

What Is Social Market Economy?

### FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

ALLIANCE FOR THE SOCIAL MARKET ECONOMY What Is Social Market Economy?



# An Economy for the People

The Social Market Economy is an economy for the people. The economy exists to serve individuals – not the other way around. It is these individuals who create the economic order – for themselves.

# Free and Fair Competition

The enduring well-being of individuals is the goal of an economic order, and competition is the means by which this result is to be generated. The Social Market Economy is not "laissez-faire" dogma, but rather free and fair competition.





## Rules for the Market

Good rules in and for the market sphere – instead of constant intervention into the actions in the market – foster the well-being of individuals. Public policy should not suppress the economic rationale, but it may make behavior that is environmentally and societally harmful more expensive and thereby facilitate economic action that is conducive to human flourishing.

## A Strong and Assertive State

Markets do not sustain themselves, nor do they keep themselves in balance. Monopolies, cartels, and corruption endanger fair competition. A strong and assertive state is thus needed which regulates market entry and economic participation.



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# Creativity and Economic Performance Should Pay Off

The Social Market Economy requires true competition. Those individuals should be successful who are able to employ their knowledge and their abilities to address the needs and economic wants of others. Creativity and economic performance should pay off.

# Entrepreneurial Action and Personal Initiative

No single person can predict the needs and wants of the future. The economy must therefore repeatedly invent itself anew. This is not possible without entrepreneurial action and personal initiative.





# Cultural, Social, and Ecological Prerequisites

Society and the economy need each other. Competition should not therefore undermine its own cultural, social and ecological prerequisites. Economic success is desirable when it is in unison with the (social) environment.

# Prudent Social Policy and Forward-looking Education Policy

The person who demands personal responsibility from others must also create the preconditions for it. There can be no Social Market Economy without a prudent social policy and a proactive and forward-looking education policy.





## Democrats, Not Technocrats

Citizens know what is good for themselves. A healthy economy requires the interplay of civil society, non-governmental actors and the political sphere. It is the democratic process – not technocrats – which creates the rule-based foundation of the economy.

# Open Dialogue

Affected people must become active participants. The challenges of our contemporary world – climate change, digitalization, trade, migration, and changing demographics – require new solutions. In order to establish a new consensus, open dialogue among the citizens of particular countries and the world is essential.



#### Alliance for the Social Market Economy

Our activities include: Scientific seminars and projects, public lectures and economic advice. A major focus is on economic education.

In order to guarantee a high public acceptance of the Social Market Economy, competent communication is essential.



Many impetus and various perspectives are required to implement the concept of the Social Market Economy vividly in a dynamic and connected world.

Therefore, we initiate cooperations between scientists, organize discussion groups, look for dialogues with decision-makers, enable intensive exchanges within working groups and discuss the Social Market Economy with students.

# About the Alliance for the Social Market Economy

The Aktionsgemeinschaft Soziale Marktwirtschaft e.V. (Alliance for the Social Market Economy) is a non-profit organization with the purpose of promoting academic discussion in the field of the Social Market Economy. The alliance also addresses the public in order to contribute to a better understanding of economic and sociopolitical contexts. A major focus is on economic education.

If you wish to support the goals and work of the Alliance for the Social Market Economy, please consider making a financial contribution.

We finance our activities exclusively by member contributions and donations.

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