

Social economy entities in 2021

26.01.2023

1.5%

social economy entities' share of employment in the national economy

In 2021, 97.4 thousand of social economy entities were active. They employed 209.1 thousand persons on the basis of an employment contract, of which 25.9 thousand persons due to belonging to groups at risk of social exclusion. The annual revenues generated in this group of entities amounted to PLN 40.1 billion, and the costs incurred – PLN 37.6 billion.

Active entities

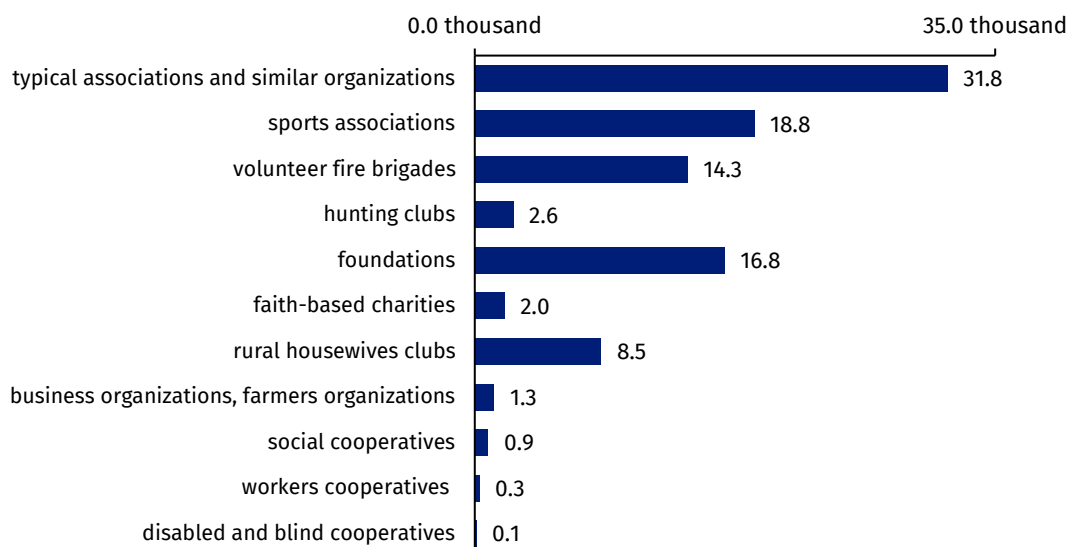
There were 96.1 thousand non-profit organizations and 1.3 thousand cooperatives meeting the definition of social economy entities active in 2021. Among social economy entities there were 0.6 thousand social enterprises, of which 47.1% were non-profit organizations and 52.9% were cooperatives.

The largest part of non-profit organizations were typical associations and similar organizations (33.1%), followed by sports associations (19.6%) and foundations (17.5%). On the other hand, hunting clubs (2.7%), faith-based charities (2.1%) as well as business organizations and farmers organizations (1.3%) had a low share. The status of a public benefit organization (PBO) was held by 9.8% of non-profit organizations.

The community of cooperatives was mainly composed of social cooperatives (67.0%), then workers cooperatives (24.6%) and, in the smallest part, cooperatives of the disabled and blind (8.4%).

In 2021, there were 96.1 thousand non-profit organizations and 1.3 thousand cooperatives

Chart 1. Number of active social economy entities by type in 2021



Non-profit organizations most often indicated sport, tourism, recreation and hobby as the main field of activity (26.8%), followed by rescue services (15.2%), culture and arts (12.4%) or education (10.7%).

For cooperatives, the predominant type of activity was manufacturing (20.8%). Taking into account the type of entity, the majority of cooperatives for the disabled and blind operated in the field of manufacturing (76.1%). Workers and social cooperatives, on the other hand,

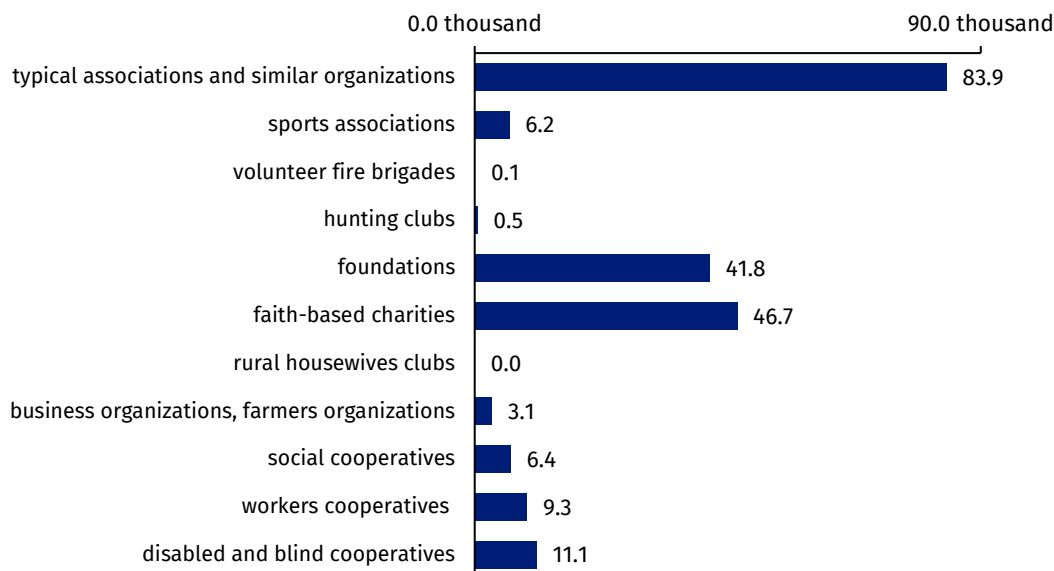
dealt with more diverse activities. The three key sections of the NACE under which workers cooperatives conducted their activities were: manufacturing (27.6%), real estate activities (15.0%) and wholesale and retail trade (13.6%). Social cooperatives most often dealt with activities related to accommodation and food service activities (22.0%), administrative and support service activities (19.7%), but also activities within the scope of human health and social work (14.7%) or manufacturing (11.3%).

Employment and its reintegration dimension

At the end of 2021, there were 209.1 thousand persons employed in the discussed social economy entities on the basis of an employment contract, of which for 176.6 thousand persons it was the main place of work. Most of the employees worked in non-profit organizations (182.3 thousand persons). Compared to the average number of persons working in the national economy, employment in social economy entities as at December 31st 2021 accounted for 1.2%, and in relation to employment based on an employment contract - 1.5%.

At the end of 2021, 182.3 thousand persons were employed in non-profit organizations, and 26.8 thousand persons were employed in cooperatives

Chart 2. Number of persons employed under an employment contract in social economy entities as at December 31st, 2021



On average, there were 14 employees per employing entity, with the highest average for disabled and blind cooperatives (102 persons), followed by workers cooperatives (30 persons) and faith-based charities (29 persons).

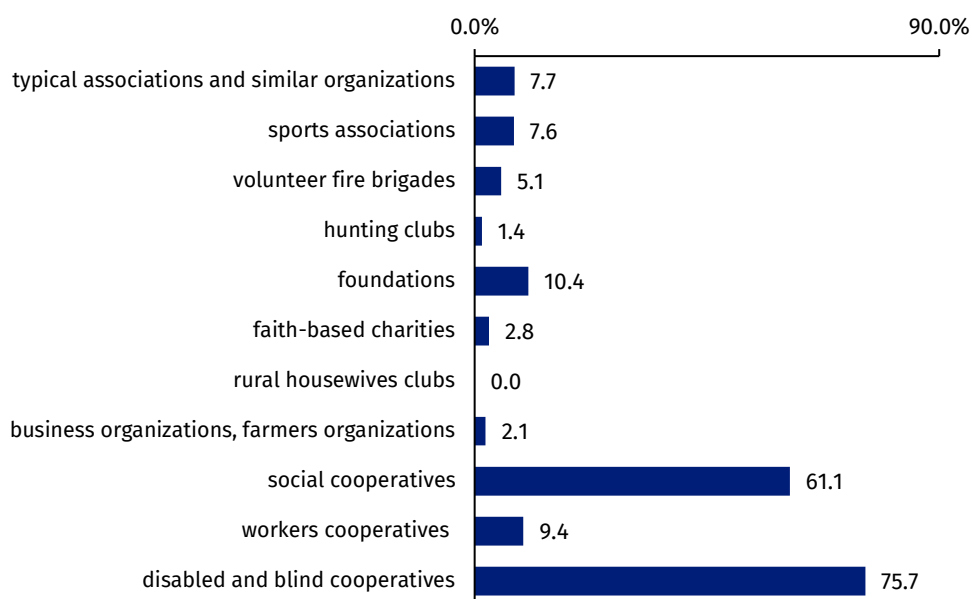
Social enterprises employed 5.8 thousand persons, which on average accounted for 10 employees.

Among the persons employed on the basis of an employment contract in social economy entities, there were persons employed due to belonging to groups at risk of social exclusion. In 2021, it was 25.9 thousand persons, which amounted to 12.4% of all employees. More than half of this population was employed in cooperatives (13.2 thousand persons; 51.0%), of which 32.6% in cooperatives for the disabled and blind, and 15.1% in social cooperatives. Moreover, in the case of disabled and blind cooperatives, persons from groups at risk of social exclusion accounted for 75.7% of all those employed in these entities. Due to the specificity of this type of cooperatives, they were mostly persons employed due to disability (99.5%). In social cooperatives, 61.1% of employees were from groups at risk of social exclusion, who were employed due to disability (44.8%) or unemployment (39.0%).

In social enterprises there were 3.4 thousand persons employed due to belonging to groups at risk of social exclusion, which amounted to 58.0% of all employees in this type of entities.

Persons belonging to groups at risk of social exclusion amounted to 12.4% of all employees

Chart 3. Percentage of persons from groups at risk of social exclusion^a among those employed under an employment contract in social economy entities as at December 31st, 2021



^a Persons at risk of social exclusion are persons who at the time of taking up employment in the entity belonged to one of the following groups: unemployed; persons under 30 or over 50 if they had the status of a job seeker; job seekers who are not employed or who do not perform any other gainful work; disabled persons; homeless; addicted to alcohol or drugs; persons with mental disorders; persons after penitentiary; refugees; persons subject to full-time social insurance for farmers, if their income is not more than the income from 6 conversion hectares; persons meeting the income criteria enabling the granting of cash benefits from social assistance; self-empowered persons.

Activities in the field of social or professional reintegration for employees were carried out by 7.2% of employing social economy entities, 3.7% of non-profit organizations and 45.8% of cooperatives. Employees mainly benefited from meetings, integration trips (58.3% of non-profit organizations and 61.8% of cooperatives) or participation in cultural events (38.4% and 29.7%, respectively). In the field of social or professional reintegration, due to their profile of activity, cooperatives for the disabled and blind stood out - 78.0% conducted such activities for employees. As part of activities in the field of social or professional reintegration, cooperatives for the disabled and blind offered an individual rehabilitation programs (83.5%), rehabilitation camps (67.1%) or a company health or rehabilitation centres (47.1%). A high share of entities offering employees activities in the field of social or professional reintegration was also found in social enterprises - 49.6%.

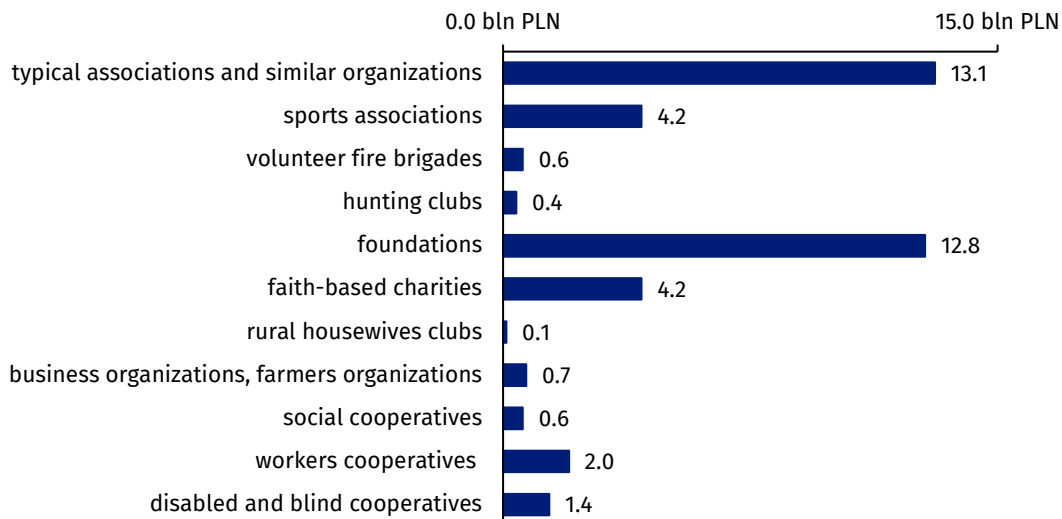
In 2021, 1.1% of social economy entities employed less than 0.5 thousand persons after completing participation in social and professional reintegration units (social integration centres, social integration clubs, occupational therapy workshops or vocational activity establishment). Among non-profit organizations, 0.7% of them employed persons after reintegration units (0.3 thousand persons). In the case of cooperatives, only social cooperatives (7.2%) employed such employees and it was 0.2 thousand persons. Social enterprises also stood out from the total - 7.1% of them employed 0.1 thousand persons after completing participation in social and professional reintegration units in 2021.

Revenues and costs

In 2021, social economy entities generated revenues of a total value of PLN 40.1 billion. The highest share of total revenues were recorded by typical associations and organizations (PLN 13.1 billion), followed by foundations (PLN 12.8 billion). The cooperative's revenues amounted to PLN 4.0 billion and accounted for 10.0% of the total amount of receipts of social economy entities. Entities with the status of a social enterprise achieved revenues of a total value of PLN 0.5 billion.

Revenues of social economy entities in 2021 reached PLN 40.1 billion

Chart 4. Revenues of social economy entities in 2021



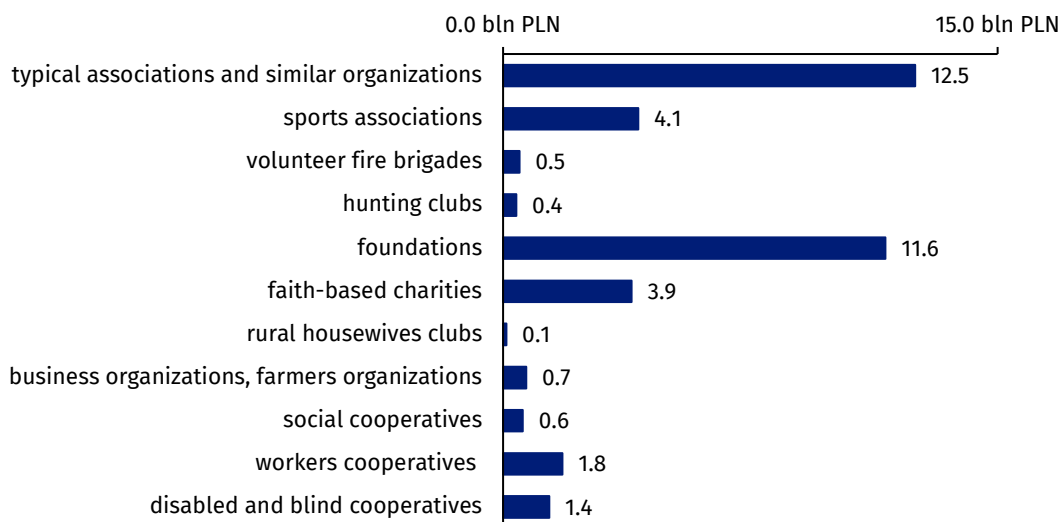
Among cooperatives, significantly higher amount of average revenues were recorded than among non-profit organizations (PLN 3,121.2 thousand against PLN 415.6 thousand). Particularly high average values of revenues occurred in cooperatives of the disabled and blind (PLN 13,248.9 thousand) and in workers cooperatives (PLN 6,211.3 thousand). Non-profit organizations were characterized by significant financial diversification. Comparing the average value of revenues, the highest indicator was achieved by faith-based charities – 2,192.9 thousand PLN, and the lowest average value of revenue was recorded among rural housewives clubs (PLN 10.1 thousand), and then in volunteer fire brigades (PLN 45.0 thousand).

In 2021, funds from non-market public sources were obtained by 63.5% of non-profit organizations and 60.5% of cooperatives. Among non-profit organizations using public funds, entities that received subsidies granted under an open tender procedure prevailed, constituting 35.2% of all organizations declaring that they would generate revenue in 2021. Among cooperatives, the highest percentage of those using public sources concerned under - litterers that received subsidies to salaries or social security contributions of employed persons (44.3%). For cooperatives, the main source of revenue was market funds, constituting 90.5% of total revenues obtained in 2021. As many as 99.0% of the surveyed cooperatives declared using them, compared to 36.7% of non-profit organizations. Non-market funds had the largest share in the total amount of revenues of non-profit organizations (public 46.9% and non-public 16.0%). Market revenues accounted for less than 1/3 of all receipts recorded by non-profit organizations. Taking into account the type of entity, on the one hand, worker cooperatives stand out, with 96.4% of their revenues coming from market sources, and on the other, volunteer fire brigades, whose 81.0% of funds came from non-market sources. Revenues of social enterprises in a similar percentage came from market and non-market sources (49.0% and 48.9%, respectively).

In 2021, 92.4% of social economy entities reported incurring costs, the value of which amounted to PLN 37.6 billion. Non-profit organizations spent a total of PLN 33.8 billion, of which 87.4% were costs related to statutory activities. The cooperative's costs amounted to PLN 3.8 billion. The largest part of them were the costs of consumption of materials and energy (35.3%) and personal gross wages (32.0%).

For cooperatives, the main source of revenue was market funds (90.5%), and in non-profit organizations the majority of revenues were funds from non-market sources (62.9%)

Chart 5. Costs of social economy entities in 2021



In 2021, a loan or credit was taken out by 1.5 thousand non-profit organizations and 0.2 thousand cooperatives. In total, these entities accounted for 1.7% of the total surveyed population. The total value of loans and credits amounted to PLN 395.1 million, of which 2/3 were liabilities of typical associations and similar organizations as well as foundations. Cooperatives took out loans and credits for the total amount of PLN 63.0 million, which accounted for 15.9% of the total value of liabilities taken by social economy entities. The average value of loans and credits taken out by non-profit organizations amounted to PLN 217.1 thousand, and the average value of liabilities taken by cooperatives reached PLN 372.8 thousand. The highest average was recorded in disabled and blind cooperatives (PLN 1,157.8 thousand), followed by faith-based charities (PLN 979.1 thousand). In two types of non-profit organizations – hunting clubs and rural housewives clubs, taking out loans was almost non-existent.

The value of loans and credits taken out by social economy entities amounted to PLN 395.1 million

Methodological information

Preliminary results from the first edition of the GUS survey of 1.04.09 were used to develop this news release. Integration activities of social economy entities for 2021, carried out on the SOF-5 form (Report on cooperation, management and integration activities of selected non-profit organizations) and GS-S (Report on the activities of cooperatives: workers, social, disabled and blind).

Both reports were carried out via the Reporting Portal, using e-mail, as well as the traditional postal method.

The survey on the SOF-5 form was panel-based, and its file included units from the SOF-1 file (Report on the activities of foundations, associations and similar organizations) and SOF-4s (Report on the activities of economic and professional self-government) which submitted reports for 2020. Due to the fact that the file for the SOF-5 study for 2021 was created on the basis of the SOF-1 and SOF-4s files for 2020, in order to generalize the results, it was necessary to take into account the changes in the sampling frame that occurred between the editions of the study. For this purpose, data from the Statistical Units Base as at December 31st, 2021 and data from the Social Insurance Institution were used. Weights were constructed for the result set, which made it possible to generalize the obtained data to the entire population of active units.

The GS-S report covered all active cooperatives among the surveyed types, but due to the fact that not all active entities submitted the report, it was also necessary to construct weights generalizing the data to the entire population of active cooperatives.

Table 1. Completeness of SOF-5 and GS-S forms for 2021

form	file of the form		submitted reports	inactive units	refusal to participate in the study, also due to random events	lack of contact	other
	In thousand	%					
SOF-5	22.7	100.0	93.5	3.4	2.8	0.2	0.1
GS-S	1.5	100.0	81.2	8.8	7.5	1.7	0.8

As a result of the generalization of the results, the group of active social economy entities as at December 31st, 2021 amounted to 96.1 thousand non-profit organizations and 1.3 thousand social workers, as well as the disabled and blind cooperatives.

The social economy entities include only those entities that fall within the subjective scope of the study and those that meet the definition of social economy entities introduced by the Act on Social Economy of August 5th, 2022. These are associations, foundations, rural housewives clubs, faith-based charities, farmers organizations, business organizations, as well as workers, social and disabled and blind cooperatives. In addition, it should be noted that social enterprises have been identified based on the legal status in force in 2021, so they are not social enterprises that have obtained such a status under the Act on Social Economy. The presented number of social enterprises is as of December 31st, 2021 according to the list of the Ministry of Family and Social Policy.

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Prepared by:
Social Surveys Department
Director: Piotr Łysoń, Ph.D.
Tel. +48 22 449 40 27







Statistical Office in Kraków
Director: Agnieszka Szlubowska
Tel: +48 12 420 40 50

Press office

Tel: 22 608 38 04

e-mail: obslugaprasowa@stat.gov.pl

Issued by:
**The Spokesperson for the President
of Statistics Poland**
Karolina Banaszek
Tel: +48 695 255 011

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