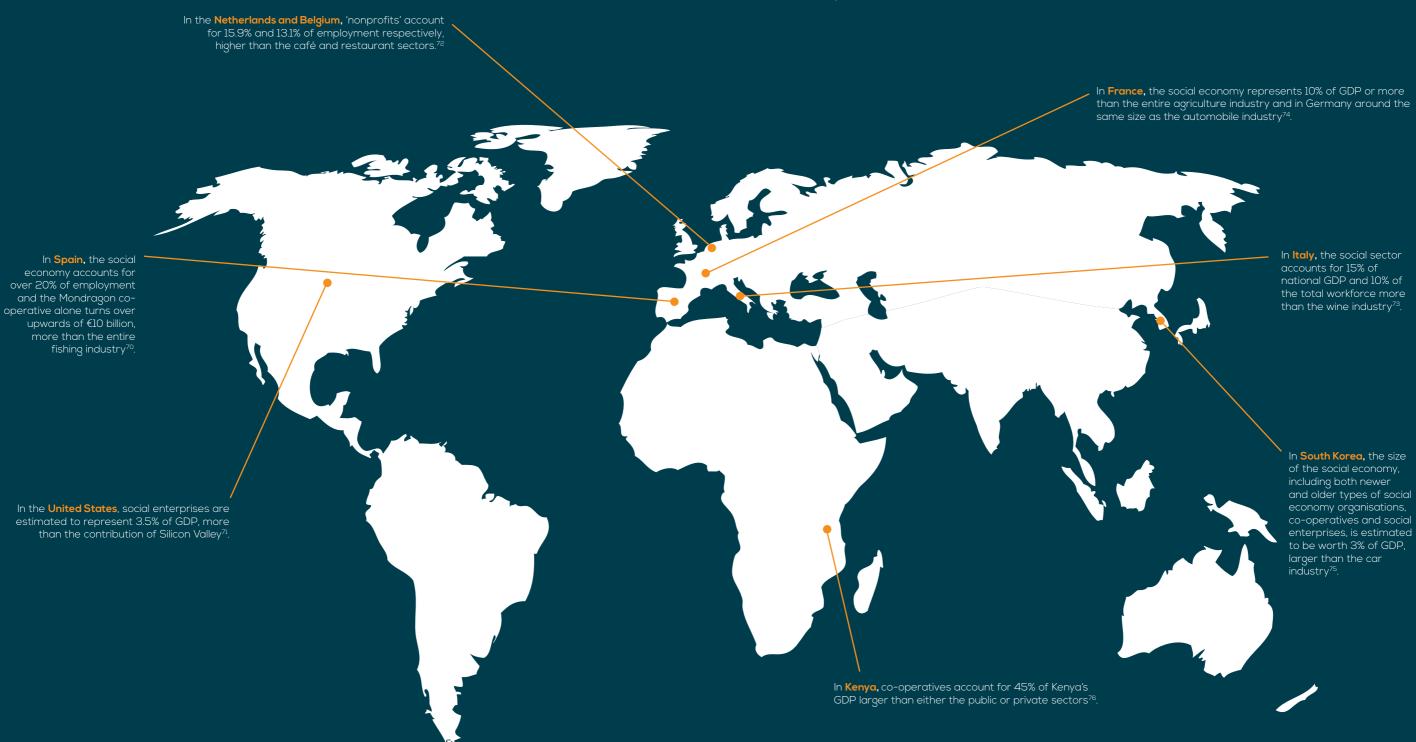
The Scale of Social Enterprise

Some critics - and even some advocates of social enterprise - dismiss its potential contribution to sustainable economic development on the basis that it is too small or too niche. Yet this perception ignores a rich vein of evidence.

The G8 Social Impact Investment Taskforce, for example, report that "Social sector organisations already account for more than 5% of GDP in several countries, including Canada, Germany, the UK and the US. In some countries, they employ more than 10% of the workforce." Indeed, social enterprise, co-operatives and other social sector organisations account for very significant sectors of the economy across many countries of the world.

In some parts of the world, critics have suggested that social enterprise is often an elitist endeavour, pursued by those lucky enough to have the financial wherewithal to experiment with such models. Again, on the contrary evidence collected in Social Enterprise UK's State of Social Enterprise Report 2013 shows that in the UK:

- Social enterprises are very heavily concentrated in the UK's most deprived communities. 38% of all social enterprises work in the most deprived 20% of communities in the UK, compared to 12% of traditional SMEs.
- Social enterprises are far more likely to be led by women than mainstream businesses. 38% of social enterprises have a female leader, compared with 19% of SMEs and 3% of FTSE 100 companies.
- 28% of social enterprise leadership teams have BAME directors. Only 11% of SMEs report having directors from a BAME background.



 ⁷⁰ HYPERLINK "http://www.mondragon-corporation.com" www. mondragon-corporation.com and http://www.eurofish.dk
 ⁷¹ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ben-thornley/social-enterprise_b_2090144.html
 ⁷² HYPERLINK "http://www.thezeromarginalcostsociety. com" www.thezeromarginalcostsociety.com
 ⁷³ http://www.socialimpactinvestment.org/reports/Impact%20 Investment%20Report%20FINAL[3].pdf

74 http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/conferences/2014/0116-social-entrepreneurs/docs/140210-europolitics_en.pdf

75 http://www.reliess.org/centredoc/upload/SocialEconomy_
KoreanCaseStudy_FinalRevision_201309_pdf

76 ica.coop/en/co-op-facts-and-stats