design of the tax system; the efficiency indicator measures the legal framework rather than public spending.

11 · Data, citation and versions

All scores, raw values, policy codes, time series and the sensitivity results are published as an open dataset (CSV and JSON, with a Frictionless data package) on the data page, under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 licence for the SEI's own scores and codes. Third-party values remain under their providers' terms.

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Version history

0.9.4 (8 November 2026) — indicative scores beyond Europe. Ten countries in South America, Sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa are scored on the same indicators, method and goalposts as the 45 (section 2), with 128 of their policy answers re-checked against public sources before release and 31 changed. They are not ranked with the 45, whose scores do not change. See Beyond Europe.

0.9.3 (7 November 2026) — criteria-based policy coding. Each of the eight policy indicators is now the mean of its criteria, 33 per country, each answered on four levels against a written description (section 6); the earlier codes had two to four levels per indicator. Every answer states its evidence and source, on each country page and in a new policy-criteria file in the open dataset. 679 answers were re-checked against public sources before release and 195 of them changed. Author rulings set 16 answers where the codebook left the reading of a document open; they are marked as such in the evidence. Agreement between two independent codings is reported in section 6. The mean policy score moves from 56.7 to 53.2, and the composite changes by 3.8 points on average; the largest changes are Czechia (76.7 to 67.9), North Macedonia (56.5 to 47.8), Ireland (74.8 to 66.8), Cyprus (65.9 to 58.1) and Turkey (45.1 to 38.0). Of the 45 countries, 23 stay within three ranks of their 0.9.2 position; the largest move is 11 places. The correlations and the EU-funds comparison in the limitations (section 10) are now computed from the data. The reasons for the change, the checks and the author rulings are set out on the release page: what changed in 0.9.3 and why.

0.9.2 (4 November 2026) — public sources for every policy code. Each of the 208 EU codes is now documented with public documents, so none rests on the non-public SEAP country reports alone; 24 codes received their first public source. Five codes that the public record contradicted were corrected by author ruling (section 6). The composites of Germany (65.3 to 70.3), Italy (52.1 to 62.9) and Hungary (47.2 to 50.5) change; no other country's score changes, though some ranks move by one place. Section 1 adds the origins and conceptual basis of the index, with references. The explorer interface is also available in Spanish, French and Italian.

0.9.1 (3 November 2026) — corrections after a full check of every value against its source and of every policy code. Gini: Eurostat series for Albania and Montenegro (previously World Bank estimates) and 2025 values added. Youth unemployment for Bosnia and Herzegovina: Eurostat from 2021 (previously ILO modelled estimates). Three-year survival rates for 2021–2023 added for Finland, Iceland and Turkey. Ease of getting credit: Global Innovation Index 2020 values (nine countries had carried the 2019 edition's values). Insolvency framework: the two WEF 2019 scores averaged before rounding (seven countries change by 0.1). Freedom House rescaling: halves rounded up. Provisional flags added for Lithuania. Policy codes: six corrected and seven settled by author ruling (section 6); each EU code now links to the documents its country report cites. Spearman's ρ now allows for tied ranks. Section 4 now states correctly that goalposts are percentiles of the whole panel. The largest changes in the composite are Montenegro (39.8 to 52.5), Moldova (56.8 to 49.3), Armenia (46.0 to 39.3), Ukraine (44.1 to 39.1), Georgia (43.0 to 38.0), Italy (55.3 to 52.1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (49.8 to 47.0), Germany (67.8 to 65.3) and the Netherlands (59.7 to 62.2).

0.9.0 (November 2026) — first public provisional edition: 45 countries, 40 live indicators, Diamond over time 2015–2024, weighting sensitivity. **1.0 (planned, SECon 2027, Skopje)** — SEI 2026 with field-survey indicators for the pilot countries.

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APA 7th edition. Data sets are listed with the release used; values were last checked against each source on 3 November 2026.

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