Social enterprise, social entrepreneur and social entrepreneurship are three related concepts. The following framework (Figure 1) developed by Brouard and Larivet (2010) depicts relationships between the three concepts. This model enforces the clarification of the way the three concepts are related to each other.

The six links in Figure 1 are described as follows:
1a. Social Entrepreneur is necessarily engaged in Social Entrepreneurship (strong link)
1b. Social Entrepreneurship is necessarily embodied by (at least) one Social Entrepreneur (strong link)
2a. A Social Entrepreneur’s project has to be crystallized in an organizational form called Social Enterprise (strong link)
2b. A Social Enterprise can be run by a Social Entrepreneur or not (weak link)
3a. Social Entrepreneurship leads to the creation or the development of a Social Enterprise (strong link)
3b. A Social Enterprise is not necessarily or permanently engaged in a Social Entrepreneurship process (weak link)
If social entrepreneur and social entrepreneurship are two separated theoretical concepts, they are strongly linked in practice (the first one embodies the second one). On the contrary, a social enterprise can exist without them. A social enterprise might have been created by a social entrepreneur that is no longer a real entrepreneur but has become a manager, or might have left. So a social enterprise might not be always engaged in social entrepreneurship. This is why links 2b and 3b (see Figure 1) are weak links, instead of strong links.

More information in: