



## Follow-up resources for Deep Dive: Legal Structures & Governance

As supplement to the [presentation slides](#), the following were used during group work or referred to in the session.

If you have any follow-up questions or requests for support, you can contact us on [hello@stirtoaction.com](mailto:hello@stirtoaction.com).

### **Jam Boards**

- [Different legal structures](#)
- [MOSCOW](#)

### **Simply Legal**

<https://www.uk.coop/resources/simply-legal>

All you need to know about legal forms and organisational types for co-operatives and community owned enterprises.

### **Do-ocracy Handbook**

<http://reconomy.org/do-ocracy-handbook/>

### **Legal form vs. Organisational type video**

[https://youtu.be/WPm4O7G\\_g4M](https://youtu.be/WPm4O7G_g4M)

### **UK legal forms video**

[https://youtu.be/ZZDT\\_Hd15fw](https://youtu.be/ZZDT_Hd15fw)

### **MOSCOW tool used for a community shop video**

<https://youtu.be/YIK9L65tEzs?si=55eby4R9V607rCRP>

## UNLtd - Considerations for choosing the appropriate legal structure

[This resource](#) details the questions to ask a group, but they can also be summarised as:

<p>Do you need to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Own a significant asset?</li> <li>• Enter into contracts?</li> <li>• Undertake significant trading?</li> </ul>	<p>Determines whether you should incorporate. A yes to any of these makes it likely.</p>
<p>Is what you are doing wholly charitable?</p>	<p>Determines the possibility of charity registration.</p>
<p>How will you restrict the use of your assets?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statutory asset lock</li> <li>• Common ownership</li> <li>• Co-ownership</li> </ul>	<p>Grant funders will prefer asset lock or common ownership</p>
<p>Do you want to be attractive to grant funders?</p>	<p>Distribution of surplus will be disfavoured, as will co-ownership. Some funders will only fund charities.</p>
<p>Do you want to share any surplus amongst the members of the organisation?</p>	<p>Favours Co-operative Society and would make you less attractive to funders.</p>
<p>Do you want to raise finance from your community as shares or loans?</p>	<p>If so you are only really looking at a Society Model, however other legal forms may do this in certain restricted circumstances.</p>
<p>Who will the members of the organisation be?</p>	<p>If they have a trading relationship with the organisation and an equal say then you are looking at a co-operative organisational type that can use a variety of legal forms.</p> <p>If a small group of self-selecting people then looks more like a non-co-operative social enterprise.</p> <p>If there are different groups of members then you are looking at a multi-stakeholder model.</p> <p>Again a variety of legal forms available.</p>