



## **PREFACE: ATLAS OF SOCIAL INNOVATION – ALLOWING PERSPECTIVES BEYOND SILO THINKING**

Since the release of the first volume of the Atlas of Social Innovation in early 2018, the pace of change around the world has continued to intensify. In the last year, there has been a collective awakening to the urgency of the climate crisis, thanks in part to the actions of one Swedish school girl; there is a swell of populism and citizens are establishing a new relationship with our political systems, as we see from Venezuela to Hungary to Hong Kong; our relationship with data, technology and automation is increasingly front of mind.

This means social innovation is needed now, more than ever. In order to make headway on these global challenges, we must further strengthen the global social innovation ecosystem. We must reinvigorate the social innovation movement around its core values of pluralism and diversity, in order to come together to work on these big global challenges.

From the experience of SIX, creating a strong network across practice fields and sectors is essential for successful social innovations. We challenge key institutions to re-examine themselves: philanthropic organisation must be bolder to increase the flow of funding into social innovation; universities must reimagine their purpose, seeing themselves as a resource for society, not just academia; our political institutions need to reconnect to people and share power; private sector companies must realign around purpose. We also bring these sectors together to have purposeful conversations around our shared challenges, in order to drive the transformation and impact we so urgently need.

The Atlas of Social Innovation is underpinning such network activities by providing an overview of social innovation around the world, its regional mainstreams, its current trends, ecosystems and infrastructures. By doing so, it is allowing perspectives beyond silo thinking towards better cooperation and joint activities across sectors and their specific viewpoints.

Since the release of the first volume in early 2018, a lot has happened in the diverse world of social innovation, particularly in Europe. Creating a Social Innovation Community that resulted in handing over the Lisbon Declaration on Social Innovation to the European Commission is one of the more important developments.

After the success of the first volume of the Atlas, this new edition widens the overview of the first by focusing on new aspects of the growing variety of social innovation in practice. Together with its virtual representation and the map of initiatives around the world, it is contributing to the important diffusion of accessible, shared knowledge on social innovation. It is a great help to all stakeholders across the world and across civil society, research, politics and business to better understand the potential and capacity of social innovation.

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