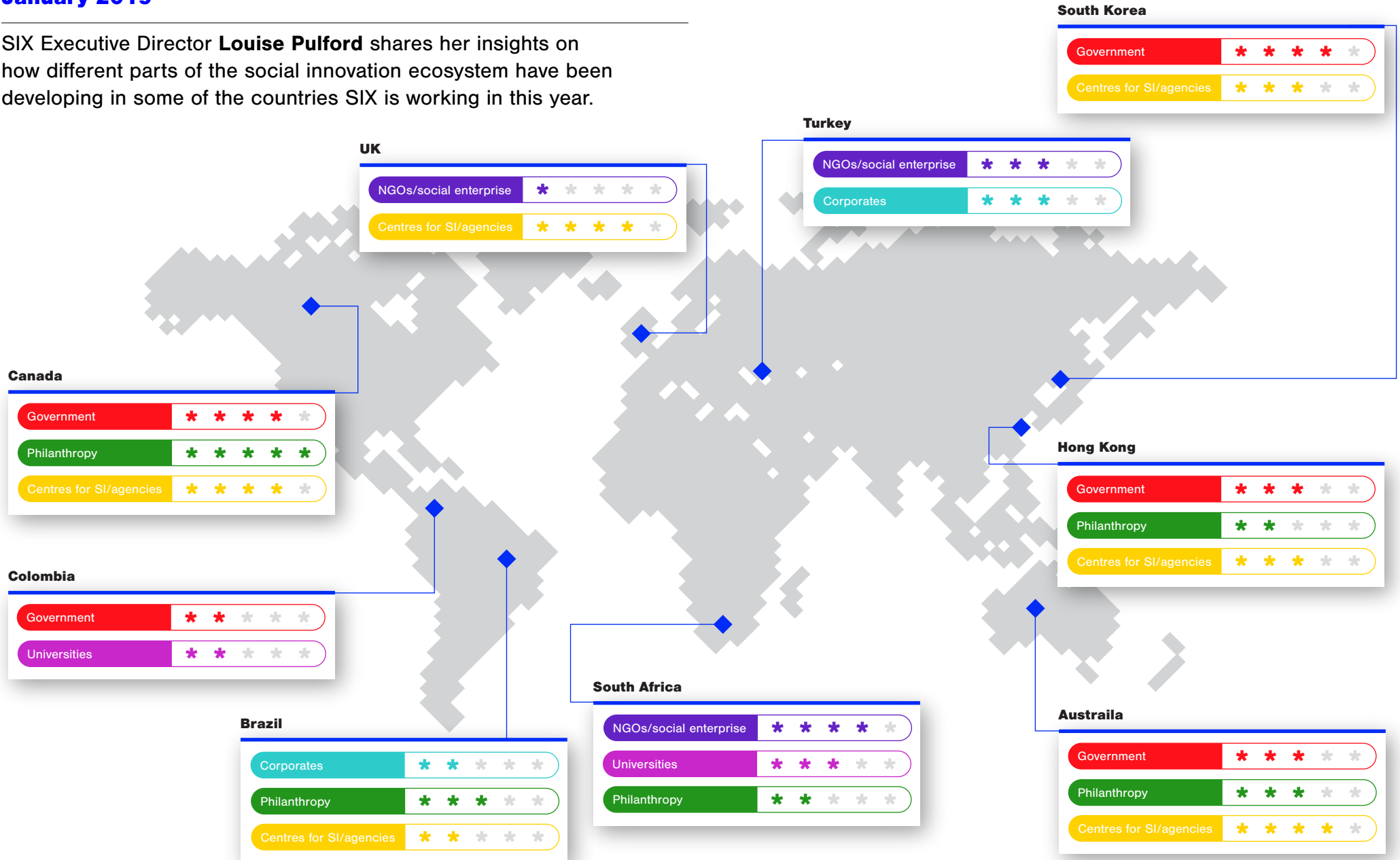


The global state of social innovation

January 2019

SIX Executive Director **Louise Pulford** shares her insights on how different parts of the social innovation ecosystem have been developing in some of the countries SIX is working in this year.

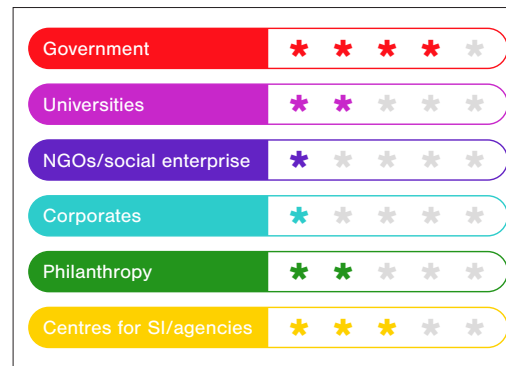


OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS, SIX has developed a broad view of what social innovation looks like in different parts of the world. We've seen how social innovation ecosystems have developed in response to the individual contexts of different countries, as well as the patterns that have emerged locally, regionally and globally.

Here, SIX Executive Director **Louise Pulford** shares her insights on how different parts of the social innovation ecosystem have been developing in some of the countries SIX is working in this year. We've picked a country per region that is leading the way in their support for social innovation. This snapshot of diverse locations should give you a sense of where the strengths in these social innovation ecosystems lie, and highlights how the support for social innovation varies depending on the specific needs of a place.

We know this map isn't a comprehensive enquiry based on scientific measurements, but we hope it provides a helpful starting point to think about where social innovation is well supported, and why this might be the case. We hope it is used as a tool to help facilitate exchange and learning between different countries. As we continue to develop this map over the years, we hope to track how we think things have changed and where social innovation ecosystems have developed.

Hong Kong



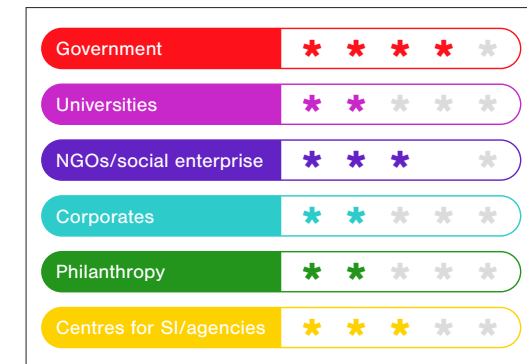
Hong Kong

Support for social innovation in Hong Kong isn't that consistent across sectors. Although the government's Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund (SIE Fund) shows their strong support for social innovation, it faces the challenge of bureaucracy that often affects government bodies. In universities, the fund has helped support social innovation where there is emergent interest. Programmes like [BRICKS](#) are also helping universities begin to work in more innovative ways and connect with others.

While there is a thriving civil society in Hong Kong, it remains quite traditional. Likewise, there hasn't been much innovation in corporates in Hong Kong. Their social impact activities exist largely on the surface, with a focus on CSR and sponsoring community events. On the other hand, the Hong Kong Jockey Club is a fantastic support for philanthropic social innovation. They fund risky programmes like the Ednovators programme, and organisations like MaD to develop Social Labs across the city. However, the Hong Kong Jockey Club are the only foundation with this approach, and so there is room for more innovation among the philanthropic sector as a whole. Through the work of organisations like SIX

Global Council partner, MaD Institute and Good Lab, the centres for social innovation in Hong Kong are developing and well connecting to the field globally.

South Korea



South Korea

In South Korea, social innovation is well supported in Seoul, but is less well developed elsewhere across the country. This is largely because of Mayor Park, the [world's first 'social innovation mayor'](#), who is now in his third term. As a result, there is a lot of social innovation activity in the capital, inspired by the social innovation narrative built around the work of the mayor and the Metropolitan Government. However, these social innovation actors are disconnected and events like [SIX's Unusual Suspects Festival](#) - held in the city in 2018 - are important to bring these organisations into dialogue with one another.

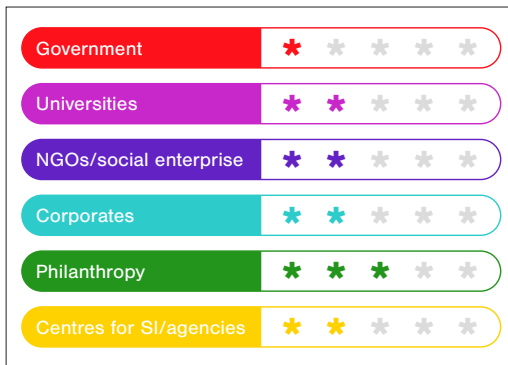
Mayor Park has supported several intermediary and grassroots organisations in the city, and connected into the global conversation around social innovation by collaborating with SIX and our global exchange. NGOs and social economy actors in Seoul have been well supported and the history of the cooperative movement in Seoul continues to be strong today.

Seongmisan village is a great example of this at work.

Mayor Park's social innovation positioning has led to growing interest in social innovation from the new national government, and in 2018 they sent a delegation to London to learn from UK social innovation actors. South Korean universities are also beginning to show more interest in social innovation, and are looking outwards to learn what others are doing around the world in this space. Although South Korean corporates are quite traditional, public scrutiny over how corporates create value - that is more than just profit - is reframing their outlook.

The philanthropic sector in South Korea is supported by the activity of AVPN in the region, and there are many events which bring together different sorts of foundations. However, the foundations in South Korea thinking and talking about social innovation specifically are the minority.

Brazil



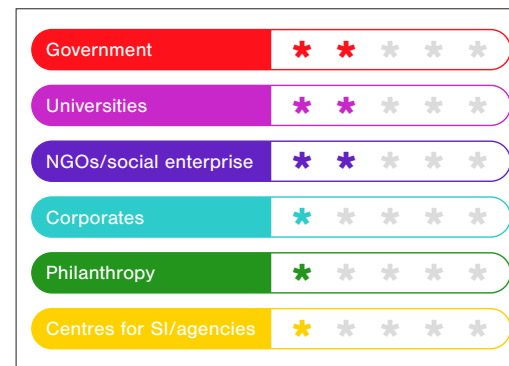
Brazil

As SIX explored last year, social innovation is burgeoning in Brazil. There are pockets of support for the field across different sectors. The DESIS network

and projects like LASIN have helped start a growing conversation about social innovation in universities. Things are also changing in the world of Brazilian corporations, as next generation wealth leaders taking over their family businesses are starting to think beyond traditional CSR, and in doing so are looking outwards to find inspiration from around the world.

The social finance movement in Brazil is strong and well organised. It includes foundations, as well as other types of organisations as well. The Brazilian Social Finance Taskforce - set up by Sitawi and ICE - is one example of a network established to encourage the use of capital in new ways for social good. Events like the Social Innovation Seminar, held in Sao Paulo last year, show how foundations, innovation centres and agencies, among other actors, are beginning to connect with each other more and more across Brazil.

Colombia



Colombia

In the past, Colombia has been seen a global leader on social innovation policy and practice, but this has waned in recent years. The policies of famed Bogotá Mayor Antanas Mockus reflect Colombia having been at the forefront of social innovation as he turned

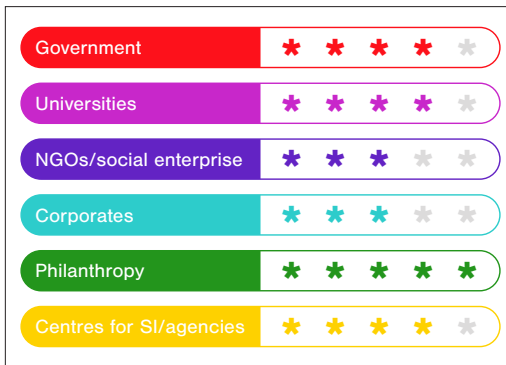
the city into a social experiment for play, art and people. Medellín also became well known as a city of innovation through innovative approaches to urban planning, including the Metrocable.

In 2013, SIX worked with the government's national social innovation taskforce, ANSPE, but this national effort ended with political change. Whilst social innovation in Colombia remains largely place-based, with a strong focus on cities and urban regeneration, the landscape of social innovation in the country looks slightly different

National government support for social innovation has not been sustained with political shifts, although there is a small innovation team, the Equipo de Innovación Pública (EiP), within the Colombian National Department of Planning (DNP), which focus on public innovation.

Projects like LASIN have helped encourage and connect universities interested in social innovation. Civil society organisations like Somos Más and Escuela Nueva lead the way in engagement with social innovation in this sector. At the same time, interest from corporates and philanthropic foundations in social innovation is very limited.

Canada



Canada

Canada has a long history of social innovation and social finance, which means that the field is well established and well connected in the country. Funding for social innovation comes from both the philanthropic sector, and a thriving social finance movement. A Canadian Task Force on Social Finance was established in 2010; the government then established a Social Innovation and Social Finance Strategy Co-Creation Steering Group in 2017; and, in 2018, the [government announced a significant investment in social finance](#).

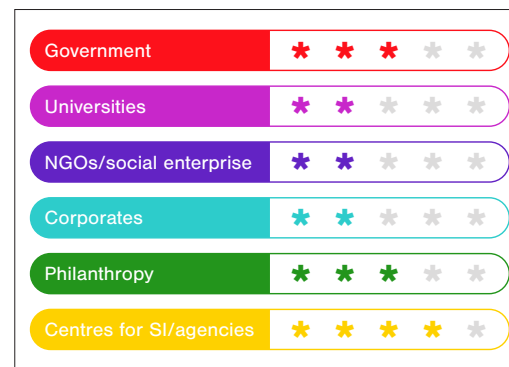
Canadian philanthropic foundations are also global leaders in social innovation. Organisations like the McConnell Foundation have been an influential actor in Canada and the narrative of social innovation underlies all of their work. The Centre for Social Innovation (CSI) and the (now sunsetted) SiG are examples of organisations that have been at the forefront of Canada's innovation agencies for over a decade.

The development of on campus social innovation and social entrepreneurship initiatives is well supported by

programmes like RECODE. The University of Waterloo is a global leader on social innovation theory and research, lead by Frances Westley.

Where there's particular room for improvement in the Canadian social innovation ecosystem is the engagement of corporates in social innovation.

Australia



Australia

The Australian social innovation scene is best known by TACSI, (The Australian Centre for Social Innovation), which was established ten years ago in Adelaide by the South Australian government. Government support for social innovation remains on a regional basis. That said, TACSI is now operating at a national scale, working with governments across the country. In addition, there are several other design studios working on service design across Australia.

Like NGOs in Australia, there are a couple of great examples of universities engaging with social innovation, but social innovation in neither has yet become a movement. Corporates in Australia remain engaged with more traditional CSR but companies like

PwC are beginning to rethink this approach. Sectors remain siloed.

SIX's Funders Node has gained traction in Australia recently, as foundations like Fay Fuller are engaging with social innovation and thinking about systemic approaches to deep social challenges.

South Africa



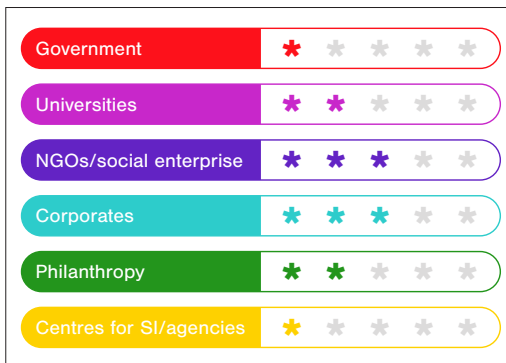
South Africa

NGOs and civil society organisations in South Africa focus on activism and social entrepreneurship, and there are several events connecting key players in the sector, and several hubs and incubators which are well established. Foundations with an interest in social innovation are also beginning to organise themselves, whilst corporate involvement remains with consultancies and traditional innovation approaches.

But in South Africa, it is universities that are leading the way. The Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, which sits in the business school of the University of Cape Town, has integrated social innovation into the curriculum, established a community of practice, and awarded scholarships.

They have also developed a narrative on social innovation and have become an influencer and thought leader in social finance. The European Commission funded Common Good First programme, focussed on digital storytelling, is also connecting South African universities.

Turkey



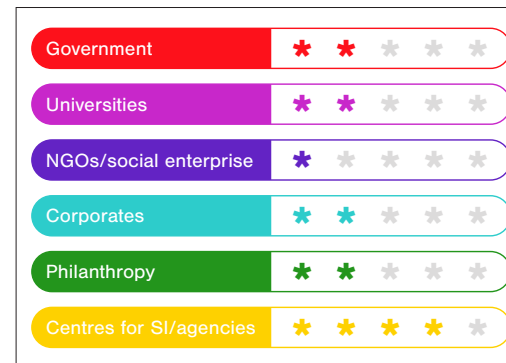
Turkey

In Turkey, social innovation is still a nascent concept, and often used as a term interchangeably with social enterprise. However, there is growing interest in the field and a greater sense of clarification over its distinction from social enterprise.

Some of the biggest supporters of social innovation in Turkey have been corporates, especially those run by families whose next generation leaders are looking at new ways of having social impact. The [SIX Wayfinder](#) in Istanbul last year, hosted by Zorlu Holding, showed this burgeoning interest in the field, and the desire of many in Turkey to learn from global examples of social innovation, and to share their own with the rest of the world.

Social innovation platforms, like imece, are working across the ecosystem to support innovators, provide early stage funding, connect diverse actors and influence policy. Their work is gaining traction in the region and they are connecting with other similar organisations in Europe.

UK



UK

The UK is often looked to as a leader in the social innovation field. This is largely the result of a few active and long standing centres of social innovation, like the Young Foundation. The UK also has a long history of design and service design focussed organisations and a leading social finance movement, which includes pioneering social impact bonds.

Whilst the UK government doesn't explicitly support social innovation, they have been an advocate of growing and supporting active civil society, and there are several organisations sitting between the government society who encourage public sector innovation.

While design schools like Central Saint Martins, and other universities like Northampton, Glasgow Caledonian University and the two Ashoka U campuses have been shown to be innovative, the engagement of universities with social innovation in the UK is not systemic. There is an encouraging but slow shift within universities to measure not just their academic journals but also their impact.

Apart from Nesta - which can be seen as an innovation agency and a new kind of foundation - foundations in the UK tend not to focus on innovation, and are largely not particularly innovative in the way they work.

If you want to know more about social innovation in these places, or elsewhere, [do get in touch](#).

If you want to build social innovation in your organisation, city, country or region - wherever you are in the world and no matter which sector you work in - **SIX can help you find your way in the complex challenges we face today.**

