



Deliverable 8.1
**Concept paper “Exploring approaches for
measuring solidarity”**

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Executive summary

The aim of this concept paper is to reflect about some relevant approaches, indicators and methods for measuring solidarity to extract those useful contributions for building indicators of social impact of solidarity. These contributions will provide a starting point for the conduction of the research of this WP8 which pretends to create a toolbox of indicators of social impact of solidarity as well social citizenship. In this sense, the paper introduces some of the concerns expressed by the scientific community about this question and highlights contributions done while addressing this issue.

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1. Introduction

Several social projects and initiatives are improving people's lives in all areas, but very few of them evaluate the social impact of their actions. However, the international scientific community and some funding institutions are increasingly growing an interest towards the evaluation of solidarity projects as a way to ensure that their contributions are generating positive outcomes for society.

Currently, the evaluation of solidarity projects is at a very initial stage. In Europe, one can find several indicators, citizen surveys and studies that analyse the feelings, motives and social values that drive European citizens to participate in solidarity actions (Halman, 2001; Kankaras & Moors, 2009; Paskov & Dewilde, 2012). However, at this moment, most analyses on solidarity are carried out from a personal and subjective perspective, as no studies suggest yet how to evaluate the social impact of solidarity actions generated by organizations and institutions. Neither does exist a tool or some criteria that allow the generation of standard indicators to evaluate the social improvements produced by actions based on solidarity.

Due to the lack of references at an international level, some organizations are beginning to generate their own mechanisms to assess solidarity in their practices, in order to identify which of the actions they promote generate social improvements. In addition, more and more authors focus on studying how the impact generated by solidarity activities can be evaluated and how to create the necessary parameters to measure the social improvements they promote. However, as Ratcliffe and Newman (2011) say, social solidarity requires methods and indicators designed to measure improvements in people's lives, but also methods and indicators designed specifically for each project. Therefore, the objective is to define some common parameters meeting the demands of both small and large institutions when developing and evaluating solidarity projects and initiatives at different levels, minding the need to make the necessary adjustments to each case.

Taking all the above into account, the main aim of this work package 8, "Toolbox for social citizenship", is to identify the international scientific contributions focused on offering information on how to assess solidarity in research projects through the evaluation of the social impact that they generate. Next, the main ideas elicited by these scientific contributions will be extracted for create the starting point for building the indicators of social impact of solidarity during the research planned in the WP8. This result will be available in the research report of WP8.

2. Solidarity impact, how can we measure it?

This section introduces reflections related to the benefits of solidarity on the development of societies regarding areas such as health, economy, and social cohesion as well as individual wellbeing, among others. In addition, a first exploratory literature review on criteria for evaluating social impact of solidarity is introduced followed by explanation of quantitative and qualitative methods used in indexing development, among others, that can be useful such thinking ways to measure solidarity for instance.

Impact of solidarity

Paskov and Dewilde (2012) defined solidarity as “the willingness to promote the well-being of other people”. As the authors affirm, solidarity as a concept has been linked to other concepts such as social cohesion, social trust, social capital and the redistribution of resources through welfare arrangements. But according to them, these other concepts do not encompass the essence of solidarity, as their definition links inequality in a society with social outcomes, such as welfare redistribution. According to them, the “measure of solidarity is driven by mixed motivations: mainly by the feeling of moral duty and sympathy, but also by the wish to contribute to the societal good and to correspond to others, as well as by self-interest” (2012, p. 29).

As shown in the scientific literature, the impact of solidarity is present in all scientific disciplines. Authors such as Abela (2004) have developed numerous studies regarding the application of social solidarity in different fields, emphasizing in their papers the relationship between morality and religion. Another example is the analysis concerning equality in the field of health conducted by Friedman and Gostin (2017).

Yitzhak Berman’ (2003, 2004) analysis on social cohesion emphasises the need of solidarity as a social construct. According to the author, solidarity can be defined as “depending upon the strength of social relations (including social networks) and is a function of the integration between integrative norms and values (including trust) [and identities] in society” (Berman & Philips, 2004, p. 23).

In this regard, Berman & Philips (2004) focus on three dimensions of solidarity needed to define social cohesion, which are social relations, integrative norms and values and possibly identities. Based on these dimensions, they propose a series of domains and indicators to measure social cohesion such as trust, social networks, identities as well as other integrative norms and values, mainly altruism, justice, commonality and reciprocity. Berman & Philips’ indicators for social cohesion use some current instruments such as the World Values Survey (WVS) or the UN Declaration of Human Rights and have different levels such as the macro level (institutional-political level), the meso level (community) or the micro level (family and neighbourhood).

In the level of social cohesion but in the policy area of health, Chuang, Chuang, & Yang (2013) examine the concept of social cohesion, develop measurements, and investigate the relationship between social cohesion and individual health. Their hypothesis is that social cohesion was associated with individual self-rated after controlling individual characteristics. To achieve further advancement in population health, developed countries should consider policies

that would foster a society with a high level of social cohesion, that is to say, with better improvements in social equality, social inclusion, social development, social capital, and social diversity. As also found in Berman & Philips' indicators for social cohesion (2004), the defined instruments for the definition of indicators on social cohesion promoted by Chuang, Chuang, & Yang (2013) considers existing surveys and indicators such as the European Value Survey or the World Value Survey.

Economic impact of solidarity

Some other authors are currently working on defining indicators for the measurement of solidarity economy. This is the case of Reyes (2005) who develops a set of indicators to evaluate progress, actions and specificities of the solidarity economy and its contributions to a sustainable development. This set of indicators could be also useful in supporting a vision and dialogue with the different levels of government (and international organizations). Sustainability indicators should integrate several dimensions and scales: macro, meso and micro level, as well as time.

According to Reyes (2005), other dimensions that these indicators should include are solidarity economy networks, creation of knowledge and programmes for capacity building, the socio-administrative capacities of the solidarity economy, the effectiveness of organizations or inter-organizations, the local space in the construction of the Solidarity Economy (SE, hereinafter) and sustainability, the institutional responses of the State, representations and progress towards greater association and the internationalization of the Solidarity Economy (SE). Reyes (2005) also mentions that the main challenge is to ensure that these indicators reflect the results of participatory evaluations that strengthen the internal dynamics of the groups and their negotiating abilities with external agents.

In a similar way, Le Roy & Ottaviani (2016) also coordinate a report on economic improvements and social progress in whose assessor council there are authors such as Amartya Sen, Nobel prize winner in welfare economy. This report considers three messages and proposals of recommendations in order to establish indicators for sustainability.

All these authors emphasize, in the first place, the need to create solidarity networks based on bottom-up models that are well-structured through participatory action research, in order to ensure social impact. Secondly, they point out how social empowerment through these solidarity networks in the health field for instance guarantees health equity. Last, and following this paper's line of concern, they mention how to foster national and global solidarity to achieve such equity. The authors suggest that advancing towards a solidarity model that guarantees equity would also immediately initiate a change in policy design, which would include the importance of understanding local contexts. Subsequently, changing policies according to criteria based on solidarity would provoke changes in the economic factor, as the distribution of wealth would be done in an egalitarian way.

But in order to establish a common framework, standardized criteria to measure the social improvements fostered by solidary work should be established, as it has been acknowledged in multiple analytical fields. Therefore, in this section, we are going to present the international

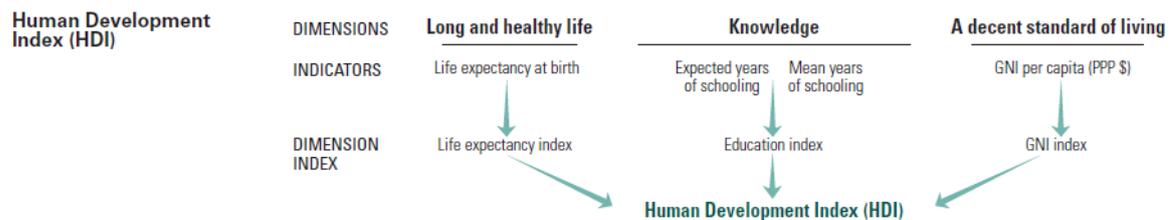
scientific contributions referred to the evaluation of solidarity projects based on the impact that they generate.

Quantitative and Qualitative approaches

Regarding the **methodology**, the scientific literature shows that there are diverse evaluation methods. Some researches evaluate using surveys, such as the Human Development Index, the European Value Survey and World Value Survey, the Happy Planet Index, or the Gallup-Sharecare Well-Being Index.

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a measure of the average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and have a decent standard of living. Then, the HDI is the geometric mean of normalized indices for each of the three dimensions. In this regard, the health dimension is assessed by life expectancy at birth. The education dimension is measured by mean of years of schooling for adults aged 25 years and more as well as the expected years of schooling for children of school entering age. Finally, the standard of living dimension is measured by gross national income per capita. The HDI uses the logarithm of income to reflect the diminishing importance of income with increasing GNI. The scores for the three HDI dimension indices are then aggregated into a composed index using a geometric mean, as reflects by the following figure (Figure 2):

Figure 2.
Human Development Index (HDI) structure



Source: UNDP. Human Development Reports

The HDI was created to emphasize that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country, not economic growth alone. The HDI can also be used to question national policy choices, asking how two countries with the same level of GNI per capita can end up with different human development outcomes.

However, one has to consider that the HDI simplifies and captures only part of what human development entails. It does not reflect on inequalities, poverty, human security, empowerment, etc. for which the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has also developed other composed indices as broader proxy on some of the key issues of human development, inequality, gender disparity and poverty.

A second example of evaluation methods based on surveys is the European Value Survey (EVS). The 1999 EVS is currently the only available data set which allows the study of the 'willingness

to contribute to the well-being of others', as well as people's motivation to do so, since these aspects were not evaluated in the latest EVS round in 2008. For EVS 1999, face-to-face interviews were conducted in 26 European countries among samples of adult citizens aged 18 years and older. The authors point out that when asking about feelings of solidarity, one should specify towards whom solidarity is directed, as people can be highly solidary with certain population groups but not with all of them. Therefore, they analyse solidarity towards different groups of people, as implied by the following question of the survey: 'Would you be prepared to actually do something to improve the conditions of: a) people in your neighbourhood/community; b) elderly in your country; c) sick and disabled people in your country; d) immigrants in your country. Answers are measured on a Likert-scale, being 1. Absolutely not; 2. No; 3. Maybe yes /maybe no; 4. Yes; 5. Absolutely yes (Paskov & Dewilde, 2012, 19).

Based on the EVS approach and model, it is also available the World Values Survey (www.worldvaluessurvey.org). The World Values Survey (WVS) studies the changing values and their impact in social and political life.

Being started in 1981, the data allows exploring values and beliefs, cultural stability or change over time and the impact of values on social and political development in different societies around the world. This world-wide survey consists of nationally representative surveys conducted in almost 100 countries which contains almost 90 percent of the world's population, covering the full range of global variations, from very poor to very rich countries, in all of the world's major cultural zones. Specifically, the WVS uses a common questionnaire to interview almost 400,000 respondents.

Since 1981, the WVS has developed six surveys or waves (1981, 1990–91, 1995–97, 1999–2001, 2005–07, 2010–2014) and it is currently planning a new one, the 7th wave, in 2017–2018. In this regard, the WVS-7 questionnaire is an extensive survey which comprises 290 questions and measures cultural values, attitudes and beliefs towards gender, family, and religion, attitudes and experience of poverty, education, health, and security, social tolerance and trust, attitudes towards multilateral institutions, and cultural differences and similarities between regions and societies. In addition, the WVS-7 questionnaire includes new topics such as issues of justice, moral principles, corruption, accountability and risk, migration, national security and global governance. Further, the WVS-7 questionnaire is also contributing towards monitoring the set of Sustainable Development Goals and the targets defined by the UN post-2015 agenda.

The available data have been widely used by scientists and students, government officials, journalists and other stakeholders to analyse and understand the linkages between cultural factors and economic development.

Another example on methodological evaluation methods is the Happy Planet Index (HPI). This Index allows us to analyse the world's population level of happiness and satisfaction. In this regard, HPI establishes as an important principle the well-being among the members of the organizations. It is understood that only when there is well-being and coherence, actions that contribute to improving society can be correctly implemented. As the authors affirm,

The Happy Planet Index gives us a clearer picture of how people's lives are going. It does this by measuring how long people live, how people are directly experiencing their lives, and by analysing the inequalities in those distributions, instead of just relying on the averages (Jeffrey, Wheatley, & Abdallah, 2016, 2).

Some of the indicators present in the HPI can be both used to analyse the solidarity of the organization's projects as well as the social impact of the actions the organization promotes. The four criteria calculated in order to develop the HPI are:

- Well-being: How satisfied the residents of a country feel with life overall, on a scale from zero to ten, based on data collected as part of the Gallup World Pol.
- Life expectancy: The average number of years a person is expected to live in each country based on data collected by the United Nations.
- Inequality of outcomes: The inequalities between people within a country in terms of how long they live, and how happy they feel, based on each country's life expectancy and wellbeing distribution.
- Ecological Footprint: The average impact that each resident of a country places on the environment, based on data prepared by the Global Footprint Network.

Finally, the Gallup-Sharecare Well-Being Index¹ is the world's largest data set on well-being. For the Gallup-Sharecare Well-Being Index, well-being is a concept that captures the important aspects of how people feel about and experience their daily lives — encompassing more than just physical health or economic indicators. In this regard, this index includes five interrelated elements making up well-being: sense of purpose, social relationships, financial security, relationship to community, and physical health. To obtain it, the Gallup-Sharecare Well-Being Index conducts interviews (both face-to-face as by means of telephone) to adults aged 18 and older. More than 175,000 respondents are interviewed each year, and over 2 million interviews have been conducted to date since 2008.

Within this interview, 10 specific questions related to the five elements of well-being are incorporated to a large World Poll. The data is analysed and classified according to three different categories: thriving, struggling, or suffering in each element. Then, the Well-Being Index provides with unmatched, in-depth insight into the well-being of populations.

The Gallup-Sharecare Well-Being Index is frequently cited by scientists, policy-makers and media for peer-review and scholarly articles. The Gallup-Sharecare Well-Being Index merges decades of clinical research, health care leadership and behavioural economics expertise to track and understand the key factors driving greater well-being for individuals and populations.

Based on these macro surveys, we can obtain large-scale data on social values based on the research variables. Most often, public institutions also use surveys in order to analyse the state of the issue of a specific topic regarding the population, and thus decide what public policies should be implemented. This is the case, for instance, of the GINI studies (Paskov & Dewilde,

¹ <http://www.well-beingindex.com/about>

2012), in which the research made by the European Values Survey (EVS) 1999 was used as reference.

Other authors, as Elisabeth Hofmann (2016, p.69), highlight the need **of using qualitative or mixed assessment** systems allowing a deeper and more direct approach to our social experiences by considering the different backgrounds of the people we are working with. Hoffman (2016) published an article specialized on gender projects' evaluation. In this regard, she suggests that evaluation considers two levels of analysis: the individual and the collective (2016, p.69). Evaluating the aspects of "access" and "knowledge" at the individual level is about seeing that the project beneficiaries have better access to credit, increased incomes, improved knowledge and skills, and the like. The more challenging part of evaluating empowerment is the "willingness" and the "power" (or the "power in" and the "power alongside", in the subsets of power). On the other hand, social construction must consider elements such as social cohesion within collective structures, the nature of dialogue and processes of consultation, and the sharing of decision-making power, just to mention a few.

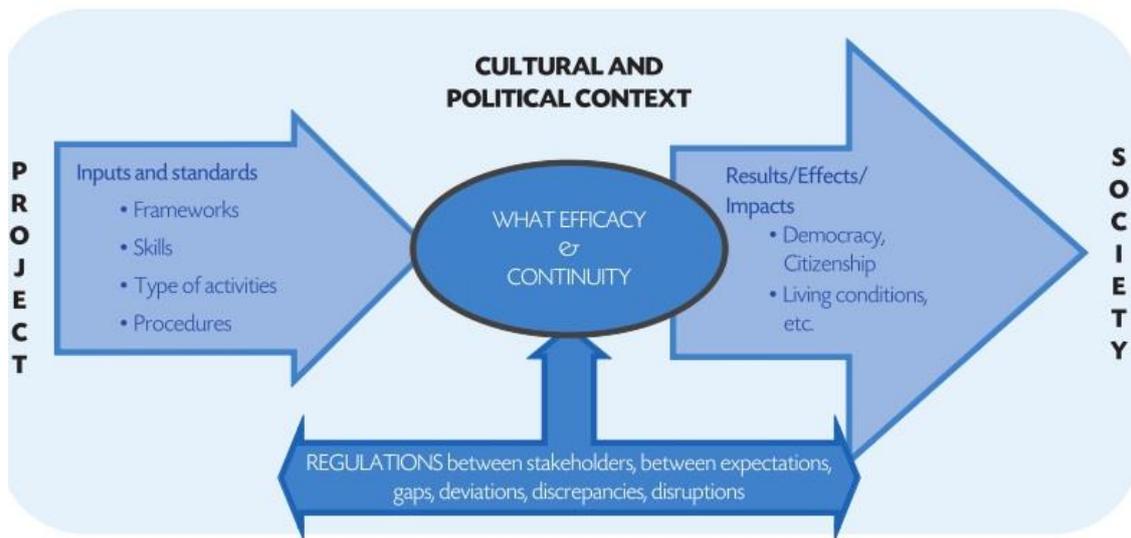
Methodologically, Hoffmann (2016, p.69) states that it is important to go beyond the observation but to examine how women perceive the changes and why they have occurred. In this regard, she suggests utilizing semi-structured interviews and focus groups in addition to less conventional means such as artistic expression to "detect" the evolution of such perceptions and evaluations. Besides, Hofmann also mentions how these techniques are part of a formative process of evaluation, in which participative methods of evaluation are not about simply collecting data, but about directly supporting people's increasing awareness of their situation and its development (2016, p.69). Hofmann also emphasizes that such evaluations are not uniquely focused on the perceptions of change by the women involved but it must be also obtained the feedback from people's social entourage (2016, p.69). Finally, Hofmann adds that participative methods can be triangulated with more direct methods of observation, such as data collection using questionnaires (2016, p.69). Hofmann's point of view on methodology is of special interest when evaluating specially the gender dimension of projects, which it is also one of the objectives of the SOLIDUS project as well.

Example of evaluation of social change

Regarding international standards in solidarity projects, one of the main studies on the analysis of social transformations was carried out by the *Agence Française de Développement* (Aberlen, Bedecarrats, & Boisteau, 2016), a public financial institution implementing the French Government's policies, working to combat poverty and promoting sustainable development. In the report *Analysis, Monitoring, and Evaluation of Contributions to Social Change* several authors reflect on the criteria for measuring and evaluating social changes, drawing on different dimensions such as economy, gender or cooperation, among others. Some of the premises mentioned by the report can be perfectly adopted to the analysis of solidarity carried out in this paper. The premises include reflections on how cooperation policies contribute to social change, how evaluations are capable of measuring a cooperation project's contribution to social change and how certain evaluations have become agents of social change (Cahu, 2016, p. 123). In the same report, Totté (2016, p.131) suggests a method to evaluate the social change promoted by a certain project, in order to determine its efficiency and sustainability. This method is based on

comparing the project's inputs and standards (objectives, expected results, activities...) with what local "society" develops from the project results, drawing on the project's objectives (see Figure 1). This idea is intended to achieve a dual impact: on the one hand, to verify that all objectives have been achieved and, on the other hand, to assess the project's outcome considering also any negative or unforeseen effects, as well as the ability to creatively rethink different scenarios (Totté, 2016, p. 131). The evaluation takes place during and after the implementation of the project.

Figure 1.
Conceptual model for the social evaluation of projects



Source: retrieved from Totté, 2016, p. 135

According to the author (Totté, 2016, p. 131), the evaluation process reveals the progress achieved through the project's implementation, so that the continuity of the results will be studied. Therefore, he affirms that an evaluation process can elicit elements of analysis on a large-scale, fostering several discussion points, such as how democracy, citizenship, equality and participation in a particular society make sense, how does the project contribute to the relationship between these elements, or how do interest groups regulate themselves through the production of new standards that contribute to a peaceful coexistence, in order to give answer to any changes regarding what was initially planned. In addition, an evaluation process questions the ability to transform the political and cultural challenges and concerns in local contexts. In this way, Totté (2016, p.131) reports that any project's evaluation process allows the analysis of its social repercussions by means of the improvements or transformations generated in the population's dynamics. Finally, the author proposes the following conditions to ensure the evaluation's correct development (Totté, 2016, p. 143-144):

- Strong political commitment, so the evaluation surpasses the general regulations of the framework in which it is circumscribed;
- The evaluation must transcend the basis of the intervention's framework and its presumed outcomes;

- The evaluation must actively examine the project's general long-term aims, often assumed, and focus the analysis on them, more than on the project's product;
- The evaluation must challenge the project's capacity to transform the connexions between the general objectives, the suggested activities and the expected results into a theoretical framework that supports practice;
- The evaluation must be based on a comprehensive understanding of the political and cultural contexts in which the project is developed, beyond the knowledge of the techniques required for the intervention.

In addition, in the same report Totté quotes the Hoffman's (2016) article that we just mentioned in the previous section, suggesting four criteria to consider during evaluation, which are also useful when analysing the impact of actions based on solidarity. These criteria are (p. 73):

- Access: regarding economic resources, health services and time efficiency.
- Knowledge and Know-How: concerning comprehension, functional knowledge, intellectual resources, and the capacity to use and transfer such resources into different actions or means.
- Willingness: including mental stamina, principles, motives and self-awareness; the knowledge of the community's needs and the definition one's purpose of life, and understanding oneself and using this knowledge to contribute to the improvement of others.
- Power: in relation to the ability of taking responsibility and consciously making decisions for oneself and for others, recruiting the necessary resources to fulfil each choice.

Example of evaluation of social impact

The other example of evaluation of social impact is provided by the first open repository of social impact of the research, SIOR (Social Impact Open Repository). The SIOR initiative was born in the framework of the IMPACT-EV project (Reale et al., 2014), funded by the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission. In this sense, social impact approach from SIOR is understood as social improvements achieved because of implementing the results of a research project or study. In this sense researchers are sharing how their research is useful to help meet social targets defined for instance by EU2020 targets, UN Sustainable Development Goals, among others, this mean for instance contributing to create employment, increase access to health, reduce carbon emissions or reduce poverty, in a locality or at a broader scale. Often social impacts are not immediate but gathered in a longer term. SIOR allows researchers to edit periodically their entries, adding new evidence of impacts related to the results of their research projects. To evaluate the level of social impact, SIOR has developed five assessment criteria for social impact that could be relevant for considering them in the building indicators of solidarity social impact. The scale is from 1 to 10 points, in order to obtain 10 points researchers have to provide evidences for the following criteria;

- Connection to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, EU2020 target or other similar official social targets
- Has achieved more than 30% of improvement
- Transferability: at least implemented in 2 different contexts
- Social impact published on scientific journals with recognized impact (at least 1 article), governmental or non-governmental official bodies
- Sustainability of the impact throughout time

These criteria are useful for collecting evidences of social impact and they are relevant also for being considered in the evaluation of social impact of solidarity initiatives.

3. Examples of international experiences on measuring solidarity

In this section, some of the main examples of international experiences on evaluating solidarity projects that have been scientifically studied will be detailed. However, it must be considered that not all countries or organizations work in the same way on the issue of solidarity. As we will see, there are some countries and institutions that show a much greater progress than others in the promotion and development of solidarity actions. Among these, we will take as example countries with very different political and economic contexts, as well as both large-scale and small projects, with the aim to demonstrate and analyse the common elements that solidarity actions and their social impact share. Therefore, in this section we will develop some examples to create a common framework that can be transferred to different contexts.

One of the countries that has worked most on solidarity programs at a micro and macro scale is Canada. Since the 1980s, this country has worked to become one of the first to achieve a welfare state that provides coverage to all citizens. Bearing this in mind, one of the most advanced regions in Canada is Québec, which has been governed by the Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity for almost two decades. Its Ministry is in charge of managing all matters based on solidary actions, whether they are projects of great international scope or solidary actions between the neighbours of a community. Its main objective is to foster the bonds created within the community. When analysing the degree of intervention, one can find the 2004 survey *Biographies et solidarités familiales* ('Biographies and family solidarity in Québec') (Kempeneers & Van Pevenage, 2013). Besides the qualitative sections of analysis, the quantitative part of the survey is based on *ego*, one of solidarity's main risks. Some authors analyse how *ego* affects the different members of a family group and, therefore, how solidarity within the group is affected.

Secondly, we highlight the case of Afghanistan. Afghanistan's population is mainly rural, their economy is agriculture-based and their access to basic comforts, like clean drinking or electricity, is not assured. However, despite Afghanistan is still among the bottom 15 countries in UNDP's Human Development Index, during the past decades several solidarity interventions have focused on increasing food security, providing economic opportunities and granting access to basic amenities for the Afghan population (Beath, Christia, & Enikolopov, 2015). In this regard, the Afghanistan's Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, funded by the World Bank and a consortium of bilateral donors and facilitated by 8 national and 21 international NGOs,

developed the National Solidarity Program (NSP) (Beath, Christia, & Enikolopov, 2015). Besides, the country's government also demanded a rigorous evaluation of this program's impact, resulting in the NSP Impact Evaluation (NSP-IE). Through the NSP-IE, experts explore the project's mid-term and final impact across five categories: (1) Access to utilities, services and infrastructure; (2) Economic well-being; (3) Local governance; (4) Political attitudes and state-building; and (5) Social norms.

Each of these five categories has subcategories of analysis in order to understand the impact that each of them has on the population, as listed below (Beath, Christia, & Enikolopov, 2015):

- **(1) Access to utilities, services and infrastructure:** includes subcategories such as the access to utilities; access to clean drinking water; access to electricity; access to services; access to female counselling; access to education; health outcomes/access to health services; access to infrastructure; access to irrigation; or village accessibility and villager mobility.
- **(2) Economic well-being:** measures the perceptions; stocks and flows; security of household income; household consumption expenditure; household assets; loans for food and medical needs; food security; production and marketing; agricultural productivity; migration; non-agricultural productivity; net migration of households; or net migration of household members.
- **(3) Local governance:** considers subcategories like structure; composition of village leadership; affiliation of leadership with representative assemblies; female representation in local governance; function; provision of local governance services; activity of village leadership & institutions; role of representative assemblies; quality and participation; participation in local governance; perceptions of quality of local governance; informal taxation by village leaders; preferences for representative assemblies.
- **(4) Political attitudes and state-building:** includes democratic values; acceptance of democratic norms; electoral participation/political knowledge; state legitimacy; acceptance of central government authority; relationships between villages and government; perceptions of government; perceptions of central government; perceptions of sub-national government; perceptions of government-allied actors; security; violent incidents; informal taxation by insurgent groups; or perceptions of local security.
- **(5) Social norms:** measure the social cohesion; disputes and resolution rates; interpersonal trust; literacy and computational ability; happiness; gender attitudes; acceptance of female political participation; acceptance of female economic and social participation; cultural constraints towards girls' education; acceptance of female participation in local governance; gender outcomes; women's involvement in local governance; social activity among women; women's mobility; or participation in economic activity & household decision making.

Depending on the analysis of each of the subcategories' impact, the NSP knows where to focus their efforts in order to generate social and economic improvements, on the basis that as solidarity increases, social inequalities diminish. Therefore, as confirmed by the scientific literature (Beath, Christia, & Enikolopov, 2015), the implementation of the NSP-IE has generated a very positive impact on the citizens, since it has contributed to improving some fundamental

aspects of their lives. However, according to the authors, the NSP-IE program does not always achieve positive results on the five criteria, as sometimes the medium or long-term impact has been negative. Yet, periodically evaluating the impact of their measures allows them to know what is best to do in order to move forward with their objectives (Beath, Christia, & Enikolopov, 2015).

Further to the development of categories and subcategories of analysis, the NSP-IE is also interesting for the methodological approach and the social impact that is achieving, with evidences of improvement in the present situation of Afghan citizens, particularly of women. Among the parameters used, the authors (Beath, Christia, & Enikolopov, 2015) highlight the government's legitimacy, and as a result, the country's economic and social improvements. In addition, involving the villagers in project selection has produced a large number of positive effects, such as increasing the number of meetings held by village assemblies, increasing participation and preferences for democratic elections, increasing female participation in local governance and liberalizing men's attitudes towards female participation in local governance. There is also some evidence that NSP makes villagers happier. Specifically, there is a weak evidence of a reduction in the proportion of female villagers who report that they are unhappy, which could be caused by the increasing availability of counselling for women, the increasing participation of women in governance and/or the increasing access to basic utilities and services.

A third analysed example of international experiences on evaluating solidarity projects can be found in France, where the *Loi n° 2014-856 du 31 Juillet 2014 relative à l'économie sociale et solidaire* (Law on Social and Solidarity-based Economy (SSE), in English) fostered the creation of the *Chambre Française de l'Economie Sociale et Solidaire* (SSE France), an organism aimed to congregate and represent all organizations, institutions and others who pertain to the SSE sector. This sector, through SSE France, works in coordination with the country's social entities and enterprises, with the aim of improving the living conditions of people as well as the economy (Voisin, 2015). As shown in Voisin's paper, one of the SSE's main criteria to achieve both social and financial goals is "a regular business activity which sometimes extends to investment projects with impact, for which the goals are set and measured without the enterprise being classified as an impact-driven organisation" (2015, p. 14). In order to define some standards that allow to classify a project or economic activity as socially innovative, the *Conseil supérieur de l'Economie Sociale et Solidaire* (2017) (SSE's Superior Council, in English) elaborated a grid focused on three elements: (1) criteria regarding the needs and social aspirations of the projects, as well as the implication of the participants; (2) the generation of positive side effect; and (3) experimentation and risk taking. Each of these elements is assessed through several items, from which we highlight the following aspects:

- **Social relevance:** the project must answer to a social problem or aspiration, for which there are no available or sufficient responses. Meeting such demand must be defined as the project's objective.
- **Local participation:** the recipients must be involved in the identification of such need and must participate in the co-construction or the validation of the response, as well as in its development.

- **Positive social impact:** the project must have the means to evaluate its outcomes, regarding the techniques and the assessment items. The social impact achieved is positive regarding the project's objective, and it may also lead to extended positive impacts regarding the economy or other social need or the creation of other social innovations. The environmental impact of the project's implementation should also be considered.
- **Sustainability:** the project's positive outcomes must persist over time and can foster the transferability of the project to other contexts.

Moving from the country level, but still on the analysis of international experiences on evaluating the social impact of solidarity projects, we consider necessary to mention the United Nations (UN) development strategy of *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDG) or Global Goals (UN, 2015). The Sustainable Development Goals are a set of 17 with 169 targets measured by several indicators that UN member states approved after a deliberative process involving its 193 Member States, as well as global civil society. The SDGs follow and expand on the *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs) and are expected to be used to frame the agendas and political policies of UN member states until 2030. Among the 17 Global Goals, ending poverty and hunger, improving health and education, making cities more sustainable, combating climate change, and protecting oceans and forests is included (UN, 2015).

For the SOLIDUS project purpose, the scientific contributions (Fukuda-Parr, 2006) that are being made to advance with the Sustainable Development Goals and to expand the analysis of social solidarity from the political agenda are examples of what should be taken into account. It is also of interest that Global Goals present a set of indicators to monitor and evaluate the advances on the implementation of the Goals, which is of reference for SOLIDUS when designing indicators of social impact.

As it is mentioned in the 2016 UNDP report "UNDP Support to the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", the inclusion of measurable objectives and indicators answers to the need to define strategic planning objectives that can be tracked through a global Integrated Results Framework (2016c). To make it possible, the UNDP is also creating a corporate planning system which focuses on the needs of Country Offices and offers a single, unified and user-friendly platform for planning, monitoring and reporting sustainable development policy and programming across all levels of the organization. Besides, and in the organizational level, the UNDP has completed a complementary reorganization of its bureaus, offices and staffing, in part to ensure mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development and break down work silos across development themes (2016c, p.9).

Furthermore, the inclusion of measurable objectives and indicators is one of the lessons derived from the implementation of prior MDG. As stated in the 2016 UNDP report, "From the MDGs to Sustainable Development for All. Lessons from 15 Years of practice" (2016a) the obtaining of comparable metrics and data enabled local and national governments to extend services to people and communities that were once "blank spaces" in planning processes and implement cost-saving efficiencies. Through the use of better and more reliable data, policymakers were able to improve the design and implementation of MDG policies and initiatives:

The MDGs motivated global efforts to arrive at commonly agreed metrics. With shared metrics, countries were able to monitor their progress against their neighbours'. Indexes highlighted who was ahead and who was behind, inspiring leaders to adopt proven policies. The power of example, advanced by a global campaign is widely credited with helping to nudge governments, for example, to eliminate fees for primary school, vastly increasing the accessibility of education. Broad awareness and comparisons in high-income countries likely also helped to motivate the sharp rise in development assistance (2016a, p.54)

A second example in the same organizational level, but this time in the European context is the European Pillar of Social Rights². Building a fairer Europe and strengthening its social dimension is a key priority for the European Commission, as indicated in the Political Guidelines of July 2014. In his first State of the Union speech to the European Parliament on 9 September 2015, President Jean-Claude Juncker announced the European Pillar of Social Rights: "We have to step up the work for a fair and truly pan-European labour market. (...) As part of these efforts, I will want to develop a European Pillar of Social Rights, which takes account of the changing realities of Europe's societies and the world of work. And which can serve as a compass for the renewed convergence within the euro area. The European Pillar of Social Rights should complement what we have already jointly achieved when it comes to the protection of workers in the EU. I will expect social partners to play a central role in this process. I believe we do well to start with this initiative within the euro area, while allowing other EU Member States to join in if they want to do so."

Since then, the Commission has engaged actively with Member States, EU institutions, social partners, civil society and citizens on the content and role of the Pillar. In this regard, the Pillar has been conceived as a reference framework to screen the employment and social performance of participating Member States, to drive reforms at national level and, more specifically, to serve as a compass for the renewed process of convergence towards better working and living conditions in Europe, primarily for the euro area but also for all EU Member States wishing to be part of it. The European Pillar of Social Rights sets out a number of key principles and rights to support fair and well-functioning labour markets and welfare systems. It will serve as a compass for a renewed process of convergence towards better working and living conditions among participating member states. The Pillar of Social Rights is about delivering new and more effective rights for citizens. It builds upon 20 key principles, structured around three categories: (1) equal opportunities and access to the labour market, (2) fair working conditions and (3) social protection and inclusion.

Within these categories, the Pillar of Social Rights contemplates key principles, most of them related to the policy areas SOLIDUS project faces. For example, within (1) equal opportunities and access to the labour market it is considered questions such as education, training and life-long learning; gender equality, equal opportunities or active support to employment. On (2) fair working conditions, the Pillar of Social Rights includes secure and adaptable employment or wages, social dialogue and involvement of workers or work-life balance. Finally, on (3) social protection and inclusion, it is considered aspects such as social protection, unemployment

² More information available on: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/priorities/deeper-and-fairer-economic-and-monetary-union/european-pillar-social-rights_en

benefits, minimum income, health care or Housing and assistance for the homeless. For each of this 20 key principle defined, the European Commission has marked some measurable goals to be achieved in next years.

4. Conclusions.

To conclude, we highlight the following contributions:

1) There is a relevant need to evaluate the solidarity social impact and to deepen into it, as it has been demonstrated that solidarity has an impact in the social and individual living conditions. This occurs in the different policy areas, particularly in health, economy, employment and social inclusion.

2) There is an absence of specific criteria to measure solidarity social impact in particular aspects. Once the literature review and indicators on evaluation has been completed, it is observed the need to develop and conceptualised them at the macro, meso and micro levels. In the framework of this WP, the SOLIDUS team will develop a proposal of a set of indicators.

3) There is an agreement about the need to measure the social impact of solidarity initiatives on the basis of the demands and needs of society. For instance, this implies that the impact of a solidarity initiative that has as an objective to reduce unemployment will be higher if it responds to the expressed demands. If the initiative reduces unemployment rates and increases labor inclusion, such initiative will be achieving a higher social impact.

4) The selected indicators of the different reviewed indexes constitute just a starting point to work along the present WP8, Toolbox for social citizenship, which should end with a set of new indicators and indices to measure both citizens' attitudes towards solidarity and socio-economic impact of solidarity practices within the SOLIDUS project. As mentioned, the measurement of social impact of solidarity is a fundamental demand, which is started to be included in global and European societal challenges, such as the analysed UN Sustainable Development Goals or the European Pillar of Social Rights. In this regard, the five assessment criteria for social impact developed within the Social Impact Open Repository (SIOR) as well as the dimensions included within World Values Survey or the European Value Survey will be of interest to consider in order to establish it.

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