

Turin, 20 February 2026

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

Business, Social, One Vision

Social Economy 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 for promoting social justice and it 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 social economy, 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

09h00

Registration

09h30

Welcome

Cristina Prandi, Rector University of Torino

09h35

Social Economy in Turin and Piedmont: an overview from the institutions

Massimiliano Cipolletta, President of Chamber of commerce of Torino

Chiara Foglietta, Deputy Mayor, Innovation, digital transition, climate, mobility, City of Turin

Jacopo Suppo, Vice Mayor, Metropolitan City of Torino

Maurizio Marrone, Councillor for Social Policies, Piedmont Region

09h55

Opening speech

Prof. **Mario Calderini**, Full Professor Politecnico di Milano, GECES Member, Spokesperson Torino Social Impact

10h10

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

On the occasion of World Social Justice Day, this 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 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, advocacy, MOOCs, communities of practice and SSE statistics as drivers of innovative SSE ecosystems in both the Global North and South.

Olivier de Schutter, Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, United Nations Human Rights (*connected remotely*)

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

Introduction and Moderation: **Paola Babos**, Deputy Director International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization

10h40

The National Action Plan for the Social Economy

Lucia Albano, Undersecretary of State Ministry of Economy and Finance

10h50

Social economy as a strategic pillar for promoting inclusion and democratic values

The panel will explore how the social economy, 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 as a pillar to reinforce, practice, and promote civic and democratic values, and pursue social inclusion.

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

Juan Antonio Pedreño, President of Social Economy Europe

Gianluca Salvatori, Secretary General Euricse

Lorenzo Malagola, Member of the Italian Parliament (*to be confirmed*)

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

Introduction and Moderation: **Raffaella Scalisi**, Advisor, Torino Social Impact

11h40

Social economy 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 social economy 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 SE acts as a driver of resilient and inclusive growth.

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

Sarah de Heusch, Director of Social Economy Europe

Stefano Granata, President of Social Impact Agenda Italy, President of Confcooperative Federsolidarietà

Laura Micciché, Head of EU programmes, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti

Silvia Roggiani, Member of the Italian Parliament

Introduction and Moderation: **Marella Caramazza**, Director, Cottino Social Impact Campus

12h30

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.

Daniela Freddi, Responsible Social Economy Plan, Metropolitan City of di Bologna

Valerio Pedroni, President of the Special Committee on Civil Economy and Third Sector, City Council of Milan

Dimitri Buzio, President of Legacoop Piemonte

Massimo Gaudina, Special Advisor to the Director, European Training Foundation

12h50

Closing panel

Irene Tinagli, Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the EP Intergroup on the Social Economy and Services of General Interest (*connected remotely*)

Juan Antonio Pedreño, President of Social Economy Europe

Moderator: **Mario Calderini**, Full Professor Politecnico di Milano, GECES Member, Spokesperson Torino Social Impact

13h15

End of Conference

Agenda Moderator: **Simona De Giorgio**, Responsible Committee for social entrepreneurship Chamber of commerce of Torino and Head of Coordination Torino Social Impact

Working languages: Italian, English, Spanish

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.