

Turin, 20 February 2026

Aula Magna Cavallerizza Reale | Università degli Studi di Torino | Via Verdi 9

Business, Social, One Vision

Social Economy as a Strategic Driver for Competitiveness and Social Justice.

The Chamber of Commerce of Turin, Torino Social Impact and the International Training Centre of the ILO are jointly promoting a public event in Turin on **20 February 2026** to advance the role of the social economy as a key driver of an inclusive, sustainable and people-centred development model that brings together competitiveness with social and environmental objectives.

The event takes place at a crucial moment for the development of the social economy in Italy—strengthened by the drafting of the **National Action Plan for the Social Economy** and by the consolidation of European and global policies, yet also exposed to uncertainties arising from shifts in the European Union’s strategic and geopolitical agenda.

The event also marks the **World Day of Social Justice**, underscoring the essential role of social enterprises in advancing a just transition toward a sustainable and inclusive global economy.

The agenda will deepen understanding of the role of the social economy as a strategic driver for integrating competitiveness and will highlight recent work by the Global Coalition for Social Justice on the role of the Social and Solidarity Economy in advancing a Human Rights Economy. Moreover, it will explore how the SEE, at a time when democratic identity and core values are under pressure and political systems are increasingly polarized by the dominance of power over cooperative approaches, offers principles and models that serve as pillars for reinforcing, practicing, and promoting civic and democratic values.

Agenda

09h30

Welcome Remarks

Local and regional authorities and hosting institutions

09h50

Opening speech

Prof. **Mario Calderini**, Spokesperson Torino Social Impact

10h05

The National Action Plan for the Social Economy

Lucia Albano, Undersecretary of State Ministry of Economy and Finance

10h20

The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) in a global perspective: Launch of the Brief on the SSE and the Human Rights Economy

On the occasion of World Day of Social Justice, the session highlights recent work by the Global Coalition for Social Justice on the role of the Social and Solidarity Economy in advancing a Human Rights Economy. It will further present international efforts to advance social economy models, moving beyond traditional economic metrics and integrating rights into the core of economic policies, labor rights and business practices. The discussion will look at the role of institutional learning, policy innovation and local ecosystems to translate global normative frameworks into national and local results. Particular attention is given to the role of policy labs, joint advocacy, MOOCs, communities of practice and SSE statistics as drivers of innovative SSE ecosystems in both the Global North and South.

10h55

SEE as a strategic driver for integrating competitiveness

The panel builds on the belief that competitiveness can only be sustainably achieved when grounded in strong social cohesion as the long-term foundation of prosperity, and explores the role of the SEE in translating this principle into the functioning of economic systems. By examining policy frameworks, business models, and investment strategies, the discussion will show how the social economy acts as a driver of resilient and inclusive growth.

11h45

SEE as a strategic driver for promoting inclusion and democratic values

The panel will explore how the SEE, in a time when democratic identity and its core values are under pressure and political systems are increasingly polarized by the dominance of power over cooperative approaches, offers principles and models that serve to reinforce, practice, and promote civic and democratic values, and pursue social inclusion.

12h40

The integration of social economy in territorial development strategies

The panel will explore the role that local territories can play in leveraging the potential of the social economy through territorial strategies that integrate social cohesion objectives with economic growth, fostering the expansion of social impact-oriented entrepreneurship. Through two experiences of metropolitan social economy plans, it will discuss models, policy frameworks and practices for spreading social economy principles across the local ecosystems.

13h00

Closing

Confirmed speakers

Lucia Albano, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Economy and Finance

Juan Antonio Pedreño, President of Social Economy Europe

Mario Nava, Director-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD

Silvia Roggiani, Member of the of the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament

Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

Simel Esim, Head of the Cooperative, Social and Solidarity Economy Unit, International Labour Organization and Chair of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on SEE

Aicha Belassir, Director-General for Social Economy and Corporate Social Responsibility Ministry of Labour and Social Economy, Government of Spain

Mario Calderini, Professor at Politecnico di Milano and Spokesperson Torino Social Impact

Gianluca Salvatori, Secretary General of EURICSE

Sarah de Heusch, Director of Social Economy Europe

Paola Babos, Deputy Director of the ITCILO

Register for the event

[Save your place and join international leaders to discuss the role of the social economy.](#)

Turin, a Hub for the Social Economy

Turin hosts the event in the belief that **local territories play a key role in leveraging the potential of social impact entrepreneurship**. The social economy effectively addresses community needs through participation, drawing its strength from local areas and fostering collaboration among people, enterprises, and institutions to create a cohesive and innovative ecosystem.

Turin boasts a highly dynamic social economy ecosystem, supported by impact-oriented financial institutions and an **innovative public administration** that has consistently driven local policies to promote this sector, often linking it to urban regeneration. In this context **Torino Social Impact** stands out as a unique initiative fostering the social economy at the territorial level. Established in 2017 within the Committee for Social Entrepreneurship of the Turin Chamber of Commerce and backed by 12 local actors—including the City of Turin and the cooperative federations—it has steadily enhanced the value of multi-stakeholder partnerships. Today, it brings together over 400 partners, spanning public and private actors, profit and non-profit organizations, as well as stakeholders from finance, philanthropy, and research. The initiative has generated numerous opportunities for shared learning and launched several innovative projects, including the Social Impact Stock Exchange, and in 2025 contributed to the adoption of the **Metropolitan Plan for the Social Economy Torino 2030**.

The city has also been home to the **International Training Centre of the ILO since 1964**. As part of the International Labour Organization, the centre is committed to promoting decent work and reimagining the future of learning and capacity development for social justice and sustainable development.

The image and the title of the event are connected to the **Business, Social, One Vision** communication campaign launched by Torino Social Impact in 2025 and showcased across the city on billboards and trams. The campaign aims to promote the social economy and highlight the synergy between the for-profit and non-profit sectors. In the photo, one eye is made up in a “business” style, while the other evokes diversity and a “social” commitment. Both aspects can coexist harmoniously, just as they do on the girl’s face.