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LOCAL SSE POLICIES ENABLING THE SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

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WORKING PAPER

Exploring the Social Corridor Approach of Government Intervention :
A Case Study of the Social Economy Public Policy
of Gangwon Province, South Korea

Jiae SEO (South Korea)

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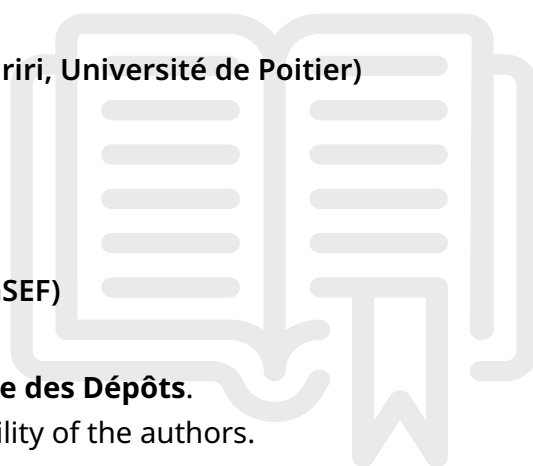
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Published by **the GSEF**, with financial support from **Caisse des Dépôts**.

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Exploring the Sectoral Corridor Approach of Government Intervention: A Case Study of the Social Economy Public Policy of Gangwon Province, South Korea

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Introduction

In the face of social, economic, and environmental challenges, cross-sector collaboration has become an important strategy for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Pache *et al.*, 2022). Since not a single sector can fully handle social issues, sectoral boundaries are fading. It results in various collective impact initiatives, involving diverse fields, not only at the national, but also at the local level. In particular, local government intervention could play a crucial role in enabling this collective impact and in localising the SDGs. This study examines Sectoral Corridor public policy, which fosters collaboration between the social economy (SE) sector and other stakeholders at the local level.

Numerous scientific theories and methodologies have been adapted and applied in social sciences to gain insights into various aspects of society. Like entrepreneurial ecosystem theory (Spigel & Harrison, 2018), the Island Biogeography theory offers a valuable conceptual framework for understanding certain dynamics and the relationship in the SE context. Applying the Island Biogeography (MacArthur & Wilson, 1967), this study is based on the hypothesis that SE can be described as an isolated “island”. Like an island, the SE operates within distinct boundaries, characterized by its own set of values, principles, and economic practices (Hudson, 2009; Amodeo, 2001, Novkovic *et al.*, 2022; Catala *et al.*, 2023). Conversely, the “the other islands” represent the private, public sectors, and civil society. The relationship among islands in nature is interactive and dynamic, which fosters biodiversity and enhances the ecosystem of the island, strengthening its survival and resilience. In a similar vein, the SE can thrive by engaging with various sectors, drawing upon resources,

knowledge, and opportunities while maintaining its unique identity and values (Fonteneau *et al.*, 2010).

Just as an island can face homogenization, if the SE adopts similar practices influenced by other sectors driven by memetic, coercive, and normative isomorphism mechanisms, it can harm its identity and its own values (Maggio & Powell, 1983; Chaves & Monzón, 2018; Billis, 2010; Richez-Battesti & Petrella, 2023). Conversely, excessive self-isolation can harm the sustainability (Deguchi, 2016; Flávio, 2014; Shirakawa *et al.*, 2014). To address the risks of disconnection, isolation, and extinction due to species invasion and conquest, and to promote biodiversity conservation and enhancement, nature science initiatives have implemented ecological corridors. These corridors facilitate species exchanges among the islands, helping to maintain ecological balance and preserve the diverse ecosystems of the islands. Building upon this ecological theory, this study introduces the concept of a “Sectoral Corridor” public policy, which is discussed in detail below. This corridor bridges the different sectors and promotes interaction, collaboration, and cooperation among them.

This study applies the baseline hypothesis and tests the validity of the research framework through the case study of Gangwon Province of the Republic of Korea. Former mining regions within Gangwon Province underwent a profound transition, relinquishing coal and other resources to fuel the rapid industrial growth of South Korea. Faced with community-wide challenges, these mining towns grappled with finding alternative paths to regeneration (Park *et al.*, 2015). With a longstanding tradition of grassroots movements advocating for sustainability and local empowerment, countering central government-led development initiatives (Park & Hyeon, 2015), Gangwon Province stands as the origin region of cooperative movements in South Korea (Choi, 2020). The concept of community revitalization through the SE and local public policy of the province represents a contemporary endeavour, offering fresh perspectives, policies, and governance approaches to local residents. Despite its importance, it has been overlooked and hardly researched.

1. Literature review

Business ecosystem and island biogeography

Ecosystem refers to multiple actors of a diverse nature existing in a territory, interrelated and interdependent, sharing factors and a common destiny. Since Moore’s (1993) pioneering work on entrepreneurial ecosystems, there have been numerous studies on the concept (e.g., Scaringella & Radziwon, 2018). The business ecosystem theory conceptualizes businesses as interconnected entities operating within a larger ecosystem, drawing parallels with interactions observed in biological ecosystems (Peltoniemi & Vuori, 2004). According to Cobben *et al.*, (2022), variations of the concept depend on where the focus is placed. The four most studied ecosystems are business (Moore, 1993), innovation (Adner, 2006), entrepreneurial (Isenberg, 2010), and knowledge (Van der Borgh *et al.*, 2012). A widely accepted conceptualization in the field of entrepreneurship ecosystems is the framework

introduced by Isenberg (2010). It identifies six key domains within the entrepreneurship ecosystem, including culture, finance, policy, markets, human capital and supports. It is worth noting that even though it has common features, but also significant differences with the biological ecosystem, the term ecosystem is then taken in a metaphorical sense (Lévesque, 2016; Hemenway, 2015).

Research efforts have been made to study the SE ecosystem, primarily within the context of social entrepreneurship (Kabbaj *et al.*, 2016; Roundy, 2017). At the international level, the OECD's "Better Entrepreneurship Policy Tool" and the "Boosting the Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem" program provide a research framework for social entrepreneurship. Fontan and Lévesque (2023) provide insights into the SE ecosystem from two perspectives: (i) institutional and informal conditions, and (ii) organizational factors such as skills, leadership, and finance. These elements collectively shape the diverse subsystems within the SE ecosystem. Another study by Bouchard *et al.* (2017) delves into the impact of solidarity financial institutions (SFI) on the SE and its ecosystem. This research explores how SFI support influences funded enterprises and the broader SE ecosystem, emphasizing their systemic importance within Quebec's SE environment. However, there remains a noticeable research gap regarding the government's intervention promoting interactions among key sectors with the SE sector, including the public, private sector, and civil society. This study aims to address this gap by adopting a sectoral approach, specifically through an empirical analysis of public policy programs in Gangwon province.

To this end, the Island Biogeography theory, developed by MacArthur and Wilson (1967), is applied. It explains species diversity on islands based on factors such as distance from the mainland and habitat size, which affect immigration and extinction processes (Wilson & Willis 1975). Species migration to islands increases richness but can also lead to higher competition and extinction rates. Smaller, fragmented islands are particularly vulnerable due to limited populations. To preserve ecosystems and biodiversity, strategies like creating corridors such as linear habitat strips, stepping stones, and landscape corridors have been proposed to enhance structural connectivity (Wilson & Willis 1975; Kramer-Schadt *et al.*, 2011; Anderson & Jenkins, 2006). This theory sheds light on species diversity and the balance between colonization and extinction on islands.

Island Biogeography has been extended to social science to study isolated development branches of globally available products by Japanese businesses (Deguchi, 2016; Flávio, 2014; Shirakawa *et al.*, 2014). The concept has also covered cultural landscape corridors, integrating natural and cultural elements for visitors' immersive experiences (Hoppert *et al.*, 2018). However, it hasn't been used to address isomorphism and self-fragmentation in the SE sector, despite its potential to deepen understanding of the SE sector's dynamics with other sectors. This study offers a fresh perspective on understanding the SE ecosystem, applying the principles of Island Biogeography with a sectoral perspective.

Sectoral relationship of the SE

Sectors are defined within various contexts and perspectives, with different fields providing unique definitions. Sectors delineate specific industries or service domains such as the financial sector, manufacturing sector, and service sector (Arent *et al.*, 2015). From administrative and institutional perspectives, and in macroeconomics, sectors are differentiated by distinct management and organizational systems, covering public, private and third sector (Pollitt & Bouckaert, 2017; McConnell, & Brue, 1996). Further, there have been numerous studies on the relationship of the sectors at macroeconomic level. For instance, Waddell and Brown (1997) studied tri-partnership relationships, connections between government, business, and civil society sectors, essential for addressing healthcare, affordable housing, and economic development issues. And many studies have focused on delineating the distinctions and common ground between the SE sector and civil society, as well as other sectors (Jang, 2017).

This study adopts an administrative and institutional approach to analyse the government's role and public policy concerning the multi-sectoral relationship of the SE. It recognizes a tripolar approach where the state collaborates with stakeholders from the market and civil society. This perspective acknowledges the evolving shared responsibilities among these stakeholders, moving beyond binary approaches prevalent in literature that often focus solely on state-market or state-civil society interactions (Vaillancourt *et al.*, 2004; Vaillancourt, 2009). This study focuses on the potential role of government in fostering multi-sectoral partnerships involving the SE and other sectors with empirical analysis of public policies in place.

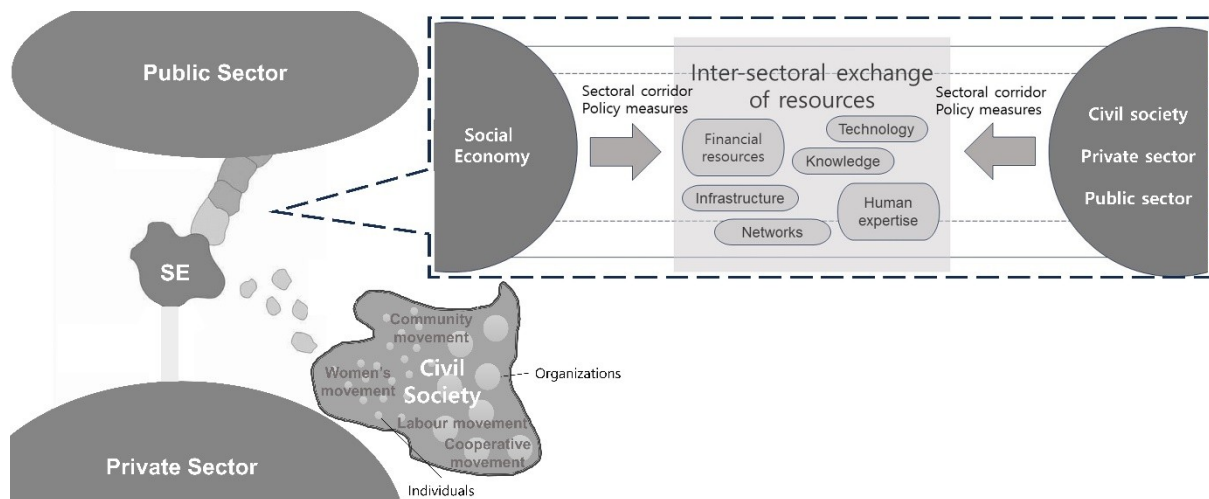
2. Research framework

Drawing upon Island Biogeography theory, this study develops a conceptual framework to explore the dynamics between the SE sector and other sectors, as illustrated in Figure 1. According to the administrative and institutional context, the SE ecosystem is differentiated into the public sector, private sector, civil society, and the SE itself (The size of each sector depicted in Figure 1 is not proportional to the actual scale). The public sector comprises governments and publicly controlled or funded entities that provide public programs, goods, or services, as outlined by Dube and Danescu (2011). On the other hand, the private sector encompasses organizations whose primary objective is profit-seeking through activities like goods production, service provision, and commercial ventures, as defined by Di Bella et al. (2013). Civil society refers to the voluntary associations among individuals and the networks formed based on family, faith, interests, and ideologies, as described by Walzer (1998). The SE, as defined by various organizations such as the EU, ILO, and OECD, encompasses economic entities and initiatives that prioritize people and social or environmental objectives over profits. This involves reinvesting profits for the benefit of members or society at large, promoting democratic governance, voluntary cooperation, mutual aid, and autonomy. These principles guide organizations within the SE, including cooperatives, associations, mutual

organizations, and social enterprises, towards serving collective and general interests, contributing to social and environmental well-being, and fostering inclusive and participatory approaches to economic activities.

The civil society sector has played a pivotal trigger role in shaping and implementing SE policies, and its influence remains extensive, in countries such as the Brazil, France and Canada (Quebec) (Lévesque, 2016). The SE also engages in dynamics with diverse domains, including community organizations, central and local governments, community organizations, foundations, and private enterprises, each exerting diverse impact on one another. While there may be some ambiguity in distinguishing civil society from the SE sector (Jang, 2017), they are distinct entities underpinned by legal frameworks on SE entities, in countries including Mexico, Ecuador, France, Spain or international guidelines (OECD, EU, ILO).

Figure 1. Sectoral relationship of the SE



Source: own elaboration.

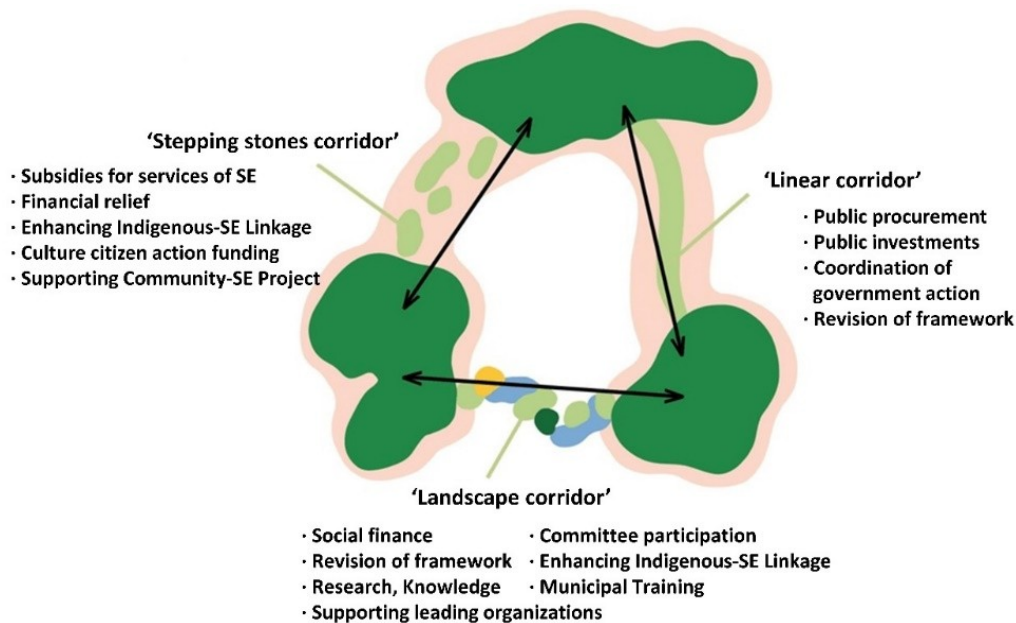
This research views the SE sector as an “island” interacting with other sectors like “other islands” through inter-sectoral resource exchanges involving financial resources, technology, knowledge, infrastructure, networks, and human expertise, etc. Public policies aimed at promoting interactions among sectors are termed Sectoral Corridor policies, which can either strengthen existing interactions or create new ones. This study is built on the premise that the exchange of resources among diverse sectors can enhance the diversity and sustainability of the SE, mitigating self-isolation and the risk of institutional and commercial homogeneity. Government intervention may significantly contribute to fostering and promoting collaboration between the SE sector and other sectors, leading to mutual benefits and synergistic outcomes (Evans, 1996). Based on this hypothesis, the validity of the research framework is validated by the empirical case study of Gangwon. This study does not address the origins of sectoral interactions or the resources exchanged during such interactions,

leaving room for further research. Instead, it focuses on specific statements by government on its role as sectoral coordinator and its policy programs aimed at promoting interactions. Sectoral Corridor public policy for the SE, introduced by this study, refers to a strategic approach aimed at fostering collaboration and integration between the SE sector and other sectors within a specific geographic or thematic area. It involves the development and implementation of policies, programs, and initiatives that facilitate cooperation, resource sharing, and mutual support among SE enterprises and organizations from other sectors. These policies are designed to create or promote existing pathways or “corridors” for interaction, knowledge exchange, joint projects, and sustainable development, ultimately aiming to enhance the social, economic, and environmental impact of the SE sector within the broader context of regional or sectoral development.

It is categorized into three types: Linear Corridor, Landscape Corridor, and Stepping Stones Corridor, thereby providing a comprehensive analysis with further categorization while incorporating environmental theory. The “Linear Corridor” emphasizes direct policy measures bridging two sectors by public procurement, investments, coordinated government actions, and framework revisions. On the other hand, sectoral interactions, such as between the private sector and SE, are driven by mutual needs but also entail tensions and competition, necessitating conducive environments and the removal of institutional barriers. Thus, creating a social and institutional landscape conducive to sectoral interactions is primarily required.

The “Landscape Corridor” of this approach involves activities including social finance mechanisms, research and knowledge initiatives, support for leading organizations, committee participation, raising awareness, and municipal training programs. Finally, the “Stepping Stones Corridor” focuses on initiatives like subsidies for SE services, financial relief, funding for cultural citizen actions, and support for community-SE projects. These corridors represent diverse approaches to fostering synergy between the SE sector and other sectors, contributing to sustainable growth and social impact.

Figure 2. Categorization “Sectoral Corridor” public policies into three types



Source: Application of “implementation type of habitat/wildlife corridor with an urban or rural landscape”

(https://www.reddit.com/r/geography/comments/13ilgmp/implentation_type_of_habitatwildlife_corridor/?rdt=37155)

3. Data and methodology

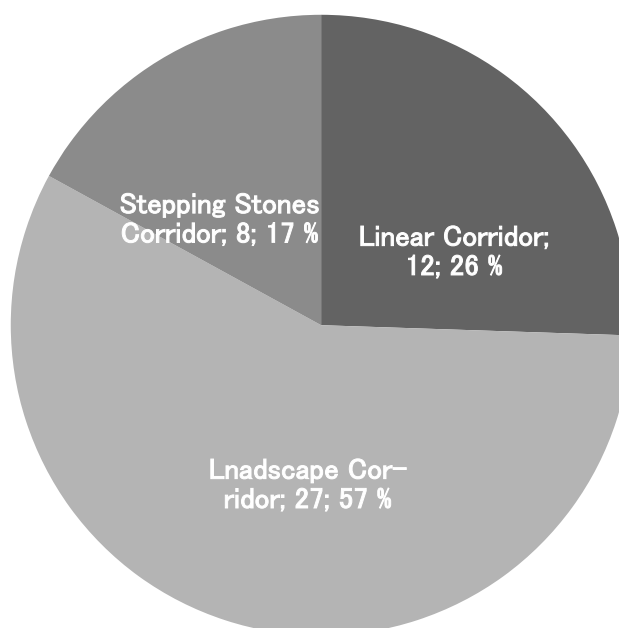
This study employs document analysis, enhancing its credibility and robustness by analysing official documents from the provincial government of Gangwon. The key documents scrutinized include the First Comprehensive Development Plan for the Social Economy of Gangwon Province (2014-2018), the Second Comprehensive Development Plan for the Social Economy of Gangwon Province (2021-2025), as shown in Table 1. A total of 89 public policy programs for the SE were meticulously extracted from relevant legislative texts, focusing specifically on supportive policies rather than definitions. Among these measures, 47 “Sectoral Corridor” public policies were identified and categorized using “category contents analysis” into three groups: Linear Corridor, Landscape Corridor, and Stepping Stones Corridor types. It also analyses the role of local public policy measures for localising the SDGs. The temporal scope of this study spans from December of 2013 to April of 2024.

4. Analysis and results

The composition of Sectoral Corridor public policy programs

Out of the 84 public policies for Gangwon's SE, 47 policies, amounting to 54.8 %, were identified as Sectoral Corridor public policies, which will be further elaborated below. These can be further categorized as follows: Linear Corridor type, comprising 26.1 % (12 cases); Landscape Corridor type, accounting for 58.7 % (27 cases); and Stepping Stones Corridor, occupying 19.6 % with 9 cases.

Proportion of Sectoral Corridor Policies



Source: own elaboration.

Linear Corridor

Most of the “Linear Corridor” initiatives focus on promotion of procurement. It involves public procurement of products and services, including purchases, outsourcing. These initiatives establish direct channels through which Gangwon's local government connects the public sector and the SE. Table 1 presents the list of Linear Corridor policy programs.

The policy measures of “Linear Corridor” initiatives are powerful policy tools for enabling local governments to realize social and environmental values going beyond the pursuit of cost efficiency. They promote employment of socially marginalized groups, create decent jobs based on local communities and enhance economic inclusion and equity by realising preferential procurement to the enterprises that employ socially disadvantaged women, mentally/physically challenged people and immigrants. Strengthening and institutionalizing the link with SE enterprises is a key mechanism for achievement of SDGs at local level.

Table 1. List of Linear Corridor policy programs of Gangwon

1	Enactment of framework	Enactment of social responsibility support ordinance and establishment of preferential procurement plan	2014-2018	12, 16, 17
2	Procurement	Establishment of online shopping mall for public procurement	2014-2018	8,9,12
3	Procurement	Organization of public procurement fair and SE festival	2014-2018	8,12,17
4	Procurement	Establishment and operation of Gangwon Province Social Responsibility Procurement Center	2014-2018	8,12,16
5	Procurement	Housing energy efficiency project tailored for Gangwon Province	2021-2025	7,11,13
6	Procurement	Fostering forest-friendly, resource recycling SE enterprises	2021-2025	8,12,15
7	Procurement	SE-based community disaster response project (education, etc.)	2021-2025	3,11,13
8	Procurement	Establishment of Gangwon Province Green New Deal Promotion Council	2021-2025	7,11,13,17
9	Procurement	Survey on the status of Gangwon Peace-On Lab and Players of Peace Project	2021-2025	16,17
10	Procurement	Operation of public procurement support agency	2021-2025	8,12,16
11	Procurement	Promotion of social innovation project, establishment of cooperative system	2021-2025	9,11,17
12	Outsourcing	Gangwon Community Care (G-Care)	2021-2025	3,10,17

Source: own elaboration.

Landscape Corridor

A detailed analysis reveals that the majority of “Landscape Corridor” initiatives focus on research and knowledge development. Government intervention in these areas fosters an environment where data and insights are shared across sectors. By supporting research and

facilitating knowledge dissemination, the government enables stakeholders from various sectors (e.g., academia, private sector) to collaborate, align their efforts, and innovate.

Furthermore, the initiatives span several critical domains, including municipal training programs (3 initiatives), resource attraction (3 initiatives), social finance (3 initiatives), framework revision (2 initiatives), cluster development (1 initiative), coordination (1 initiative), and awareness-raising (1 initiative). Among these, municipal training programs serve as a key tool for strengthening the capacity of local governments to collaborate across sectors. By equipping municipal leaders and civil servants with the necessary skills and knowledge, the government enhances their ability to engage effectively in cross-sectoral partnerships.

In addition, by providing financial instruments that reward social impact, the government incentivizes involvement from both the private and public sectors in addressing social and environmental challenges with the SE sector. By mobilizing financial, technical, and human resources, the government plays a pivotal role in enabling collaboration between the public, private, and SE sectors. The Landscape Corridor public policy programs of Gangwon Province are shown in Table 2.

“Landscape Corridor” policy measures focus on creating a favourable SE ecosystem and are closely related to the SDGs at local level. Trainings, capacity building, and inclusive job creation for youth, women, socially vulnerable groups help the SE entities achieve the SDGs 8, 10, etc. In addition, the SE research, which provides data and solutions for solving social problems, contributes to the SDGs 9. While awareness-increasing initiatives contribute to the realizations of the SDGs 11, 12, 13. It comprehensively supports the various goals of the SDGs.

Table 2. List of Landscape Corridor policy programs of Gangwon

1	Research, Knowledge	Development and producing audiovisual teaching materials of SE	2014-2018	4,8
2	Research, Knowledge	Conducting an education demand survey and establishing, operating a SE education (planning) committee	2014-2018	4,17
3	Municipal Training	Operating an overseas training program for SE entrepreneurs and civil servants	2014-2018	4,17
4	Resource Attraction	Agreements with an SE consulting agency (across sectors)	2014-2018	16, 17
5	Resource Attraction	Establishing and operating a Gangwon Talent Donation Advisory Group	2014-2018	10, 17
6	Research, Knowledge	Introducing and operating a Gangwon Provincial SE education program	2014-2018	4,11
7	Municipal Training	Operating a workshop for civil servants related to SE	2014-2018	4,16

8	Research, Knowledge	Organizing a city/county level SE development forum	2014-2018	11,17
9	Municipal Training	Introducing a SE policy proposal system from civil servant	2014-2018	4,16
10	Research, Knowledge	Operating a public-private joint study group	2014-2018	9,17
11	Research, Knowledge	Implementing a SE business model contest	2014-2018	8,9
12	Research, Knowledge	Providing educational programs for elementary, middle, and high school students and college students	2014-2018	4,5
13	Research, Knowledge	Regularizing the Gangwon residents' happiness survey regarding the community spirit	2014-2018	3,16
14	Raising awareness	Implementation of SE tour for civils	2014-2018	4,12
15	Revision of framework	Enacting the Social Economy Investment Fund Establishment, establishing Ordinance, and creating a social investment fund	2014-2018	16,17
16	Social finance	Introducing a social innovation bond system (feasibility study, establishing an evaluation committee, selecting a business implementation agency, etc.)	2014-2018	8,10,17
17	Social finance	Establishing a corporation for crowdfunding and establishing an integrated platform	2014-2018	8,9
18	Research, Knowledge	Establishing a Data Base of SE enterprise in Gangwon	2014-2018	9,17
19	Coordination	Formation and operation of SE related organization council (support for resource linkage consulting involving industry, academia, research institutes, and government)	2014-2018	9,17
20	Resource Attraction	Introduction of senior master system	2014-2018	8,10
21	Cluster Development	Fostering social innovation cluster	2014-2018	9,11
22	Research, Knowledge	Social creative economy R&D support center	2014-2018	8,9
23	Research, Knowledge	Operation of SE Yulgok Academy	2021-2025	4,17
24	Research, Knowledge	SE Research and Business Development center, sales support	2021-2025	8,9
25	Research, Knowledge	Operation of Gangwon SE Portal (different industries, advanced regional linkage platform, etc.)	2021-2025	9,17
26	Social finance	Establishment of Gangwon Provincial SE fund	2021-2025	8,10,17
27	Revision of framework	Establishing Gangwon SE Ordinance Revision TF	2021-2025	16,17

Source: own elaboration.

Stepping Stones Corridor

A comprehensive analysis reveals that the Stepping Stones initiatives span several critical domains, including civic engagement (4 initiatives), subsidies for SE services (3 initiatives), municipal training programs (3 initiatives), resource mobilization (3 initiatives), framework revisions (2 initiatives), social finance (3 initiatives), awareness-raising activities (1 initiative), local currency systems (1 initiative), and coordination (1 initiative).

By actively involving civil society in decision-making, idea generation, and implementation, the government harnesses a wealth of grassroots knowledge and community-driven solutions. This approach not only broadens the scope of collaboration but also ensures that policies are aligned with the needs and realities of local communities. Additionally, subsidies for SE services serve as a catalyst for collaboration between the public, private, and social sectors. When the government allocates funding to SE enterprises, it creates opportunities for partnerships with private businesses, municipalities, and community organizations, thereby fostering more integrated and impactful solutions.

“Stepping Stones Corridor” policy measures could play a critical role in enhancing the capacity of the SE to localize the SDGs at the community level. For example, civic engagement promotes inclusive participation by empowering residents to participate in decision-making processes related to the local development, service delivery of the SE. This approach builds social capital and democratic governance (SDGs 11, 17). The other example could be local currency systems which support the development of resilient and circular local economies by encouraging citizens to buy from local SE enterprises. Together, these mechanisms strengthen the favourable environment for the SE act to as a driver of sustainable development, tailored to the resources and capacities of the local territories.

Table 3. List of Stepping Stones Corridor policy programs of Gangwon

1	Subsidies for services of SE	Establishment of SE complex stores (Good Store)	2014-2018	8,12
2	Subsidies for services of SE	Development of ethical consumption movement	2014-2018	12,13
3	Local monetary	Introduction of Gangwon local currency system	2014-2018	8,12
4	Subsidies for services of SE	Introduction of SE debit card and point card	2014-2018	8,11,12
5	Engaging civils	Implementation of social creative enterprise idea competition	2014-2018	8,9
6	Engaging	Operation of youth SE entrepreneurship education	2014-	4,8

	civils	center linked to university	2018	
7	Engaging civils	Support for SE enterprise startups by returning farmers and rural residents	2014- 2018	8,10,15
8	Engaging civils	Jobs for youth, women, middle-aged and older people program	2021- 2025	5,8,10

Source: own elaboration.

5. Discussion and conclusion

The SE operates within distinct boundaries, characterized by its own set of values, principles, and economic practices (Hudson, 2009; Amodeo, 2001, Novkovic & Miner, 2022; Catala *et al.*, 2023). At the same time, if the SE adopts similar practices influenced by other sectors driven by memetic, coercive, and normative isomorphism mechanisms, it can harm its identity and its own values (Maggio & Powell, 1983; Chaves *et al.*, 2018; Billis, 2010; Richez-Battesti & Petrella, 2023). Positive dynamics arise from collaborative efforts and mutual support, fostering co-existence and shared growth across sectors. The “Sectoral Corridor” policy plays an important role in supporting and sustaining this inter-sectoral collaboration.

This article makes several key contributions to the research on SE ecosystem and public policy for the SE. So far, research efforts have been made to study the SE ecosystem, primarily within the context of social entrepreneurship (Kabbaj *et al.*, 2016; Roundy, 2017), or tri-partnership relationships among government, business, and civil society sectors, which leaves a research gap on the sectoral approach in the SE context. This study introduces a novel research framework by applying Island Geography theory to the SE policy context, focusing on the government’s role on inter-sectoral relationships of the SE and other sectors. This study not only presents innovative insights but also validates its efficacy through an empirical case study of Gangwon Province in the Republic of Korea, establishing its practical applicability.

The article delves into Sectoral Corridor public policies, revealing that 55.9 % of the 84 examined policies fit into distinct Linear, Landscape, and Stepping Stones Corridors. Firstly, the analysis of “Linear Corridor” policy measures indicates that a significant emphasis is placed on enhancing public procurement. These measures create direct pathways for Gangwon’s local government to link the public sector with the SE.

Secondly, an examination of the Landscape Corridor initiatives highlights a predominant focus on advancing research and knowledge sharing. This approach cultivates a collaborative ecosystem where information and insights flow seamlessly across different sectors. By investing in research and promoting the dissemination of knowledge, the government facilitates partnerships among stakeholders from diverse fields, including the SE, academia, and the private sector, fostering alignment, cooperation, and innovation.

The municipal training programs also play a crucial role in building the capacity of local governments to engage in cross-sectoral collaboration. By equipping municipal leaders and civil servants with essential skills and knowledge, these programs enhance their ability to effectively participate in partnerships across sectors. Furthermore, the provision of financial instruments that reward social impact serves as an incentive for both private and public sector entities to address social and environmental challenges in collaboration with the SE sector. Additionally, the government's efforts to mobilize financial, technical, and human resources are instrumental in fostering synergy and enabling meaningful cooperation among the public, private, and SE sectors.

Thirdly, the examination of the Stepping Stones initiatives for the SE reveals that active involvement of civil society in decision-making, idea generation, and implementation may enable the government to leverage grassroots knowledge and community-driven solutions. This participatory approach expands the scope of collaboration and ensures that policies are effectively tailored to address the needs and realities of local communities. In addition, subsidies for SE services act as a catalyst for fostering partnerships among the public, private, and SE sectors.

Fourthly, local SE public policy has been analysed as a major means of promoting localization of the SDGs. Those measures are contributing to resolving inequality within the region, creating inclusive jobs, and strengthening ethical, sustainable production and consumption, thereby enhancing the practical implementation of the SDGs. For example, the Linear Corridors, represented by procurement and outsourcing to the SE enterprises, the Landscape Corridors, which involve the establishment of social funds for the SE, the Stepping Stones Corridors, which include the public policy measures for fostering local community-based SE enterprises, are contributing to the achievement of the SDGs (1, 8, 10, 11, and 17). The policies are based on collaboration among local stakeholders – local government, civil society, private sector, and the SE – and build the grounds for practical change by integrating the SDGs into local administrative plans and policy frameworks.

Finally, it also reveals the diversity of government's intervention with Sectoral Corridor initiatives, emphasizing that no single type dominates but rather a mixed approach prevails between sectors.

This study, however, has limitations. It does not delve into sectoral relationships between the SE and counterpart sectors, the necessity, flow and scale of resources exchanged during sectoral interactions, leaving room for further research. Additionally, it focuses on policy programs without reflecting on budgets, evaluation, or the effectiveness of each "Sectoral Corridor" public policy program. Future research could explore these aspects and develop evaluation indices tailored to policy programs, as well as strategies for managing policy continuity across government transitions.

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ABOUT THE PUBLICATION

Founded in 2013 in Seoul, the GSEF – Global Forum for Social and Solidarity Economy – is a global organization of local governments and civil society actors committed to promoting and developing the social and solidarity economy. Its 90 members, present in 35 countries, represent the diversity of SSE stakeholders: local governments, networks of actors, associations, cooperatives, mutual societies, foundations, social enterprises, universities, etc. The GSEF supports the development of the SSE around the world by promoting dialogue between public authorities and SSE actors in order to jointly develop local public policies that contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the emergence of ecosystems conducive to the SSE.

The GSEF thematic working groups (WGs) were voted on at the General Assembly on May 5, 2023. The WG on “The Impact of SSE Public Policies on the Achievement of the SDGs” brings together some fifteen researchers from all continents. It is led by Marguerite Mendell (Karl Polanyi Institute) and Timothée Duverger (Chair Terr’ESS, Sciences Po Bordeaux) and supported by the GSEF General Secretariat employee working on his CIFRE thesis.

Following on from research already conducted by the GSEF in partnership with UNRISD, which led to the production of guidelines for local SSE policies, in January 2024 the Research WG launched a call for contributions to gather proposals for working papers focusing on three recurring processes in public action: development, implementation, and evaluation. Through the analysis of these processes of SSE public policy development, the authors of the papers (both researchers and SSE actors) were asked to examine two fundamental dimensions: the contribution of these local policies to the achievement of sustainable development goals, and the paradoxes associated with the institutionalization of the SSE.

A reading committee composed of GT members evaluated more than forty proposals, including the seventeen working papers now published under the title *Local SSE Policies enabling the Socio-Ecological Transition*. Each paper is available on the GSEF website, free of charge, in its original language (English, French, or Spanish) and in English. This publication and the English translations were made possible thanks to financial support from Caisse des Dépôts.

The concrete examples provided by these working papers will feed into programs to strengthen the capacities of local authorities and support the development of public policies favorable to the SSE.

