

Enabling Social Innovation in Monaco

Country Snapshot

Social innovation: "the processes and outcomes of developing novel approaches to address societal challenges facing people and planet." ¹

This snapshot represents a descriptive, non-exhaustive overview of key highlights from Monaco's social innovation ecosystem.

 Direct focus on social innovation  Connected but indirect focus on social innovation  No focus on social innovation

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Official Definition of Social Innovation



Monaco does not have an official legal definition of *social innovation*. Government policy instead frames socially impactful initiatives primarily through **philanthropy, humanitarian action, and sustainable development initiatives**, which support innovative approaches to addressing social and environmental challenges ^{1 2}.

Government Body for Social Innovation



Rather than a dedicated government body for social innovation, responsibility for related initiatives is distributed across government institutions. The **Department of External Relations and Cooperation** manages Monaco's international development and humanitarian programmes, while the **Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation** plays a major role in supporting environmental and social initiatives globally ^{2 3}.

Government Strategy for Social Innovation



Monaco does not have a dedicated national strategy for social innovation. However, policies promoting **sustainable development, international cooperation, and environmental protection** provide indirect support for socially innovative initiatives addressing global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity protection, and social inclusion ^{2 3}.

Policies, Laws & Regulations

Monaco Sustainable Development Policy Framework

- Monaco has adopted national policies promoting sustainable development and environmental protection, encouraging innovative approaches to environmental challenges and climate action ³.



Law on Associations (1901 – applicable framework)

- Civil society organizations in Monaco operate under legal frameworks governing associations, which enable nonprofit organizations to undertake social and humanitarian initiatives ⁴.

International Cooperation Strategy (2017–present)

- Monaco's government development cooperation policy prioritizes projects addressing poverty, health, education, and gender equality, often supporting innovative development solutions implemented by partner organizations ².

Official Statistics



Monaco does not collect official statistics specifically on social innovation. Government data related to socially impactful activities mainly concerns **international development assistance, environmental programmes, and nonprofit sector activity** ².

Government Programs



Monaco International Cooperation Programme

- Government funding programme supporting development projects in priority sectors including health, education, food security, and social protection in partner countries ².

Prince Albert II Foundation Programmes

- Funding and partnership programmes supporting innovative environmental and sustainability projects worldwide, particularly in biodiversity protection and climate action ³.

ECOSYSTEM

Stakeholders

Due to Monaco's small size, the ecosystem supporting socially impactful initiatives is primarily composed of **foundations, international NGOs, and philanthropic organizations**.



Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (2006)

- A global environmental foundation supporting innovative projects addressing climate change, biodiversity protection, and sustainable water management ³.

Monaco Red Cross (1948)

- A humanitarian organization delivering social services and international humanitarian aid programmes ⁵.

Sectoral Networks



Monaco does not have formal national networks dedicated specifically to social innovation. However, philanthropic and humanitarian organizations collaborate through international networks and partnerships.

Monaco Red Cross network

- Part of the global Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement delivering humanitarian programmes and emergency support ⁵.

Non-Financial Support Organisations



Key organizations providing non-financial support for socially innovative initiatives include:

- **Philanthropic foundations:** Prince Albert II Foundation supporting environmental innovation and sustainability initiatives.
- **Humanitarian organizations:** Monaco Red Cross delivering social programmes and community support.
- **International partnerships:** collaboration with UN agencies and international NGOs implementing development and sustainability initiatives ^{2 3}.

Support Initiatives



Common forms of non-financial support for social innovation include:

- **Grant programmes and partnerships** supporting innovative environmental and humanitarian projects.
- **International cooperation initiatives** promoting innovative solutions in health, education, and environmental protection ^{2 3}.



Collaboration

Collaboration between Monaco’s government, philanthropic foundations, and international organizations is central to addressing social and environmental challenges.

Examples include:

- Partnerships between the government of Monaco and international NGOs implementing development projects through the Monaco International Cooperation programme.
- Global partnerships established by the Prince Albert II Foundation to promote innovative environmental solutions ² ³.

Events & Awards

Events

Monaco Ocean Week

- Annual event bringing together governments, scientists, NGOs, and innovators to discuss ocean protection and sustainable development solutions ⁴.

Awards

Prince Albert II Foundation Environmental Awards

- Recognize individuals and organizations contributing innovative solutions to global environmental challenges ³.



FINANCE

Financing Schemes

Public estimates of the annual funding specifically dedicated to social innovation in Monaco are not available. However, the country allocates significant resources to **international cooperation, philanthropy, and sustainability initiatives**, which often support innovative social and environmental projects ² ³.

Key sources of financing include:

- **Government international development funding** through the Monaco International Cooperation programme.
- **Philanthropic funding** through foundations such as the Prince Albert II Foundation.
- **International partnerships and donations** supporting humanitarian and environmental initiatives ² ³.



Inclusiveness of Financing

Funding initiatives commonly prioritize vulnerable populations and global environmental challenges, including:

- communities affected by climate change
- women and gender equality initiatives
- access to health services and education in developing countries
- environmental protection and biodiversity conservation ².



SOCIETY

Public Awareness of Social Innovation

Public discourse in Monaco rarely uses the term “social innovation.” Instead, societal impact initiatives are typically framed through **philanthropy, sustainability, and humanitarian engagement**, which are widely supported in Monaco’s civic culture ² ³.



Research

Academic research on social innovation is limited within Monaco due to its small higher education sector. However, research initiatives related to sustainability, marine science, and environmental protection are supported through institutions such as the **Oceanographic Institute of Monaco** ⁴.

Practitioner research initiatives often focus on environmental innovation and sustainability, supported by international collaborations and foundation-funded projects ³.

Education

Formal educational programmes dedicated specifically to social innovation are limited. However, education initiatives related to sustainability and environmental protection are supported through partnerships between foundations, research institutions, and international organizations ^{3, 6}.

Reliable estimates of the proportion of graduates specializing in social innovation fields are not publicly available.

Entrepreneurship



Business Environment

Monaco's economy is highly service-oriented and entrepreneurial activity is supported through policies encouraging business creation and innovation.



Innovation Capacity

Monaco participates in international innovation initiatives, particularly in sustainability and environmental technology.



Social entrepreneurship

Social entrepreneurship remains relatively limited domestically but is increasingly supported through philanthropic and sustainability initiatives ³.

Social & Environmental Consciousness



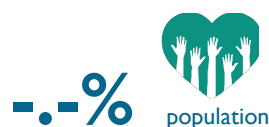
Solidarity

Monaco has a strong tradition of philanthropy and humanitarian engagement through foundations and charitable organizations ^{2, 5}.



Political participation

Monaco operates as a constitutional monarchy with elected institutions and civic participation mechanisms.



Volunteering

Volunteer engagement occurs primarily through humanitarian and charitable organizations such as the Monaco Red Cross ⁵.



Sustainability

Monaco has adopted strong environmental commitments, including climate and ocean protection initiatives, and supports international sustainability programmes ^{3, 6}.