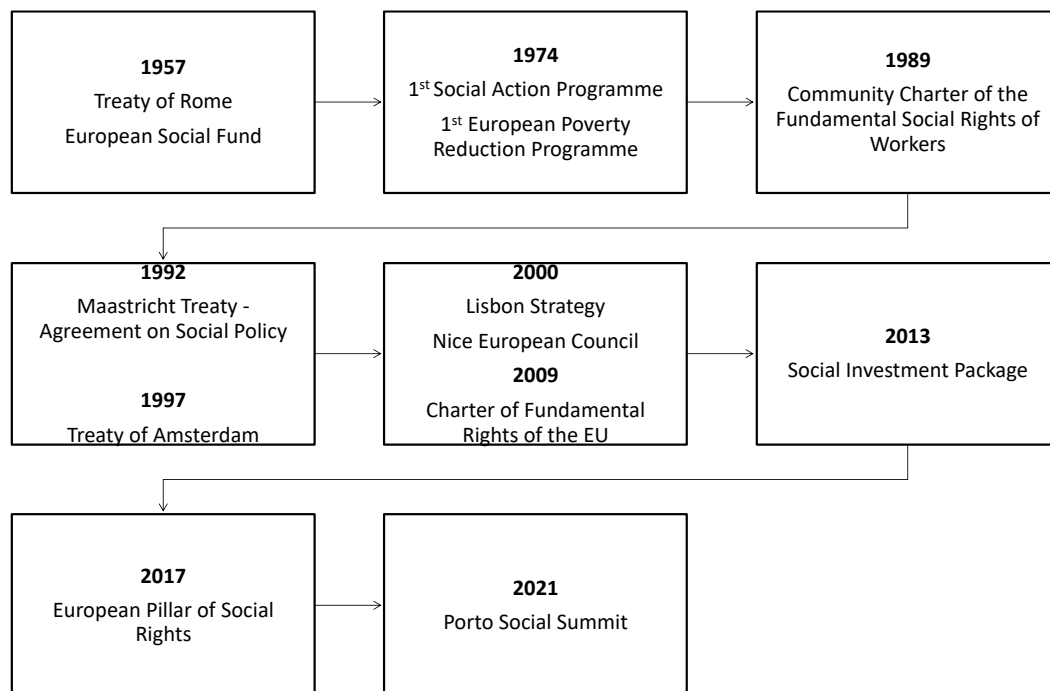Supplementary File

Gaining Insight Into EU's Social and Solidarity Economy Role via Strategic Policy Documents Analysis

Figure 1. Timeline of EU policy's social dimensions.

Table1. List of Policy Documents analysed.

Dimension	Title	Author	Year of publication	Type of document
Territorial development				
Urban	Report from the Commission to The Council on the Urban Agenda for the EU	European Commission	2017	Report
Recovery	REACT-EU (Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe)	European Parliament and the Council	2020	Regulation
Sectoral policies				
Social Development	European Pillar of Social Rights	European Parliament, Council of the European Union, European Commission	2017	Guidelines
	The promotion of the social economy as a key driver of economic and social development in Europe	Council of the European Union	2015	Conclusions
	EU Strategic Agenda (2019-2024)	European Council	2019	Agenda
	Social Business Initiative Creating a favourable climate for social enterprises, key stakeholders in the social economy and innovation	European Commission	2011	Communication
	A strong social Europe for just transitions	European Commission	2020	Communication
	European Social Fund Plus	European Commission	2018	Proposal
	Final Action Plan of the Urban Poverty Partnership	Urban Poverty Partnership/ European Commission	2018	Action Plan

Dimension	Title	Author	Year of publication	Type of document
Economy	Statute for a European Cooperative Society	Council of the European Union	2003	Regulation
	Europe's next leaders: the Start-up and Scale-up Initiative	European Commission	2016	Communication
	Single Market Programme (2021-2027)	Council of the European Union	2020	Proposal
	InvestEU Programme	European Council	2020	Proposal
	EUROPE 2020: A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth	European Commission	2010	Communication
	New technologies and digitisation: opportunities and challenges for the social economy and social enterprises	European Commission	2020	Report
	Shaping Europe's digital future	European Commission	2020	Communication
Employment	Council Directive 2000/78/EC establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation	Council of the European Union	2000	Directive
	Joint Employment Report	European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	2019	Report
Education & Training	Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on achieving the European Education Area by 2025	European Commission	2020	Communication

Dimension	Title	Author	Year of publication	Type of document
	Council Recommendation of 22 May 2018 on promoting common values, inclusive education, and the European dimension of teaching (2018/C 195/01)	The council of the European Union	2018	Recommendations
	Council Recommendation of 22 May 2018 on key competences for lifelong learning (2018/C 189/01)	The council of the European Union	2018	Recommendations
	European skills agenda	European Commission	2020	Agenda
	Skills for the labour market: EU policies for VET and upskilling	European Parliament; IPOL | Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies	2019	Report
	The Bruges Communiqué on enhanced European Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training for the period 2011-2020	European Ministers for Vocational Education and Training, the European Social Partners and the European Commission	2010	Communication
	Council Resolution on a renewed European agenda for adult learning (2011/C 372/01)	The council of the European Union	2011	Resolution
	Council Recommendation of 19 December 2016 on Upskilling Pathways: New Opportunities for Adults (2016/C 484/01)	The Council of the European Union	2016	Recommendations
	Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027) – Resetting education and training for the digital age	European Commission	2020	Communication

Dimension	Title	Author	Year of publication	Type of document
	Proposal for a Council Recommendation on a European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships	The Council of the European Union	2017	Proposal
Health	European Framework for Action on Mental Health and Wellbeing	EU Joint Action on Mental Health And Wellbeing	2016	Report
	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a Programme for the Union's action in the field of health –for the period 2021-2027 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 282/2014 ("EU4Health Programme")	European Commission	2020	Proposal
	Communication: The European Green Deal (COM(2019) 640 final)	European Commission	2019	Communication
	Communication: A new Circular Economy Action Plan For a cleaner and more competitive Europe	European Commission	2020	Communication
	A new Circular Economy Action Plan for a Cleaner and More Competitive Europe	European Commission	2020	Action Plan
Environment	Framework for achieving climate neutrality	European Parliament and The Council	2020	Proposal
	Sustainable Europe Investment Plan European Green Deal Investment Plan	European Commission	2020	Communication
	Just Transition Fund	European Parliament and The Council	2020	Proposal
	Amendments to the Common Provisions Regulation	European Commission	2020	Proposal

Dimension	Title	Author	Year of publication	Type of document
	Proposal for a Regulation establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality	European Parliament and The Council	2020	Proposal
	A Framework Strategy for a Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy	European Commission	2015	Communication
Agriculture	Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on The Future of Food and Farming	European Commission	2017	Communication
	Modernising and Simplifying The CAP - Economic challenges facing EU agriculture - Background Document	European Commission	2017	Report
Culture	A New European Agenda for Culture	European Commission	2018	Communication
	Council conclusions on the Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022	Council of the European Union	2018	Conclusions
International cooperation	The new European consensus on development 'our world, our dignity, our future'	European Parliament, Council of the European Union, European Commission	2017	Declaration
Policies supporting target populations				
Youth	Youth Employment Support: a Bridge to Jobs for the Next Generation	European Commission	2020	Communication

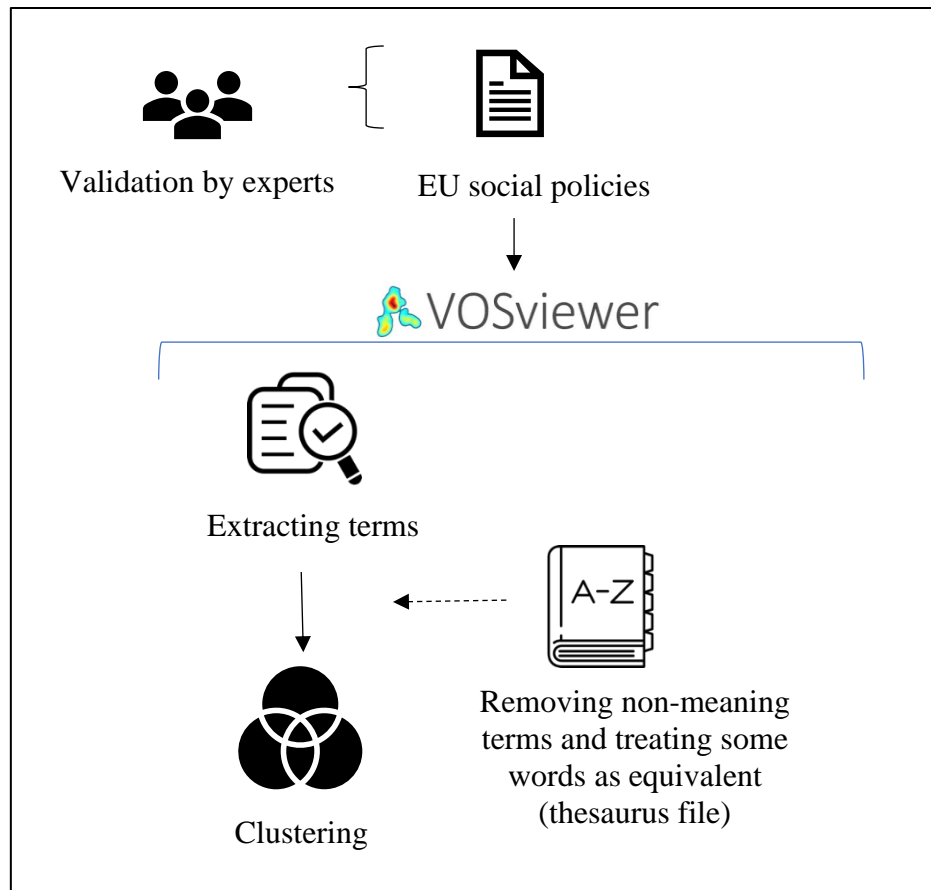| Dimension	Title	Author	Year of publication	Type of document
Elders	Council Declaration on the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations (2012): The Way Forward	Council of the European Union	2012	Declaration
	European commission for an ageing Workforce/ Silver Economy	European Commission	2018	Report
People with disabilities	Union of Equality: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030	European Commission	2021	Communication
	European disability strategy post 2020	European Parliament	2020	Resolution
	European disability policy: From defining disability to adopting a strategy	European Parliamentary Research Service	2017	Report
	European Parliament resolution on the situation of women with disabilities (2018/2685(RSP))	European Parliament	2018	Resolution
Immigrants	Action Plan on the integration of third country nationals	European Commission	2016	Communication
	New Pact on Migration and Asylum	European Commission	2020	Communication
Unemployed	Council Recommendation of 15 February 2016 on the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market (2016/C 67/01)	Council of the European Union	2016	Recommendations
Women	A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025	European Commission	2020	Communication
Roma	Proposal for a draft Council Recommendation on Roma equality, inclusion and participation	European Commission	2020	Recommendations

Dimension	Title	Author	Year of publication	Type of document
	Fundamental rights aspects in Roma integration in the EU: fighting anti-Gypsyism (2017/2038(INI))	European Parliament	2017	Resolution
	Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on 'The situation of Roma women' (exploratory opinion requested by the European Parliament) (2019/C 110/04)	European Economic and Social Committee	2019	Opinion
Working Poor	SPPM Thematic Reviews on the 2012 Social Trends to Watch The working poor in Europe	The Social Protection Committee	2014	Report
	In-work poverty in Europe - A study of national policies 2019	European Social Policy Network (ESPN)	2019	Report
LGBTIQ	Union of Equality: LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025	European Commission	2020	Communication
People who use drugs	EU Drugs Strategy 2021 – 2025	Council of the European Union	2020	Strategy
Victims of crime	EU Strategy on victims' rights (2020-2025)	European Commission	2020	Communication
Victims of trafficking in human beings	Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing - Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA	European Parliament and Council	2011	Directive
	Reporting on the follow-up to the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of trafficking in human beings and identifying further concrete actions	European Commission	2017	Communication

Dimension	Title	Author	Year of publication	Type of document
	Third report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings (2020) as required under Article 20 of Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims {SWD(2020) 226 final}	European Commission	2020	Report
Prisoners	European Prison Rules	Council of Europe	2006	Regulation
Homeless	Commission Staff Working Document Confronting Homelessness in the European Union	European Commission	2013	Report
Cross-sectoral				
Racism	A Union of equality: EU anti-racism action plan 2020-2025	European Commission	2020	Communication
Human Rights	EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024	European Commission	2020	Communication
EU Vision	A Union that strives for more - My agenda for Europe By candidate for President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen	President of the European Commission	2019	Guidelines
	Commission Work Programme 2021: A Union of vitality in a world of fragility	European Commission	2020	Communication
COVID19 Recovery	Recovery and Resilience Facility	European Council	2020	Proposal
	Europe's moment: Repair and Prepare for the Next Generation	European Commission	2020	Communication

Table 2. The absolute frequency of the typology of documents included in the dataset.

Typology	Total
Communication	26
Report	12
Proposal	10
Recommendations	5
Resolution	4
Directive	2
Regulation	3
Action Plan	2
Agenda	2
Declaration	2
Conclusions	2
Guidelines	2
Opinion	1
Strategy	1
TOTAL	**74**

Figure 2. Methodological procedure. Notes: Non-meaningful terms were removed in the pre-processing phase, which served two purposes. The first was to remove terms irrelevant to the present study (e.g. 'and', 'or' and 'but'). The second purpose was to combine sets of terms with shared meaning (e.g. 'European Union' and 'EU') so that the co-word analysis would treat them as one domain. The methodological procedure followed is shown below. This text mining technique grouped the terms found into clusters, with each term only belonging to one cluster. The VOSviewer clustering function's algorithm ensured that only significant terms were displayed in the word network. This artificial intelligence algorithm has previously been validated by other researchers.

Table 3. Dictionary for the Social Economy sector.

Reduced Term	Terms applied to refer to this type of organization
SSE	social economy, solidarity economy, social and solidarity economy
NPO	nonprofit, npo, non-profit
Charities	charitable sector, charity, international charities, church-based social organisation, parish social centres
Co-op	cooperative, co-operative, platform cooperative, cooperative platform, participatory consumption cooperative, worker cooperative, labour cooperative, community cooperative, housing cooperative, services cooperatives, production cooperatives, cooperativism, new cooperativism
Foundations	community foundations, private foundations, company-sponsored foundations, foundations

Mutuals	mutual societies, mutual benefit societies, mutual insurance companies, mutual provident societies, mutuals
Association	social association, cultural association, association
NGO	nongovernmental sector, nongovernmental organizations, development organizations,
NGDO	development organizations, nongovernmental development organizations
Professional Association	professional associations, labour unions, labour unions, unions, social partners
Social enterprise	social enterprise, social firm, social company, social purpose company, social entrepreneurship, community interest company, social farming
WISE	work integration social enterprise
Social innovation	social innovation organizations, social business, social start-up, social innovation
Community Economy	community sector, community economy, community group, neighbourhood association, community association, community enterprise, mutual-help community groups, community-led
Transformative economies	transforming economies, alternative economies, sharing economy, feminist economy,
Self-management	self-organized groups, self-regulation, workers' self-management, self-management
Collaborative economy	collaborative platforms
Ethical finance	solidarity finance, credit union, alternative currencies, community currencies
Recovered companies	worker-recovered companies, worker-recovered enterprise, recovered companies

Table 4. Clusters' profile.

Cluster	Most frequent terms	Number of terms' occurrences	Example documents
Cluster #1: Economy (red) = 121 terms	economy investment climate technology transition product resource	358 299 273 266 222 194 194	✓ InvestEU Programme (European Council, 2020) ✓ Recovery and Resilience Facility (European Council, 2020) ✓ Framework for achieving climate neutrality (European Parliament and The Council, 2020) ✓ Just Transition Fund (European Parliament and The Council, 2020) ✓ Strong Social Europe for Just Transitions (European Commission, 2020) ✓ The promotion of the social economy as a key driver of economic and social development in Europe (Council of the EU, 2015)
Cluster #2: Equality (green) = 74 terms	disability discrimination equality poverty human right inclusion community prison	495 299 260 256 240 184 175 175	✓ Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 (European Commission, 2021) ✓ General framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation (Council of the EU, 2000) ✓ Recommendation on Roma equality, inclusion and participation (European Commission, 2020) ✓ EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024 (European Parliament, 2020) ✓ Final Action Plan of the Urban Poverty Partnership (European Commission, 2018) ✓ EU anti-racism action plan 2020-2025 (European Commission, 2020) ✓ LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025 (European Commission, 2020) ✓ European Pillar of Social Rights (2017)
Cluster #3: Qualification and Employment (blue) = 66 terms	education training skill job labour market quality	595 393 379 296 202 177	✓ Renewed European agenda for adult learning (The Council of the EU, 2011) ✓ Integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market (The Council of the EU, 2016) ✓ Upskilling Pathways: New Opportunities for Adults (The Council of the EU, 2016) ✓ European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships (The Council of the EU, 2017)

	change	170	✓ Key competences for lifelong learning (The Council of the EU, 2018)
	competence	159	✓ European skills agenda (European Commission, 2020)
	young	150	✓ Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027) (European Commission, 2020)
	culture	149	
Cluster #4: Mistreated Groups (yellow) = 37 terms	woman	327	✓ Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings (European Parliament and Council, 2011)
	victim	302	
	child	251	✓ Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 (European Commission, 2020)
	trafficking	244	✓ New Pact on Migration and Asylum (European Commission, 2020)
	violence	171	✓ EU Strategy on victims' rights (2020-2025) (European Commission, 2020)
	protect	141	
	human being	136	
	crime	125	
Cluster #5: Care (purple) = 14 terms	Care	148	✓ EU Drugs Strategy 2021 - 2025 (Council of the EU, 2020)
	prevention	91	✓ European Framework for Action on Mental Health and Wellbeing (EU Joint Action on Mental Health and Wellbeing, 2016)
	mental health	81	
	school	74	
	intervention	54	
	drug	44	
	workplace	44	
	collaboration	41	

Table 5. Absolute frequency of the SSE related terms within each cluster.

Social economy related term	Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Cluster 3	Cluster 4	Cluster 5	Total
SSE	1416	16	6	0	0	**1,438**
Coop	105	416	7	1	0	**529**
Social enterprises	228	10	4	0	0	**242**
Unions	29	26	79	6	7	**147**
Associations	41	11	5	1	0	**58**
Charities	6	6	1	0	0	**13**
NPO	5	0	4	0	0	**9**
Mutuals	5	1	0	0	0	**6**
Foundations	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Total	**1,835**	**486**	**106**	**8**	**7**	**2,444**

Table 6. Absolute frequency of the SSE related terms within each document.

Document	SSE	NPO	Charity	Coop	Foundation	Mutual	Association	Unions	Social Enterprises	Total
1. New technologies and digitisation: opportunities and challenges for the social economy and social enterprises	1,350	0	6	71	0	5	26	5	151	**1,614**
2. Statute for a European Cooperative Society	0	0	0	412	0	0	0	0	0	**412**
3. Social Business Initiative Creating a favourable climate for social enterprises, key stakeholders in the social economy and innovation	3	0	0	8	0	0	5	0	56	**72**
4. The promotion of the social economy as a key driver of economic and social development in Europe	51	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	7	**60**
5. Modernising and Simplifying The CAP - Economic challenges facing EU agriculture - Background Document	0	0	0	21	0	0	2	0	0	**23**
6. Union of Equality: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030	7	0	0	1	0	1	1	4	6	**20**
7. European skills agenda	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	10	2	**19**
8. Single Market Programme (2021-2027)	4	5	0	1	0	0	2	4	2	**18**
9. Proposal for a Council Recommendation on a European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	**17**
10. Commission Staff Working Document Confronting Homelessness in the European Union	3	0	6	3	0	0	1	0	2	**15**

Document	SSE	NPO	Charity	Coop	Foundation	Mutual	Association	Unions	Social Enterprises	Total
11. The Bruges Communiqué on enhanced European Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training for the period 2011-2020	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	10	0	**13**
12. European Pillar of Social Rights	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	**12**
13. EUROPE 2020: A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	**12**
14. Joint Employment Report	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	10	0	**12**