

Enabling Social Innovation in Argentina



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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 Argentina’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



Argentina does not appear to have a single, dedicated legal definition of “social innovation.” Instead, the concept is used operationally through public policy language such as “tecnología e innovación social” and “innovar para incluir,” especially within mission-oriented science/technology programming. ²

Government Body for Social Innovation



Rather than a dedicated national “social innovation agency,” responsibilities relevant to social innovation are distributed across:
INAES (cooperatives and mutuals): registration, oversight, promotion, and sector strengthening within the social/solidarity economy. ³
The national science/technology administration (via the “Innovar para incluir” portfolio) that funds applied, territory-based inclusion solutions. ²

Government Strategy for Social Innovation



While there is no standalone “National Social Innovation Strategy” identified, social innovation–adjacent objectives appear within broader innovation policy:
The Plan Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación 2030 (PNCTI 2030) is referenced as a strategic anchor for inclusion-oriented calls and initiatives. ⁴
The PNCTI 2030 was approved by law (official gazette record), reinforcing formal policy status. ⁵

Policies, Laws & Regulations



While no “social innovation law” was identified, several frameworks are key enablers for inclusion-oriented innovation and/or social economy delivery:
Microcredit for the social economy: Law 26.117 promotes and regulates microcredit to strengthen low-income groups and supportive civil society organizations; it establishes a national program and registry of microcredit institutions. ⁶
Entrepreneurship framework (historical enabling logic): Law 27.349 provides a general “capital emprendedor” support framework (some implementing trust-fund articles were later repealed via decree; see Finance). ⁷
Cooperatives/mutuals governance backbone: Decree 420/1996 assigns INAES responsibilities for applying cooperative/mutual legal frameworks. ³

Official Statistics



While official statistics are not collected specifically on “social innovation,” Argentina does maintain: National official socioeconomic statistics through INDEC (context for SI needs such as poverty, labor market conditions, inflation).⁸
Administrative/statistical reporting requirements for cooperatives and mutuals under INAES (annual statistical information submission requirements).²

Government Programs



- PROCODAS-funded projects (ended 2021): Community-driven initiatives developing inclusive technologies to address social needs such as accessibility, health, and community well-being.
- CIAPAT projects: Innovations focused on assistive technologies and solutions that improve autonomy, accessibility, and quality of life for older adults and people with disabilities.
- INNOVAR projects: Technological and social innovations showcased through Argentina’s national innovation competition, highlighting solutions with potential social, economic, or environmental impact.

“PEIS” (linked to PNCTI 2030) frames challenges and calls within broader national priorities (strategy alignment rather than a dedicated SI program).

ECOSYSTEM

Stakeholders



Prominent actors directly or indirectly supporting social innovation include:

- Social/solidarity economy institutions: INAES as a core public anchor for cooperative/mutual structures that often deliver community services and inclusive livelihoods.³
- Results-based social program actors (subnational): the Buenos Aires government pioneered a social impact bond-style procurement (“Vínculo de Impacto Social”).¹¹

Support Initiatives



Support for inclusion innovation appears most visibly through: Mission-oriented grants and applied projects (e.g., PROCODAS), rather than a single national accelerator network dedicated to “social innovation” as a label.²³
Innovation system performance proxy: Argentina ranks 77th/139 economies in the 2025 Global Innovation Index (GII).¹²

Collaboration



- Cross-sector, outcomes-based collaboration precedent: the “Concurso 1° Vínculo de Impacto Social” procurement defines a model for outcome-oriented contracting in youth employability, implying practical collaboration mechanisms among government, implementers, and financiers.¹¹
- Multilateral support: the Inter-American Development Bank project page documents support to implement Argentina’s first SIB for vulnerable youth employability in southern Buenos Aires.¹³

Events & Awards



A nationally prominent, regularly repeated “social innovation”-branded award/event ecosystem was not identified in primary/official sources reviewed; ecosystem activity appears more program- and sector-driven (social economy, entrepreneurship, science-for-inclusion).²⁴

FINANCE

Financing Schemes

Microcredit (legal basis): Law 26.117 provides a formal national framework for microcredit to support low-income individuals/groups and strengthen nonprofit intermediaries—an important enabling channel for grass-roots innovation and inclusive livelihoods.⁴

Results-based finance precedent: the Buenos Aires “Vínculo de Impacto Social” procurement provides an operational model for results-linked contracting, supported by the Inter-American Development Bank.^{11 13}

Estimated annual total for “social innovation” finance: Unspecified (no official consolidated figure identified).²

Financing Inclusivity

Microcredit law explicitly targets groups with scarce resources and nonprofit intermediaries, signaling an inclusion intent.⁴

Instrument continuity shift (2024):

Decree 985/2024 dissolved the “Fondo Fiduciario de Capital Social” (FONCAP).¹⁴

Decree 1048/2024 dissolved FONDCE and repealed multiple trust-fund–related articles of Law 27.349.¹⁵

These changes may reduce or reconfigure dedicated public catalytic vehicles for early-stage inclusive entrepreneurship unless replaced by alternative instruments.^{14 15}

SOCIETY

Public Awareness of Social Innovation

Public-sector discourse includes explicit “social innovation” terminology in science-for-inclusion programming and older policy documentation, but there is no evidence of a single, nationally standardized framing across government.¹⁶

Research

Research and policy reflection on inclusive innovation and social innovation has been produced within Argentina’s science/technology ecosystem (including documentation that states social innovation as “science and technology for inclusive development”).¹⁶

Education & Human Capital

A specific national inventory of formal education programs dedicated to “social innovation” was not identified in the official sources reviewed; this dimension is therefore unspecified in a comparable, countrywide way.⁴

Entrepreneurship



Business Environment

Unspecified (country ranks/scores are generally subscription content; only methodology/overview is openly available).¹⁷

EIU Business Environment Ranking



Innovation Capacity

Argentina ranks 77th/139 in GII 2025 (upper-middle-income rank 21; LAC regional rank 7).¹²



Social entrepreneurship prevalence

(GEM): Unspecified in the publicly accessible GEM economy profile (a dedicated “social entrepreneurship prevalence” statistic is not displayed in the open profile view).¹⁸

Social & Environmental Consciousness



Solidarity

(World Values Survey):

Unspecified (a directly comparable national solidarity value could not be extracted from official WVS interfaces in this workflow).¹⁹



Political participation

Argentina’s “Political participation” component score is available in EIU-based datasets; country-specific extraction is commonly accessed via Our World in Data (EIU dataset).²⁰



18% population

Volunteering

18% of the population volunteered; average 6.2 hours volunteered per person; “helped a stranger” score 11.0 (CAF scale).²¹



81st / 180 countries

Sustainability

Argentina ranks 81st/180 in EPI 2024; Climate Change pillar rank 93rd.²²

CAF Giving data