

Euro-Mediterranean Network of Social Economy (ESMED-Network)

# The Social Economy IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Financed by:



*Este documento se ha realizado gracias a la financiación de la Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID) en el marco del Proyecto Fortalecimiento Institucional de las Empresas de Economía Social como actor de la sociedad civil en el Mediterráneo.*

*Todas las opiniones e interpretaciones reflejadas son las de los autores. En ningún caso podrán atribuirse ni a la AECID ni a CEPES.*

**CEPES**

Confederación Empresarial Española de la Economía Social  
Coordinación: Carmen Comos Tovar, Gloria González Marina  
y Carlos Lozano Palanca  
C/ Vallehermoso 15, 1º  
28015 Madrid  
Tél: 34.91.593.04.12  
Web: [www.cep.es](http://www.cep.es)

**SERVIMEDIA S.A.**

C/ Almansa, 66  
28039 Madrid  
[www.servimedia.net](http://www.servimedia.net)

Depósito legal: M-13646-2011





## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 THE ESMED NETWORK: TEN YEARS IN THE HISTORY OF MEDITERRANEAN SOCIAL ECONOMY ..... 58  
**Juan Antonio Pedreño**, President of the Spanish Business Confederation of Social Economy (CEPES)
- 1.2. TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF SOCIAL ECONOMY ..... 60  
**Trinidad Jiménez**, Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

## 2. EVOLUTION OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP

- 2.1. CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES IN VIEW OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION OF THE EUROMED REGION .... 64  
**Frédéric Blanc**, General Delegate of the Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Economic Sciences Institutes (FEMISE)
- 2.2. PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES OF THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (UFM) ..... 69  
**Andreu Bassols Soldevila**, Political Advisor of the Secretary General. Union for the Mediterranean
- 2.3. THE POLITICAL EVOLUTION OF THE EUROMED PARTNERSHIP DURING THE LAST PAST 15 YEARS (1995 - 2010) ... 70  
**José Riera**, Ambassador-at-Large for Mediterranean Affairs. Spanish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
- 2.4. THE MEDITERRANEAN AS A PRIORITY FOR COOPERATION..... 72  
**Soraya Rodríguez Ramos**, Secretary of State for International Cooperation. Spanish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

## 3. THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF SOCIAL ECONOMY

- 3.1. THE ESMED NETWORK IN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP: A SOCIAL ECONOMY PROJECT..... 76  
**Carlos Lozano**, Coordinator of the ESMED Network. Spanish Business Confederation of Social Economy (CEPES)
- 3.2. MEMBERS OF THE ESMED NETWORK ..... 80

## 4. CONTRIBUTION OF SOCIAL ECONOMY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

- 4.1. SOCIAL ECONOMY IN MOROCCO..... 92  
**Mustapha Bouchafra**, Inspector General, Cooperation Development Office (ODCo)
- 4.2. SOCIAL ECONOMY IN TUNISIA ..... 94  
**Fenniche Moncef**, President of the National Union of Mutual Societies (UNAM) of Tunisia
- 4.3. MUTUAL SOCIETIES: A TOOL FOR SOCIAL STABILITY ..... 96  
**Abdelkader Harmat**, Spokesperson for the Algerian Mutual Societies Coordination Committee
- 4.4. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING OF SOCIAL ECONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: A PRIORITY FOR CEPES ..... 98  
**Carmen Comos**, Director of the Spanish Business Confederation of Social Economy Confederation (CEPES)
- 4.5. SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY ENTERPRISES AND EURO-MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE ..... 100  
**Guillaume Legaut**, Delegate General of Social Economy Enterprises, Employers' and Groups Council (CEGES)
- 4.6. ITALIAN COOPERATIVES IN A EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP PATH TO BE DEVELOPED..... 102  
**Gianna Perra**, Head of International Relations. CONFCOOPERATIVE  
**Stefania Marcone**, Head of International Relations. LEGACOOP
- 4.7. COOPERATIVE FRAMEWORK OF A MEDITERRANEAN PORTUGAL..... 104  
**Joao Pedro Salazar Leite**, Senior Manager. Cooperativa Antonio Sérgio para A Economia Social

## 5. STATISTICS DATA OF SOCIAL ECONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN ..... 108



# 1. Introduction



## 1.1. THE ESMED NETWORK: TEN YEARS IN THE HISTORY OF MEDITERRANEAN SOCIAL ECONOMY

**Juan Antonio Pedreño**, President of the Spanish Business Confederation of Social Economy (CEPES)

## 1.2. TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF SOCIAL ECONOMY

**Trinidad Jiménez**, Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

## 1.1. THE ESMED NETWORK: TEN YEARS IN THE HISTORY OF MEDITERRANEAN SOCIAL ECONOMY



**Juan Antonio Pedreño,**  
President of the Spanish  
Business Confederation of  
Social Economy (CEPES)



THE Euro-Mediterranean Network of Social Economy (ESMED) was established in Madrid at the end of October 2000. After 10 years of intensive work and institutional advances, all members of the ESMED Network are happy to celebrate the tenth anniversary of this project. A project which has become a bridge for the collaboration and dialogue between Social Economy in the South and North shores of the Mediterranean Basin, thanks to the commitment and involvement of all of its members.

The perspective gained in ten years has encouraged the organisations that make up the ESMED Network to prepare this publication to assess the work carried out and the results obtained. This work has contributed to Euro-Mediterranean Policy increasingly taking Social Economy into account. Similarly, as a result of this joint action, Social Economy in the Mediterranean has become increasingly visible in accordance with its economic relevance and social presence. A strong presence, proven by the fact that Social Economy in the ESMED Network members (Algeria, France, Italy, Portugal, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia) is responsible for more than 410,000 undertakings and institutions, generating more than 6,200,000 jobs with a turnover of 558,920 million euros. Social Economy in these seven countries brings together more than 134 million people; that is, half the population.

**Throughout these 10 years, Social Economy has consolidated its role representing more than 410,000 enterprises, more than 6.200.000 jobs, with a turnover of 558,920 million Euros**

Beyond these results and the advances made by Social Economy, I would like to highlight how the different forms of Social Economy that are found in the Mediterranean, contribute to generate employment and to improve the level of social cohesion. These factors make Social Economy a relevant stakeholder, especially at times like these, when there is greater economic interdependency and when an economic model to reduce the large differences in the Mediterranean has to be generated. I believe that Social Economy will contribute with its entrepreneurial values to build a more inclusive, more intelligent Economy that generates more quality employment that is stable and, moreover, respectful with its surroundings and the environment.

**Social Economy is a relevant stakeholder, especially at times like these, when there is greater economic interdependency and when an economic model to reduce the large differences in the Mediterranean has to be generated**

The ESMED Network has carried out initiatives and proposed measures to further the construction of this shared prosperity area which the European Union and Mediterranean countries committed to in 1995 with the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. This is the institutional framework in which the ESMED Network carries out its activities. For this reason, we want to take this opportunity to count on valuable collaborations from experts and political personalities who live the day-to-day in the construction of such an ambitious project as the "Union for the Mediterranean". Their opinions will help us understand the challenges that Social Economy must face with regard to political, economic and social cooperation in the Mediterranean.

Despite the difficulties that the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership is undergoing, Social Economy will continue to be committed to cooperation in the region, especially at this time of unstoppable change. In this way, Social Economy, together with all other stakeholders in civil society, will increase its ability to generate economic and social growth that is shared by all citizens.

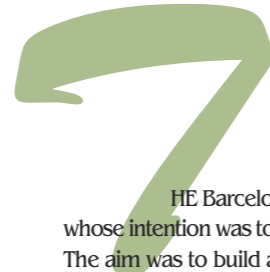
There is still much to be done. However, past achievements encourage us to continue working so that Social Economy is placed at the forefront of the new social and economic model that is being built in the Mediterranean.



## 1.2. TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF SOCIAL ECONOMY



**Trinidad Jiménez,**  
Spanish Minister for Foreign  
Affairs and Cooperation



The Barcelona Process was born 15 years ago. A project whose intention was to create a regional Mediterranean community. The aim was to build a space for solidarity, growth, the defence of fundamental rights and freedoms and the social welfare of its citizens.

The success of our experience as Europeans and a hastening of global changes worldwide in the last few decades, especially in the sphere of the economy with the development of large interdependent regions, has led us to further the development of this type of regionalism more decidedly. As a result, the Mediterranean Association became part of the European Neighbourhood Policy advancing successfully in "de facto solidarities".

**The Union for the Mediterranean has been established as an Institution that brings together 43 countries and more than 756 million citizens**

This new step implied the adoption of a functionalistic strategy in the Euro-Mediterranean space which has allowed us to make significant progress by means of specific projects. There is a new institutional framework in place since 2008, the Union for the Mediterranean, which currently brings together 43 countries and more than 756 million citizens, presenting a new set of opportunities for all citizens on both shores.

The construction of this space faces several well-known challenges, in particular the Middle East issue, an unresolved subject in Mediterranean policy. However, it is also true to say that the large network of joint projects developed over the last few years offers a more optimistic perspective on the future of our partnership.

Spain's commitment at the forefront of developing the Barcelona spirit from the start is a result of its belief that achieving a peaceful and prosper Mediterranean space is a first order strategic objective for the European Union as a whole. Moreover, cooperation with the Mediterranean has become one of the main intangible assets of our foreign policy.

Therefore, it is no coincidence that Barcelona has been chosen as the headquarters of the Union for the Mediterranean Office.

**Spain is committed to the Mediterranean, becoming one of the main intangible assets of the Government's foreign policy**

We have worked tirelessly in this direction during the former Spanish Presidency of the European Council. From an economic viewpoint, we are committed to a more sustainable, supportive and environmentally responsible growth model. Social economy enterprises play a vital role to this regard. The worldwide economic crisis has indeed highlighted the fact that employee-owned companies are more resilient, have been able to adapt better and distribute sacrifices destroying less employment. Furthermore, as proven by the example of existing cooperative groups, social economy enterprises can be at the forefront of industrial and technological research, development and innovation.

**Social Economy enterprises play a vital role in the Spanish Government's commitment to a more Sustainable, Supportive and Environmentally Responsible growth model. The Government's commitment to Social Economy will be strengthened by the Law on Social Economy**

The Spanish Government is committed to social economy as the recent passing of the Law on Social Economy proves. The aim of the law is to protect the work carried out by social economy enterprises and, naturally, collectives in a vulnerable situation.

Social economy enterprises in the Euro-Mediterranean region have worked hard towards job creation, the appropriation of progress and the furthering of social cohesion. The vitality of the Euro-Mediterranean Network of Social Economy is proof of this. There is still a long road ahead of us. However, combined efforts in favour of the economic development of our regions will lead us on the right path to fight poverty and social exclusion.





## 2. Evolution of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

### 2.1. CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES IN VIEW OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION OF THE EUROMED REGION

**Frédéric Blanc**, General Delegate of the Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Economic Sciences Institutes (FEMISE)

### 2.2. PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES OF THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (UFM)

**Andreu Bassols Soldevilla**, Political Advisor of the Secretary General. Union for the Mediterranean

### 2.3. THE POLITICAL EVOLUTION OF THE EUROMED PARTNERSHIP DURING THE PAST 15 YEARS (1995 - 2010)

**José Riera**, Ambassador-at-Large for Mediterranean Affairs.  
Spanish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

### 2.4. THE MEDITERRANEAN AS A PRIORITY FOR COOPERATION

**Soraya Rodríguez Ramos**, Secretary of State for International Cooperation. Spanish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

## 2.1. CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES IN VIEW OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION OF THE EUROMED REGION



**Dr. Frédéric Blanc,**  
General Delegate of the  
Euro-Mediterranean Forum of  
Economic Sciences Institutes  
(FEMISE)



It has been 15 years since a Euro-Mediterranean region is talked about, promoted by the Barcelona Process. In this time, the political landscape has considerably evolved. From the 15+10 agreements covering a wide array of topics, not only in the field of economy but also in culture and politics (specifically, peace in the Middle East), we have moved on to the birth of the «Neighbourhood» Policy (and its instruments) and later the Union for the Mediterranean as a result of the European Enlargement process. The «small group» of 25 countries gradually increased to 43. However, the objectives have become limited to the economic sphere and, in particular, free exchange and other projects on specific topics. Although the process has made it possible to make significant advances that shouldn't be undermined (especially in the economic and macroeconomic context) these achievements are lagging behind in terms of social progress, in particular with regard to latent or explicit conflict in the region (especially in view of current affairs). There has been progress in the level of exchange and in economic strength. However, if we take into account the expectations of a civil society that still believes in the Euro-Mediterranean process, no progress is observed in convergence between both shores. This brief historical summary tackles the region's current context and the challenges it will have to overcome to continue existing as a close-knit group in the short term.

**Context: economic advances, strength affected by crisis, but insufficient distribution**

A crisis affecting the prices of food products and raw materials, followed by a severe worldwide economic crisis: these have been the events that marked the last 5 years. At the time we would have been unable to make an optimistic assessment of the Mediterranean countries' capacity to overcome these blows. However, the southern countries have reacted well to the world crisis. They have avoided the financial aspect thanks to limited financial integration, both from a regional and worldwide point of view. Nonetheless, they have fully suffered some very negative and real effects, affecting the four main channels: exports, transfer of income, tourism and direct investment<sup>1</sup>. The cost of this crisis leads to slower growth, a decrease in job creation and an increase in unemployment rates. The crisis in foreign demand has given rise to certain difficulties:



- (i) Public budgets have been urged to implement protection measures (reaching average deficits of 7% GDP.) Therefore, the current increase in the prices of food products takes place in a context in which macroeconomic margins have been reduced, explaining increased social pressure.
- (ii) With this difference between strong domestic demand and weak foreign demand, the southern countries mechanically face tensions that affect the everyday balance of payments. These tensions lead to exchange and reserves risks that will continue with the economic situation of the developed partner countries (especially in the European Union and the Euro area) and if prices of raw materials worldwide continue to increase.

**The cost of the crisis leads to slower growth, a decrease in job creation and an increase in unemployment rates**

Since the mid-90s, Mediterranean Countries have opened up to exchange, following the advice given. Customs duties have decreased 5 per cent on average and the several trade agreements reached, amongst them the Euromed agreements, have led to the trade exchange

## 2. Evolution of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

item in the budget to increase more than 20 per cent in GDP. Although the involvement of European partners in this exchange with Mediterranean countries has gradually eroded since 1995 (decreasing from 53% to 41% as regards exports, for instance)<sup>2</sup>, this is partly the result of a diversification of trade partners.

The opening up of finances, however, is far more limited. Practically no MEDA partners have introduced full exchange of the capital account. As mentioned earlier, this has contributed to their resistance to the current crisis as their limits avoid the mass exit of capital when the situation is negative. However, limited openness becomes a negative factor when the situation is the opposite as it works against the possibility to obtain financing, not only by the State but also private stakeholders, undertakings in particular.

There is still a third door that has hardly opened in the Euromed region, despite being one of the greatest challenges for coming years: human mobility. Most of the work to this regard is still to be done. However, it is a symbolic matter, an issue which would have revitalised the Barcelona process once again. As we shall see later, greater human mobility within the region is established in every process as one of the main tools that will make it possible to face future challenges.

**The main challenge: speed up convergence between Europe and the southern countries**

This moment in time and the coming years will be marked by the current crisis. We cannot underestimate the possibility that it may change the hierarchy in the economies. Thus, the main commitment for Mediterranean Partners will be to advance in convergence with emerging economies. This will require several actions that we shall see later. Most of all, it requires social stability which, given our geographical proximity, can only be achieved through real convergence with Europe. People in the Mediterranean countries will be unable to accept that the economic advances they perceive don't translate into a fast and tangible decrease in the differences in living standards and conditions (even, to a certain extent, in lifestyles) of the European shores they feel so close to. Tunisia has recently shown to what extent this need for convergence, which Femise has highlighted for some time<sup>3</sup>, is at the heart of social concerns.

Indeed, the question that arises is how to speed up convergence and spread it across societies. From a socioeconomic point of view, there are two axes that are open to achieving it in the short term:

(i) Develop new growth vectors that are susceptible of increasing their current growth rates. This is essential in order to create the necessary jobs to increase the active population. We must remember that if the partnered countries have undergone a fast demographic growth stage, the transition stage they're currently at is marked by a steep increase in working-age population: young persons under the age of 15 represent 30% of the population. From a regional perspective, from now until 2030, 84% of future Euro-Mediterranean assets are found in the southern shores<sup>4</sup>. This will also be true for companies that will need to improve their competitiveness to conquer parts of the market. However, this shouldn't take place to the detriment of employment or competition; in fact, the latter are the source of their competitiveness.

(ii) Move towards growth that is more inclusive; that is, distributed more equally amongst the entire population<sup>5</sup>. Again, (decent) employment is at the heart of this process. However, it must be understood within a wide context of employability. Education and training lie at centre of the debate, as does social protection. The aim is to move towards a new social contract. As pointed out earlier, the modern process followed by the Mediterranean Partners has primarily consisted in putting into practice policies aimed at consolidating good macroeconomic management (since the start of the 80's) and later open up to international trade to modify their growth patterns (90's and 00's, revitalising the Partnership.) An economic organisation and a growth model that reduce poverty, favour the emergence of the middle class and allow a significant readjustment of living conditions comparable to European countries are needed from now on. Other emerging economies such as Brazil have been able to carry these out. All of this is achieved by combining relatively strong growth with a reduction of inequality and the dissemination of these advances across the territory.

**An economic organisation and a growth model that reduce poverty, favour the emergence of the middle class and allow significant readjustment of living conditions comparable to European countries, are needed from now on. Other emerging economies such as Brazil have been able to carry these out. All of this is achieved by combining relatively strong growth with a reduction of inequality and the dissemination of these advances across the territory**

### Growth dynamics based on GFP (Global Factor Productivity) and a Knowledge-based Economy

From an economic standpoint, there are many ways to achieve larger growth rates. Mediterranean Partners, considering the need to «disseminate» this growth, believe that certain priority should be given to growth based on global factor productivity. In fact, international experience shows that, in the long term, this is the decisive factor affecting the evolution of per capita income. What are the characteristics of this phenomenon? Summarily, it's based on two determining factors:

- (i) A more efficient allocation of factors, directed wherever they are more productive; this is mainly based on mobility, facilities to establish and close down undertakings and to acquire and use new know-how and skills.
- (ii) A shift of the technological border, which allows every factor to produce more wherever they are located. This is based, on the one hand, on innovation (product, process, organisation), which shifts the border of production and, on the other, on learning. This will consistently increase the quality of the factors used.

Academic research has identified several factors that may give rise to an increase in GFP, although their hierarchy is still to be determined. Here are four critical issues:

- First, the level of demand, in such a way that the potential growth level may be achieved in the long term. What we have to fight against is endemic unemployment, especially amongst graduates. This requires the promotion of work demand, together with quality in the supply and the suitability of both.
- Second, the size of the reference market. With the growth of markets, companies carry out economies of scale, obtaining greater profits if they increase in size. In turn, this entails continued openness and the possibility of obtaining long term financing.
- Third, the role played by the system of relations between companies. Two elements stand out: the need to introduce competition in the products market, favouring efficiency in resource allocation, and the development of external factors and the bunching effect between large companies and SME-SMI (Small and Medium Enterprises and Small and Medium Industries). Deregulation of the economies and active policies related to clusters and technological poles and other adaptation policies intervene in this issue.
- Fourth, penetration of the knowledge-based economy. This is a general guideline that includes institutional reform, development of the ICT sector, improvements in education and training, and innovation.



### What clues can be given to the Euromed Partnership?

Once the main challenges and the relevant elements to detect them have been identified, we still face the challenge of implementing the measures to allow the latter to fulfil their role. We shall summarily point out some of these, at two levels: national guidelines of the Mediterranean Partners and regional guidelines at Euro-Mediterranean level, specifically those of the Euromed Partnership instruments.

The Mediterranean Partners should not lose sight of the four critical issues mentioned above. They should be implemented efficiently in the framework of structural policy: a policy that should respect certain principles to be fruitful (more specifically it should be of a horizontal nature.) In particular, this policy should take into account transversal problems such as education and continuous training or the financing of undertakings whilst, on the other hand, focus less on the protection of traditional sectors and more on the emergence of new activities. From a macroeconomic perspective, responsible management (especially the issue of large-scale equilibrium) should not be questioned as a result of momentary vicissitudes. It should be assessed in an intelligent manner where this balance is understood from a long-term point of view that allows for temporary differences that are aimed at overcoming large obstacles and not as following arbitrary criteria blindly. Similarly, the strategy towards opening-up that was started twenty years ago must be continued. This will significantly increase competitiveness between enterprises, accompanied by a significant increase in range and greater diversification of both products and partners. It will entail a commitment towards increasing the size of companies, which would be favoured by a better integration between the southern countries. As regards financial openness, the ideal mixture is towards greater flexibility in exchange,

carefully evolving towards the exchange of the capital account with precise sequencing. In the current state of the local financial system, the implementation of a healthy deregulated banking system, with modern supervision, and a believable inflation rate would lead to increasing efficacy of monetary policies and to the creation of favourable anticipation elements needed to advance in financial openness. The latter assume the existence of a budget policy aimed at long-term balance and stable societies, both politically and socially.

**People's aspirations are not limited to a flourishing economy. Special attention must be paid to how the fruits of growth are distributed. The circulation of goods and capitals will never be enough to satisfy people's aspirations**

The Partnership implies the effective implementation of a new form of cooperation that goes beyond free exchange agreements. However, the region will benefit from the implementation and effective enlargement of the former. Indeed, two main issues must be at the heart of this device:

- (i) Achieving an enlarged area for free exchange. This entails issues such as the diagonal accumulation of the rules at origin and, most of all, tangible advances in the exchange of agricultural services and products. That is, that south-to-south exchange also improves. The Agadir and GAFTA (Greater Arab Free Trade Area) agreements have been unable to start a dynamic in south-to-south exchange. Consequently, Mediterranean countries, the Euromed process and instances have to reflect on the means to promote south-to-south

cooperation, similar to that found in other regions, such as the ASEAN and NAFTA regions for instance.

(ii) Significant progress in human mobility within the Euromed region. The events that have recently taken place in Tunisia have clearly shown this. People's aspirations are not limited to a flourishing economy. Special attention must be paid to how the fruits of growth are distributed. The circulation of goods and capitals will never be

enough to satisfy people's aspirations. Beyond the interest of both shores in this mobility, we cannot forget that Europe is undergoing a demographic dynamic that will prevent it from maintaining its growth rate without the contribution of other assets. When the Partnership was created it had a symbolic dimension that was attractive to civil society on both sides. This symbolic dimension is currently lost but may be recovered through the mobility of labour.



## 2.2. PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES OF THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (UFM)



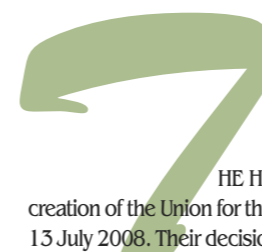
**Andreu Bassols Soldevila,**  
Political Advisor of  
the Secretary General.  
Union for the Mediterranean

The Secretariat started its work only few months ago (and the budget for its first year of activity was approved by Member States in December 2010). We are a young institution. Our mandate is to identify, promote and brand projects, to help economic operators to get together, to look at the conditions of investments, to talk to companies and show them that there are plenty of opportunities for joint investments. Just as an example, the European Investment Bank reckons that every year, the Mediterranean countries in the south need approximately 25 billion Euros in investment on major projects. Another example: investments stand at 26% of the GDP; while savings stand at nearly 19%. This means that there is a gap of 7% of the GDP of southern and eastern Mediterranean countries between investment and saving. This deficit has to be filled in by international lenders. International lenders, multilateral financing institutions, play and will continue to play a major role. What can we do so that the Union for the Mediterranean and its Secretariat can help to find the right projects and the right investments? How can we mobilise trust among investors? How can we put sustainable development high in the agenda of these projects? How can we promote regional and trans-national projects in key areas such as transport, energy and telecom interconnections? These are our challenges and these are the challenges of a Secretariat that wants to become a useful actor in the promotion of regional projects.

**The Mediterranean has the potential to become an emerging economic region, but without regional cooperation this will not be possible. This is what the Union for the Mediterranean is about and this is what the Secretariat wants to contribute to**

Recent events demonstrate that the region is changing, that political change goes hand-in-hand with economic reforms and modernisation. The region needs to go a step forward and develop a culture of cooperation, starting as Europe did 60 years ago. This can be done by creating solidarities of fact between peoples, citizens, companies and governments, by increasing trade and facilitating investment, by coordinating among countries trans-national

The Mediterranean has the potential to become an emerging economic region, but without regional cooperation this will not be possible. This is what the Union for the Mediterranean is about and this is what the Secretariat wants to contribute to.



THE Heads of State and Government decided the creation of the Union for the Mediterranean in the Paris Summit held on 13 July 2008. Their decision had two main dimensions: the creation of three new instruments of cooperation which included the holding of regular summit meetings, the co-presidency by two countries one from the EU and one from the Mediterranean partners, and the setting up of the Secretariat. This was the institutional dimension. The other dimension in the decisions taken by Heads of State and Government was the project focus of the initiative with the identification of 6 priority areas of work.

After less than two years of discussions, the Secretariat was created in March 2010 and now it is up and running with a light structure dedicated to the promotion of projects and the identification of partners to develop initiatives.

<sup>1</sup> Cfr. FEMISE report for FEMIP of November 2010: «Crise et voies de sortie de crise dans les pays méditerranéens », available at the FEMISE network website: [www.femise.org](http://www.femise.org)

<sup>2</sup> Cfr. The 2010 annual report on Euro-Mediterranean partnership by

FEMISE, « Le partenariat Euro-Méditerranéen à la croisée des chemins », November 2010, is available at the FEMISE network website: [www.femise.org](http://www.femise.org)

<sup>3</sup> See, for instance, the 2008 research programme.

<sup>4</sup> Cfr. Frédéric BLANC, FEMISE, Perspectives d'emploi en Méditerranée, Consortium Med2050, published in 2011.

<sup>5</sup> See the 2010-2012 research programme from FEMISE, available at the website [www.femise.org](http://www.femise.org)

## 2.3. THE POLITICAL EVOLUTION OF THE EUROMED PARTNERSHIP DURING THE PAST 15 YEARS (1995 - 2010)



**José Riera,**  
Ambassador-at-Large for  
Mediterranean Affairs. Spanish  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs and  
Cooperation



THE Mediterranean, a region marked by its deep economic, structural and social inequalities, has proved an area rich in forums, initiatives and frameworks for cooperation aimed at combining efforts to face the important challenges needing to be addressed. The EuroMed Partnership could be defined as a model of multilateralism whose vision of the Mediterranean is one regional unity on an economic level, as well as in the areas of politics, culture and civil society.

The EuroMed Partnership came into being in 1995 at the Barcelona Conference in an especially encouraging political context. On the one hand was the start of the Peace Process in the Middle East that followed the 1991 Madrid conference and the Oslo conversations of 1993 and, on the other, the European Union's growing awareness that Europe's southern borders posed potential risks as well as great opportunities. The Process of Barcelona came about as a new paradigm in Euro-Mediterranean relations, at the heart of which we find policies of cooperation which go beyond the economic sphere, and as a forum in which multilateral demands run alongside the strengthening of the bilateral axis between the countries of the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean. Its objective: the creation of a peace, stability and prosperity zone built on three initial pillars: politics and security; economics and financing, and the social and cultural chapter, to which Justice and Immigration would be added in 2005, within the framework of the Summit of Barcelona, which commemorated the first decade of this new paradigm in the Euro-Mediterranean Association.

**The Process of Barcelona came about as a new paradigm in Euro-Mediterranean relations, at the heart of which we find policies of cooperation which go beyond the economic sphere, and as a forum in which multilateral demands run alongside the strengthening of the bilateral axis between the countries of the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean**



The numerous successes achieved by the Process of Barcelona cannot be ignored; Conferences were held bringing together Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs as well as Ministers from Departments including the Environment, Employment and, among many others, Higher Education, which resulted in working programmes and projects in almost all areas (political, economical, social and cultural) which made it possible to undertake concerted actions which would previously have been inconceivable.

The difficulties were also manifold, and following a period of reflexion, in 2008, 43 countries from the Mediterranean Basin reached a consensus regarding the doctrinal principles and axes of the Union for the Mediterranean's institutional framework, as set out in the Declaration of Paris. The transformation of the Process of Barcelona was aimed at lending the Euro-Mediterranean Association greater levels of dynamism and a higher profile, developing shared ownership and responsibility, the initiatives of variable geometry, and granting it a minimum of institutional framework.

**Following the Declaration of Paris, the transformation of the Process of Barcelona was aimed at lending the Euro-Mediterranean Association greater levels of dynamism and a higher profile**

It is as such that the Union for the Mediterranean brings new developments in the organisational field, with the creation of the Permanent Secretariat with offices in Barcelona, and a system of biannual summits of Heads of State is launched, as well as in the political sphere. In this way, new national agents have been involved, including the Adriatic sub-region, and the Arab League has been incorporated as a participant at all meetings at all levels. The participation in the Union for the Mediterranean of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly has also been strengthened, and the Assembly of Local Authorities has been created. As can be seen, the transformation of the Process of Barcelona has gone far and wide.

## 2. Evolution of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

The renewed commitment of the member States of the Union for the Mediterranean has, likewise, made it possible to make progress in a range of areas of work through the setting up of six sectoral projects: the decontamination of the Mediterranean; land and marine highways; civil protection; the Mediterranean Solar Plan; Higher Education and Research, and the Mediterranean Initiative for business development. This last is an initiative launched by Spain in conjunction with Italy, with the aim of stimulating the creation of employment and to contribute to economic integration and social stability, in which enterprises of social economy are called upon to play a vital role.

Despite the fact that more than 15 years have now passed since the Euro-Mediterranean Association came into being, first at the Process of Barcelona and later in the Union for the Mediterranean, we are now experiencing a new period of uncertainty.

The EuroMed process came into being in Barcelona, encouraged by what appeared to be the real possibility of putting an end to the conflict in the Middle East. Now, 15 years later, the Middle East Peace Progress's lack of progress has had a negative influence which has been reflected in the successive postponements of the 2nd Summit of the Union for the Mediterranean.

But in spite of the above difficulties, the Euro-Mediterranean partnership continues to make progress: the meetings of high-level civil servants, consolidated following the Paris and Marseilles Declarations regarding the construction of the Union for the Mediterranean, continue to take place with regularity; it has been possible to carry out a number of Sectoral Ministerial forums (Development and Trade, just to mention some that have taken place in 2010). The Euro-Mediterranean projects are making progress in their working programmes and the Secretariat has now been provided with both material and human resources by the member States of the Union for the Mediterranean.

## 2.4. THE MEDITERRANEAN AS A PRIORITY FOR COOPERATION



**Soraya Rodríguez Ramos,**  
**Secretary of State for International**  
**Cooperation. Spanish Ministry for**  
**Foreign Affairs and**  
**Cooperation**

**S**PAIN'S international cooperation, which has made great progress in recent years, both from a quantitative as well as a qualitative point of view, is a response to certain decentralising criteria. It is thus that, among the main agents of cooperation, are to be found not just the State Government, but also the autonomous regions, town councils, universities, trade unions and enterprises, among other public and private bodies. From this perspective we have attempted, and continue to attempt, to stimulate the participation of enterprises, within the philosophy of corporate social responsibility, in the tasks related to international cooperation. This has not proved an easy path to follow because, on occasions, we have come up against levels of inertia or resistance rooted in the past, that originate in the private sector as well as in certain non-governmental organisations.

**The challenge of International Cooperation is to drive the participation of enterprises, within the philosophy of social corporate responsibility, in the tasks related to international cooperation**

In any case, the development of global cooperation, and the need for new instruments of financing which go beyond the traditional channels of Official Development Aid, calls for an increasingly marked presence on the part of the enterprises in the countries with which we work. It is thus that the enterprises involved in the Social Economy, brought together in the Spanish Business Confederation of Social Economy (CEPES), have, in recent years, been prominent at the head of this renovation. Consequently, cooperatives, mutual societies and foundations are playing an increasingly important role, something for which we offer our unconditional support.



**Those enterprises in the Social Economy are taking on an increasingly prominent role in development Cooperation**

Among the initiatives born of this new dynamic is the Euro-Mediterranean Network of Social Economy, which has now completed its 10th year. This initiative fits in perfectly with our vision in which the Mediterranean region, and especially Maghreb, is included among the priorities of Spanish cooperation. We should highlight the fact that countries such as Morocco, Algeria or the Palestine territories figure among those countries with which we enjoy a far-reaching association, the so-called Group A nations, while others such as Lebanon, Syria, Tunisia and Egypt have also now joined Group C; countries in which we support the consolidation of advances in development. It might seem facile to highlight the fact that its geographical proximity, added

to its economic, political, social and cultural relations make the south coast of the Mediterranean basin a fundamental objective in our policy of cooperation.

It is thus that our projects in the region include a diverse number of programmes which range from education and health, to sex equality and the revitalisation of rural areas, or the consolidation of democratic systems. As a consequence of all of this, we are happy in the knowledge that the Euro-Mediterranean partnership is making good progress, and that the Social Economy enterprises are taking on an increasingly important role both in the north as well as in the south of the Mediterranean. Using this publication as our forum, we would like to exhort you to not falter in this task which is so important to cooperation, and I would like you to know that you will always be able to count on the support of Spanish public institutions, with their Government at their head, in this undertaking.

## 3. The Euro-Mediterranean Network of Social Economy

### 3.1. THE ESMED NETWORK IN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP: A SOCIAL ECONOMY PROJECT

**Carlos Lozano**, Coordinator of the ESMED Network  
Spanish Business Confederation of Social Economy (CEPES)

### 3.2. MEMBERS OF THE ESMED NETWORK

### 3.1. THE ESMED NETWORK IN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP: A SOCIAL ECONOMY PROJECT



**Carlos Lozano,**  
Coordinator of the ESMED Network  
Spanish Business Confederation of  
Social Economy (CEPES)

SINCE its creation in October 2000, the Euro-Mediterranean Social Economy Network (ESMED Network) has focussed on promoting Social Economy coordination and the exchange of know-how on the southern and northern shores of the Mediterranean. The objective has been to carry out development, visibility, cooperation and strengthening activities of a business model that combines solidarity and entrepreneurial efficiency criteria.

Alongside the organisations that took the initiative to create the ESMED Network in five southern European countries, this project has acquired a Euro-Mediterranean dimension with the incorporation of organisations from countries on the southern coast of the Mediterranean. The ESMED Network currently brings together 10 organisations in Spain, France, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Tunisia and Algeria.

The Network's intense institutional activity has become well established in the last few years, as stated by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). The EESC acknowledges the ESMED Network as one of the civil society networks in the Mediterranean with which to establish paths to work together.

**The ESMED Network has become well established as one of the Civil Society networks in the Mediterranean**



The ESMED Network carries out its activities within the scope of the Union for the Mediterranean (UpM), which establishes a framework for political, economic and social cooperation between the 27 Member States of the European Union and 16 Mediterranean countries<sup>1</sup>. The Network defends the idea that UpM should contribute to move forward towards a sustainable and responsible growth model for all Euro-Mediterranean citizens, in which Social Economy enterprises and organisations play a prominent role alongside other civil society actors.

Social Economy enterprises and entities in the countries that are members of the Union for the Mediterranean are present across all economic sectors. With enterprises of all sizes, from large business groups to micro-enterprises, it works on the following principles:

- The primacy of the individual and the social objective over capital

- Voluntary and open membership.
- Democratic organisation.
- The combination of the interests of members/users and/or the general interest.
- The defence and application of the principle of solidarity and responsibility.
- Autonomous management and independence from public authorities.
- The essential surplus is used to carry out sustainable development objectives, services of interest to members or of general interest.

COOPERATIVES, MUTUAL SOCIETIES, ASSOCIATIONS, FOUNDATIONS and OTHER INSTITUTIONS carrying out an economic and business activity are examples of this form of enterprise. The different socioeconomic realities of each country entail that the structures of the institutions that make up Social Economy are not homogenous.

The ESMED Network has focussed on promoting Social Economy's role as an economic and social stakeholder capable of contributing an opinion and providing proposals related to Euro-Mediterranean policy on economic development, social cohesion and the generation of a labour market that includes everyone. As such, the Network's objectives are to:

- Promote collaboration and cooperation between representative Social Economy organisations that exist in the countries taking part in the Union for the Mediterranean.
- Increase awareness and institutional acknowledgement of Social Economy as an economic and social stakeholder in the Euro-Mediterranean region. To this end, the Network carries out the following activities:
  - Set a common strategy for Social Economy to intervene and impact the construction of a Euro-Mediterranean Partnership from the Social Economy perspective.
  - Establish paths for dialogue and cooperation with national and European public institutions and other civil society stakeholders. The aim is for Social Economy proposals to be taken into account in defining Euro-Mediterranean policy.
  - Propose and undertake transnational cooperation projects

aimed at favouring the development of Social Economy enterprises and entities in countries taking part in the Union for the Mediterranean.

- Favour dissemination and exchange of know-how and information between Network members.
- Serve as instrument that favours the start of all initiatives and projects of the Network's members, aimed at promoting and developing Social Economy in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

Since the ESMED Network was established, it has been involved in key events of the Euro-Mediterranean Association. It has taken part in studies and reports on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. This task has led to the acknowledgement by European Institutions of the strategic role that Social Economy enterprises play in facing the region's main challenges.

**The ESMED Network works to consolidate an environment that favours the involvement and consultation of representative Social Economy organisations so that they may contribute their proposals in decision-making forums of the Union for the Mediterranean**

Another relevant aspect is the proven contribution of Social Economy to create and maintain employment. Euro-Mediterranean experts have expressed that the economic crisis has proven the limitations of the current economic model for developed countries and its scarce potential as a driver of development in less developed countries, including the southern Mediterranean countries. Thus, a wide debate is needed on the economic model, the role of the State and the markets, foreign investment and trade deregulation as drivers of growth and on social policy, a debate in which all interested parties and stakeholders should take part<sup>2</sup>.

In this context, Social Economy arises as a relevant stakeholder to build a social dimension within the Euro-Mediterranean Association. In 2005, the conclusions of the 7th Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Foreign Secretaries held in Luxembourg highlighted the need to promote the role



### 3. The Euro-Mediterranean Network of Social Economy

of SMEs and other forms of business management, in particular Social Economy, with the aim to increase the number of jobs. The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) has also stated as much in several documents. It favours cooperation between the EU and the Partner Mediterranean Countries to promote the creation of SMEs and social economy enterprises<sup>3</sup>, as they are responsible for most of the employment created<sup>4</sup>. Similarly, the Euro-Mediterranean Summit of Economic and Social Committees and Similar Institutions held in Alexandria (Egypt) in 2009 considered it necessary to further entrepreneurial spirit, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises and promoting cooperatives and other forms of social economy to create employment, especially for vulnerable collectives and those at risk of social exclusion. It is especially important at times of economic crisis to develop every possible form of social economy<sup>5</sup>.

**Social Economy enterprises and entities have been acknowledged to create and maintain employment not only at the 7th Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Foreign Secretaries in Luxemburg but also by the European Economic and Social Committee and the Euro-Mediterranean Summit of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions held in Egypt in 2009**

Social Economy is based on the entrepreneurial initiative of a group of persons to manage feasible and sustainable projects that improve their social environment and offer basic social services to all citizens, thus complementing social policy reform. The Economic and Social Councils in the region's countries have stated in several documents that in order to alleviate the lack of investment and to increase economic and social development opportunities in regions that aren't attractive to foreign investment, it may be interesting to promote all types of collective business initiatives within the scope of Social Economy<sup>6</sup>. The European Economic and Social Committee has also emphasized that Social Economy in its different forms (cooperatives, mutual societies, development associations), is decisively important towards economic growth as they also play a significant role as social service providers<sup>7</sup>.

As a result, and in accordance with the relevance bestowed upon it, the ESMED Network is working to materialise the demand expressed by several Economic and Social Councils in the North and South Mediterranean. This demand calls for financial instruments supporting Euro-Mediterranean cooperation to include mechanisms for technical

support, the exchange of best practices, the creation of business platforms on both shores and support measures that allow micro-enterprises, SMEs and social economy enterprises to develop in a competitive way in a globalised environment, given their impact on the creation of wealth and employment at local level. Thus, the ESMED Network is demanding that Social Economy is taken into account in the Union for the Mediterranean's business promotion projects.

**Promoting instruments for technical support, the exchange of best practices, the creation of business platforms on both shores and support measures that allow micro-enterprises, SMEs and social economy enterprises to develop in a competitive way in a globalised environment, given their impact on the creation of wealth and employment at local level is one of the challenges of the ESMED Network**

Social Economy has also become part of the European Union's development cooperation policy with partner countries, including those in the Mediterranean. The European Parliament resolution of 2009 on Social Economy in Europe<sup>8</sup>, requested the European Commission and the Member States to integrate the "social economy" dimension in the drafting of European and national policy and in European programmes aimed at development cooperation. This approach is coming into effect in some European governments which are creating mechanisms and instruments to increase the involvement of Social Economy in activities that, due to their nature and characteristics, contribute to reduce poverty levels. In Spain, for instance, Social Economy enterprises are starting to become part of this philosophy. The "Strategy for Economic Growth and Promotion of the Business Fabric" within cooperation includes the promotion of the cooperative business sector and social economy as one of its priorities. This is because social economy plays a relevant role in a strategy that intends to promote the productive fabric and place it at the service of a faster and more effective reduction of poverty. This Strategy responds to the guidelines established by the Spanish Cooperation Directive Plan 2009-2012, which identifies

Social Economy as a stakeholder that must play a relevant role in development cooperation, especially in those areas related to promoting the economic fabric. The ESMED Network has already collaborated with the Spanish International Development Cooperation Agency (AECID) to carry out specific projects. This line of work will continue to increase.

**Spanish Cooperation includes Social Economy as one of its priorities as it plays a relevant role in promoting the productive fabric and reducing poverty**

The ESMED Network is also committed to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership as the necessary framework for political, economic and social relations, dialogue and cooperation between the North and South Mediterranean. The Association was established in 1995 through the so-called Barcelona Process. Social Economy can and must actively take part alongside other civil society actors. To this end, an environment to further the involvement and consultation of representative Social Economy organisations should be generated in the decision-making forums of the Union for the Mediterranean. Some steps have already been taken to this regard. In particular, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) has acknowledged the ESMED Network as one of association's networks in the Mediterranean with which to work together. This approach was stated at the Euro-Mediterranean Summit of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions held in Athens (Greece) in 2007, which requested the systematic participation of Euro-Mediterranean civil society networks (social partners, social economy and farmers) in drafting policies on the creation of jobs and social infrastructures.

These are some of the challenges on which the ESMED Network is working. Others are appearing that will require Social Economy in the Mediterranean to continue working in a coordinated manner. In this way it will be able to contribute its added value in accordance with its qualitative and also quantitative significance, as shown by the statistics contained in this publication. The ESMED Network, with the expertise acquired in its ten years of history, will continue working to provide the full potential and know-how of Social Economy in executing projects that improve people's living conditions.



<sup>1</sup> The 27 Member States of the European Union together with Albania, Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Palestine, Siria, Tunisia and Turkey. The Arab League is a member with full rights.  
<sup>2</sup> "20+10: 30 proposals to develop a true social dimension in the Euro-Mediterranean Association." 2010. Iván Martín (dir.). Larabi Jaidi, Abdallah Khattab, Erwan Lannon, Kinda Mohamadieh, Souad Triki.

<sup>3</sup> Information document on "The social dimension of relations between the European Union and Partnered Mediterranean Countries." September 2008.  
<sup>4</sup> Joint report of the Spanish Economic and Social Council, French Economic and Social Council, Israeli Economic and Social Council, the Italian National Economy and Labour Council, Moroccan socioeconomic stakeholders' representatives and the Mixed Consultative Committee of the Turkish Economic and Social

Council. "Priority activities to carry out in employment policy." 2009.  
<sup>5</sup> Final Statement of the Euro-Mediterranean Summit of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions. Alexandria, 2009.  
<sup>6</sup> "Competitiveness and Social Cohesion factors in the construction of an integrated Euro-Mediterranean space." Joint report of the Spanish Economic and Social Council in collaboration with the Algerian National Economic and Social Council and the

Italian National Economy and Labour Council (CNEL), the Tunisian Economic and Social Council, Economic and Social Development Council of Malta, the Greek Economic and Social Council and the Mixed Consultative Committee of the Turkish Economic and Social Council.  
<sup>7</sup> "Freedom of association in partner Mediterranean countries." European Economic and Social Committee. Brussels, 2008.  
<sup>8</sup> 2008/2250(INI).

## 3.2. MEMBERS OF THE ESMED NETWORK

### Spain

**CEPES: Spanish Business Confederation of Social Economy**



**Contact details:**  
Calle Vallehermoso 15, 1ª planta.  
28015 Madrid  
Tel.: 34.91.593.04.12  
Fax: 34.91.448.73.93  
Website: [www.cep.es](http://www.cep.es)  
Email: [info@cep.es](mailto:info@cep.es)

Formed in 1992, CEPES is a State-level business confederation whose cross-sector characteristics make it the most representative Social Economy institution in Spain, providing a platform for institutional dialogue between public bodies. It is defined as an economic and social agent, which operates in the market and resonates throughout society through its actions, with its own personality and defending a business model with specific values.

The CEPES organisation, which acts as a common touchstone for the varied existing economic activities carried out under the banner of Social Economy, is made up of 29 organisations. These are all national or independent confederations and specific business groups, which represent the interests of Cooperatives, Worker-owned societies, Mutual Societies, insertion companies, Special Employment centers, associations working within the disability sector, and Fishermen's Associations. These organisations have more than 200 support structures at an independent level.

Since it was created, CEPES has maintained an enviable international profile, ensuring that the Social Economy remains on the major international agendas marking out European development, Ibero-American Cooperation and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

Among its main objectives is that of driving and upholding the Social Economy in Spain, impacting on legislation at both State and international level, facilitating the economic development of the Country as a means to achieve market stability and plurality, and to carry across specific values of the Social Economy into the business sphere.

### Economic Scale of the Social Economy in Spain

■ <b>COOPERATIVES</b>	No. ENTEPRISES	23,219
	No. EMPLOYMENTS	1,458,350 *
	No. INDEPENDENT WORKERS	427,145
	No. MEMBERS	5,538,783
	-----	
■ <b>MUTUAL SOCIETIES</b>	No. ENTEPRISES	403
	No. WORKERS	1,384
	No. MEMBERS	2,450,000
-----		
■ <b>WORKED-OWNED SOCIETIES</b>	No. ORGANISATIONS	15,679
	No. WORKERS	88,241
-----		
■ <b>SPECIAL EMPLOYMENT CENTERS (Disability)</b>	No. ORGANISATIONS	440
	No. WORKERS WITH DISABILITIES	107,788
-----		
■ <b>INSERTION COMPANIES</b>	No. ORGANISATIONS	154
	No. WORKERS IN PLACEMENTS	1,790
-----		
■ <b>FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS</b>	No. ORGANISATIONS	90
	No. WORKERS	442
-----		
■ <b>ASSOCIATIONS IN THE DISABILITY SECTOR</b>	No. ENTEPRISES	5,001
	No. MEMBERS	4,161,766
-----		
■ <b>OTHER LEGAL ENTITIES</b>	No. ORGANISATIONS	107
	No. WORKERS	294,854
-----		
<b>SECTOR'S GLOBAL TURN-OVER</b>		<b>92,157.16 m Euros</b>

Source: CEPES. Figures from 2009.

\* Includes 1,160,337 cattle and arable farmers belonging to cooperatives.

### France

**CEGES: Social Economy Enterprises Employers and Gropus Council**



**Contact details:** 24 rue du Rocher  
75008 Paris  
Tel.: 33. (0) 1.42.93.56.08  
Website: [www.ceges.org](http://www.ceges.org)  
Email: [contact@ceges.org](mailto:contact@ceges.org)

As a social and solidarity enterprises movement within the Social Economy, CEGES brings together associated undertakings and their organisations to provide a wider scope for their relative approaches to the major social issues and social dialogue, operating in the same way as an employers' union. In France, the majority of people maintain some kind of relationship with enterprises involved in the Social Economy in their everyday lives. More than two thirds benefit from the protection of a Mutual Society (health, social security, car/home insurance, etc). Three quarters of the French belong to an association involved in economic activity (health and safety, sports, culture, education, environment, etc). And half maintain an economic tie to a cooperative (building society, food and agriculture bodies, retail trade, social housing, etc). The 230,000 enterprises exhibiting characteristics of solidarity and social economy are responsible for approximately 8% of national economic activity, and provide employment for close to 2.3m workers. Social economy enterprises stand out by their inner workings, which place the individual at the core of economic activity. These are characterised, more than anything else, by giving expression to a entrepreneurial project with a social end; a model of democratic management and a common distribution of wealth. CEGES recently explained its position regarding pension reform in France, the social and solidarity economy's capital gains, and the individual's rights to self-autonomy.

### Economic Scale of the Social Economy in France

■ <b>COOPERATIVES</b>	No. ENTEPRISES	25,381
	No. WORKERS	320,822
	No. MEMBERS	23,000,000
	TURN-OVER (€m)	274,000
-----		
■ <b>MUTUAL SOCIETIES</b>	No. ORGANISATIONS	6,491
	No. WORKERS	126,990
	No. MEMBERS	59,000,000
	TURN-OVER (€m)	37,600
-----		
■ <b>ASSOCIATIONS</b>	No. ORGANISATIONS	159,775
	No. WORKERS	1,773,500
	No. MEMBERS	21,000,000
	No. VOLUNTEERS	12,000,000
-----		
■ <b>FOUNDATIONS</b>	TURN-OVER (€m)	49
	No. ORGANISATIONS	1,177
	No. WORKERS	63,179
-----		
■ <b>PLACEMENT AGENCIES</b>	TURN-OVER (€m)	4
	No. ENTERPRISES	4,104
-----		
	No. WORKERS IN PLACEMENTS	108,296

Source: CEGES. Figures from 2010.

## Italy

### CONF COOPERATIVE: Italian Cooperative Confederation



Contact details: Borgo Santo Spirito 78,  
00193 Roma  
Tel.: 39. 06.68.00.01  
Fax: 39.06.68.13.42.36  
Website: [www.confcooperative.coop](http://www.confcooperative.coop)  
Email: [confcooperative@confcooperative.it](mailto:confcooperative@confcooperative.it)  
[esteri@confcooperative.it](mailto:esteri@confcooperative.it)  
[bruxelles@confcooperative.coop](mailto:bruxelles@confcooperative.coop)

Confcooperative is the largest organisation providing representation, assistance, protection and supervision in the Italian social enterprises and cooperatives movement. Formed in 1919 to group together cooperatives of Christian origin, it is a member of the ICA (International Cooperative Alliance) and Coopératives Europe. Its connection to the country is through regional, provincial and inter-provincial unions (110). It is made up of 9 National Federations which operate in the following sectors: food and agriculture, housing; credit; fisheries; production; work and services consumers and retailers; culture, tourism and sport; social support, health and mutual societies. Its membership also includes pharmaceutical, electricity and transport cooperatives. It brings together more than 20,000 cooperative enterprises representing approximately 3 million individual members. It provides work for more than 500,000 people. CONF COOPERATIVE promotes the creation of new cooperatives. It supports cooperative development and consolidation, and represents, assists and protects their own partners. It organizes and coordinates initiatives on general and sector policies affecting cooperatives; it also inspects member cooperatives. CONF COOPERATIVE is, therefore, a network of regional service centres, service consortiums, operating partnerships, centres for tax assistance. Confcooperative also supports cooperative by means of two organizations providing services: Elabora, specialized in training, search and planning activities; Fondosviluppo assisting financially the creation of new cooperatives and strengthening the associated enterprises. CONF COOPERATIVE has got Headquarters in Rome and a representative office in Brussels devoted to the relations with the European Union and various European community partners.

### LEGACOOP: National League of Cooperatives



Contact details: Via Guattani  
9, 00161 Roma  
Tel.: 06.84.43.91  
Fax: 06.84.43.94.06  
Website: [www.legacoop.it](http://www.legacoop.it)  
Email: [info@legacoop.coop](mailto:info@legacoop.coop)  
[bruxelles@legacoop.be](mailto:bruxelles@legacoop.be)  
[esteri@legacoop.coop](mailto:esteri@legacoop.coop)

Founded in 1886, Legacoop, the Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative, is the oldest cooperative organisation in Italy. Its function consists of promoting the development of cooperation and reciprocity, stimulating the diffusion of cooperative principles and values. Legacoop fulfils a representative and supportive role in the cooperative movement. Furthermore, it operates as a regulatory and supervisory body for his members, guaranteeing the coordination and direction of strategies and policies. It establishes and oversees relations with Government, Parliament, Ministers and prominent Italian Institutions, as well as with social agents, at both national and international level.

Legacoop represents 15,000 enterprises with more than 8.5m members and and at least 485,000 employees. The turn-over aggregated by the cooperatives enterprises in 2009 amounted to 57 billion Euros. Those cooperatives that belong to Legacoop are represented across all regions and sectors of production. These include leading representatives in sectors such as: consumption, manufacturing and industry, tourism, services, social assistance, media, retail, construction, food and agriculture, fisheries and construction, housing and mutual societies. It should be pointed out the enterprise UNIPOL which is a leader in the insurance sector and it is controlled by cooperatives; Legacoop is divided into 10 Associations from the freelance sector, whose internal structures depend on their sector of activity, and Regional and Provincial Branches.

Legacoop is especially committed to the promotion of new cooperative enterprises, and to the strengthening, promotion and development of those that already exist. To these ends it has a Fund for Cooperative Promotion, COOPFOND, which receives 3% of the annual net profits of all of Legacoop's member cooperatives, and is configured as an investment fund for works through the temporary participation in risk capital, the distribution of member loans or financing projects and capitalisation. Along with Coopfond, there is a wide range of financial instruments which offer the cooperatives financial services and support.

### Economic Scale of the Social Economy in Italy

■ <b>COOPERATIVES</b>	No. ENTERPRISES	78,358
	No. WORKERS	1,200,000
	No. MEMBERS	12,000,000
	TURN-OVER (€m)	130,000
■ <b>MUTUAL SOCIETIES</b>	No. ENTERPRISES	1,450
	No. WORKERS	600
	No MEMBERS	500,000
	TURN-OVER (€m)	300
■ <b>CHARITABLE ASSOCIATIONS</b>	No. ORGANISATIONS	21,021
	No. WORKERS	11,900
	No. MEMBERS	825,955
	TURN-OVER (€m)	1,630
■ <b>FOUNDATIONS</b>	No. ORGANISATIONS	4,720
	No. WORKERS	46,144
	TURN-OVER (€m)	15,625
■ <b>OTHERS BODIES / ASSOCIATIONS FOR SOCIAL PROMOTION</b>	No. ENTERPRISES	141
	No. WORKERS	8,000
	No. MEMBERS	31,000
	TURN-OVER (€m)	600

Source: COOPCOOPERATIVE, LEGACOOP, UNIONCAMERE, FORUM TERZO SETTORE. Figures from 2010.

## Morocco

### ODCO: Office for Cooperative Development



**Contact details:** 13, Rue Dayet Aoua BP 1297  
Rabat, Agdal, 10,000, Morocco  
**Tel.:** 212.537.771.033  
**Website:** <http://www.odco.gov.ma/fr.html>  
**Email:** [odco05@yahoo.fr](mailto:odco05@yahoo.fr)

This is a public body created in 1962 and restructured in 1975. Invested with legal status and financial autonomy, it falls under the protection of the Ministry for Economic and General Affairs. Its axes of intervention are the following:

- Popularisation and the raising of public awareness of the creation of cooperatives. To these ends it organises events, study workshops, courses, processions, fairs and awareness campaigns aimed at low-level producers, those population groups at the fringes of the economic process (the unemployed, young graduates, women from rural environments, disabled people, etc), and those who face problems of social integration, with the intention of organising them into cooperatives which will enable them to benefit from state aid programmes and market opportunities.
- Assistance to cooperatives in the process of being set up (legal assistance and the formulation of finance projects), to those experiencing difficulties integrating into the market (assistance with regard to organisation, management and commercialisation), and to cooperatives affected by legal disputes. There are also efforts aimed at aiding the restructuring into associations and cooperative federations.
- The formulation and diffusion of statistical data with reference to the cooperative sector, the management of a specialised library and assistance in academic investigations.

ODCO fulfils its commitments in collaboration with the varying sectoral participatory parties, especially local authorities and sector departments (agriculture, craft-workers, environment, fisheries, transport, forestry, education, etc), relying on their localised structures (delegations).

### UNCAM: National Union of Moroccan Agricultural Cooperatives



**Contact details:** 360 Route de l'Oasis, Casablanca  
**Tel.:** 212.522.99.27.80  
**Email:** [Alaoui29ma@yahoo.fr](mailto:Alaoui29ma@yahoo.fr)

The Union Nationale des Coopératives Agricoles Marocaines was created in 1973 by the country's arable crop cooperatives in order to reinforce the network of arable crop cooperatives and in response to a definite number of specific requirements with regard to the activities of the participating cooperatives, in particular:

- To facilitate all types of operation involved in the production, commercialisation, purchase, storage, processing, output or sales for export, as well as those associated with the domestic market, for arable crops, legumes, oils or various seed crops.
- To provide associated cooperatives with all the necessary products for their agricultural operations, in the interests of meeting the needs of their cooperative members.

UNCAM's geographical scope is only delimited by the national borders, owing to the fact that the 11 Moroccan agricultural cooperatives that it brings together have a presence across all the country's regions.

## Economic Scale of the Social Economy in Morocco

■ <b>COOPERATIVES</b>	No. ENTERPRISES*	7,313
	No. WORKERS*	22,502
	No. MEMBERS*	365,255
	TURN-OVER (€m)**	683
■ <b>MUTUAL SOCIETIES</b>	No. ENTERPRISES	52
■ <b>DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATIONS</b>	No. ORGANISATIONS	40,000

Source:

\* Figures from 2010. ODCo.

\*\* Figures from 2006. ODCo. Figures from 936 cooperatives registered this year.

## Tunisia

### U.N.A.M: National Union of Tunisian Mutual Societies



**Contact details:** Av 20 mars Centre Bargaoui App N8, 1er étage, Tunis  
**Tel.:** 216.71.572.098  
**Email:** [mutuelle.delasante@planet.tn](mailto:mutuelle.delasante@planet.tn)

UNAM, created in 1993, brings together 45 professional Mutual Societies from both public and private sectors. UNAM is made up of non-governmental, non-profit organisations which, through its members' contributions, pledge to carry out, in the interests of its members of families, actions involving mutual solidarity and aid. UNAM only takes on the obligation to protect the individual, and not his/her goods, as is the case with insurance enterprises. UNAM'S activities focus principally on approving personal loans, its involvement in forums and seminars, on facilitating families' access to housing and holidays, and on managing social and educational aid. UNAM works in collaboration with numerous Tunisian and international social agents on a range of socio-economic projects which benefit its members.

- Programme for the construction of social housing across the whole of Tunisia in collaboration with IMOLOS (The Estate Agent for Healthy Housing).
- Agreement programme with Tunisian Banks to approve bank loans at preferential rates, in the interests of improving the lives of its members and contributing to the reinsertion of youth unemployment.
- Active involvement in the new health insurance reform in collaboration with CNAM (National Health Insurance Fund). UNAM finances the complementary health insurance plan.
- Contact and positive relationship with governmental authorities and supervisory ministerial departments in particular
- UNAM's positive involvement in AIM (International Association of Mutual Societies), which has allocated UNAM the task of creating the Arab and African Union of Mutual Societies.

## Economic Scale of the Social Economy in Tunisia

■ <b>COOPERATIVES</b>	No. ENTERPRISES*	201
	No. MEMBERS	37,923
■ <b>CENTRAL COOPERATIVE</b>	No. ORGANISATIONS	7
■ <b>OTHER BODIES / COLLECTIVE INTEREST GROUPS</b>	No. ORGANISATIONS	3,000
■ <b>OTHER BODIES / ASSOCIATIONS OF OLIVE FARM OWNERS</b>	No. ORGANISATIONS	64
■ <b>OTHER BODIES / ASSOCIATIONS FOR WATER AND LAND CONSERVATION</b>	No. ORGANISATIONS	216
■ <b>OTHER BODIES / COMMITTEES FOR DEVELOPMENT</b>	No. ORGANISATIONS	230
■ <b>OTHER COLLECTIVE INTEREST BODIES / ASSOCIATIONS FOR THE FORESTRY</b>	No. ORGANISATIONS	30
■ <b>MUTUAL SOCIETIES</b>	No. ENTERPRISES	48
	No. MEMBERS	260,000
	No. BENEFICIARIES	600,000
■ <b>FOUNDATIONS</b>	No. ORGANISATIONS	3
■ <b>ASSOCIATIONS OF A SOCIAL NATURE</b>	No. ORGANISATIONS	512
■ <b>DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATIONS</b>	No. ORGANISATIONS	270

Source: Tunisian Social Economy Network, figures from 2007.

## Portugal

### CASES: António Sérgio Cooperative for the Social Economy



Contact details: Rua do Viriato, n.º 7, 1050-233, Lisbon  
Tel: 351.213.87.80.46/7  
Website: [www.inscoop.pt/](http://www.inscoop.pt/)  
Email: [cases@cases.pt](mailto:cases@cases.pt)

CASES – A Cooperativa António Sérgio para a Economia Social – is a public interest cooperative (public cooperative) which was created in 2009.

It is aimed at driving the social economy sector through collaboration with the State and participating bodies, which is to say the two National Cooperative Confederations (Confagri and Confecoop), the Associations of Mutual Societies, the Charities, the National Confederation of Support Institutions (CNIS in the Portuguese acronym) and Animar, the national association for local development.

Its objective include: stimulating the creation of social economy organisations; the diffusion of its principles and values; the energising of the sector's social and economic activity; training and information, studies and research; technical support; the collaboration and creation of networks; the proposal of legislature and statistics; global representation; the accreditation and validation of the use of the cooperative model by organisations from the cooperative sector.

CASES runs the Secretariat of the CNES (National Council for the Social Economy, in the Portuguese acronym), which is presided over by the Prime Minister, and which manages the National Programme in Support of the Development of the Social Economy (PADES in the Portuguese acronym), as well as the corresponding sectoral programme for personal loans.

### CONFECOOP: Portuguese Confederation of Cooperatives, CCRL



Contact details: Avenida Santos Dumont, 57, 2º Esq, 1050-202, Lisbon  
Tel.: 351.213.87.80.46/7  
Website: <http://www.confe.coop/>  
Email: [confecoop@mail.telepac.pt](mailto:confecoop@mail.telepac.pt)

CONFECOOP is the main organisation in the non-agricultural cooperative sector in Portugal, which is made up of the following federations: FENACERCI, FENACHE, FENACOOP - and their associated cooperatives – in the areas of, respectively, social support, housing and the consumer.

Our inter-cooperative practices between these structures and the inter-connections between their members are the key elements in consolidating CONFECOOP's overall structure and its ability to develop into an exemplary body both within and outside the cooperative sector, as well as among public authorities and the community in general. We share values of solidarity and cooperation.

We are committed to dialogue and inter-cooperation with each and every cooperative and their representational structures in the interests of generating a Social Sector, as well as their various families, in an autonomous, independent manner, and through serious dialogue with the State, via the different public Administrations (central, regional and local), as well as with all the representative organisations from the private sector.

We uphold a different form of organisation of the economic process, conscious that the cooperative model is socially responsible and a factor in development. In this way, we attempt to contribute to the public acknowledgement of the cooperative sector as an inevitable partner alongside all the other social agents, whether economic, cultural, social or political. CONFECOOP actively participates in the Inter-Cooperative Forum, in the FNGIS (Non-governmental Forum for Social Inclusion), in the ICA (International Cooperative Alliance), in Coopératives Europe, in the OCPLP (Cooperative Organisation for Peoples of the Portuguese Language), in the Economic and Social Council, in the Commission for employment and the labour market, in the Portuguese Social Forum, in the Permanent Forum for Maritime Affairs, and in the Foundation for Health.

### FENACOOP: National Federation for Consumer Cooperatives



Contact details: Av. Santos Dumont, 57, 2º Esq, PT- 1050-202, Lisbon  
Tel.: 351.218.123 525  
Website: <http://www.consumo-pt.coop/>

FENACOOP is a top-level cooperative (Federation of Cooperatives) which was founded on October 24, 1978, in the form of a non-profit association carrying out activities in accordance with the principles of cooperation, which are set out in the declaration of cooperative identity adopted by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA).

Its objectives include the political and social representation of the Consumption, Consumer and User Cooperatives, acting as their spokesperson alongside their varying national and international bodies, as well as the coordination of policies with a view to the modernisation and development of consumer Cooperatives. It also undertakes activities related to technical assistance within the legal and economic spheres, and to the implementation of training, information and consumer protection initiatives, in addition to those involving the protection of the environment. The Consumer Cooperatives of Portugal carry out a wide range of activities, with particular focus on trade and distribution, insurance, culture and the supply and commercialisation of electric energy.

As a representative of the Consumption and Consumer Cooperatives, FENACOOP is a member of a range of national and international institutions, most prominently: CONFECOOP and CCRL; The Economic and Social Council; the National Consumer Council; the Commission for the Security of Consumer Goods and Services; the Observatory for Agricultural Markets and Agricultural and Food Imports; The Advisory Council for IPC/ANACOP (National authority for Communication); the Advisory Council for ISP (Portuguese Insurance Institute), the Advisory Council for ERSAR (Regulatory Body for Water and Waste Services), IP and the EC network (Network for Consumer Education). Likewise, it participates in the capital stock of MACIF PORTUGAL and PONTO SEGURO. On an international level, it is a member of the ICC (International Consumer Cooperatives); of EUROCOOP (European Community of Cooperatives and Consumers), and of OCPLP (Cooperative Organisation for Peoples of the Portuguese Language).

## Economic Scale of the Social Economy in Portugal

■ COOPERATIVES	No. ENTERPRISES**	3,288
	No. WORKERS*	51,000
	No. MEMBERS*	2,049,000
	TURN-OVER (€m)*	6,095
■ MUTUAL SOCIETIES	No. ENTERPRISES*	119
	No. MEMBERS*	800,000
■ OTHER TYPES / CHARITIES	No. ENTERPRISES*	400
	No. WORKERS*	50,000
	No. VOLUNTEERS*	10,000
■ OTHER TYPES / IPPS (Private Institutions for Social Solidarity)	No. ORGANISATIONS*	5,008
	No. ASSOCIATES*	21,056

Source:  
\*Figures from 2009. CASES.  
\*\*Figures from 2008. CASES.

## ESMED NETWORK ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

### Algeria

**C.C.M: Committee for the  
Coordination of Mutual Societies**



Contact details: 37, Rue Mohamed Allilat.  
Kouba, Algiers  
Tel.: +213. (0) 28.51.99  
Fax: +213. (0) 28.51.66  
Email: mut.harimat@yahoo.fr

The Administrative Councils, the Control Commissions and the managing staff of the Mutual Societies held a meeting on February 15, 2010, in Zéralda, Algiers, within the framework of a Conference titled "The Role of Mutual Societies in the socio-economic development of the country". At the close of this Conference the creation of a Committee for the Coordination of Mutual Societies was agreed upon, to take place within a transition period while waiting for the National Algerian Federation of Mutual Societies to be formally approved. The main objectives assigned to the Committee and its Board at this request for Coordination were the following:

- To represent the mutual society movement.
- To consolidate and energise the movement.
- To invite and aid mutual societies to adapt to the regulations in effect.
- To drive the rapprochement between mutual societies involved in multiple social initiatives, in order that their respective members enjoy the resultant benefits both contractually and reciprocally.
- While awaiting the constitution of a Federation of Mutual Societies, to reflect on the means and methods that might result in a surge in organisms of a mutual society character, with the potential of working within the field of economic insurance, in accordance with the opening afforded in the future by the new insurance law.
- To implement measures to ensure that mutual society representatives are involved at the heart of the Tripartite.

### Economic Scale of Social Economy in Algeria

■ <b>COOPERATIVES</b>	No. ENTREPRISES*	481
	No. WORKERS**	20,000
	No. MEMBERS*	286,000
■ <b>MUTUAL SOCIETIES</b>	No. ENTREPRISES **	32
	No. WORKERS**	3,696
	No. MEMBERS**	1,137,267
■ <b>SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN ASSOCIATIONS</b>	No. ENTREPRISES ***	1,783
	No. ORGANISATIONS****	73
■ <b>OTHER BODIES / ENTERPRISES RECOVERED by the WORKERS</b>	No. WORKERS	832
	No. MEMBERS	514

Sources:

\* Figures from 2001. Esmed Network Report.

\*\* FIGURES from 2007: Committee for the Coordination of Mutual Societies. (CCM).

\*\*\*\* Figures from 2007. RAPPORT SUR L'ECONOMIE SOCIALE EN ALGERIE. Pr Larbi LAMRI.

### Spain

**CIRIEC-ESPAÑA (International  
Centre for Research and  
Information on the Public,  
Social and Cooperative  
Economy)**



Contact details: Facultad d'Economia de la Universitat de València. Campus universitario Tarongers. Avda. de los Naranjos, s/n; Despacho 2P21, 46022, Valencia  
Tel.: 96 382 84 89 / 84 91 and 96 356 22 48  
Fax : 96 382 84 92  
Email: ciriec@uv.es  
Website: <http://www.ciriec.es>

CIRIEC is an international non-governmental scientific organisation, whose objectives are to promote the search for information, scientific research and the diffusion of work done on the sectors and activities whose main aim is that of serving the general public: the actions of public authorities in economic matters; public services, public enterprises, and Social Economy organisations such as cooperatives, worker-owned enterprises, mutual societies and associations.

One of CIRIEC's objectives consists of driving the State and European organisation of all the university-level research into the Social Economy. To stimulate working groups, to energise knowledge areas centred on the Social Economy and, along with the above-mentioned, to establish solid links between the University and Social Economy enterprises.

## 4. Contribution of Social Economy to the Development of the Mediterranean Region

### 4.1. SOCIAL ECONOMY IN MOROCCO

**Mustapha Bouchafra**, Inspector General Cooperation Development Office (ODCo)

### 4.2. SOCIAL ECONOMY IN TUNISIA

**Fenniche Moncef**, President of the National Union of Mutual Societies (UNAM) of Tunisia

### 4.3. MUTUAL SOCIETIES: A TOOL FOR SOCIAL STABILITY

**Abdelkader Harmat**, Spokesperson for the Algerian Mutual Societies Coordination Committee

### 4.4. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING OF SOCIAL ECONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: A PRIORITY FOR CEPES

**Carmen Comos**, Director of the Spanish Business Confederation of Social Economy Confederation (CEPES)

### 4.5. SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY ENTERPRISES AND EURO-MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE

**Guillaume Legaut**, Delegate General of Social Economy Enterprises Employers' and Groups Council (CEGES)

### 4.6. ITALIAN COOPERATIVES IN A EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP PATH TO BE DEVELOPED

**Gianna Perra**, Head of International Relations. CONF COOPERATIVE  
**Stefania Marcone**, Head of International Relations. LEGACOOOP

### 4.7. COOPERATIVE FRAMEWORK OF A MEDITERRANEAN PORTUGAL

**Joao Pedro Salazar Leite**, Senior Manager Cooperativa Antonio Sérgio para A Economia Social

## 4.1. SOCIAL ECONOMY IN MOROCCO



**Mustapha Bouchafra,**  
Inspector General Cooperation  
Development Office (ODCo)

**S**OCIAL economy, defined as the set of economic activities and actions with the social aim to improve the living conditions of excluded classes or those without resources, has played and continues to play a significant role in the integration of thousands of persons living in deprivation, poverty and social exclusion.

The public authorities, fully aware of its role, have deployed the necessary devices for the institutional organisation and functioning of this type of economy that works in solidarity.

As a result, two ministry offices dedicated to social economy were created in 2002, working alongside the Cooperation Development Office (opened in 1962). These offices also work alongside the public departments working in other sub-sectors, offering material and technical support.

In May 2005, a Royal speech on the National Human Development Initiative (INDH) entailed a new approach and all-round concept of human development. This new perspective has led to social economy actors, in particular associations and cooperatives, being appointed to execute the Initiative's programmes and reach its objectives. The choice of these two forms of enterprises is justified in the participatory nature thereof; participatory as regards both becoming a part of them (they are open to all) and their democratic management, as well as their proximity to the classes it deals with. These principles are in perfect symbiosis with local traditions and customs.

Taking all of these initiatives into account, Morocco is experiencing the proliferation and extraordinary growth in the number of associations and cooperatives; in particular, so-called development associations and cooperatives of income-generating activities.

**In May 2005, a Royal speech on the National Human Development Initiative (INDH) entailed a new approach and all-round concept of human development. This new perspective has led to social economy actors, in particular associations and cooperatives, being appointed to execute the Initiative's programmes and reach its objectives**



According to the figures available, the number of development associations is estimated at 40,000, of which 5,000 have had positive results in accompanying projects across the country. They are mainly located in rural areas and on the outskirts of larger cities. They are mainly dedicated to promote literacy campaigns, projects to bring water and electricity to villages, schooling projects for girls in rural areas and school transport, promoting connections and fighting social exclusion by means of fostering income-generating activities.

This initiative, resulting from the letter from His Majesty King Mohammed VI to the Human Development Forum held in Agadir on 1 November 2010, has led to 22,000 development projects addressed to 5 million persons. The initiative has a budget of 10,000 million dirham giving rise to 3,400 income-generating activities (IGA) and creating 40,000 jobs. This has favoured the integration of a large number of persons without resources.

As regards cooperatives, they amount to 7,000 units with more than 366,000 cooperative members. These cooperatives cover a wide array of activities and are represented across the Moroccan territory. They guarantee work for more than 843,677 persons of whom 22,502 are non-member waged workers, 310,675 are waged cooperative members and 510,000 are family help.

Amongst these cooperatives, with a constant approximate growth of 12% annually, there are 910 female cooperatives with 20,860 members, most of which are located in rural areas and are dedicated to local products: saffron, argan oil, cacti, goat's cheese, honey, rabbit-breeding, couscous aromatised with medicinal herbs, Berber rugs, dates and henna, amongst others.

There are also 152 cooperatives of young graduates, carrying out computing, training, educational, accounting and consulting activities.

It should be pointed out that the social economy sector has the full support of the Government, from both a legal and institutional perspective and a technical and financial perspective. All associations and cooperatives inscribed in the INDH initiative receive, first and foremost, material and financial aid and help with regard to logistics to accompany or create income-generating projects.

**Female cooperatives are located in rural areas and are dedicated to local products: saffron, argan oil, cacti, goat's cheese, honey, rabbit-breeding, couscous aromatised with medicinal herbs, Berber rugs, dates and henna, amongst others**

The Ministry of Economic and General Affairs, which social economy depends on, has carried out work to reform the law on cooperatives and the support of the Cooperation Development Office (ODCO). This Ministry has drawn up regional development plans for social economy and has fully supported the marketing of products from small cooperatives in large surfaces and the organisation of national and regional fairs.

The latest initiative is the Mourafaka (accompanying) project aimed at recently created cooperatives, providing legal assistance, as well as help in organisation, management and marketing over a 2-year period.

The mutual society component primarily stands out for its vocation to cover health risks amongst civil servants and waged workers (people with stable income). The number of mutual societies is stable, 52. They are not dedicated nor do they offer support to the disadvantaged and marginalised classes like other components in Social Economy.



## 4.2. SOCIAL ECONOMY IN TUNISIA



**Fenniche Moncef,**  
President of the National Union of Mutual Societies (UNAM) of Tunisia



UNAM, which was created in 1993, brings together 45 professional mutual societies from both public and private sectors. Its objectives include:

- organising social works and creating socio-cultural spaces and shared reinsurance services that benefit all the mutual societies that are involved in them
- carrying out all types of studies and training programmes for the benefit of its members, in the interests of increasing efficiency and mutual activities and aid.
- encouraging the coordination and creation of channels for the exchange of information and feedback between member mutual societies.

UNAM plays an important role in Tunisia's socio-economic development. Its interests focus primarily on the individual and his/her well-being, whether social (the approval of personal loans), cultural (involvement in forums and seminars), domestic (access to housing and family holidays) or economic (social and educational aid). As can be seen in section 3.2 of this publication, UNAM works, in partnership with various



Tunisian and international social stakeholders, on a range of socio-economic projects that benefit its members, in particular social housing, banking agreements and health insurance.

In its institutional activities, it maintains flexible channels of communication with government and association authorities in the following areas:

- The socio-economic insertion of unemployed young people, in particular university graduates (integrating young people into mutual societies, or encouraging them to set up projects);
- The promotion of women and the family, especially women living in rural environments (projects aimed at families, reproductive health, raising awareness, guidance and taking responsibility for families at risk);
- The promotion of economic sectors such as tourism, through excursions organised for mutual society members;
- The creation of new mutual societies to include other groups such as, for example, the retired, through the creation of the "fraternité" mutual society

**UNAM positions itself as an agent in Tunisia's social economy, heading the Tunisian Social Economy Network, as a structure which groups together social economy undertakings. Its objectives include providing technical assistance to social economy infrastructures (training and organisation) and driving a culture of efficiency in terms of structuring and activity**

Thanks to its numerous contacts with CEPES, and its many activities within the social and economic sphere, UNAM can be seen as an actor in Tunisia's social economy. Said organisation heads the Tunisian Social Economy Network, as a structure which brings together social economy enterprises. Its objective include providing technical assistance to social economy infrastructures (training and organisation) and driving a culture of efficiency in terms of structuring and activity.

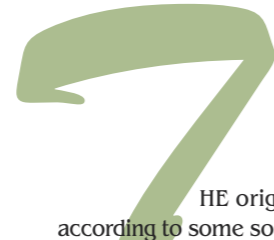
Tunisia's social economy structure includes:

- Associations, most of which operate on a local level
- Cooperatives (mutual-based societies), among which central cooperatives should be highlighted, whose role in the cereal crop market is significant. Their annual business turn-over stands at 190m dinars (around 146m US\$)
- Mutual societies, which provide services through 48 organisations to 259,359 members, without counting members of mutual societies providing accidental and student cover, who make up 2,197,277. Their average annual turn-over is 125m dinars (around 97m US\$)

## 4.3. MUTUAL SOCIETIES: A TOOL FOR SOCIAL STABILITY



**Abdelkader Harmat,**  
Spokesperson for the Algerian Mutual Societies Coordination Committee



THE origin of Mutual Societies is very old and, according to some sociologists, harks back to the Middle Ages or even the times of the Pharaohs. A Mutual Society is a legal entity with civil competences in private law, not to be confused with an association of a political, religious or other nature. Mutual societies are characterised by:

- The non-profit nature of their activity.
- Free and voluntary membership.
- A specific social role based on solidarity and mutual help.
- Equal treatment of its members, regardless of age, health or income.

### Mutual Societies in Algeria

Mutual Societies as a modern organisation were introduced in Algeria again at the start of independence. The spirit of mutual help and solidarity is a common personality trait of Algerians. Its roots can be found in ancient traditions: Touiza is a well-known and widespread type of social organisation amongst the Algerian population. The Mutual Societies that have been created bring together people in the same public or private activity or sector. The institutions they belong to are inscribed in different sectors.

### Current reference texts:

Mutual Societies are rule by the following legal texts:

- Law 90-51 of 4 December 1990 on Associations.
- Law 96-20 of 6 July 1996, amending and complementing Law 90-53 of 25 December 1990 on Mutual Societies.

### Mutual Society Principles:

The main principles of mutual society activity are clearly defined in the Law on Mutual Societies. The first article of this Law establishes that Mutual Societies are non-profit organisations that are essentially financed through the contributions made by their members; their objective is to carry out prevention, solidarity and mutual help activities for members and their relatives to guarantee:

- Risk prevention linked to persons and the repair of damages.
- Protection of children, family, elderly people and persons with a disability.
- Cultural, moral, intellectual and physical development of its members and the improvement of their living conditions.
- Healthcare using different services agreed with health centres, partnered clinics, laboratories, image diagnostics centres, etc.
- Mobilising the resources necessary in solidarity with people with severe health problems.

Membership to the Mutual Society is free and voluntary. Members are not selected. Every member is guaranteed equal treatment. Both members and their families benefit from all the services provided.

### Guaranteed services:

- Reimbursement of 20% of medical expenses.
- Access to healthcare guaranteed by social health centres (CMS).
- Social aids.
- Occasional services: as a result of marriage, birth, circumcision, death, disability, opticians, hospitalisation, prosthetics, thermal treatments, etc.

Collective services such as free access to health centres or family and holiday centres are also offered.

### Mutual Societies Organisation

In accordance with the legal texts that rule Mutual Societies, these organisations are created at the free will of their founding members. The founding members approve the organisation's statutes at the General Establishment Meeting. The bodies that make up the Mutual Society are elected democratically: the General Assembly, Administration Council, National Committee, Control Commission and the management body.

The resources of a Mutual Society are the following: contributions made by its members, donations, bequests and the product of funds invested by the society.

These resources are used in individual and collective services, investment programmes, reserve funds and running costs.

The Administration, in charge of monitoring Mutual Societies, has established a National Consultative Social Security Council which is responsible for:

- Analysing proposals inherent to the activities of Mutual Societies which aim at the development of the Mutual Society movement.
- Assessing any regulation texts that refer to Mutual Societies.
- Carrying out studies and surveys on the functioning of Mutual Societies.

The Algerian Mutual Societies Federation is the national structure that brings together Mutual Societies. Its main objective is to further a policy to harmonise the national mutual society movement. It is an important means to promote cooperation arising between Mutual Societies.

## 4.4. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING OF SOCIAL ECONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: A PRIORITY FOR CEPES



**Carmen Comos,**  
Director of the Spanish Business Confederation of Social Economy Confederation (CEPES)

**S**OCIAL Economy enterprises in partner countries are mostly small enterprises located in rural areas or disadvantaged territories. These circumstances greatly limit their access to financial, human or technical resources. This hinders their growth and limits their contribution to the development of the territory in which they operate. Likewise, as a result, the articulation of Social Economy through associations defending their interests upon public authorities is scarce or fragile. It is similarly difficult for these enterprises to be offered support services.

There are many examples of economic and social success of Social Economy in the Maghreb: cooperatives, mutual societies and also associations or foundations in the sphere of micro-finance. The potential for development of Social Economy in these countries, usually in the form of micro-enterprises, could be increased through the efforts of representation structures. These structures would further the planning and implementation of programmes in their favour, either through the Administration in the partner countries or through development cooperation from donating countries. Social Economy coordination platforms would also allow for the articulation of proposals regarding legal measures and regulations in their favour. This would entail certain level of participation with public authorities and other civil society stakeholders.

In accordance with this approach, CEPES carried out a project in collaboration with the ESMED members in Morocco and Tunisia during 2007 and the start of 2008. The project was aimed at strengthening cooperation mechanisms between cooperatives, mutual societies and associations in both countries. The project was financed by the Spanish International Development Cooperation Agency (AECID), organising workshops in both

countries which established the foundations to create and reinforce national coordination platforms. Similarly, local stakeholders attending the workshops identified lines of work to improve their technical management capacity, as well as access of Social Economy to financial resources. Two national conferences were then held to promote and disseminate the concept of Social Economy enterprise in Morocco and Tunisia. These conferences focused not only on improving the sector's visibility but on assessing the role that this type of enterprise plays in the social and economic development of these countries. In the case of Morocco, the conference contributed to further establish the Moroccan Social and Solidarity Economy Network. In the case of Tunisia, the country's stakeholders decided to create the Tunisian Social Economy Network.

The role played by the Catalan Federation of Employee-Owned Companies (FESALC) in Algeria is significant. CEPES and the Algerian mutual societies' movement have collaborated with FESALC to promote dialogue between the different Social Economy "families" in the country: mutual societies, recovered enterprises and associations. This has contributed to strengthening institutional dialogue.

This associative process is in accordance with the philosophy promoted by the ESMED Network to structure all Social Economy stakeholders in the Mediterranean. In this way, activities can be started which respond to the stakeholders' grassroots needs. Advancing in this line of work is the challenge that will consolidate the role carried out by the ESMED Network as a cooperation platform between Social Economy actors in the north and south Mediterranean.



## 4.5. SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY ENTERPRISES AND EURO-MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE



**Guillaume Legaut,**  
**Delegate General of Social Economy Enterprises Employers' and Groups Council (CEGES)**



As stated in the document "Capital gain in the social and solidarity economy" published by CEGES ([www.ceges.org](http://www.ceges.org)), its grass-roots connection to a local economy is one of the characteristics of social and solidarity economy. Social and solidarity economy enterprises in France also keep relations with Mediterranean countries, primarily acting to further the development of the stakeholders established at local level in these countries. The main objective of this exchange is to contribute to the development of economic agents who share the same social and solidarity economy principles, based on social objectives and their target as enterprises, democratic governance and a collective distribution of the wealth generated by the enterprise. These companies work in a diversity of economic sectors, such as banking cooperatives, health and insurance mutual societies, associative projects to help local entrepreneurship and development and associative actions in the social and health areas.

By way of example, some significant Euro-Mediterranean activities in which French social and solidarity economy enterprises have been involved are mentioned below.

In 2010, the Mutual Society MACIF ([www.macif.fr](http://www.macif.fr)) reached a partnership agreement with the National Insurance Society (Société Nationale d'Assurance, SAA) to support the diversification of this company and to take part in the creation of a new insurance institution in Algiers through the "Prévoyance et

santé compagnie d'assurance". The French mutual society is also present in the Maghreb holding collaboration agreements with the Mutual Insurance Company of Teachers (MAE-Mutuelle Assurance Enseignants) in Tunisia and the Moroccan Agriculture Mutual Insurance Company (Mamda-Mutuelle Agricole Marocaine d'Assurances) in Rabat.

The French Mutual Society (Mutualité Française) has signed a cooperation agreement to create a Technical Unit amongst Health Mutual Societies in Lebanon, bringing together forty Lebanese mutual societies and Mutualité Française ([www.fnmf.fr](http://www.fnmf.fr)). This Mutual Society has held several meetings, mainly with MGEN ([www.mgen.fr](http://www.mgen.fr)) and Harmonie Mutualité, to further support Moroccan private and public stakeholders working towards compulsory health insurance and extending cover to Moroccan population.

A collaboration agreement was signed at the end of 2010 between the Moroccan mutual society MGPAP, the French mutual society MGEN and the Education and Solidarity Network. The main objective of this agreement is to provide training in mutual society management to elected posts and professionals. It will also partner the Amal centres of MGPAP in Agadir and Rabat and La Gabrielle centre of MGEN in Paris, specialising in services for people with disabilities.

In Morocco, the French mutual society Mutualité Sociale Agricole (MSA - Agricultural Social Mutual Society) has provided technical support to the Moroccan National Social Security Friendly Society and agricultural professional organisations in this country. The aim is to establish compulsory health insurance for farmers and minimum insurance for the disadvantaged. This action has also included work on occupational risk prevention amongst agricultural workers. Similar activities have been carried out in the agricultural regions of Kef and Siliana in Tunisia.

Chèque Déjeuner Maroc, is the first international subsidiary of Chèque Déjeuner ([www.groupe-cheque-dejeuner.com](http://www.groupe-cheque-dejeuner.com)) outside Europe, which primarily markets Luncheon Vouchers and the Cadhoc Voucher. It issued 400,000 vouchers in 2009, amounting to 1.5 million euros.

Group BPCE was the result of the merger between the cooperative groups of Banque Populaire and the Savings Banks. It actively participates in the development of the Tunisian Kuwaiti Bank (BTK) through the transfer of technology and know-how and has a 60% share in capital. It is also present in Morocco, through Crédit Immobilier et Hôtelier, and in Algeria through Natixis Algérie. In 2010, Banque Populaire, a subsidiary of the cooperative group Banque Populaire Caisse d'Epargne (BPCE) and Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) has reached an agreement aimed at creating a joint structure that will develop and market Charia banking products (Islamic financing) which are compatible in France. Affiliated to the Group Banque Populaire, Banque Régionale d'Escompte

et de Dépôt (BRED - Regional Discount and Deposit Bank) offers a compatible Charia investment fund since 2009: l'OPCVM «Karama Ethique».

Crédit Agricole has established itself in Morocco and Egypt as a retail bank. Crédit du Maroc (in which Crédit Agricole has a 77% share) has the objective of developing in the market as a retail bank and amongst small and medium enterprises launching the Halflouss fund transfer. On the other hand, Crédit Agricole Egypt bases its development on extending its network, with close to 70 offices. The cooperative bank Crédit Agricole is also present in all North African countries with local financing and investment subsidiaries: Wafa Management and Amundi Investment Maroc in Morocco, Calyon in Algeria, Crédit agricole CIB and Amundi Private Equity Funds Tunisie in Tunisia, Crédit Agricole CIB in Lybia and Crédit Agricole Egypt in Egypt.

Crédit Mutuel has also established itself in Morocco with the Banque Marocaine du Commerce Extérieur, and in Tunisia with Banque de Tunisie.

The associative projects identified by Coordination Sud ([www.coordinationsud.org](http://www.coordinationsud.org)) are proof of the high number of partnerships, mainly in the sphere of development for entrepreneurs, local development or health and social actions. For example, these associations take part in the development of Social and Solidarity Economy principles in an array of economic activity sectors.

- Agriculture: AGRISUD international ([www.agrisud.org](http://www.agrisud.org)) in Morocco, CARI ([www.cariassociation.org](http://www.cariassociation.org)) in the Maghreb countries, FERT ([www.fert.fr](http://www.fert.fr)) in the Maghreb ...
- Solidarity economy and fair trade: CCFD-Terre Solidaire ([www.ccfid.asso.fr](http://www.ccfid.asso.fr)) in Algeria and in the Mashriq countries, Max Haveelar France ([www.maxhaveelaarfrance.org](http://www.maxhaveelaarfrance.org)) in Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt, ACTED ([www.acted.org](http://www.acted.org)) in Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestine territories...
- Voluntary work: France Volontaires ([www.france-volontaires.org](http://www.france-volontaires.org)) and DCC ([www.ladcc.org](http://www.ladcc.org)) in the Maghreb and Mashriq, Solidarité Laïque ([www.solidaritelaique.asso.fr](http://www.solidaritelaique.asso.fr)) in Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon and Palestine territories...
- Health and social action: AIDES ([www.aides.org](http://www.aides.org)) in Maghreb, Handicap International ([www.handicpinternational.org](http://www.handicpinternational.org)) in the Maghreb, Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan, Secours Populaire ([www.secourspopulaire.fr](http://www.secourspopulaire.fr)) in the Maghreb and Mashriq, ASMAE ([www.asmae.fr](http://www.asmae.fr)) in Egypt and Lebanon...

As the institution that brings together most of the social and solidarity economy movement and trade unions in France, CEGES promotes cooperation and solidarity activities to further the development of social and solidarity economy in the Euro-Mediterranean space. To this regard, it mainly takes part in activities that favour Euro-Mediterranean dialogue with Social Economy Europe and the ESMED Network.



## 4.6. ITALIAN COOPERATIVES IN A EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP PATH TO BE DEVELOPED



**Gianna Perra,**  
Head of International Relations  
(CONFCOOPERATIVE)



**Stefania Marcone,**  
Head of International Relations  
(LEGACOOP)



ITALIAN cooperatives closely observe the events that take place in the Euro-Mediterranean region. They believe that in the difficult path to construct a true Euro-Mediterranean partnership, the furthering of Social Economy, its different components and families, represents an essential factor to respond to many unsolved problems. Besides political will, this requires profound transformations starting from the bottom. Plural and inclusive approaches capable of identifying answers and solutions, shared to achieve the ambitious objective of creating an area of free exchange that is prosper and peaceful for present and future generations, where everyone may have the same growth and development opportunities.

In 1997, in Bari, two years after the Barcelona Process, the two main Italian cooperatives organisations – Confcooperative and Legacoop – tackled the issue of a Euro-Mediterranean partnership, laying the foundations of what would become the Euro-Mediterranean Network of Social Economy a few years later. The aim was to promote transnational knowledge and collaborations between social economy stakeholders.

In July 2005, Legacoop organised a conference in Rome to further understand “The Cooperative business, Europe and Mediterranean Regions.” An opportunity to gain knowledge, dialogue and reflect on running projects and development prospects in this area with representatives of local, national, European and international cooperative movements and other stakeholders. Israeli and Palestinian cooperatives came in contact on this occasion.

In the last few years, as a result of the work carried out by the ESMED Network and our Spanish colleagues from CEPES as coordinators, the role that Social Economy organisations and enterprises play (and will continue to play given a favourable framework) in the economy and society of 12 Mediterranean countries has clearly stood out. The specific and essential contributions made by cooperative organisations and their members to the challenge of true Euro-Mediterranean integration cannot be forgotten; integration that is not only social but also economic, sharing the same principles and values as part of transnational, European and global network structures.

Bearing in mind their cooperative nature specifically, strengthening cooperation in these countries could offer suitable solutions to a number of critical situations by means of collective and democratic answers to common needs: job creation, access to general services and competitive and economically sustainable business project management. This would lead to increased solidarity, cohesion and economic and social inclusion.

For this reason, the main Italian cooperatives are committed to a wide array of activities, from technical and legal counselling to training and the transfer of know-how. In essence, this will build a bridge built with dialogue, respect for different cultures and approaches, and mutual trust. Our wish is for Euro-Mediterranean cooperatives to meet on this solid bridge between the two Mediterranean shores in the future, collaborating increasingly.

Legacoop plays a role in institutional representation, the building of networks, exchange of expertise, organising events for strategic reflection and furthering knowledge. Over the last few years, we have also promoted bilateral relations. Some of the associated structures and enterprises have carried out business cooperation projects, transferring know-how to certain countries on the southern Mediterranean shore. Certain sectors are carrying out innovative partnerships which are mutually useful and advantageous: food and agriculture, fisheries, responsible energies, culture, trade and architectural management. These activities are accompanied by solidarity and development cooperation projects. They involve territorial structures and enterprises, in the sphere of decentralised cooperation and with resources made available by each cooperative.

We consider that promoting peace is essential to growth and stability in the Euro-Mediterranean area and consider that social economy organisations can play a crucial role to this end. For this reason, we would like to highlight a project we have been involved in between 2006 and 2008. This project is co-financed by the European Commission (EUROPEAID) and called “Economic Empowerment for Rural Palestinian Women”. The aim of the project was to train 80 Palestinian women in rural areas in business management. The Israeli cooperative NGO NISPED (Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development Paradise), the Palestine association YEP (Young Entrepreneurs Palestine) and the cooperative Diesis (European and International Research and Development Service for the Social Economy and the Cooperatives) headed this project. Its aim has been to promote active participation and involvement of women in the development of the Palestinian economy by means of a socioeconomic empowerment process that will lead to the creation of enterprises. 26 female micro-enterprises have been established. Another strategic objective has been to promote a possible path for dialogue and peaceful collaboration by means of exchanges between Israeli, Palestinian and Italian women.

Confcooperative has always been involved in the international sphere with

the aim to help other countries and other cooperative and business organisations to gain from a more solid structure. Confcooperative transfers its own know-how, accumulated over the long history of growth and consolidation of its member cooperatives, in a framework of balanced partnership. The main objective of this action is to contribute to enlarge the presence of social economy in general, and cooperatives in particular, in the countries where these activities are carried out. This, in turn, will raise the level of economic and social cohesion amongst their populations, putting the values and principles of worldwide cooperation in practice. The Mediterranean Basin has always been a privileged area for the action carried out by Confcooperative and its members as a result of geographical and cultural proximity. An example of an activity offered to assist countries on the southern shore of this sea we share is the project carried out as part of the PESCAMED programme (2010), involving Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Italy.

It is an international cooperation project whose aim is to further dialogue between Mediterranean countries in the sphere of fishing. The project has analysed the general context (national reports) and the specific context in each country regarding common topics (collective agreements, associations, market.) Also, a 2-week training course has been carried out in Italy on aspects linked to the sector’s competitiveness and sustainable use of fishing resources. 30 delegates from the partnered countries took part in the course.

The project started by Banco Agrileasing –the Development Bank for clients of the Italian Cooperative Credit Bank and Rural Savings Banks- should also be mentioned. The “Mediterranean Project” has promoted a training plan for 26 Tunisian young people. The aim of this training plan has been to qualify the professional figure of junior territorial adviser who will be the reference figure in situ for Italian clients of the Cooperative Credit Bank (BCC) who intend to invest in Tunisia. The objective has been to favour the integration of these clients in Tunisia. Training has been divided into two: a theory stage at Agrileasing Bank’s Representing Office in Tunisia; a second stage in Italy which offered a better understanding of the world of Cooperative Credit and the specific work carried out by the BCC to the Tunisian students. The course included visits to industrial districts, a conference held at the University of Urbino regarding topics inherent to Cooperative Credit and a visit to the Cooperative Credit headquarters in Rome.



## 4.7. COOPERATIVE FRAMEWORK OF A MEDITERRANEAN PORTUGAL



**Joao Pedro Salazar Leite,**  
Senior Manager  
Cooperativa Antonio Sérgio para  
A Economia Social



FOR centuries, the history of Portugal has been a Mediterranean history. Although the work of men is at some point forgotten, the work of nature cannot be forgotten. Our climate and our plant species are mostly Mediterranean. Therefore, although we nowadays give priority to relations with those around the world who have chosen the Portuguese language as a means of expression, we cannot forget our geographical location in an enlarged Mediterranean.

Portugal holds many trade relations with its partners in the adventure of a united Europe, and also with Northern Africa, without forgetting its support to Palestine. Proximity dominates the sphere of social economy, subscribing one of the first cooperation protocols in our cooperative history with the Moroccan OCDo after the Carnation Revolution of 1974. The Protocol was forgotten but the new public interest cooperative that has replaced Inscoop is open to re-establishing the bonds that existed in the past. We cannot forget that there is a shorter distance from Lisbon to Rabat than to Madrid.



### What can we offer?

To start with, a constitutional and legal structure that is unique in Europe. Since 1976, our Constitution establishes a cooperative sector independent of the public and private sectors. The legislator would later transfer the constitutional law into ordinary law, by means of the Cooperative Code of 1980. As a result, cooperatives no longer worked within the scope of the Commerce Code, where they resided since 1888.

With the latest Constitutional review, the cooperative sector has currently become the cooperative and social sector, opening the path to the concept of social economy.

This concept has found a single support institution as the Government has decided to eliminate the public Institute for Cooperatives, Inscoop, creating CASES –Cooperative António Sérgio for Social Economy-, a *régie coopérative* or public cooperative, created with cooperatives, mutual societies and associations in which to decide, through dialogue between the parties, the national policy for the sector overall.

Similarly, the National Social Economy Council (CNES), the National Programme for the Development of Social Economy (PADES) and a National Microcredit Programme for the sector have been established.

An assessment of the first year of existence of this new institution will be carried out at the end of 2010, although we already know that the experience will continue as an effective union between the three large families found in this concept. As for us, we shall try to make existing organisations work together locally, which will strengthen social economy making it difficult for the public authorities to ignore. Undoubtedly, the best practices of this union at local level would be a greater contribution from our part to MED countries in the coming future. Portuguese Cooperative Confederations, Mutual Societies Unions and Associations are sure to be open to trade relations and the establishment of cooperation agreements following specific proposals at their convenience.



## 5. Datos estadísticos de la Economía Social en el Mediterráneo

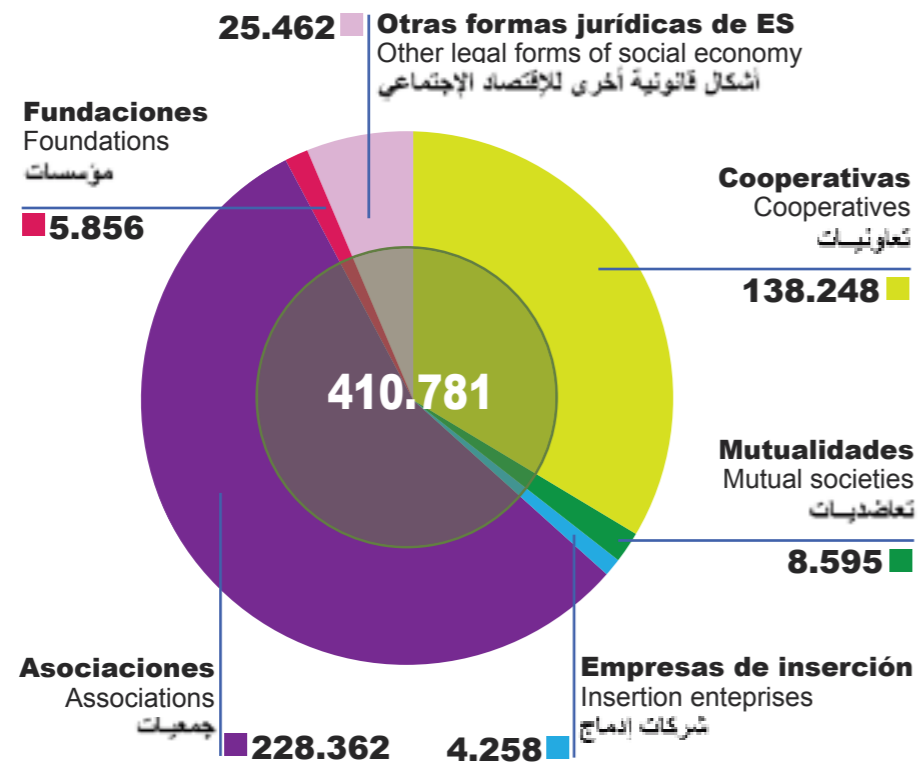
## 5. Statistic data of Social Economy in the Mediterranean

# DATOS ESTADÍSTICOS DE LA ECONOMÍA SOCIAL EN EL MEDITERRÁNEO

## STATISTIC DATA OF SOCIAL ECONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

البيانات الإحصائية للاقتصاد الاجتماعي في البحر الأبيض المتوسط.

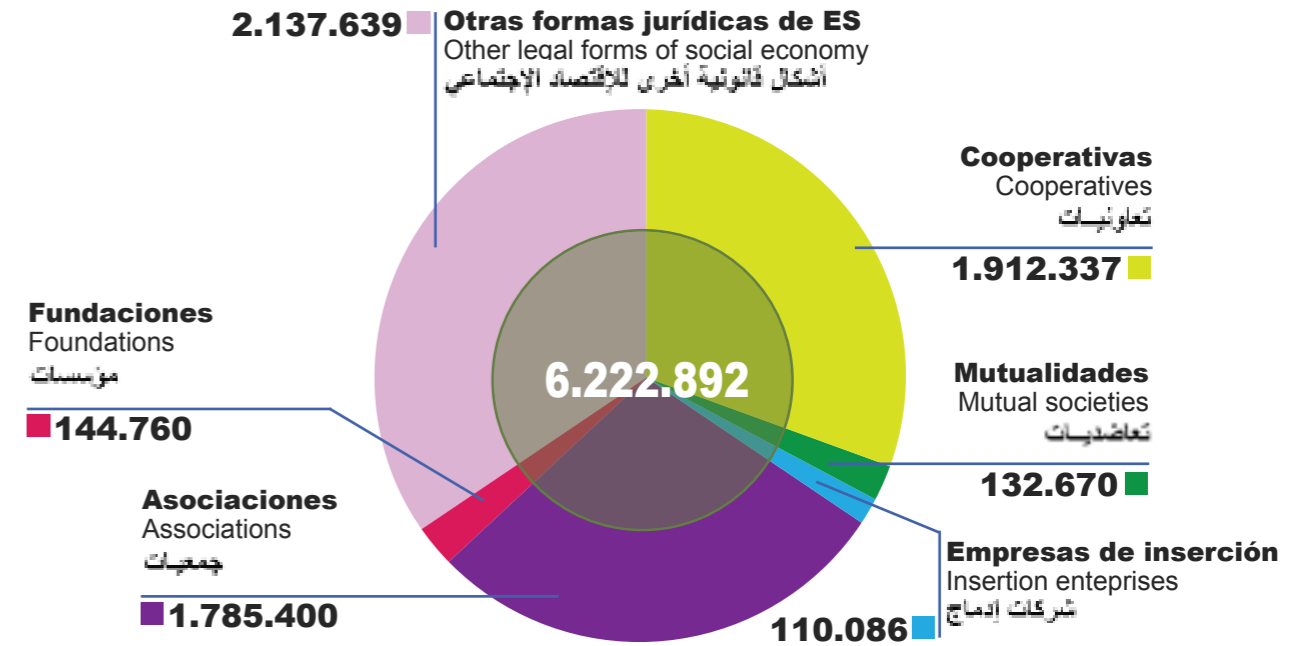
**Número de entidades de la Economía Social**  
**Number of Social Economy Organisations**  
عدد الهيئات في الاقتصاد الاجتماعي



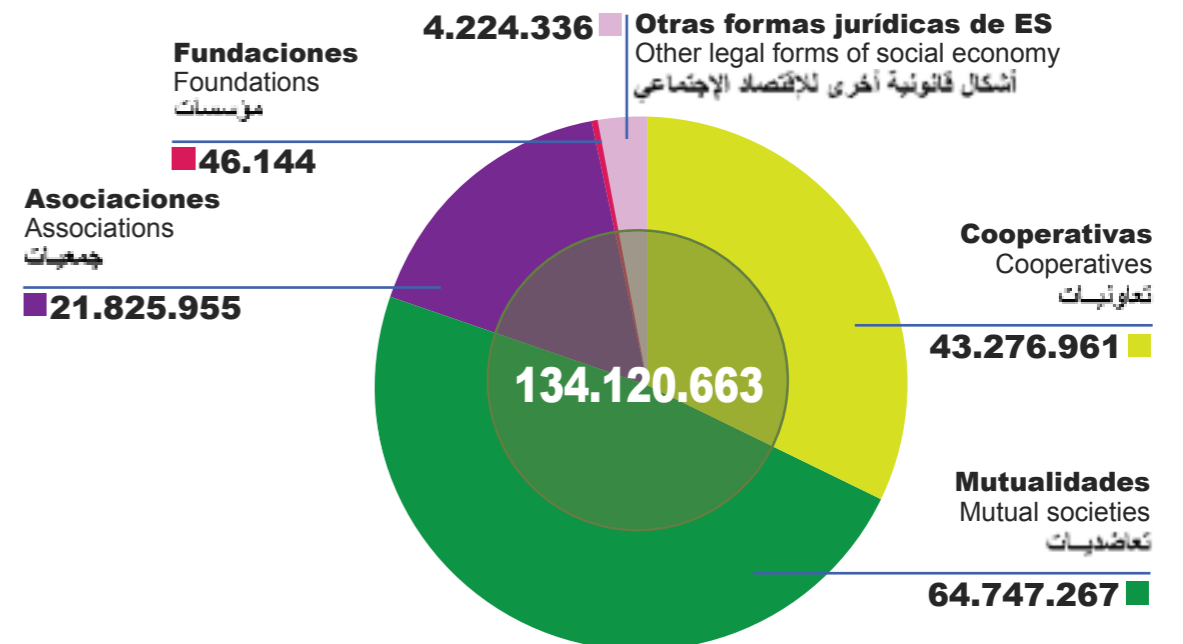
**Facturación (en millones de euros)**  
**Turnover (million euros)**  
مبيعات: (مليون يورو)

**558.920**

**Número de empleos en las entidades de la Economía Social**  
**Number of Jobs in Social Economy Organisations**  
عدد الوظائف في هيئات الاقتصاد الاجتماعي



**Número de personas asociadas a la Economía Social**  
**Number of Individuals Associated with the Social Economy**  
عدد الأشخاص المشاركين في الاقتصاد الاجتماعي





# MAGNITUDES ECONÓMICAS POR PAÍS MIEMBRO ECONOMIC FIGURES BY MEMBER COUNTRY

معطيات إقتصادية حسب  
الدولة العضو

**FACTURACIÓN**  
(en millones de euros)  
**TURNOVER**  
(million euros)  
مبيعات:  
(مليون يورو)  
**311.653**

**Nº DE ENTIDADES**  
**Nº OF ENTITIES**  
عدد الهيئات  
**196.868**

**Nº DE EMPLEOS**  
**Nº OF JOBS**  
عدد الوظائف  
**2.392.787**

**Nº DE PERSONAS ASOCIADAS**  
**Nº OF ASSOCIATED PEOPLE**  
عدد الأشخاص الشركاء  
**103.000.000**

France

Italy

**FACTURACIÓN**  
(en millones de euros)  
**TURNOVER**  
(million euros)  
مبيعات:  
(مليون يورو)  
**148.155**

**Nº DE ENTIDADES**  
**Nº OF ENTITIES**  
عدد الهيئات  
**105.690**

**Nº DE EMPLEOS**  
**Nº OF JOBS**  
عدد الوظائف  
**1.302.081**

**Nº DE PERSONAS ASOCIADAS**  
**Nº OF ASSOCIATED PEOPLE**  
عدد الأشخاص الشركاء  
**13.403.099**

Spain

Portugal

Tunisia

**Nº DE ENTIDADES**  
**Nº OF ENTITIES**  
عدد الهيئات  
**45.093**

**FACTURACIÓN**  
(en millones de euros)  
**TURNOVER**  
(million euros)  
مبيعات:  
(مليون يورو)  
**92.157**

**Nº DE EMPLEOS**  
**Nº OF JOBS**  
عدد الوظائف  
**2.379.994**

**Nº DE PERSONAS ASOCIADAS**  
**Nº OF ASSOCIATED PEOPLE**  
عدد الأشخاص الشركاء  
**12.150.549**

Morocco

Algeria

**Nº DE ENTIDADES**  
**Nº OF ENTITIES**  
عدد الهيئات  
**8.815**

**FACTURACIÓN**  
(en millones de euros)  
**TURNOVER**  
(million euros)  
مبيعات:  
(مليون يورو)  
**6.095**

**Nº DE EMPLEOS**  
**Nº OF JOBS**  
عدد الوظائف  
**101.000**

**Nº DE PERSONAS ASOCIADAS**  
**Nº OF ASSOCIATED PEOPLE**  
عدد الأشخاص الشركاء  
**2.880.056**

**Nº DE ENTIDADES**  
**Nº OF ENTITIES**  
عدد الهيئات  
**47.365**

**FACTURACIÓN**  
(en millones de euros)  
**TURNOVER**  
(million euros)  
مبيعات:  
(مليون يورو)  
**683**

**Nº DE EMPLEOS**  
**Nº OF JOBS**  
عدد الوظائف  
**22.502**

**Nº DE PERSONAS ASOCIADAS**  
**Nº OF ASSOCIATED PEOPLE**  
عدد الأشخاص الشركاء  
**365.255**

**Nº DE ENTIDADES**  
**Nº OF ENTITIES**  
عدد الهيئات  
**2.369**

**Nº DE EMPLEOS**  
**Nº OF JOBS**  
عدد الوظائف  
**24.528**

**Nº DE PERSONAS ASOCIADAS**  
**Nº OF ASSOCIATED PEOPLE**  
عدد الأشخاص الشركاء  
**1.423.781**

**FACTURACIÓN**  
(en millones de euros)  
**TURNOVER**  
(million euros)  
مبيعات:  
(مليون يورو)  
**177**

**Nº DE ENTIDADES**  
**Nº OF ENTITIES**  
عدد الهيئات  
**4.581**

**Nº DE PERSONAS ASOCIADAS**  
**Nº OF ASSOCIATED PEOPLE**  
عدد الأشخاص الشركاء  
**897.923**