



Masterclass for Civil Society Leaders: Rethinking the Theoretical Foundation of Economics

Why Civil Society Matters More Than Ever

Across the world, civil society organizations are being asked to do more – with fewer resources, rising polarization, and weakening trust in institutions.

You are expected to:

- respond to urgent social and environmental crises,
- empower communities whose voices are marginalized,
- bridge divides between citizens, markets, and governments,
- and sustain solidarity in the face of fatigue, fragmentation, and inequality.

Yet many of today's challenges are systemic, not local, and cannot be solved by commitment and courage alone.

The Multilevel Economics Master Class is designed to support civil society leaders in meeting this moment: by providing a shared framework for understanding how collective action succeeds or fails across levels of society, and how it can be strengthened through better institutional design.

A New Lens for Social Change

At the core of the Master Class is a powerful insight: *Communities flourish when individual motivations, social norms, organizational practices, and public institutions are aligned toward shared goals.*

Too often, civil society initiatives struggle not because people do not care, but because:

- incentives pull in opposite directions,
- organizations compete rather than cooperate,
- funding structures undermine long-term trust,
- and policies fail to recognize community knowledge and agency.

The multilevel paradigm helps civil society leaders:

- see these patterns clearly,
- name them in ways that resonate across sectors,
- and design strategies that build durable cooperation rather than short-lived projects.

What Civil Society Leaders Will Gain

Participants in the Civil Society Track will gain:

- A clear, practical framework for diagnosing why collective efforts stall or fragment.
- Tools for strengthening solidarity, trust, and shared agency within and across communities.
- Insight into how civil society can engage more effectively with governments, businesses, and international institutions—without losing its mission.
- Methods for scaling impact without sacrificing local ownership or values.
- A concrete action plan or organizational strategy aligned with participants' real-world work.

The Master Class is explicitly designed to empower civil society, not subordinate it to technocratic or market-driven agendas.

From Grassroots Action to Systemic Change

This Master Class recognizes that lasting change requires connection across levels:

- from individuals to communities,
- from communities to organizations,
- from organizations to national and global systems.

Participants explore how civil society can:

- catalyze cooperation where markets and states fall short,
- act as stewards of shared resources and common goods,
- and help redesign institutions so that they serve people rather than extract from them.

Real-world challenges brought by participants—such as community resilience, social inclusion, climate justice, or democratic renewal—form the backbone of the learning process.

How the Master Class Works

The program runs over seven interactive weekly sessions, combining:

- short conceptual inputs,
- facilitated dialogue and peer learning,
- practical design tools,
- and reflective exercises grounded in lived experience.

This is not a lecture course. It is a collective learning journey, shaped by the insights and experiences of participants themselves.

Civil society leaders work alongside researchers, policymakers, and practitioners – on equal footing – strengthening mutual understanding and long-term collaboration.

A Community of Practice for Cooperation

Participants become part of a growing international ecosystem committed to strengthening cooperation and shared prosperity, including:

- **Prosocial World:** Supporting cooperation, community governance, and social wellbeing
- **Global Solutions Initiative:** Connecting civil society insights to global policy processes
- **Institute for Global Prosperity:** Bridging evidence, policy, and lived experience
- **Economics:** Amplifying new narratives for social and economic change

These networks offer opportunities for continued collaboration, visibility, and influence beyond the Master Class itself.

Who Should Participate

This Master Class is designed for:

- leaders of NGOs and community organizations,
- social and solidarity-economy practitioners,
- faith-based and values-driven leaders,
- network builders and movement organizers,
- and civil society actors working at local, national, or global levels.

No formal economics training is required. What matters is practical experience, openness to reflection, and commitment to collective wellbeing.

Reclaiming Agency in an Interdependent World

Civil society has always been a source of moral imagination, solidarity, and renewal. Today, it is also called upon to help rebuild the systems within which people live and work.

The Multilevel Economics Master Class offers civil society leaders:

- a language for systemic change,
- tools for collaboration across difference,
- and a community committed to turning care, solidarity, and agency into lasting institutions.

Join the Master Class

If you are working to strengthen communities, advance justice, or protect our shared future—and are seeking ways to amplify your impact without losing your values—we warmly invite you to join this Master Class.

For participation or further information:

- Visit our [Website](#)
- Or email hello@prosocial.world