

Who is concerned with the third sector?

Practitioners

engage in online consultations and offline meetings, and will find valuable resources to enhance many aspects of their work.

Policy-makers

gain insights into the potentials of the third sector and related policies across Europe, and can rely on data and evidence to support decision and evaluation processes.

Researchers

find a clear definition of the third sector that takes cultural and structural differences across Europe into account, and data to advance comparable research.

Statisticians

can engage with colleagues and experts in producing robust comparable data on the third sector and volunteering, and the impacts generated.

Journalists

find resources to give the sector, the people active in it, and the policies shaping it more public recognition and exposure on national and European levels.

Citizens

receive greater recognition through boosting public awareness of volunteering and realise their belonging to a millions-strong cohort of active citizens in Europe.



Give voice to your expertise and priorities.
Participate in the consultations.
Share your experience and impact.

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Contact: info@thirdsectorimpact.eu



This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no. 613034.



Measuring impact. Enhancing visibility.



CONCEPT



MEASUREMENT



IMPACT



BARRIERS



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Third Sector Impact (TSI) is a comparative research project that aims to measure and outline the scope, scale, and impact of associations and foundations, volunteers and citizens engaging in civil society across Europe, generally referred to as the “third sector”. It includes a distinctive stakeholder engagement process to capture the insights of third sector practitioners to work towards a common goal: to create knowledge that will help researchers, policy-makers and citizens alike to further advance the sector’s contributions to the socio-economic development of Europe.

Understanding the potential of the third sector for problem-solving will help to promote it as fully-fledged partner of European governments in their efforts to enhance economic development and social cohesion in Europe. Consequently, Third Sector Impact (TSI) includes four working areas: finding a common conceptualization of the third sector in its European manifestations; identification of its size and major components; measurement of social and economic third sector impact; understanding the barriers facing the sector, and the potential avenues for overcoming these barriers.

Research is divided into four working areas: conceptualization, measurement, impact, and barriers, carried out by 30 researchers from 10 European partner universities. Equally important is the input and feedback from more than 100 national and European stakeholders throughout the project, influencing definitions and the research agenda. Together, researchers and stakeholders will make impact, scope, potential, and barriers of the third sector visible for all.

BASIC INFORMATION

Begins: January 2014
Ends: January 2017
Coordinator: Prof. Bernard Enjolras, Institute for Social Research (ISF), Oslo.



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Working areas



CONCEPT

Clarify and define the concept of the third sector in its European manifestations.



MEASUREMENT

Identify major outlines of the third sector to measure its size, structure, and composition.



IMPACT

Identify third sector impact, its contributions to European economy and social cohesion.



BARRIERS

Identify barriers and solutions to third sector development.

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National and European stakeholders

Third Sector Impact (TSI) is breaking new ground in social sciences by bringing national and European stakeholders into the research process from the beginning. Stakeholder engagement consists of input and feedback through offline meetings and online consultations that shape the research agenda. It is bi-directional: from research to practice and from practice to research.

TSI pursues this approach as part of its commitment to a change in the culture of third sector research and dissemination: away from occasional consultations of selected stakeholders and generic dissemination, to outcome-oriented collaboration between researchers and practitioners, and co-building of understanding problems and solutions.

TSI connects local and national levels with European networking initiatives, ensuring national support for European initiatives and European assistance in meeting national goals.

- ✦ **Austria** – Vienna University of Economics and Business
- ✦ **Croatia** – University of Zagreb
- ✦ **France** – Aix-Marseille University
- ✦ **Germany** – Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster
- ✦ **Italy** – John Hopkins University Bologna Center
- ✦ **The Netherlands** – Radboud University
- ✦ **Norway** – Institute for Social Research
- ✦ **Poland** – Warsaw University
- ✦ **Spain** – University of Valencia
- ✦ **United Kingdom** – University of Kent, University of Birmingham

Stakeholder engagement: SPES Italy

Communication and dissemination: EMES International Research Network