

## Glossary

**Community:** Historically, this has been taken to mean a defined geographical area but now is recognised as concerning also either communities of interest (*e.g.* parents campaigning to slow traffic) or communities of identity (*e.g.* gay and lesbian people). These communities may overlap in practice.

**Community Capacity Building:** A process of enabling those living in poverty to develop skills and competencies, knowledge, structures, and strengths, so as to become more strongly involved in community as well as wider societal life, and to take greater control of their own lives and that of their communities.

**Community Development:** A defined practice aimed at helping communities express their needs and meet them through organisation; the practice has a knowledge and skills base and is informed by a clear set of values.

**Co-operatives:** Commercially based mutual organisations where producers and suppliers group their resources, expertise and purchasing power together so as to derive the most advantageous commercial returns for member individuals and organisations. Co-operatives exist in both profit and non-profit settings but both share the aims of maximising the overall value of their members' efforts and resources.

**Credit Unions:** Mutual (and typically local) financial organisations owned and operated by contributing members. They rely on peer responsibilities and motivations (as well as local knowledge and networks) to award loans and investments to member individuals and local businesses within a given locality.

**Environmental Justice:** A narrative of equality and justice which refers to the equitable share of the environment (built and natural) of all humans, and recognises the inequitable impact of environmental ills, such as pollution, on predominately vulnerable groups or communities such as the poor, minority groups and indigenous peoples.

**Franchise:** Business agreement where an entrepreneur "rents" a brand together with information and support on production and service methods. A huge range of world famous brands such as McDonalds, Subway and Holiday Inn are made up of franchised business arrangements consisting of partnerships between international organisations and local business entrepreneurs.

**Local Exchange Trading Schemes (LETS):** Schemes where new or alternative currencies are developed that encourage local producers or experts to trade their produce or expertise with others in a locality through bartering and trading with the currency. Often the currencies are named after the local areas in which they operate such as the Greenwich Anchor based in Greenwich (London, UK).

**Participation:** A much (mis-)used term used to describe involvement of “users” or “communities” in policy or service development. Levels of participation may vary from very low, tokenistic involvement with little effective impact through to exercising substantial control over policy or service development.

**Reinvestment Trusts:** Financial vehicles raising income based on investment in specific (usually deprived) areas. Investment may come from local businesses, people or organisations (such as local government) or from external investors such as national government, banks, pension funds and charitable foundations.

**Social Development:** A term which covers the meeting of social needs by government, private or Third Sector organisations or, the case of development aid, by donors external to a specific country, particularly in the areas of housing, health, education, infrastructure and poverty and income maintenance. Unlike community development, social development does not necessarily require the involvement of local communities in its planning and execution.

**Social Economy:** It encompasses various types of organisations, such as associations, co-operatives (including social co-operatives), mutual organisations and, more recently, foundations. Social enterprises also belong to the social economy sector. The term is sometimes used also with reference to the non-profit sector, even if the latter does not include co-operatives.

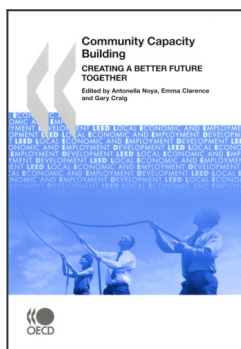
**Social Enterprise:** Various definitions exist, based on the legal or organisational form or on the objectives of the social enterprise. The definitions vary according to the geographical and cultural contexts. Social enterprises are businesses which are organised with an entrepreneurial strategy and whose main purpose is the attainment of economic and social goals, in order to meet unsatisfied needs. They can bring innovative solutions to the problem of social exclusion and are an agent of balanced economic growth; they operate in many sectors, but focus mainly on reintegrating people who are socially excluded and delivering welfare services.

**Social Housing:** Housing provided by a range of agencies on the basis of defined need (*e.g.* low income, disability) rather than to make profits.

**Sustainable Development:** Development which recognises that meeting contemporary needs should not be at the expense of those of future generations. It also incorporates wider social and economic justice components and the recognition that there is a need for development which balances environmental, economic and social benefits.

**Time Banks:** A trading arrangement between individuals and organisations offering time and skills in exchange for others' time and skills. Time banks themselves are the process whereby information on participants and their contributions and "expenditure" are mediated and recorded. Time banks are a form of LET (see above) where the currency is sometime described as time dollars or pounds.

**User involvement:** All welfare services are directed towards specified groups of users. In some instances, users are encouraged, by a variety of means to become involved in discussions about service policy and planning. Some of the means by which user involvement may be encouraged are regarded as tokenistic in offering users a very marginal role in expressing their views or influencing policy.



**From:**  
**Community Capacity Building**  
Creating a Better Future Together

**Access the complete publication at:**  
<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264073302-en>

**Please cite this chapter as:**

Noya, Antonella, Emma Clarence and Gary Craig (eds.) (2009), "Glossary", in *Community Capacity Building: Creating a Better Future Together*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264073302-6-en>

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to [rights@oecd.org](mailto:rights@oecd.org). Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at [info@copyright.com](mailto:info@copyright.com) or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at [contact@cfcopies.com](mailto:contact@cfcopies.com).