

How NSIs can contribute to the Third Sector's effort to pursue social aims

Speed Talk Session 2

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13:10-13:55

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The context

Generalised economic crisis

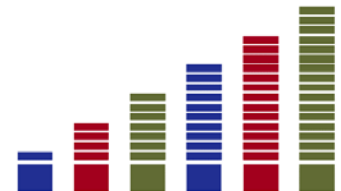
State budget constraints

Cuts in public expenditure



Fast development of the Third Sector:
- Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)
- Social Entrepreneurs (SEs)

- CSOs and SEs need data as a crucial mean to pursue social progress
- Great availability of data and information thanks to IT fast development



The question

CSOs and SEs:

New social needs



New data needs:

- Timeliness
- Disaggregation by local level and specific sector
- Innovative indicators

Official Statistics:

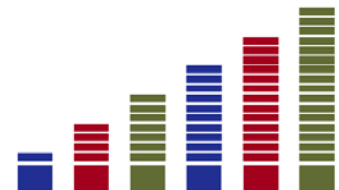
Sometimes presents some limits in measuring complex social phenomena using suitable indicators



CSOs and SEs are often forced to produce the needed data by themselves, thus creating a sort of competition with NSIs

but:

- do not have statistical and IT expertise
- encounter barriers to access data
- have shortage of resources (high costs in producing data)



A possible solution

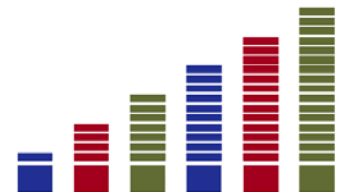
Greater and new forms of collaboration between NSIs and CSOs/SEs which would bring mutual benefits as:

CSOs and SEs would:

- benefit from **data quality**, IT and statistical skills guaranteed by NSIs
- have a greater **availability of data** more tailored to their specific needs
- be able to release a greater amount of **resources** to implement their core activity

NSIs would:

- further **investigate on other data sources** as support and complement to official statistics
- be stimulated to produce **data more timely and at a local level**
- improve **data visualisation** for non-specialised users
- keep their **leading role** in providing information at the service of society



Conclusions

- The apparent competition between NSIs and Third Sector would turn out to be an opportunity for a fruitful collaboration
- However, a deep analysis of the phenomenon of the Third Sector would be essential even if difficult, given the wide variety of this kind of actors
- More targeted European policies would strengthen the Third Sector's role as a useful partner of NSIs for a smooth integration of their activities at the service of society

