

Evaluating the Formation of Enabling Public Policy for the SSE from a Comparative Perspective: The Effectiveness of Collaborative Processes or the *Co-Construction of Public Policy*

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Case studies considered:

- **OECD:**
 - Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Alsace, France (2010);
 - Poland (2009);
 - Slovenia (2010);
 - South Korea (2010)
- **FIESS:**
 - Canada (2011);
 - Bolivia (2011);
 - Brazil (2011);
 - Mali (2011);
 - Spain (2011);
 - South Africa (2011)
- **RELISS** (forthcoming):
 - Burkina Faso
 - Ecuador
 - Nepal
 - South Korea

What is co-construction?

A collaborative *process* involving civil society and government to design, develop, implement, evaluate and adjust public policy

Why co-construction?

Allows the SSE to realise its potential

- The potential contribution of the SSE to socio-economic development is significant
- SSE requires collaboratively designed broad and targeted policy; “spatial” policy
 - *Broad enabling policies*
 - Fiscal and monetary macro policy
 - Labour market policy
 - Framework legislation
 - Government investment
 - *Targeted policies*
 - Sectoral
 - Specific social groups (women, youth, cultural communities, etc)
 - *Meso “spatial” strategies*
 - Regional and local level

Why co-construction?

Ensures policy effectiveness

- More innovative, adapted and *effective* policy than those designed or implemented unilaterally by government
- Reduces policy misalignment and incoherence
- Innovative arrangements between government and the SSE and “instituted flexibility” in contrast to inflexible top-down programmatic approaches, are best able to respond to ongoing innovation in the SSE

Why co-construction?

Reduces information asymmetry and transaction costs

- Multi-stakeholder dialogue spaces
- Continuous feedback: joint evaluation of impact & joint identification of new challenges/needs
- Complex legal landscapes and innovative types of enterprises increase the need to share information

Requirements for effective co-construction

Representative networks and intermediary bodies

- Networks, coalitions and other forms of broad representation
- Measures to facilitate optimal integration (SSE actors; government)

Requirements for effective co-construction

Government commitment and capacity

- Recognizing the SSE as a key element in government's development strategy
- Budgetary allocation
- Well-informed government actors
- Ensuring continuity in government engagement(non-partisan; institutionally embedded SSE)

Requirements for effective co-construction

Intra-governmental collaboration

- Horizontal (inter-departmental/ministerial) collaboration)
- Vertical (local, regional, national) collaboration
- “recombinant linkages”

Inter-governmental collaboration

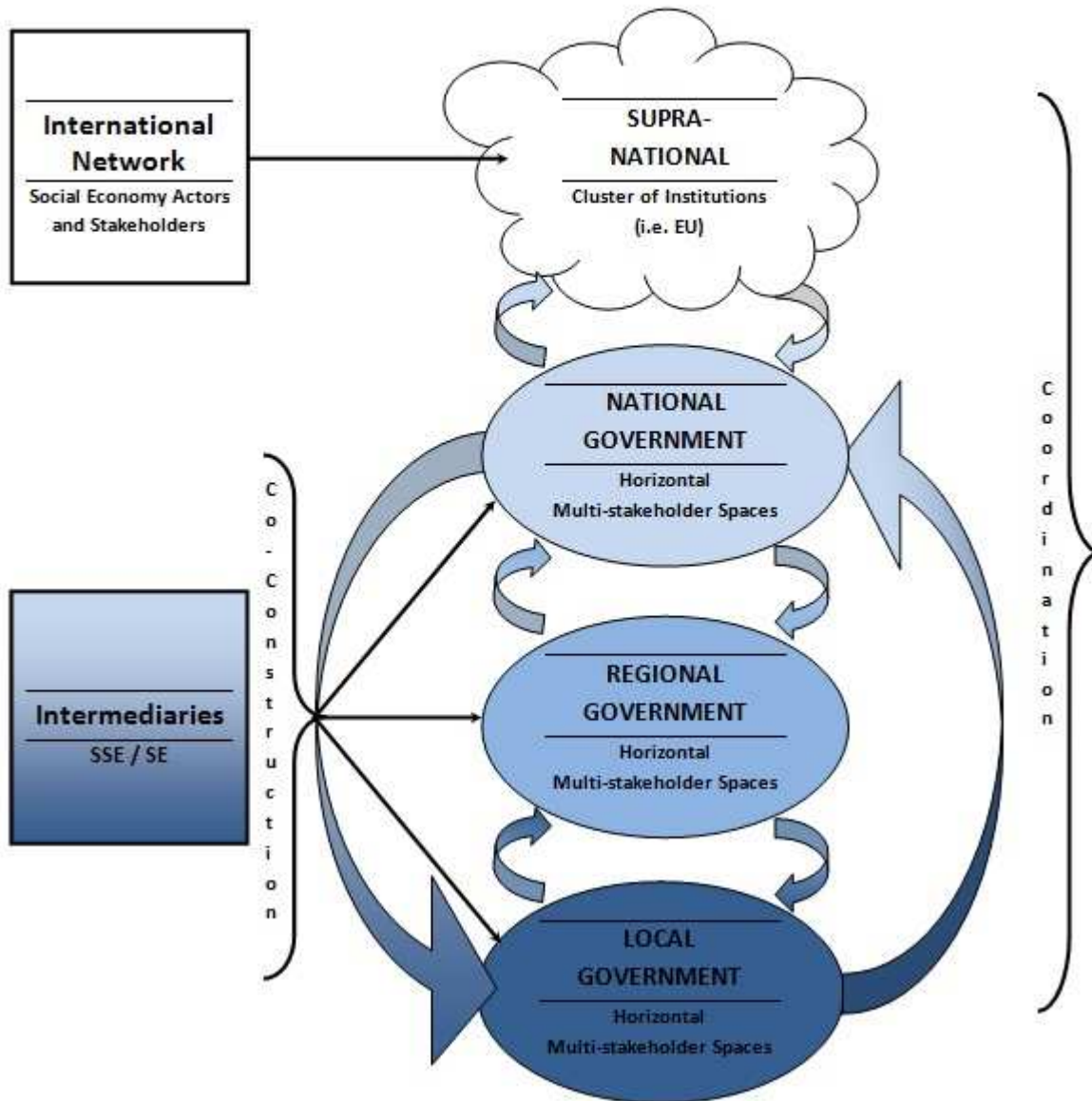
- supra-national level (eg. EU)
- Coordination between supra-national institutions and country specificities and priorities (policy flexibility)

Requirements for effective co-construction

Appropriate time horizons

- Willingness to address both palliative measures and long-term planning requirements
- Variability of government support to reflect the life-cycle of SSE enterprises and their capacity to generate autonomous revenue
- Regardless, this necessitates a change in government mind-set : from “expenditure” to “investment” with a high social return ultimately reducing government costs

A Coherent Policy Framework for the Social and Solidarity Economy



Source: Mendell, Marguerite (2010) "Improving social inclusion at the local level through the social economy: Designing an enabling policy framework" *OECD Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Working Papers*, OECD Publishing

To access the individual case studies, and for more information on public policy for the SSE: www.reliess.org