



**Map of European and national
social economy institutions
and organisations**

Contents

Foreword	page 5
SECTION 1: The EU institutions and the social economy (SE)	page 6
1. Introduction: the concept of SE according to EU institutions	page 7
2. The role of the European Commission: DG Entr and DG Empl	page 10
3. The European Parliament : the SE intergroup	page 13
4. The European Economic and Social Committee: the social economy category	page 15
SECTION 2: European networks representing and dealing with SE	page 18
1. General overview: roles and characteristics	page 19
2. The representative organisations:	page 20
2.1 Social economy Europe (CEP-CMAF)	page 22
2.2 Cooperatives Europe	page 24
2.3 CECOP	page 28
2.4 Other cooperatives' representative organisations: COPA-Cogeca, EACB, EUROCOOP, CECODHAS	page 31
2.5 Representative organisations of associations, foundations and mutuals: CEDAG, EFC, AIM	page 33
3. European networks dealing with social economy	page 35
3.1 ENSIE	page 36
3.2 REVES	page 38
3.3 EMES	page 41
3.4 EAPN	page 44
3.5 Social Platform	page 47
3.6 CEFEC	page 50
3.7 FEBEA	page 52
3.8 ESFN	page 55
3.9 RREUSE	page 57
3.10 EARTH	page 60
3.11 SOFICATRA	page 62

SECTION 3: National maps	page 64
1. Italy	page 65
1.1 The concept of SE	page 65
1.2 Essential figures	page 66
1.3 The main representative organisations of the cooperative movement: Legacoop, Confcooperative, AGCI	page 68
1.4 The third sector forum	page 74
1.5 Social enterprises networks and support structures: CGM, Drom, Compagnia delle Opere, COSIS, Banca Etica, ETIMOS	page 77
2. Spain	page 90
2.1 The concept of SE	page 90
2.2 Essential figures	page 90
2.3 The horizontal representative organisations: CEPES, CEPES Andalusia	page 92
2.4 The sectoral federations: CONFESAL, COCETA, FAEDEI	page 96
3. France	page 102
3.1 The concept of SE	page 102
3.2 Essential figures	page 102
3.3 The horizontal representative organisations: CEGES, GNC	page 104
3.4 The sectoral federations: CGSCOP	page 108
3.5 Social enterprises networks and support structures: AVISE, CNEI, Coopérer pour entreprendre, CNCRESS, Esfin-Ides	page 110
4. Sweden	page 120
4.1 The concept of SE	page 120
4.2 Essential figures	page 122
4.3 The horizontal representative organisations: KFO	page 113
4.4 Social enterprises networks and support structures: Coompanion	page 125
5. United Kingdom	page 127
5.1 The concept of SE	page 127
5.2 Essential figures	page 128

5.3 The representative organisations: Social enterprise coalition, Social firms UK, Cooperatives UK	page 129
5.4 Support and training: Cooperative College,CDA system, Co-operative and Community Finance	page 135
6. Finland	page 141
6.1 The concept of SE	page 141
6.2 Essential figures	page 142
6.3 Representative and support organisations: Pellervo, CoopFinland	page 143
Acronyms and abbreviations	page 147

Foreword

This study has been realised between February and April 2008 in the framework of the Equal project PROMES. It has been commissioned by FISE (the Polish Federation of Social Economy Initiatives) in order to understand the panorama of the social economy in Europe and to acquire information and contacts with the main social economy actors at European and national level.

The first part of the study (Section 1) describes how European institutions deal with the social economy and the bodies and groups that have been set up in the last decades to favour this relationship.

The second part (Section 2) of the study examines a large number of European networks and organisations representing the social economy or dealing with it. A major distinction has been made between organisations whose main topic is the social economy and networks active in other fields but having an interest in promoting and supporting the social economy.

Section 3 of the study examines the situation in some European countries. The countries selected are those where social economy is more active and developed and, as a consequence, is represented and supported by various and well organised umbrella organisations and networks. The concept of social economy has been interpreted in a broad sense, since in many countries different definitions are more common (third sector, non profit sector, etc.). Each national chapter starts with a definition of the more used concepts and their meanings in the national contexts. A specific attention has been paid to the phenomenon of social enterprises.

From a methodological point of view, the survey consisted of the following phases:

- The definition of the sector and the typology of organisations to analyse;
- The selection of the organisations taking into consideration their relevance in the national context but also their potential interest for Polish social economy;
- The collection of information through a standard sheet;
- Interviews with representative and key players of each organisation;
- The elaboration of all the information collected.

Since the object of the survey was extremely vast, an important role has been played by some key experts and "witnesses" at European and national level (social economy managers, politicians, civil servants, etc.) that contributed identifying significant organisations and key people to contact.

The study has been coordinated by Dorotea Daniele. Alberto Curatolo, Cyrielle Cuirassier and James Foschi have collaborated to the collection of information and redaction of the text.

SECTION 1

THE EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS AND THE SOCIAL ECONOMY

1. Introduction : the concept of social economy according to European Union institutions

There is no common definition of social economy at European and international level. Moreover different terms are often used as equivalent (third sector, non profit enterprises, etc.)

Just to give an idea of the complexity of the definitory issue we can compare a French and a British definition.

The French definition is a "negative" one, since it states that social economy groups different economic activities which are:

- Neither for-profit enterprises, since they have different aims and rules (not for profit), even if social economy enterprises often compete with conventional business for the same market.
- Nor public companies, since they belong to the private sector, even if they often pursuit public objectives.

Traditional French social economy is composed by four families of actors: cooperatives, associations, mutual societies and foundations.

Another concept recently popular in France is the "*économie sociale et solidaire*"(solidarity based), which puts together the traditional social economy with the new forms of activities, such as work integration.

The British definition is much more concrete. The term Social Economy refers to the whole of the 'not for personal profit' and mutual aid sector. It includes community owned businesses, local self help organisations engaged in trading activities with social, economic or environmental benefit on a 'not for private profit' basis, 'public good' purpose trusts, co-operatives, mutual societies and non-trading organisations aimed at supporting local development. The term is used to link in with economic regeneration thinking rather than referring to any particular values or expertise that an organisation may bring.

The **European definition of social economy** is based on the French traditional concept. The most recent definition, approved in March 2002, states:

"The organisations of the social economy are economic and social actors active in all sectors. They are characterised principally by their aims and by their distinctive form of entrepreneurship. The social economy includes organisations such as cooperatives, mutual societies, associations and foundations. These enterprises are particularly active in certain fields such as social protection, social services, health, banking, insurance, agricultural production, consumer affairs, associative work, craft trades, housing, supply, neighbourhood services, education and training, and the area of culture, sport and leisure activities" (CEP-CMAF - European Standing Conference of Co-operatives, Mutual Societies, Associations and Foundations¹, the European umbrella for the four main social economy categories of actors).

Furthermore, still according to CEP-CMAF, the success of enterprises in the social economy cannot be measured solely in terms of economic performance, which is

¹ CEP-CMAF has recently changed its name in **Social Economy Europe**. This new name will be used in the rest of the study.

nonetheless necessary to the achievement of their goals in terms of mutualism and solidarity, but must above all be gauged by their contributions in terms of solidarity, social cohesion and territorial ties.

As a central component of organised civil society, the social economy provides a landmark for pluralism, participation, democracy, citizenship and solidarity, while supplying ample evidence that such elements are compatible with economic competitiveness and the capability of adaptation to social and economic change. Indeed, the social economy:

- Is founded on the principles of solidarity and individual involvement in a process of active citizenship;
- Generates high-quality jobs and a better quality of life, and offers a framework suited to new forms of enterprise and work;
- Plays an important role in local development and social cohesion;
- Is socially responsible;
- Is a factor of democracy;
- Contributes to the stability and pluralism of economic markets;
- Corresponds to the European Union's priorities and strategic objectives: social cohesion, full employment and the fight against poverty and exclusion, participatory democracy, better governance and sustainable development.

This definition is very broad and does not facilitate the creation of a cohesive sector easily identifiable by the external actors.

Moreover, there is not a general consensus on the definition and often other terms are used. Only referring to European definitions we can quote:

- The Committee of Regions stating that social economy organisations are: *"more or less co-operatives, mutual societies and associations with an economic activity."*
- The Communication establishing the Equal programme setting as a priority of the entrepreneurship pillar *"Strengthening the social economy (the third sector), in particular the services of interest to the community, with a focus on improving the quality of jobs".²*

There is a total consensus on the fact that cooperatives and mutual societies are part of the social economy, while concerning associations, the social economy includes at least those with an economic activity.

The use of the word third sector as a synonym of social economy is a clear sign of a restrictive definition of social economy. While social co-operatives or associations are unanimously included in both definitions, agricultural cooperatives or co-operative banks do not belong to the third sector.

² COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE MEMBER STATES establishing the guidelines for the Community Initiative EQUAL concerning transnational co-operation to promote new means of combating all forms of discrimination and inequalities in connection with the labour market - C (2000) 853, 14.04.2000

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Social enterprises are a growing sector within social economy.

At European level, the EMES European Research Network (www.emes.net; see also page 41) has proposed a set of common economic and social criteria to identify organisations likely to be called "social enterprises".

Economic criteria:

a) A continuous activity producing goods and/or selling services

Social enterprises, unlike some traditional non-profit organisations, are directly involved in the production of goods or the provision of services to people on a continuous basis. The productive activity thus represents the reason, or one of the main reasons, for the existence of social enterprises.

b) A high degree of autonomy

Social enterprises are created by a group of people on the basis of an autonomous project and they are governed by these people. They may depend on public subsidies but they are not managed, directly or indirectly, by public authorities or other organisations.

c) A significant level of economic risk

Those who establish a social enterprise assume totally or partly the risk of the initiative. Unlike most public institutions, their financial viability depends on the efforts of their members and workers to secure adequate resources.

d) A minimum amount of paid work

As in the case of most traditional non-profit organisations, social enterprises may also combine monetary and non-monetary resources, voluntary and paid workers. However, the activity carried out in social enterprises requires a minimum level of paid workers.

Social criteria:

e) An explicit aim to benefit the community

One of the principal aims of social enterprises is to serve the community or a specific group of people. In the same perspective, a feature of social enterprises is their desire to promote a sense of social responsibility at local level.

f) An initiative launched by a group of citizens

Social enterprises are the result of collective dynamics involving people belonging to a community or to a group that shares a well-defined need or aim.

g) A decision-making power not based on capital ownership

This generally means the principle of "one member, one vote" or at least a decision-making process in which voting power is not distributed according to capital shares on the governing body which has the ultimate decision-making rights.

h) A participatory nature, which involves the various parties affected by the activity

Representation and participation of users or customers, stakeholder influence on decision-making and a participative management are often important characteristics of social enterprises.

i) A limited profit distribution

Social enterprises not only include organisations that are characterised by a total non-distribution constraint, but also organisations which - like co-operatives in some countries - may distribute profits, but only to a limited extent, thus avoiding a profit-maximising behaviour.

2. The role of the European Commission : DG Enterprise and DG Employment

Over the last 30 years, slowly but indisputably, the social economy sector has entered a stage of institutionalisation and public recognition within the EU. However, in recent years this has been in some way undermined, and currently the sector has to fight hard to get due recognition and to get support to challenge the specific obstacles limiting expansion.

In 1989 the Commission published its first Communication to the Council on social economy enterprises, which recognises the specificity of social economy enterprises and their role in the internal market³ (this is the reason why social economy is part of enterprise policy). In the same year, a Social economy unit was created within DGXXIII (Directorate General for Small and Medium Enterprises). Starting from 1989, European conferences of social economy are periodically organised under the aegis of the European Commission. They represent an important occasion for meeting and raising awareness on the sector.⁴

The work of the Social Economy Unit adapted to the changing priorities of the Community. The earliest aim, that of helping the social economy to meet the challenges of the internal market, expanded to incorporate an approach, which reflects the Community's concerns with competitiveness, job creation and the demands of the next enlargement of the Union. This wider range of objectives also reflects the new priorities the Social Economy itself has identified. These objectives were translated into a multi-annual Programme (1994-96) in favour of CMAFs adopted by the Commission in 1994. Although a majority of Member States were in favour, the Programme was not adopted by the Council, and it was withdrawn by the Commission in 1997, after the period envisaged for the operation of the programme had elapsed.

In 1995 the four "families" of the social economy (co-operatives, mutual societies, associations and foundations,) created a temporary Consultative Committee which was recognised by the Commission in 1998 and abolished the following year. The Committee, chaired by the European Commission, could take initiatives and give opinions in order to help the Commission in the implementation of its social economy policy.

In 2000, following the reform of the Commission, DGXXIII became part of the bigger DG Enterprises and Social economy was taken over by the Unit E3 (Crafts, Small Enterprises, Cooperatives and Mutual Societies). The Unit is concentrating particularly on the "enterprise aspects" of co-operatives, mutuals, associations and foundations. Since in the area of the promotion of SMEs and social economy enterprises competitiveness no Treaty provision now contains a genuine European specific policy with its own legal instruments, the role of the Commission is limited to horizontal action aimed at encouraging the creation of an environment favourable to SMEs and social enterprises throughout all the other existing Community policies. In this framework, the Unit promotes the

³ European Commission (1989), Communication on " Businesses in the Social Economy sector" Doc. SEC(89) 2187 fin.

⁴ Paris 1989, Rome 1990, Lisbon 1992, Bruxelles 1993, Seville 1995, Birmingham 1998, Tours 2000, Gavle 2001, Gand 2001, Salamanca 2002, Prague 2002, Krakow 2004.

knowledge and visibility of the sector and develops links with public officials responsible for the regulation and development of the social economy in the Member States. It acts in consultation with the representative organisations of co-operatives, mutuals, associations and foundations.

Its interlocutor representing the social economy is now called Social Economy Europe (former CEP-CMAF - Permanent European Conference of Co-operatives, Mutual Societies, Associations and Foundations).

Social economy, and especially social enterprises, is a major actor of employment and social inclusion policies. In this field, DG Employment and Social Affairs is directly concerned.

In 1997, the EU Luxembourg Employment Summit voted the new employment guidelines recognising the importance of social economy for local development⁵. In 2001 the guideline 11 recognised the need to promote the development of the social economy⁶.

Between 1997 and 2000 a pilot action "Third system and employment" funded several project aiming at enhancing the role of third sector in the creation of employment. This budget line funded also several transnational studies which allowed to promote an exchange of experiences and a common knowledge at European level. Unfortunately, it was not refinanced and the Unit in charge of it was dismantled.

More recently, the only programme which had a specific measure to finance social economy was EQUAL. It was a Community initiative funded by the ESF in order to promote new means of combating all forms of discrimination and inequalities in connection with the labour market, through transnational co-operation. Theme 2D, under the entrepreneurship pillar aimed at strengthening the social economy (the third sector), in particular the services of interest to the community, with a focus on improving the quality of jobs.

EQUAL differed from the European Social Fund mainstream programmes in its function as a laboratory (principle of innovation) and in its emphasis on active co-operation between Member States. Two calls for proposals for EQUAL projects in the Member States have taken place, the first one in 2001, the second one in 2004⁷. Responsibility for the implementation of the Community Initiative programmes in the Member States lied with the national authorities.

Over 6 years, a total budget of 600 Meuro (average budget per DP 1.3 Meuro) funded 424 Development Partnerships (DPs) under the social economy theme.

⁵investigate measures to exploit fully the possibilities offered by job creation at local level in the social economy and in new activities linked to needs not yet satisfied by the market, and examine, with the aim of reducing, any obstacles in the way of such measures. The 1998 Employment Guidelines, Council Resolution of 15 December 1997

⁶ Member States will: promote measures to enhance the competitive development and job creation capacity of the social economy, especially the provision of goods and services linked to needs not yet satisfied by the market, and examine, with the aim of reducing, any obstacles to such measures; COUNCIL DECISION of 19 January 2001 on Guidelines for Member States' employment policies for the year 2001 (2001/63/EC)

⁷ Communication from the Commission establishing the guidelines for the second round of the Community Initiative EQUAL concerning transnational co-operation to promote new means of combating all forms of discrimination and inequalities in connection with the labour market - Free movement of good ideas (COM/2003/840)

More social economy projects were funded under other themes (equal opportunities, job creation, etc.).

In order to draw concrete and transferable lessons, to exchange policies and practices among EQUAL projects, the Commission structured several European Thematic Groups (ETG). Several events have been organised by the Social Economy thematic group (which was part of the Entrepreneurship group). Background documents and case studies are available on the web (http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/equal/activities/etg2_en.cfm).

The reform of structural funds has abolished most of community initiatives. Nevertheless, the EQUAL principles became an integral part of the new ESF programmes that will run from 2007 to 2013. It is now for Member States to identify the most suitable implementation arrangements. As far as social economy is concerned, it is likely that its funding will vary according to the different role and recognition gained in each country.

Therefore, as it happens already with ESF, some countries will provide resources for the "social economy" as a whole, while others will address specific target groups (disabled, unemployed, etc.) and activities (training, job creation, etc.) or use similar – but only partially equivalent - terms (third sector, non profit, etc.).

In theory, social economy can access all general funding programmes from mainstream Commission budgets. In practice, however, the programmes mostly used are those managed by DG Employment (equal opportunities, social inclusion, social dialogue, etc.) and those in the field of education and training (Leonardo da Vinci, Grundvig, etc.), while programmes for SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) and R&D are very difficult to access. Nevertheless, since there are no specific provisions for social economy organisations, they risk being marginalised and not taken into proper consideration.

In the field of employment and social inclusion a new programme has recently replaced the existing ones. PROGRESS (2007-2013)⁸, the Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity, supports financially the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in the fields of employment and social affairs, as set out in the Commission Communication on the Social Agenda, and there by contribute to the achievement of the Lisbon Strategy goals in those fields. It includes five major themes: social protection and inclusion, gender equality, non discrimination and diversity, employment and working conditions. Social economy is a transversal issue in many of these themes. However, PROGRESS is in no way a replacement for EQUAL, and it is clear, it will not fund pilot actions or projects but only research, awareness-raising and benchmarking activities at EU level.

⁸ DECISION No 1672/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity — Progress

3. The European Parliament: the Social Economy Intergroup

In the European Parliament, MPs not only participate to political groups (socialists, liberals, democrats, etc.), commissions (foreign affaire, environment, agriculture, etc.) and delegations (with Canada, China, Magreb, etc.) but also to Intergroups on specific themes.

The Intergroup is a sort of «antenna» of the Parliament on specific themes. It is a meeting point to exchange opinions and a tool to raise awareness on the topics it deals with.

The Social Economy Intergroup was constituted in October 1989 during the preparation of the first Social Economy Conference held in Paris in November 1989. Its first president was Marie-Claude Vayssade (French MP of the European Socialist Party).

In 1996 the Intergroup was reorganised in the following way:

- Regular meetings with the representatives of the sector (max 6 per year);
- An enlarged forum of all the MPs belonging to the Intergroup two times per year;
- The secretariat of the Intergroup rotates among the European organizations representing social economy.

In the legislature 1999-2004 the creation of the Intergroup was made difficult by new restrictive rules. In fact, in order to create an Intergroup it is necessary to have not only a minimum number of MPs but also the support of three political groups. Since political groups can support only a limited number of Intergroups a long negotiation was necessary to have sufficient support for the social economy.

The present Intergroup is now co-chaired by Ms Ferreira (European Socialist Party) and M. Mauro (European Popular Party). It works as an observatory and a vigilant body, watching closely European policies linked with Social Economy (social cohesion, social protection, health, insurances, SSGI, competition, CSR, employment policies...) and working towards building of a solidarity based Europe.

In October 2007 the Intergroup has recently released the Social Economy Memorandum.

The memorandum underlines the role and the importance of social economy in Europe and makes the following recommendations to the future European presidencies:

- to approve the European statutes of associations, mutual societies and foundations ;
- to introduce the social services of general interest in the European debate and to recognise the specificity of general interest of those services in the new treaty ;
- to recognise the contribution of the social economy to the European social model (namely in CSR and sustainable development) ;

- to recognise social economy representative organisations as partners of the social dialogue.

The Intergroup acts through:

- the preparation of a report of initiative to the European Parliament;
- the organisation of a Social Economy Week in the Parliament;
- the promotion of synergies with the Social Economy Category of the European Social and Economic Committee;
- a close collaboration with the actors of the sector, namely Social Economy Europe.

4. The European Economic and Social Committee: the social economy category

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) was one of the first European institutions to recognise the role of Social Economy, with the publication in 1978 of a study on the economic and social importance of activities promoted by cooperatives, mutual societies and associations in Europe.

In 1986 the EESC promoted the first conference on "The economy of cooperatives, mutual societies and associations" organised in collaboration with the Consultative Committee of Cooperative Associations (CCACC).

In the following years the EESC has redacted several opinions concerning the social economy or its components:

- EESC Opinion on the Memorandum of the Commission "Internal market and industrial cooperation" - Statute of the European society – Whiter Paper on internal market, Pt. 137" - CES 1233/88.
- EESC Opinion on "The European fundamental social rights" - CES 270/89.
- EESC Opinion on "Contribution of the cooperative sector to regional development - Bento GONCALVES - CES 1032/89 P-F- ORT/TPR/cf.
- EESC Opinion on the Communication of the Commission to the Council - "Social economy enterprises and the implementation of the internal market without borders" - CES 1046/90 – GUCE n°C 332/81 of 31.12.1990.
- EESC Opinion on «Economic relations EC/Countries of Eastern Europe” - CES 381/90.
- EESC Opinion on the document COM(93)650 final "Multi-annual work programme (1994-1998) for cooperatives, mutual societies, associations and foundations in the Community" GUCE n° C388/22 of 31.12.1994.
- EESC Opinion on the document COM(97)241 final "The promotion of the role of associations and foundations in Europe" GUCE n° C 95/99 of 30.3.1998.
- EESC Opinion on 'Social economy and the internal market" CES 242/2000 of 3.3.2000
- EESC Opinion on 'Economic diversification in the accession countries – role of SMEs and social economy enterprises, CCMI/006 of 01.04.2004
- EESC Opinion on 'Ability of SMEs and social economy enterprises to adapt to changes imposed by economic growth', INT/242 of 27.10.2004
- EESC Opinion on the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the promotion of cooperative societies in Europe COM (2004) 18 Final – INT 238 of 09.03.2005
- EESC Opinion on 'The road to the European knowledge-based society – the contribution of organised civil society to the Lisbon Strategy', SC/024 of 14.14.2005

- EESC Opinion on 'Entrepreneurship mindsets and the Lisbon Agenda', SOC/267 of 22.10.2007

In the 90 a « Social economy » category has been created within Group 3 of the Committee. Established on a voluntary basis according to art. 28 of the Internal Regulation, it has the function of coordinating members in order to facilitate their attention on and their action in favour of social economy.

The Social economy category brings together 36 members (35 of whom belong to Group III and 1 to Group I) from cooperatives, mutuals, associations, foundations and social NGOs. They represents a significant proportion of civil society and, together with other members and categories, works towards a more democratic, social and competitive Europe.

Here is the list of its members:

Nationality	Name	Status
<i>LV</i>	<i>Anca Gunta</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>HU</i>	<i>Barabás Miklós</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>FR</i>	<i>Bouis Lucien</i>	<i>Member</i>
ES	<i>Cabra de Luna Miguel Ángel</i>	<i>Spokesman</i>
<i>IT</i>	<i>Campli Mario</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>SK</i>	<i>Chren Martin</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>PT</i>	<i>Costa Macedo Teresa</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>PL</i>	<i>Czajkowski Tomasz</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>DE</i>	<i>Eulenburg Soscha</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>IT</i>	<i>Grasso Angelo</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>CZ</i>	<i>Haken Roman</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>EE</i>	<i>Hellam Mall</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>HU</i>	<i>Herczog Mária</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>BE</i>	<i>Hoffelt Jean François</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>IT</i>	<i>Jahier Luca</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>UK</i>	<i>Jones Tom</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>EE</i>	<i>Joost Meelis</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>DK</i>	<i>Kindberg Mette</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>SE</i>	<i>Kössler Ingrid</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>RO</i>	<i>Lucan Eugen</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>DK</i>	<i>Lüneborg Poul</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>PL</i>	<i>Mendza-Drozd Marzena</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>UK</i>	<i>Morrice Jane</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>CZ</i>	<i>Nemec Jaroslav</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>SL</i>	<i>Nose Martin</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>SE</i>	<i>Olsson Jan</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>UK</i>	<i>O'Neill Maureen</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>FR</i>	<i>Panzani Jean-Paul</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>PL</i>	<i>Pater Krzysztof</i>	<i>Member</i>

<i>RO</i>	<i>Pîrvulescu Cristian</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>RO</i>	<i>Sibian Ionut</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>BG</i>	<i>Sokolova Donka</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>SL</i>	<i>Sporar Primoz</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>DE</i>	<i>Stöhr Frank</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>HU</i>	<i>Tóth János</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>CZ</i>	<i>Trantina Pavel</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>CZ</i>	<i>Zvolská Marie</i>	<i>Member (GR I)</i>

SECTION 2

European networks representing and dealing with Social Economy

2.1 General overview: roles and characteristics

The term "European network" is not easy to define. It is a very broad concept often used to describe different kinds of organisations. European networks could:

- Be the result of European partnerships initiated through European projects: project partners decided to continue their collaboration on a more stable basis;
- Have members belonging to the same category or to many different typologies;
- Be more or less representative from a geographical point of view;
- Have a political representative role or provide services and support to their members.

The European Social and Economic Committee has defined some criteria to apply to "civil dialogue"⁹. According to these criteria, in order to be considered representative at European level, an organisation must:

- exist permanently at Community level;
- provide direct access to its members' expertise and hence rapid and constructive consultation;
- represent general concerns that tally with the interests of European society;
- comprise bodies that are recognised at Member State level as representative of particular interests;
- have member organisations in most of the EU Member States;
- provide for accountability to its members;
- have authority to represent and act at European level;
- be independent and mandatory, not bound by instructions from outside bodies;
- be transparent especially financially and in its decision-making structures.

All the organisations hereafter described comply with this definition, even if their structure and organisational model differs according to the sector, the history and the development phase they are in.

The European organisations analysed have been distinguished in two broad groups.

The first one contains the representative organisations of the social economy, often defined sectoral networks. They are organised in three levels: the first one puts together the national federations of each sector (CECOP – workers' cooperatives, Cecodhas – housing -, etc.); the second level is the "family" level (Cooperatives Europe for cooperatives, CEDAG for associations, AIM for mutual societies and EFC for foundations); the third level represents the common interests of all the families (Social Economy Europe). These organisations play

⁹ Opinion on "European governance: a White Paper" of 20th March 2002; CES 357/2002.

essentially a role of political representativeness and lobby of their members towards the European institutions.

The second group includes the main European thematic networks dealing with social economy. This group is less homogeneous than the previous one. Its common feature is the "thematic" approach: each organisation gathers different kinds of members on a specific theme (social inclusion, local development, etc.). Some organisations are principally dealing with social economy, while others have a broader scope and social economy is only part of their action.

2.2 The representative organisations

The creation of the sectoral networks CCACE (merged in Cooperatives Europe), AIM (mutual societies), CEDAG (associations) and EFC (foundations) is the result of different processes happened in different periods.

In general terms, the need of the social economy to find a common place to meet, to exchange and to lobby European institutions emerged with the progressive development of European policies.

The number of sectors covered by European policies has increased constantly generating, as a consequence, an increased need of business umbrella organisations to be represented vis-à-vis the European institutions.

For example, some cooperative sectors, as early as the beginning of the 'Common market' at the end of 50s, created European organisations to deal with topics (agriculture, credits, etc.) whose competence was increasingly transferred to EU institutions.

An important factor to foster a common identity and the need for European platforms of the different social economy "families" was the sequence of European social economy conferences. The first conference, held in Paris in 1989, started a process of consolidation of four sectoral networks, recognised by the European institutions.

An internal link among cooperatives, mutual societies and associations existed in France already at the beginning of 70s, when the three families created the CNLMCA "Comité National de liaison Mutuelles, Coopératives et Associations" (National Liaison Committee of Mutual societies, Cooperatives and Associations), now called CEGES.

Less evident at national level is the presence of the foundations, with the exclusion of the more recent Spanish case, where since its creation the national social economy platform CEPES included "Fundacion ONCE".

Therefore, the European structure of the representation of social economy does not have many similarities at national level.

At European level, the constitution of a common platform of the four families was quite complicated and influenced by the discontinuous official recognition by the European Commission.

After a first phase of sporadic and irregular contacts, an "informal" Consultative Committee of Cooperative, Mutual Societies, Associations and Foundations was

created in 1994. In 1998 the Committee was officially recognised and chaired by the Commission. It acted assisting the Commission with opinions and positions on the main policies affecting the social economy.

In 2000, due to the re-organisation of the whole Commission (see page 10), the Committee was dissolved. In the same year, the sector decided to self re-organise its representation creating the European Standing Conference of Cooperatives, Mutual Societies, Associations and Foundations (CEP-CMAF).

2.2.1 Social Economy Europe (CEP-CMAF)

Social Economy Europe (CEP- CMAF)

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Contact person

Karine Pfluger

Short history

CEP-CMAF, was set up in November 2000 after that the Tours European conference on social economy decided to improve the cooperation between the different families of social economy: cooperatives, mutuals, associations and foundations. Now it is the EU-level representative institution for the Social Economy. In 2007 it has changed its name in Social Economy Europe in order to improve visibility of the sector.

MembersFounding members:

ACME - Association of European Cooperative and Mutual Insurers which recently merged with AISAM (International Association of Mutual Insurers) to create **AMICE**, the Association of Mutual Insurers and Insurance Cooperatives in Europe.

AIM - International Association of Mutual Health Funds

CEDAG - European Council for Voluntary Organisations

CEGES - Conseil des Entreprises, Employeurs et Groupements d'Economie Sociale

CEPES - Spanish Business Confederation of Social Economy

COOPERATIVES EUROPE - Europe Region of the International Co-operative Alliance

EFC - European Foundation Centre

Associated members:

FEDES - (European Federation of Social Employers)

REVES - (European Networks for Cities and Regions for Social Economy)

Funding mechanism

Membership Fees.

Objectives

Social Economy Europe aims to:

- Promote the role and values of the Social Economy actors throughout Europe
- Disseminate information about the plurality of forms of enterprises
- Strengthen the political and legal recognition of Cooperatives, Mutual societies, Associations and Foundations at European level
- Foster the participation of Cooperatives, Mutual societies, Associations and Foundations in community policies and programmes
- Allow of Cooperatives, Mutual societies, Associations and Foundations to play a more important role in the development of the European Citizenship

In order to achieve its objectives, Social Economy Europe is carrying out different actions, namely:

- Taking stands about themes of interest:

- *European governance*
- *Services of general interest in Europe*
- *Social dialogue and Civil dialogue*
- *Integration of people with disability*
- *Corporate Social Responsibility*
 - Contributing to Community programmes and schemes related to Social Economy Europe families, such as:
- *European statutes for Mutual Societies, Associations and Foundations*
- *Recognition of the role of Cooperatives, Mutual societies, Associations and Foundations in the building of the European Union*
- *Employment and Integration policies*
- *Enterprise policy*
- *Enlargement*
- *Debate on the Future of Europe*
 - Creating specific spaces for dialogue, proposal-making and negotiations with the European institutions:
- *Social Economy Intergroup of the European Parliament*
- *Social Economy Category of the European Economic and Social Committee*
 - Participating and organising Social Economy conferences and events.

Activities

Working Groups:

Social Economy Europe develops its working activities also thanks to 3 working thematic groups, such as:

- Handicap (which developed in particular a Mainstreaming Guide on Disability);
- Competition Policy;
- Strategy, which mainly deals with the orientations of the Social Economy.

Relationships:

SEE is a federal organisation of European and supports the national and international platforms.

EU lobby:

The EU Parliament, the EU Commission and the Social and Economic Committee recognise SEE as an interlocutor on social economy issues. Lobbying activities are carried out individually by the members; SEE intervenes only when there are common problems and supports also the activities of the European Economic and Social Committee.

Present and future significant actions

The yearly working plan will be defined soon. In general terms, SEE follows all the evolutions in subjects bound to Social Economy at EU and Member States level.

Some concrete activities/political initiatives related to the Social Economy are organised with a focus on concrete examples.

In 2007, SEE focused its attention on:

- employment;
- social inclusion;
- consultations on social equality;
- Small Business Act;
- Social Innovation.

Other sectors of interest are Education, Training and Research.

Additional remarks

Social Economy Europe is interested in developing a partnership with Social Economy actors in Poland, on order to improve national visibility of Social Economy, promote the cooperative movement, transfer/exchange good practices examples and highlight the value of Social Economy in the development process of the new EU Member States.

2.2.2 Cooperatives Europe

Cooperatives Europe

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Short history

Cooperatives Europe is the biggest membership organisation in Europe promoting the co-operative model of enterprise for sustainable economic progress with social objectives. It traces its origins in 2003, but it is only in 2004 that the project for creating a European common platform starts being discussed. In 2006, through the merger of the ICA-Europe (the European branch of the International Co-operative Alliance) and the CCACCE (Coordination committee of European Cooperative Associations), Cooperatives Europe becomes a non-profit organisation with a juridical personality.

Members

Austria: Oesterreichischer Verband gemeinnütziger Bauvereinigungen - Revisionsverband;

Republic of Belarus: Belarussian Republican Union of Consumer Societies (BELKOOPSOYUZ);

Belgium: Arcopar; SCRL; Fédération Belge de l'Economie Sociale et Coopérative (FEBECOOP); OPHACO (Office des Pharmacies Coopératives de Belgique); P&V Assurances;

Bulgaria: Central Co-operative Union;
National Union of Workers Producers Co-operatives of Bulgaria (NUWPCB);

Croatia: Croatian Association of Co-operatives (Hrvatski Savez Zadruga);

Cyprus: Co-operative Central Bank Ltd. (CCB); Cyprus Turkish Co-operative Central Bank Ltd; Pancyprian Co-operative Confederation Ltd;

Czech Republic: Co-operative Association of the Czech Republic;

Denmark: Danish Agricultural Council (Landbrugsraadet); FDB (Consumer Co-operative Denmark); Kooperationen;

Finland: Pellervo, Confederation of Finnish Co-operatives; SOK Association SOKL (Finnish Co-operative Union);

France: Confédération Générale des SCOP; Confédération Nationale de la Mutualité, de la Coopération et du Crédit Agricoles (CNMCCA); Confédération Nationale du Crédit Mutuel; Fédération Nationale des Coopératives de Consommateurs (FNCC); Crédit Coopératif; Groupement National de la Coopération (GNC);

Germany: Deutscher Genossenschafts- und Raiffeisenverband e.V. (DGRV); GdW Bundesverband deutscher Wohnungs- und Immobilienunternehmen e.V.; Konsumverband eG; Zentralverband deutscher Konsumgenossenschaften e.V. (ZdK);

Hungary: Hungarian Industrial Association (OKISZ); National Federation of Agricultural Co-operators and Producers (MOSZ); National Federation of Consumer Co-operatives & Trade Associations (AFEOSZ- CO-OP Hungary);

Italy: Associazione Generale Cooperative Italiane (A.G.C.I. Nazionale); Confederazione Cooperative Italiane (Confcooperative); Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e Mutue (Legacoop);

Latvia: Latvian Central Co-operative Union (TURIBA);

Lithuania: Lithuanian Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies (LITCOOPUNION);

Malta: Apex – Organisation of Maltese Co-operatives;

Moldova: Central Union of Consumer Co-operatives of the Republic of Moldova (MOLDCOOP);

Netherlands: Oikocredit – Ecumenical Development Co-operative Society U.A.;

Norway: Coop NKL BA; Federation of Norwegian Agricultural Co-operatives (Norsk Landbrukssamvirke); The Norwegian Federation of Co-operative Housing Associations (NBBL);

Poland: Auditing Union of Housing Co-operatives (Związek Rewizyjny Spółdzielni Mieszkaniowych RP); National Association of Co-operative Saving and Credit Unions - NACSCU (Krajowa Spółdzielcza Kasa Oszczędnościowo-Kredytowa - KSKOK); National Auditing Union of Workers' Co-operatives (NAUWC) (Związek Lustracyjny Spółdzielni Pracy); National Co-operative Council - NCC (Krajowa Rada Spółdzielcza - KRS); National Supervision Union of Spolem Consumer Co-operatives (Krajowy Związek Rewizyjny Spółdzielni Spożywców Spolem); National Union of Co-operative Banks (KZBS);

Portugal: Confederação Cooperativa Portuguesa (CONFECOOP); Confederação Nacional de Cooperativas Agrícolas e do Crédito Agrícola de Portugal; CCRL (CONFAGRI); INSCOOP - Instituto António Sérgio do Sector Cooperativo;

Romania: National Union of Consumer Co-operatives (CENTROCOOP) Uniunea Nationala a Cooperatiei de Consum; National Union of Handicraft and Production Co-operatives of Romania (UCECOM);

Russian Federation: Central Union of Consumer Societies of the Russian Federation (Centrosojuz of the Russian Federation); Koopvneshtorg Ltd. (Coop-Trade); Moscow Regional Union of Consumer Societies;

Serbia and Montenegro: Co-operative Union of Serbia from Belgrade Serbia (CUS); Co-operative Union of Yugoslavia;

Slovak Republic: Co-operative Union of the Slovak Republic (Družstevná Únia Slovenskej Republiky);

Slovenia: Co-operative Union of Slovenia Ltd. (Zadružna Zveza Slovenije);

Spain: Confederació de Cooperatives de Catalunya; Confederación de Cooperativas de Euskadi (Euskadiko Kooperatiben Konfederazioa); Confederación Empresarial Española de la Economía Social (CEPES); Confederación Española de Cooperativas de Trabajo Asociado (COCETA); Fundación Espriu; Spanish Agricultural Cooperative Confederation (Confederación de Cooperativas Agrarias de España) (CCAE); Unión Nacional de Cooperativas de Consumidores y Usuarios de España (UNCCUE);

Sweden: HSB: Riksförbundet (Union of Housing Co-operatives); Kooperativa Förbundet (KF) (The Swedish Co-operative Union); Riksbyggen (Co-operative Housing Union);

Switzerland: Fédération des Coopératives Migros;

Turkey: Central Union of Turkish Agricultural Credit Co-operatives (TURKKENT); National Co-operative Union of Turkey (NCUT); Turkish Co-operative Association; Union of Sugar Beet Growers' Production Co-operative (Pankobirlik);

Ukraine: Central Union of Consumer Societies of Ukraine (UKOOSPILKA);

United Kingdom: Co-operative Group (CWS) Ltd; Co-operative Insurance Society Ltd. (CIS); Co-operatives UK; The Co-operative Bank plc;

European Sector Organisations: Co-operatives Europe – Housing; CECOP; COGECA; EACB; EURO COOP; UEPS.

Funding mechanism

A major source of funding mechanisms comes from ICA (International Cooperative Alliance) which redistributes part of its membership fees to its regional branches. Organisations who are not member of ICA pay a direct contribution to Cooperatives Europe. Other ways of funding are the incomes from services and projects.

Objectives

OBJECTIVE 1

PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN CO-OPERATIVE REPRESENTATION AND INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

1. In subsidiarity with sectors and national apex organisations enhance influence on EU policy and legislation through the strengthening of the EU Coordinating committee
2. Manage EU project on Social Dialogue, use results to foster recognition of Cooperatives Europe as European Social partner and European intersectorial Business and Employer organisation;

OBJECTIVE 2

DEVELOP A STRONG CO-OPERATIVE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM

3. Consolidation of Cooperatives Europe as the ICA Europe region
4. Strengthen EU project information and access particularly for projects in the Balkans, Russia and CIS together with competent member structures.
5. Stimulate the development of SCE (European Cooperative Society).

OBJECTIVE 3

ENHANCE CO-OPERATIVE IDENTITY & VISIBILITY & IMAGE

6. Improve co-operative statistics through continuing annual performance report and dissemination of satellite account study in the EU countries and with Eurostat.
7. Enhance participation in EU CSR process and benchmark co-operative branding experiences.
8. Enhance visibility through events, structures and concepts

OBJECTIVE 4

CONSOLIDATE AND INCREASE MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN REGION

9. Consolidate membership in the region; work with sectors on membership issues.
10. Increase member knowledge and develop member services.

Activities

The activities carried on by Cooperatives in Europe can be grouped in four main areas:

- 1) Representing the co-operative movement at EU level through a lobbying activity at EU Institutions;
- 2) "Cooperative Image building": changing the image and visibility of the co-operative movement;
- 3) Information among members;
- 4) Development, i.e. projects, in particular in the Balkans area, to change the legislative aspect concerning the cooperative movement.

Present and future significant actions

- Act against the EU complaints threatening co-operatives (Italy, France, Spain); campaigning for the co-operative difference and added value
- Adapt the European legislative framework, create guidelines for interpretation of the co-operative difference in EU legislation and competition rules concerning mutuality: democracy, co-operative dividend, indivisible reserves, co-operation
- Discuss co-operative growth strategy : use the European Co-operative Society Statute (SCE) for inter-co-operation; oppose demutualization
- Enter co-operative satellite accounts into national and European statistical systems;
- Through the Social Partner Program Project get recognition as a European Social Partner and start the process to be integrated into the European Inter-professional Social Dialogue
- Develop a European think tank for research & education on the co-operative of the future
- Map co-operative development projects and capacities at the European and international levels
- Develop the COOP web domain name on the internet for better visibility of the different business nature of co-operatives

- Participate as founding member to the European Institute on the Social and Cooperative Enterprise in Trento (Italy). It will be created in 2008 as an international research community with a focus on the juridical base of the cooperative system, the internal democracy and the new governance needs.

Additional remarks

In Poland, Cooperatives Europe is developing some activities related to the Social Dialogue, paying attention to the development of the cooperative image and new cooperative forms in the country. These activities are carried on in partnership with the Trento Institute, the Universities of Warsaw and Krakow, through a research pool and a group of international development agencies, bound to Coopseurope in a direct or indirect way. It is possible to say that the aim is not "doing" but understanding which are the common fields for the development of new cooperative forms.

In Cooperative Europe board there are two Polish representatives: the President of NCC and the president of ZLSP (NAUWC) in his quality of European member of the ICA board.

2.2.3 CECOP

CECOP

European Confederation of Workers' Co-operatives, Social Co-operatives, Social and Participative Enterprises

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Contact person

Bruno Roelants (Secretary General)

Short history

Cecop was created in 1979 as European Committee. Since 1983 it has a permanent secretariat in Brussels. It became a confederation in May 1997.

Members

Full members: AGCI Produzione e Servizi di Lavoro; AGCI Solidarietà; ANCPL - Associazione Nazionale delle Cooperative di Produzione e Lavoro; ANCST - National Association of Transport and Tourism Co-operatives; Confcooperative Confederazione Cooperative Italiane; Legacoopsociali (**Italy**).

APEX Organisation of Maltese Cooperatives (**Malta**).

CGSCOP - Confederation Generale des Societes Cooperatives Ouvrieres de Production (**France**).

COCETA - Confederacion espanola de cooperativas de trabajo asociado; CONFESAL - Confederacion Empresarial de Sociudades Anonimas Laborales (**Spain**).

Co-Labor (**Luxembourg**).

Coop Finland (**Finland**).

Fenacerci (**Portugal**).

Co-operatives UK (**United Kingdom**).

CPS - Coop Products Slovakia (**Slovakia**).

ESTCOOP (**Estonia**).

FKU - Foreningen Kooperativt utveckling (**Sweden**).

Kooperationen det kooperative fællesforbun (**Denmark**).

NAUWC - National Auditing Union of Workers Cooperatives (**Poland**).

NUWPC - National Union of Workers Productive Co-operatives (**Bulgaria**).

SAW-B - Solidarité des Alternatives Wallonnes; (**Belgium**).

SCMVD - Ceck Union of Production Cooperatives (**Ceck Republic**).

UCECOM Central Union if Handicraft Cooperatives of Romania (**Romania**).

VDP Mitunternehmen- und Genossenschaftsverband E.V.; NETZ - Netz fur Selbstverwaltung und Selbstorganisation (**Germany**).

ZKS - Zdruzenje kooperativ z.o.o. (Association of cooperatives) (**Slovenia**).

Associated members: CFI - Cooperazione, Finanza, Impresa; Federlavoro e Servizi; Federsolidarietà (**Italy**)

Cooperer pour Entreprenre; ESFIN-IDES - Institut de Développement de l'Economie Sociale; Federation Nationale des SCOP du BTP (construction and public works); ICOSI - Institut de Cooperation Sociale Internationale (**France**).

EFES - Fédération Eueopéenne des Actionariat Salarié ; SOFICATRA s.a. (**Belgium**).

Promoloures (**Portugal**).

Funding mechanism

The main source of funding is the membership fees, which covers about 72-75% of the income. Cecop full members' contribution depends on two criteria: the number of enterprises associated and their global turnover.

Cecop associate members' contribution varies according to the number of members (where it is applicable) or it is a fixed amount for service and financial organisations.

Other ways of funding are services (15-20%) and projects (10%).

Objectives

Cecop is committed:

- To promote producers' and workers' cooperatives, social cooperatives, and other types of worker-controlled enterprises throughout Europe
- To promote worker ownership and the status of worker-member as a third labour modality, alongside employed labour and self-employment
- To strengthen and develop member organisations' activities
- To support, encourage and facilitate the exchange of projects and good practises between members
- To disseminate European information
- To promote cooperation with other cooperative and social economy sectors

Activities

Cecop activities can be divided in two main groups:

- Lobbying at the European Institutions;
- Coordination of the members' network: it includes mainly information for members and institutional building (support to the creation or the development of cooperative representative organisations).

The activities are defined by an annual work plan, based on the results of a questionnaire submitted to members in order to establish the priorities and the subjects to be developed.

The present priorities are:

- Enterprise policy: SMEs, industrial and service sectors, workers and social cooperatives;
- social policy: services of general interest, social inclusion, social dialogue (in partnership with ETUC – European Trade Union Confederation);
- activities aimed at comparing national cooperative legislations, also through a lobbying activity at the European Institutions;
- Collecting of statistical data on cooperatives and confederations of cooperatives at national level;
- Activities in partnership with other Social Economy organisations, such as Cooperatives Europe, Social economy Europe, Social Platform, Reves, Emes, Ensie;
- Technical and project activities in partnership with DIESIS.

Present and future significant actions

- *Project "INVOLVE: Fostering the involvement of workers in SCEs and national cooperatives and worker-owned enterprises" developed with ETUC, SDA (Social Development Agency) and DIESIS;*
- Project PROGRESS providing Cecop with core funding for its activity in the field of social inclusion, namely:
 - o Publications, information and participation to European institutions activities on: services of general interest, public procurement and structural and cohesion fund;
 - o Definition of standards, i.e. rules, principles, common denominators of social cooperation;
 - o Work on NAPs (National Action Plans for Social Inclusion);

- Publication on the way and the tools used by social cooperatives to promote inclusion and work integration.
- Activities related to the European Small Business Act, whose objective is to put small and medium sized enterprises at the forefront of decision-making in the EU and to introduce concrete measures to unlock the SMEs' growth potential. It will include new initiatives to reduce regulatory burden on SMEs, facilitate access to Single Market/public procurement, and help provide necessary financial/human resources for SME development and help SMEs face the challenge of globalization and climate change (activity carried out in collaboration with Cooperative Europe).
- Financial participation of workers: a new project will be submitted in March 2008.

Additional remarks

Cecop has started working in Poland with the SCOPE Project (Strengthen Cooperative and Participative Enterprises in Eastern Europe). It took place between 2000 and 2005, grouping cooperative organisations from the 10 CEE that have now entered the EU (from Estonia in the north to Bulgaria in the south) as well as 7 countries from the EU-15. In its first phase (2000-2002), the project focused mainly on creating partnerships and exchanging good practices between the EU-15 and the organisations from the 10 CEE through east-west regional groupings (e.g. Baltic group, Balkan group), training those organisations in the design of European projects, working on comparative cooperative legislation, and reaching a common positioning in the preparation of the European Commission's first specific policy paper on cooperatives, the Communication on the Promotion of Cooperative Societies in Europe.

The second phase (2003-2005) focused mainly on identifying, analysing and disseminating the parts of the community acquis that are relevant to cooperatives and worker owned enterprises, providing concrete training in cooperative enterprise development (start up, worker buy out etc) under the specific coordination of Diesis, working on the concept of local development under the coordination of Reves Network, and reinforcing the cooperative organisations, especially the weakest ones.

In 2004 Cecop collaborated with many Polish bodies in the organisation of the Second European Social Economy Conference, which took place in Krakow in October 2004.

Presently Cecop collaborates strongly with its Polish member through:

- The presence of NAUWC (National Auditing Union of Workers Cooperatives) President in CECOP's Board of Directors;
- Cooperation on Structural Funds, i.e. CECOP helps its Polish member to participate at Monitoring Committees and other bodies actively dealing with negotiations about structural funds.

2.2.4 Other cooperatives' representative organisations: COPA-Cogeca, EACB, EUROCOOP, Cecodhas

COGECA

COGECA, the General Confederation of Agricultural Co-operatives in the European Union, was created on 24 September 1959. COGECA is the officially recognized representative body of all agricultural and fishery co-operatives in the EU with 40 member organizations from the EU(27) and it is recognized by the European Union institutions as the main representative body and voice of the entire agri-food co-operative sector.

Besides the important function of representing political interests vis-à-vis the Community authorities, COGECA activities aim at promoting relations between co-operatives across borders. Diverse activities have been undertaken in the past in order to offer an intensive exchange of information, experience and opinions to the co-operative business representatives.

www.copa-cogeca.be

EACB

Founded in 1970, the European Association of Co-operative Banks (EACB) is one of the main representative bodies in the European Credit Industry. The Association represents, promotes and defends the common interests of its Members and the co-operative banks in general. As such the EACB is their official spokesman towards the European institutions. To this end, this Association tasks primary involve: informing member organizations of all the initiatives and measures of the European Union relevant to the Banking sector, co-ordinating members' positions regarding problems of common interest as well as providing a platform for the exchange of their experiences and points of view, lobbying European instances actively and elaborating and presenting position papers regarding problems of common interest.

The EACB is also responsible for strengthening the co-operation between European co-operative banking groups and promoting and developing the co-operative idea in the banking sector and in interaction with other co-operatively constituted organizations more generally.

www.eurocoopbanks.coop

EUROCOOP

Created in 1957, EURO COOP is the European community of consumer cooperatives. Its secretariat is based in Brussels. Its members are the national organizations of consumer cooperatives in 16 European countries. It is the European Sector organization member of Cooperatives Europe in the sector of Commerce.

At the European level, EURO COOP's first purpose is to represent its members and to defend and promote consumers' interests. Its priorities are laid down by the

members, consumer co-operatives' national organizations EURO COOP's positions are drafted in close collaboration with the experts employed by EURO COOP's member co-operatives in order to implement the actions and policies defined by consumers. These positions closely reflect consumers' expectations and concerns, expressed by the co-operatives' members or by the customers in shops.

www.eurocoop.net

CECODHAS

CECODHAS is the European representative organization of Social housing service. CECODHAS is based and articulated on three sections, namely the public, voluntary and co-operative sections, which regroup members according to their statutes. Within the CECODHAS membership are 46 regional and national federations, which represent together over 39.000 public, voluntary and co-operative social housing enterprises in 19 countries. They provide over 21 million homes across the European Union. COOPERATIVES EUROPE HOUSING, the co-operative section of CECODHAS, represents 15.140 enterprises, with 5,6 million members and 38 thousand jobs.

As member organization, CECODHAS represents and negotiates for strategic common interests on issues such as Structural Funds, Services of General Interest, State Aid, Public Procurement, Social inclusion, Energy efficiency and Urban sustainable development. Therefore CECODHAS maintains continuous dialogue with the European Ministers responsible for housing, the European institutions, the European Parliament – in particular the 'Urban-Housing' intergroup – and social partners.

www.cecodhas.org

2.2.5 Representative Organisations of associations, foundations and mutuals: CEDAG, EFC, AIM

CEDAG

CEDAG is a network of non-profit organisations from across the EU member states. CEDAG's members are regional and national umbrella bodies for the non-profit sector; together they represent over 50,000 non-profit organisations with over 9 million individual members.

The network was established in 1989 in order to provide a voice for the non-profit sector at European level on issues, which are common to all non-profit organisations.

CEDAG aims to promote the recognition of the non-profit sector by the EU, in particular the economic contribution of non-profit organisations, their disinterested and democratic management approach, their general interest character and their services orientated towards people, and promote a legislative framework, including in terms of tax, helping the sector to develop. CEDAG also lobbies for the right of the sector to be consulted on EU policies of interest to the sector and provide a forum for non-profit organisations across the EU to exchange examples of best practice in the non-profit sector. Finally, CEDAG informs its members about any issues of interest for them at EU level, the current EU policy developments and funding opportunities relevant to the non-profit sector.

<http://www.cedag-eu.org/>

EFC

The European Foundation Centre (EFC) is an international association of foundations and corporate funders dedicated to creating an enabling legal and fiscal environment for foundations, documenting the foundation landscape, strengthening the infrastructure of the sector, and promoting collaboration, both among foundations and between foundations and other actors, to advance the public good in Europe and beyond.

Established in 1989 by seven European foundations, the EFC today serves a core membership of more than 200 organisations with annual expenditures amounting to some 7 billion euros.

Members subscribe to the EFC Principles of Good Practice.

<http://www.efc.be/>

AIM

The 'Association Internationale de la Mutualité' (International Association of Mutual benefit societies) (AIM), brings together 41 national federations of autonomous health insurance and social protection bodies in 29 countries. All these organizations are operating according to the principles of solidarity and not-for-profit orientation. In Europe, they provide coverage against sickness and other social welfare risks to more than 150 million people, either by participating directly in the management of compulsory health insurance, by providing

voluntary health insurance or by delivering directly health care and social services through own facilities.

AIM's goal is to defend and promote, at international and European level, the social values and basic principles shared by its members: access to health care as a fundamental right, solidarity and non-exclusion as essential means to ensure this access to quality health care for all, irrespective of health status or financial capacity to pay; and non profit orientation as guiding principles for health insurance based upon the needs of citizens.

<http://www.aim-mutual.org/>

2.3 European networks dealing with social economy

This paragraph examines the main European networks dealing with social economy. The group is not very homogeneous, since the organisations described are quite different in terms of membership, source of funding and scope. Their common feature is the “thematic” approach: each organisation gathers different kinds of members on a specific theme (social inclusion, local development, etc.).

Distinctive elements are:

- Some organisations are principally dealing with social economy (REVES, ENSIE, RREUSE, EMES, etc.) while others have a broader scope (Social Platform, EAPN) and social economy is only part of their action;
- Some organisations receive core funding by the European Commission (Social Platform, EAPN) while other are funded by membership fees and/or project or service activity;
- The organisational structure and the activities carried out differ greatly according to the funding system and the history of the organisation.

2.3.1 Ensie

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Contact person

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Short history

The European Network for Social Integration Enterprises (ENSIE) was officially established in Bruges (Belgium) on May 11, 2001. Already for several years, exchanges between European networks for social integration enterprises have made it possible to identify the common fundamentals of these initiatives within the various nations of the European Union.

Members

ACEI – Asociacion Catalana Empresas Insercion; FEDEI - Federación Española de Entidades de Empresas de Inserción (**Spain**); ANIMAR - Associação Portuguesa para o Desenvolvimento Local (**Portugal**); BAG Arbeit - Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Arbeit e.V. (**Germany**); BDV - Bundesdachverband für Soziale Unternehmen (**Austria**); CNEI - Comité National des Entreprises d'insertion (**France**); CECOP – European Confederation of Workers Cooperatives, Social Cooperatives and Participative Enterprises; RES - Réseau d'Enterprises Sociales; SST - Samenwerkingsverband Sociale Tewerkstelling (**Belgium**); Consorzio Sociale Abele Lavoro (**Italy**); DEP (**Ireland**); Social Firms in UK (**United Kingdom**).

Funding mechanism

- Membership fees, which depends on the number of members of each ENSIE member;
- Financing from the Council of Europe for specific researchs and studies;
- Projects.

Objectives

ENSIE takes for its objectives:

- to reinforce the power of the actors in economic social integration enterprises through the interchange between the member organisations,
- to stimulate co-operation and partnerships by promoting proper practices, research results, new applications,
- to organise the exchange of information on the legislative national and local policy levels between member organizations,
- to represent the network and to promote all of its activities on all pertinent European levels,
- to elaborate on the contributions and propositions in order to participate in the definition of a European policy against social exclusion,

- to develop a close and solid collaboration with other European networks active in the social economy with the objective of obtaining synergic results.

Activities

- Institutional Representation within RIPPES (network for the promotion of the Social Solidarity Economy), being a part of the working group on Social Entrepreneurship;
- Participation to the European Parliament's "Social Economy" Intergroup;
- Participation to IRIS – Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.
- Lobbying at EU level on State Aid legislation – Inclusion of the "multi-disadvantaged" worker;
- Promotion of Social Inclusion Entrepreneurship.

Present and future significant actions

- Participation to the Social Economy Week at the European Parliament;
- Participation to the 7th Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion in the framework of the Progress Project financed by the EU Commission.

Additional remarks

Actually, ENSIE does not have any specific project with Poland. It would be useful to mention that one of ENSIE's members has developed, together with Poland, a particular software on the management of the National Qualifications Framework aiming at helping social enterprises in their evaluation of NQF requirements.

2.3.2 REVES

REVES

European Network of Cities and Regions for the Social Economy

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Contact person

Erdmuthe Klaer

Short history

REVES, the European Network of Cities and Regions for Social Economy, is the only European network that brings together local authorities and social economy actors. REVES was established in September 1997, by an initiative of the cities of Östersund (Sweden) and Reggio Calabria (IT) and the European Confederation of Workers Co-operatives, Social Co-operatives and Participative Enterprises (CECOP). At present, REVES embodies local authorities and social economy organisations coming from 15 member states (13 EU member states plus Morocco and Russia), for a total of 80 members.

Members (31 December 2007)

(Cursive script: Local Authorities)

Belgium: *Region Bruxelles-Capitale*

Finland: *City of Vaasa; City of Kokkola; Jupiter Foundation; Co-operative women's house; Concordia; Musikcafé After Eight rf;*

France: *Ville de Grenoble; Nantes Metropole; Ville du Creusot; Conseil Regional du Limousin; Conseil general de l'Herault; Ville de Roubaix; Region Provence, Alpes, Cotes d'Azur; MFI – Maison de la Formation et de l'Innovation de la Communauté Urbaine d'Arras; Coorace paca Corse; Energie alternative; SCOT Creafi s.a.; RESPIRO – Aire de l'economie sociale et solidaire;*

Germany: *State of Berlin - Senatsverwaltung für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Frauen; Kommunales Forum Wedding e.v.; Pfefferwerk Foundation;*

Greece: *Prefecture of Piraeus;*

Ireland: *Carbery Housing Association;*

Italy: *Comune di Palermo – Attività sociali; Comune di Reggio Calabria; Comune di Genova; Comune di Messina; Comuni di Elmas e d'Assimini; Comune di Quartu Sant'Elena; Comune di Livorno; Comune di Cosenza; Comune di Modena; Comune di Pordenone; Comune di Napoli; Comune di Porto Torres; Provincia di Piacenza; Comune di Faenza;*

ARCI Palermo; CRIC – Centro Regionale d'Intervento per la Cooperazione; Federazione regionale solidarietà e lavoro; Job Centre; Nuove Solidarietà; Piattaforma per l'economia sociale dell'area dello stretto; ISCOS; Il mio mondo coop. soc.; ARCI – Nuova associazione; Consorzio BIM di Valle Camonica; Consorzio Sol.Co Camunia; Fondazione Clerici; Comprensorio delle giudicarie Tione di Trento; L'ancora; Confocooperative di Modena; Legacoop Modena; Consorzio solidarietà sociale Modena; Sol.Co Mantova; Un sorriso;

Impresa a rete, coop. soc. Arl.; Campania Felix – Cooperativa Sociale; Cooperativa Sociale Fides et Ratio; Associazione di Comuni Altesi;

Luxembourg: *Objectif plein emploi a.s.b.l;*

Lithuania: *Kaisiadorys District*; Kaisiadorys Business Information Center;
Morocco : Centre Méditerranéen Pour L'Environnement et le Développement;
Poland: *Municipality of Krakow*;
Portugal: Studio Forum;
Russia: *Administration of Arkhangelsk region; Union of local communities of Arkhangelsk region*;
Spain: CEPS – Proyectos Sociales;
Sweden: *Municipality of Oestersund; Oerebro County Council; Växjö Kommun; Värmdö Kommun*; Coompanion - Cooperative Development Agency in the County of Jamtland;
 Kooperativ Konsult;
Social economy supporting structures: CESVIP; Enaip Sardegna.
Networks: CECOP aisbl.

Funding mechanism

According to the Statute, members have to pay a yearly fee, whose amount depends on the organisation type (Local Authorities, Social Economy structures etc.) and size (how many people are members/affiliated etc.).

Moreover, REVES manages projects developed by the organisation itself or in partnership with other associations/organisations/local authorities, which are co-financed by the European Commission or other organisations.

Objectives

Main objectives of local and international co-operation within the network are laid out in the REVES Charter. They include:

- Establish a stable partnership, long-term collaboration and a common coordination and planning of local development policies between local authorities and the social economy;
- Create and develop a new culture of social entrepreneurship, question the prevailing economic models and propose alternative socio-economic approaches;
- Develop Territorial Social Responsibility (TSR) as a process of social global responsibility based on sustainable development and participative popular democracy. TSR is based on the extension of the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility of enterprises to a wider concept involving all key actors on a given territory. Its principles correspond with common objectives of the European strategy against poverty and social exclusion such as the mobilisation of all relevant bodies, subsidiarity and the application of a multi-dimensional approach to social inclusion.
- Apply gender equality, promote diversity through inclusion, fight against every kind of discrimination, racism and precarious conditions;
- Develop innovative models so as to strengthen partnership and good governance between local authorities and social economy;
- Identify common objectives and values for partnership and synergies with other networks;
- Work actively with the European Commission, the European Parliament, the EESC, the Committee of the Regions and the Member States in order to promote REVES values and activities and to create favourable legal and fiscal frameworks for the development of social economy in Europe;
- Seek a balanced development and dissemination of social economy values throughout Europe and its neighbours, targeted at all territories and all groups;
- Promote the exchange of good experiences between members and commitment to excellence.

Activities

- Lobbying and Communication: fostering transversality with a view to foster social cohesion, sustainability and partnership as fundamental principles of EU policies *in all policy areas*.

- Transnational projects promoting local partnerships for socially sustainable local development (including aspects such as new quality employment; improvement of local services; intercultural dialogue etc.)
- European benchmarking (example: development of the TSR© label – Territorial Social Responsibility);
- Spreading experiences and expertise by means of conferences and seminars;

Present and future significant actions

- Pooling and dissemination of specific expertise through diverse projects as well as through the working groups “Youth”, “Social Tourism” and “REVES East”
- Developing specific REVES programmes/initiatives to extend collaboration with the new member states as well as with non-EU territories in the Mediterranean (partially through the REVES-ART programme in collaboration with the UNDP);
- Promotion of a second CoR opinion on partnership between local authorities and the social economy (with specific focus on potentials regarding the use of Structural Funds);
- Delivering expertise as a partner of the EP InterGroups “Urban development and housing” and “Third sector” so as to support the concept of LA/SE partnerships (in cooperation with Social Economy Europe);
- Project “Città ideale” – development of ethical quality systems based on the concept of Territorial Social Responsibility, including alternative methods of participation and consensus-building;
- Project “UNITE” – Creating innovative, participative and partnership-based local strategies and instruments to promote intercultural dialogue and integration of third-country nationals.

Additional remarks

The role of REVES in Poland has been and still is very relevant. Since 2002 Reves has contributed to the development of a Polish social economy organising together with other European social economy organisations several events. A first seminar, which took place in Warsaw in 2002, gathered a group of local actors who became the motor of Polish social economy. Reves organised a workshop on local development in the two European social economy conferences (Prague 2002 and Krakow 2004), which played an important role for the emergence of a Polish social economy.

At present, Reves is working in three Polish territories, namely the district of Białołęka (near Warsaw), the city of Byczyna and two districts in the city of Gdynia. Reves supports and provides expertise for the creation of partnerships between local authorities and local social economy (where it exists) or local communities.

Moreover, Reves has participated to the first two Polish social economy conferences organised by FISE in 2006 and 2007.

2.3.3 EMES

EMES

EMES European Research Network

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Contact person

Rocio Nogales (coordinator)

Short history

EMES exists since 1996, when an international group of scholars formed a research network that had been sponsored by the European Union. Having reached an unusual level of mutual understanding, trust and a common perspective of working together, a community of researchers sprang off from this working experience.

Formally established as a non-profit association (ASBL under Belgian law) in 2002 and named after its first research programme, on "the emergence of social enterprises in Europe", EMES nevertheless concerns itself with broader matters, defining the "third sector" in broad ways.

Members

Research centres: CCS - Centre for Co-operative Studies, University College Cork (Ireland); CERISIS - Centre de Recherches Interdisciplinaires pour la Solidarité et l'Innovation Sociale (Belgium); CES - Centre d'Economie Sociale (Belgium); CSE - Centre for Social Entrepreneurship, Roskilde University, (Denmark); CESIS - Centro de Estudos para a Intervencao Social (Portugal); CIES - Centro de Investigación de Economía y Sociedad (Spain); CRIDA - Centre de Recherche et d'Information sur la Démocratie et l'Autonomie (France); CRU - Co-operatives Research Unit (United Kingdom); ISSAN - Istituto Studi Sviluppo Aziende Non Profit (Italy); SH - Södertörns högskola (Sweden).

Individual members: Karl Birkhölzer, Tech-Net Berlin, (Germany); Bernard Enjolras, Institute for Social Research, (Norway); Adalbert Evers, Justus Liebig University, Giessen, (Germany); Laurent Gardin, Université de Valenciennes/LISE; Jean-Louis Laville, CNAM/LISE, Paris; Vincent Lhuillier, Ecole de Santé Publique, Université Henri Poincaré (France); Ewa Leś, Polish Academy of Sciences, (Poland); Pekka Pättiniemi, KSL Civic Association for Adult Learning, (Finland); Victor Pestoff, Mid-Sweden University, (Sweden).

Funding mechanism

Grants, project revenue and membership fees.

Objectives

EMES' goal is to gradually build up a European corpus of theoretical and empirical knowledge, pluralistic in disciplines and methodology, around "third sector" issues.

Activities

The range of activities carried out by EMES, its members and partners can be divided into:

- **RESEARCH** – EMES conducts multidisciplinary studies to understand the diversity of experiences at national levels, and the way third sector organisations are embedded in their respective societies.
- **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS** – EMES directly and indirectly supports efforts to teach this field in European universities, be it through the development of doctoral summer schools, university programs, hosting of interns or participation in European initiatives. EMES held its first doctoral summer school in collaboration with the Cinefogo Network of Excellence in July 2008.
- **DISSEMINATION** – As an organizer of or participant in international and national conferences, seminars and meetings, EMES aims to make the results of its research projects and publications widely known in the academic world and in various economic, social and political arenas as a way of enriching the knowledge accumulated and contributing to the field. For instance, EMES has organised with the ISTR (International Society for Third Sector Research) two major international conferences in spring 2005 (Paris, France) and in summer 2008 (Barcelona, Spain).

Present and future significant actions

EMES benefits from the accumulated experience, expertise and reputation of all its members who are among the leading research centres and individual researchers in the field of the Third Sector and social enterprises. Since its inception in 1996, the EMES has undertaken six major research projects in the following fields:

Social Enterprise:

- The EMES Project on the emergence of social enterprise in Europe (1996-1999);
- Study on Promoting the Role of Social Enterprises in the CEE and CIS (2006).

Third Sector:

- Third System and Employment in partnership with CIRIEC International (1997-1999).
- Personal and Social Services:
- The Child Care Project, on child care services in Europe (2001-2004).

Work Integration:

- The ELEXIES Project, on social integration enterprises in Europe (2002-2003);
- The PERSE Project on the socio-economic performance of social enterprises in the field of work-integration (2001-2004).

Training and education are also a main focus of EMES' mission. Therefore, EMES and its members are actively engaged in developing a strong student community and contributing to the development of a strong curriculum around third sector themes. The ways in which such goals are achieved include the development of formal university curricula addressing the topics covered by EMES' research projects; the hosting of interns (e.g. a student from Poland's Institute of Public Administration in Kielce in the framework of the *Leonardo da Vinci* program) and graduate students; or the development of specialized PhD training and teaching around third sector topics (the first Ph.D. summer school will be held in July 2008).

Additional remarks

Thanks to the alliances established with other European and international organizations, EMES can leverage resources and increase the impact of its projects and activities. In addition to the aforementioned fruitful alliance with the ISTR, EMES is one of the four founding members of the University Network for Social Entrepreneurship (www.universitynetwork.org). Some other partners of EMES are the United Nations Development Programme - Bratislava Regional Centre; the Cinefogo Network of Excellence and the Latin American research network RILESS (*Red de Investigadores Latinoamericanos en Economía Social y Solidaria*).

The partnership with the UNDP-BRC has resulted in a wide network of researchers in CEE (Central and Eastern Europe) and CIS (Community of Independent States) countries that EMES wishes to strengthen in the future via new research project, exchange of researchers or the organization of joint activities to facilitate mutual learning.

2.3.4 EAPN

EAPN European Antipoverty Network

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Contact person

Fintan Farrel – Director

Short history

Since 1990, EAPN has been an independent network of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and groups involved in the fight against poverty and social exclusion in the Member States of the European Union.

Members

EAPN is a network of 24 national networks of voluntary organisations and grassroots groups active in the fight against poverty within each member state of the EU, and of European organisations whose main activities are related to the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

EAPN is a network of:

- EAPN **Austria** - Die Armutskonferenz;
- EAPN **Belgium**;
- EAPN **Bulgaria** - BAPN ;
- EAPN **Czech Republic** ;
- EAPN **Denmark** – Danemu ;
- EAPN **Finland** ;
- EAPN **France** ;
- EAPN **Germany** – NAK ;
- EAPN **Greece** ;
- EAPN **Ireland** ;
- EAPN **Italy** – CILAP ;
- EAPN **Luxembourg** – Letzebuerg ;
- EAPN **Portugal** – REAPN ;
- EAPN **Span** ;
- EAPN **Sweden** ;
- EAPN **United Kingdom**

There are also 27 international organisations which are members of the EAPN.

Funding mechanism

Core funding: almost 90% of EAPN budget is financed by the EU Commission within a programme of support to EU networks active in the fight against social exclusion (Progress). The remaining 10% comes from members' and sponsors' contributions.

An additional source of financing can be the partnership in European projects.

Objectives

EAPN's core objectives are:

- to put the fight against poverty and social exclusion on the political agenda of the European Union;
 - to promote and enhance the effectiveness of actions against poverty and social exclusion;
 - to lobby for and with people and groups facing poverty and social exclusion.
- EAPN includes the objectives of gender equality and anti-racism in all its areas of work.

Activities

Advocacy

EAPN is one of the main partners of the European institutions on the European strategy to combat social exclusion. It lobbies for the integration of the fight against poverty and social exclusion into all Community policies, ranging from Structural Funds and employment policies through to economic and monetary policies.

EAPN builds alliances with relevant actors to create a stronger voice in favour of social inclusion.

Analysis

EAPN keeps under close review Community policies and programmes likely to impact on groups facing poverty and social exclusion. The network also develops links with the research sector in order to enhance knowledge of poverty and social exclusion within the EU.

EAPN develops proposals to influence the Community institutions.

Information

The web site www.eapn.org is the reference portal on poverty and social exclusion in Europe. A newsletter "Network News" and a bimonthly news sheet "EAPN Flash" provide information on EAPN and EU policy/events, and on Community programmes and initiatives of interest to EAPN members.

EAPN also produces a range of materials on poverty, social inclusion, employment, social protection, the Structural Funds, the future of Europe, etc.

Exchange

EAPN sets up task forces and hosts transnational seminars. It is also a forum for exchange of information on national policies for social inclusion. It facilitates partnership building among its members and beyond, and liaises with NGOs in the candidate countries.

Training

EAPN provides training for its members on networking and European policies.

Task Forces:

EAPN develops a part of its activities thanks to 3 big working groups, which are:

- Social Inclusion;
- Employment;
- Structural Funds

And a smaller one, the Services working group.

Present and future significant actions

- An EU wide campaign for Adequate Minimum Income schemes. 24 out of 27 Member States have minimum income schemes in place at this present time, but there are serious flaws with their accessibility and their adequacy. EAPN is working for Minimum Income to be acknowledged as a fundamental prerequisite for an EU based on social justice and equal opportunities for all.
- Preparation of NAPs (National Action Plans) for inclusion for the 2008-2010 period;
- Reinforcing the communication of the Commission on the Open Method of Coordination on Social Protection and Social Inclusion;
- Development of a video on good support on employment activation;
- Transnational exchanges on the use of the Structural Funds by NGOs at national level;
- Lobbying activities related to the concept of "flexicurity".

Additional remarks

The Polish Committee of EAPN has recently been constituted even if it does not yet have a legal status. It is based at WRZOS (The Working Community of Associations of Social NGO's). Its main objective is to create an adequate organizational form, integrating and strengthening the cooperation between organizations working in the field of fighting against poverty and social exclusion.

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The Polish members of EAPN Committee are:

- Wspólnota Robocza Związków Organizacji Socjalnych (The Working Community of Associations of Social Organisations -WRZOS)
- Federacja Polskich Banków Żywności (Federation of Polish Food Banks)
- Caritas Kielce (Caritas Poland)
- Sportowe Stowarzyszenie na Rzecz Integracji Społecznej (Sports Associations for Social Integration)
- Stowarzyszenie na Rzecz Integracji Społecznej im. Św. Jadwigi Śląskiej (Association for Social Integration of Jadwiga Śląska)
- Stowarzyszenie Pomocy Dzieciom i Młodzieży "Blisko dziecka" (The Association of Helping the Children and Young People "Close to the child")
- Stowarzyszenie MONAR (Association MONAR)
- Stowarzyszenie Przyjaciół Międzynarodowego Ruchu ATD Czwarty Świat w Polsce (ATD Fourth World in Poland) (Warsaw, Kielce)
- Stowarzyszenie "Nadzieja Przeciw Biedzie i Bezrobociu" (HOPE Association Against Poverty and Unemployment")
- Stowarzyszenie Osób Pozbawionych Pracy "Multis Multum" (The Association of the Unemployed People "Multis Multum")
- Centrum Projektów Obywatelskich (The Centre of Civic Projects)
- Fundacja Bea Pro Publico Bono (Bea Pro Publico Bono Foundation)
- Stowarzyszenie Rodzin Katolickich Diecezji Płockiej (The Association of Catholic Families Plock Diocese)
- Towarzystwo Pomocy im. Św. Brata Alberta (St. Brother Albert's Aid Society)
- Stowarzyszenie Wydawnicze BARKI (Edition Association of BARKA)
- Stowarzyszenie Inicjatyw Społecznych EFFATA (Social Initiative Association EFFATA)
- Ogólnopolski Związek Bezrobotnych (National Association of Unemployed)
- Stowarzyszenie Pomocy "Ludzie Ludziom" (Help Association "Ludzie Ludziom")

2.3.5 Social Platform

Social Platform

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Contact person

Roshan Di Puppo – Director

Short history

For the European Social NGOs, the publication of the Green Paper on European Social Policy in November 1993 was a significant development, as it was the first official document which dealt explicitly with this matter and which also aims to establish a dialogue with NGOs. A group of concerned NGOs worked together to organise an NGO Forum to discuss the Green Paper in April 1994. This cooperation continued on an informal basis, and gave rise to common positions on the proposal for a European Social Policy Forum, and on the medium-term Social Action Programme 1995-1997.

The European Social NGOs decided to build upon these contacts in order to develop a more permanent framework for co-operation. The main aim was to allow the NGO sector to establish a broader and on-going dialogue with the European institutions on questions of social policy, which would complement the sector specific consultations, which remain essential. It is in this context that the Platform of European Social NGOs was established in 1995. It brings together around forty European non-governmental organisations, federations and networks which are working to build an inclusive society and promote the social dimension of the European Union.

Members

The Social Platform is composed of three membership categories: Full members, Associate members and Observers.

Full members: AGE - The European Older People's Platform; ATD - Fourth World International Movement; Autism Europe; Caritas Europa; CEBSD - Combined European Bureau for Social Development; COFACE - Confederation of Family Organisations in the EU; Eurochild; Eurodiaconia; EAPN - European Anti Poverty Network; EAEA - European Association for the Education of Adults; EASPD - European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities; EBU - European Blind Union; Euronet - European Children's Network; CECOP - European Confederation of Workers' Co-operatives, Social Cooperatives and Participative Enterprises; CEDAG - European Council for Non-Profit Organisations; EDF - European Disability Forum; FEANTSA - European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless; EURAG - European Federation of Older Persons; FEFAP - European Federation of Unpaid Parents and Carers at Home; CECODHAS - European Liaison Committee for Social Housing; ENAR - European Network Against Racism; EPHA - European Public Health Alliance; ESAN - European Social Action Network; EWL - European Women's Lobby; YFJ - European Youth Forum; ICSW - International Council on Social Welfare; MHE - Mental Health Europe; Solidar; Inclusion Europe - The European Association of Societies of Persons with Intellectual Disability and their Families; ILGA-Europe - The European Region of the International Lesbian and Gay Association; CEV - The European Volunteer Centre; FAI - The International Federation of the Christian Associations of Italian Workers; Workability Europe

Associate Members: AFEM - Association des Femmes de l'Europe Méridionale; ERIO - European Roma Information Office; IPPF EN - International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network; QCEA - Quaker Council for European Affairs; Red Cross EU Office; Save the Children Europe Group; YES Forum - Youth and European Social Work

Observers: CNVOS - Centre of non-governmental organisations of Slovenia; EuroHealthNet; ENU - European Network of the Unemployed; NCVO - National Council for Voluntary Organisations; NICVA - Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action; Pan Cyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council; PICUM; Plataforma de ONGs de Acción Social; SCVO - Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations; IFSW Europe - The International Federation of Social Workers; WCVA - Welsh Council for Voluntary Action

Funding mechanism

The Social Platform is funded by a grant from the European Commission to support its running costs. The funding comes from the Community Action Programme to promote active European citizenship. This provides funding for the Social Platform in order to promote active citizenship by supporting the involvement of social NGOs in the development of European policy-making. The budget is spent on facilitating the involvement of its members, by providing them with information on relevant EU developments, bringing members together for meetings to exchange experiences and share knowledge, arranging meetings between representatives of the EU Institutions and social NGOs, and thus providing a concerted input from social NGOs into the policy-making processes of the EU.

Other funding comes from membership fees, from other contributions from members, and from funding for specific projects.

Objectives

The Social Platform and its members are committed to the advancement of the principles of equality, solidarity, non discrimination and the promotion and respect of fundamental rights for all, within Europe and in particular the European Union.

Social Platform bases its common actions upon the following objectives:

- The eradication of poverty and the elimination of social exclusion
- The elimination of discrimination in all its forms and the promotion of equality for all
- Equality between women and men in all areas of life
- The promotion of participatory democracy
- The engagement of social NGOs in an enhanced structured civil dialogue at EU level
- The involvement of people experiencing or at risk of poverty, exclusion and discrimination in decision-making processes affecting them

Activities

Through its policy and campaigning work, the Social Platform enables its member organisations to pool ideas and expertise, building their common experience into a positive force for social change in the EU. The Platform acts a vehicle for its member organisations to express their shared values and shape these into a strong voice for the social NGO sector.

The Platform disseminates information and promotes understanding of EU policies of concern to social NGOs and builds solidarity, co-operation and expertise through the exchange of knowledge and experience amongst social NGOs.

The Social Platform's policy work is led primarily by its thematic Working Groups, where members meet to exchange views and ideas, and agree common strategies and positions for the Social Platform. Currently there are three main Working Groups, one on Social Policy, one on Fundamental Rights & Non-Discrimination and the other on Social Services of General Interest. One more informal Working Party also meeting regularly: on Employment. Policy and campaigning work on civil dialogue and governance issues is led by the Steering Group, and the Management Committee has an overview of all the Groups. The Social Platform Secretariat coordinates the Groups.

Social Platform is active in the following fields:

- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Demographic and Social Change
- Employment
- Equality & Anti-Discrimination
- EU Presidencies
- Fundamental Rights
- Future of Europe
- Integration of migrants
- Lisbon Strategy for "growth and jobs"
- Participatory Democracy & Good Governance
- Public Procurement
- Services of General Interest & Social and Health Services
- Social Protection and Social Inclusion
- Sustainable Development

Present and future significant actions

- Develop the collective identity of social NGOs and communicate the contribution of social NGOs to social cohesion;
- Establish the sector as leaders in good governance practices for NGOs by developing a Charter of Governance for European NGOs;
- Support members to achieve their objectives by providing information, by developing mutual understanding and through skills training;
- Support the development of links between European social NGOs and NGOs within the new Member States, Accession and Candidate Countries;
- Work to promote a more open, democratic European Union;
- Make the most of the new social articles of the Reform Treaty, in particular the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the social transversal clause;
- Campaign to promote Social NGOs recommendations on social and demographic change and to ensure that they are incorporated in the revised Lisbon integrated guidelines and in the EU Social Agenda;
- Develop the capacity of the social NGO sector to make a useful contribution to the formation and implementation of European employment policies;
- Ensure that the eradication of poverty and of social exclusion is a priority as the Europe level and that agreed objectives are delivering results;
- Campaign to promote Social NGOs recommendations on services of general interest (adopted in 2007), to ensure a users' approach to quality social and health services and to promote the recognition of the role of social NGOs in the delivery of services;
- Make the most of the inclusion of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in the Reform Treaty and facilitate the engagement of social NGOs in promoting EU policies based upon fundamental rights;
- Campaign to promote NGOs recommendation to achieve equality in Europe (adopted in 2007), promote exchanges between members and develop partnership with key stakeholder on fighting discrimination;
- Promote exchanges between members and develop partnership with key stakeholders on promoting gender equality between women and men;
- Promote the engagement of Social Platform members in the area of migration and a holistic and rights based approach to migration issues;
- Disseminate information to members concerning the implementation of the new PROGRESS Action Programme; facilitate their involvement in consultations on its implementation.

2.3.6 CEFEC

CEFEC

Confederation of European Social Firms, Employment Initiatives and Social Cooperatives

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Web site

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E Mail

secretariat@cefec.org

Contact person

Marianna Georgali

Short history

CEFEC was created in 1986 as a loose group of pioneers in mental health rehabilitation. For the first 15 years CEFEC focused its attention on mental health, while more recently it enlarged its field of action to social firms in general.

Members

CEFEC has organisational members and supporters:

Organisational members: Pro Mente Austria (**Austria**); AIGS - Association Interregionale de Guidance et de Sante (**Belgium**); The District Psychiatric Dispensary of Rousse (**Bulgaria**); FOKUS - Association for Mental Health Care (**Czech Republic**); CRCA - Cyprus Rehabilitation Counseling Association (**Cyprus**); Specialisterne (**Denmark**); Affinity - Finnish Central Association for Mental Health; VATES-saatio / VATES Foundation (**Finland**); BAG Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Integrationsfirmen e.V.; BAG BTZ Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Beruflicher (**Germany**); Kaleidoskopio; PEPSAEE Panhellenic Union for Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Work Integration; Psychiatric Hospital of Petra Olympus; Psychiatry Hospital of Thessaloniki; Society of Social Psychiatry (**Greece**); Shannon Community Workshops ltd (**Ireland**); Associacao de Reabilitacao e Integracao Ajuda (**Portugal**); DOBROVITA plus d.o.o.; SENT - Slovenian Association for Mental Health (**Slovenia**); FAISEM, Iniciativa de Empleo Andaluza, IDEA, S.A (**Spain**); ESPAS-Stiftung fur wirtschaftliche und soziale Integration Erwerbsbeeintrachtigter (**Switzerland**); Social Firms UK (**UK**).

Supporters : Christiane Haerlin, Christiane Kramer, Saskia Andriessen.

Funding mechanism

CEFEC had a very modest budget constituted by membership fees. It finances a part time secretariat. Events and other activities are funded, case by case, by individual members, sponsorships or public contributions.

Objectives

CEFEC believes that all people with disabilities have the right for a place in society and in work. People with disabilities have the right for a normal workplace where they have the same rights, a normal work contract and the same salary as other people.

CEFEC aims at creating social firms and independent cooperatives, making efforts to transform and de-institutionalise sheltered workshops providing accompanying care services to support integration into competitive employment in regular enterprises.

Activities

Support to organisations that want to create new workplaces

CEFEC supports any organisation that wants to create new workplaces for people with mental health problems and other people with disabilities. CEFEC has set up a guideline with detailed instructions on how to set up social firms.

Exchange of information and mutual support on a national level

CEFEC provides its members with current information on new developments in their country, and promotes the creation of national networks. In every country there is one elected representative who provides up-to-date information. CEFEC also organises regular national meetings in different European countries.

To give its members a voice

CEFEC represents the interest of its members. CEFEC gives its members a voice against national governments and the European Commission. In the framework of the European Commission, CEFEC is a recognised NGO in the sector of economic integration.

A Database on social firms

CEFEC has set up a database with information on social firms in all European countries. The database contains information i.e. on address, contact persons, activities, areas of business and other.

Analysis of the current situation of social firms in the different European countries

CEFEC provides its members with up-to-date information and publishes a Newsletter. The CEFEC secretariat also supports its members to find partners for transnational programmes and to organise transnational activities.

Annual conferences

CEFEC organises a conference on social firms every year. Each conference gives the possibility to meet partners in the field and to exchange information. The conference includes also a fair of social firms, where CEFEC members can present their products and services to colleagues and to a wider public.

Present and future significant actions

Presently CEFEC action is focused on:

- The organisation of its national conference in Lisbon in June 2008;
- The search for new members, in order to be more representative of the different national models and typologies of social firms and to increase exchange of knowledge and collaboration at European level;
- The planning of the European Social Firms Award of the Year. The award will take place in 2009. An international jury will choose the three best social firms among all the candidatures received.

2.3.7 FEBEA

FEBEA

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Contact person

Isabelle Lohisse – General secretary

Short history

Created in 2001, the European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks (FEBEA – Fédération Européenne des banques Ethiques et Alternatives) is an association based in Brussels governed by Belgian law. Open to member countries of the European Union as well as applicant countries, it gathers financial institutions whose aim is to finance social and solidarity-based economy.

Febea was created because the entrepreneurs of a solidarity-based economy – whether they are the long-term unemployed creating their own business, farmers starting up in organic produce, or directors of insertion enterprises – all have a point in common: they often have difficulty in obtaining financing from the traditional banking system. This is where the FEBEA can help: its members can offer these business managers their expertise and financing.

Members

The members of FEBEA are savings and credit financial institutions that carry out social finance (finance solidaire) activities of significant importance. Presently they are :

APS Bank Ltd. (MT), Banca Popolare Etica (IT), Bank für Sozialwirtschaft (DE), Banque Alternative Suisse (Switzerland), BBK Solidarioa Fundazioa (ES), BISE Bank (PL), Caisse Solidaire du Nord Pas-de-Calais (FR), Caixa Pollença (ES), Cassa Centrale Banca Cooperativa della Provincia di Trento (IT), Charity Bank (UK), Consortium ETIMOS (IT), Crédal (BE), Crédit Coopératif (FR), Cultura Sparebank (Norway), Ekobanken (Se), Femu Qui (FR), Fiare Fundazioa (ES), Hefboom (BE), Integra Cooperative (SK), Merkur (DK), La NEF (FR), SIDI (FR), SIFA (FR), Fundació Un Sol Món (ES).

Funding mechanism

The association is financed by annual membership fees. Specific products are funded by participating members (see specific description).

Objectives

FEBEA aims at creating financial tools for solidarity. FEBEA is a place for exchange, sharing experiences and creating common tools to encourage the development of financial solidarity in Europe. Available to all FEBEA members who wish to participate, these tools are very diversified: guarantee funds ("Solidarity Guarantee"), investment fund ("Solidarity Choice") and also financing companies ("SEFEA: Société Européenne de Finance Ethique et Alternative European" – European Ethical and Alternative Financing Company), etc. All these means have one common objective: ultimately, to create a refinancing bank for ethical and alternative financial institutions on a European scale.

Activities

FEBEA offers several financial products, such as :

SEFEA - European Ethical and Alternative Financing Company

Created in 2002 by FEBEA members, the European Ethical and Alternative Financing Company (SEFEA – Société Européenne Finance Ethique et Alternative) plays a decisive role in the development of a solidarity-based economy and social financing in Europe. It is the first European alternative financing company to have the know-how and the operational tools, capable of strengthening and multiplying the ethical and solidarity-based financial ventures in all European countries. SEFEA offers its members financial and non-financial services to strengthen their own assets structure in order to respond to their clients' application for intervention and support. It achieves this through two operational tools: medium- and long-term capitalisation and financing. SEFEA's actions are not simply limited to supporting already existing financial institutions. They also aim to promote the start up of new ventures in countries where ethical financing is in its infancy. This is why SEFEA offers all the experience and know-how of its members acquired over the years: technical assistance in all the different project phases, operator training, risk evaluation and the definition of development strategies based on local requirements but with a global point of view. The founders of SEFEA boast a share capital of more than 324 million euros. The founding members of SEFEA are: Banca popolare Etica (Italy), Caisse Solidaire de Nord Pas-De-Calais (France), Cassa Centrale delle Casse Rurali Trentine e delle Banche di Credito Cooperativo del nord-est (Italy), Crédal (Belgium), Crédit Coopératif (France), Etimos (Italy), Femu Qui (Corsica), Hefboom (Belgium), La Nef (France), Bise (Poland).

Mutual Guarantee Fund "Solidarity Guarantee"

Elaborated by the Crédit Coopératif's United and Alternative Financing task force on behalf of the FEBEA, the mutual guarantee fund's "Solidarity Guarantee" is intended to cover social and solidarity-based economy loans realized by the members and structures which are members of the fund and close to the FEBEA. Given the differences that may exist within solidarity-based economy movements and from one country to the next, FEBEA have perfected a multi-level mutualisation system to render a great variety of risks compatible. A highly adaptable structure, the "Solidarity Guarantee" covers the greatest range of sectors possible so the risk is better spread out. The principal section of the fund (section A) unites the grants or non-refundable advances, as well as the funds initially lent, and the subscriptions paid by the beneficiaries of the guarantee in the fund. Each beneficiary of the guarantee effectively contributes to the fund by a subscription, the amount of which depends on the final risk assessment presented by the subscriber. The subscriptions to the fund are mutualised. This means they jointly participate in covering the risk. At the satisfactory conclusion of the loan, each subscription is returned to the beneficiary, increased by its financial return and reduced by its participation in failures covered by the fund, in proportion to its participation in section A of the fund.

The specificity of the fund consists in giving interested structures, the possibility of counter-guaranteeing the loans they wish to "sponsor". In this case, they pay a sponsorship deposit intended to promote solidarity loans for projects, regions or specific themes of its choice. The deposits from sponsorship organisations are not mutualised. Thus, each sponsorship organisation participates only in the risks of its concerned parties. Section B of the fund unites its non-mutualised deposits. The combination of risks taken by the two sections is the foundation for the "Solidarity Guarantee" mechanism. The deposits can be replaced by guarantees by signature.

Investment fund « Choix Solidaire »

New form of solidarity investment, created and distributed by the Crédit Coopératif in France, Choix Solidaire combines steady performance and a sense of responsibility, whilst taking the least risk possible. Choix Solidaire is available to everyone: private individuals, corporate bodies and save-as-you-earn schemes. Choix Solidaire is a solidarity fund invested up to 10% in French and European company solidarity securities. Its objective is to offer subscribers a socially responsible diversified investment with steady growth.

Present and future significant actions

It is one of SEFEA's objectives to form the European Alternative Bank (BEA –Banque Européenne Alternative). With the assets structure of a bank and the expertise of SEFEA and its members, the new organisation will be in a position to act as a true European investment bank for the social sector. It will also act as a unitary and influential spokesman with regard to international public institutions.

2.3.8 European Social Franchising Network

ESFN European Social Franchising Network
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Contact person

Keith Richardson

Short history

Social Franchising is a new concept developed by a number of organisation and social enterprises within the EU. It is a method that has been developed to enable social enterprises to grow much more speedily and effectively than has hitherto been possible with one of developments.

It is based on the concept of a Consortia approach to business development, as used in Italy. This social cooperatives coming together as part of Consortia or federations and initiating new enterprises themselves rather than, for example, in the UK where business development is usually by individual agencies or individuals. Such an approach has helped Italy grow the largest social enterprise sector in the UK.

It is also based on the concept of commercial franchising which has proved to be a highly effective method of growing commercial businesses. The greater growth rate is in part attributable to the much greater survival rate of franchisees than other type of business start ups (some eight time better across Europe).

Social franchising is different to commercial franchising in that the enterprises have a social as well as commercial purpose and often, though not exclusively, the franchise is owned by the franchisees rather than just the franchisor. In this way social franchises are often more akin to federations than a top down hierarchical structure.

The European Social Franchising Network (ESFN) was created to promote and develop the concept of social franchising at European level and to share business ideas. The ESFN, a spin-off from the trasnational work developed within the EQUAL project SIPS, was launched at a meeting of the European Parliament's Social Economy Intergroup on 10th October 2007.

It will soon (spring 2008) be formally incorporated as a European Economic Interest Group (EEIG).

Members

Social franchising as a concept has been developed separately in a number of European countries. Examples include the Le Mat hotel chain originating in Italy, Villa Vägen ut! Halfway-houses for ex-offenders in Sweden, Care and Share Associates domiciliary care businesses in the UK and CAP Market super-market Chain in Germany. Some of these businesses are quite large, CAP Market has over 40 stores and others, such as Le Mat, are operating in more than one European country.

Members: Le Mat Italy and Le Mat Europe; FILSE (**Italy**); LID (**Lithuania**); 4th Angle; INSPIRE/ CASA & CoRE (**UK**); FAF (**Germany**); VATES (**Finland**); Konsortiet Vägen ut! kooperativen / Villa Vägen ut! And Le Mat Sweden; Coompanion (**Sweden**).

Funding mechanism

In the long term the Network should be self-funding through membership fees. Members will receive benefits from membership in the form of information, such as a business structures, promotion of social franchise and the concept of social franchising. Such benefits could be sufficient to enable the Network to be self-sustainable. By now the resources have been provided by SIPS project, while members pay a symbolic fee of 100€.

Objectives

ESFN works on the promotion and development of social franchising in order to increase the effectiveness of social enterprises, increase their growth and let them achieve social goals. ESFN is committed to:

- Share knowledge, contact and business ideas on social franchising
- Provide support from other involved in social franchising
- Facilitate the development of European Social franchises
- Promote the concept of social franchising
- Make S.F a credible alternative to traditional business development methodologies
- S.F make easier and safer for social entrepreneurs to set up enterprises, providing them with a proven business model and access to trade specific support

Activities

ESFN aims to:

- Lobbying and representation of social enterprises at European level
- Jointly developing of new business ideas
- Provision of a promotional website and European access point on social franchising with links to national and regional members and social franchise
- Provision of an interactive Wiki website to share information and best practice for members
- Provide an accreditation standard for social franchises

Present and future significant actions

ESFN next steps could be summed up as follows:

- Engage more people in the network (other European network, too)
- Raise awareness of social franchising and the network
- Develop a web presence
- Consult more widely on our proposal for the network
- Develop detailed proposal for establishing a network

These goals will be achieved by:

- "How to Social Franchise " Guide
- Production of a three years business plan for the Network
- Identification of funding for the Network.

2.3.9 RREUSE

RREUSE

Address

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E Mail

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Contact person

Danielle Van Kalmthout, Director

Short history

RREUSE is a specialised European network of national and regional social economy federations and enterprises with activities in re-use and recycling.

RREUSE traces back its origins to 2000, when the European Commission published the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipments) Directive: the text did not mention any reference to the re-use or the repair of these equipments, so four national networks (2 from Belgium, 1 from France and 1 from Holland) decided to work together creating a European network (RREUSE) in order to lobby for changing the text of this Directive and support the re-use and the repair of electric and electronic equipments before recycling them.

Members

RREUSE members are the existing national and regional social economy networks active in certain waste streams, and individual organisations, particularly where specialised networks are not operational yet. Its goal is not to have many members, but to cover all EU member states at the highest possible level for the main waste streams. Similar to their member-organisations, the European network combines both social and environmental objectives and gives them equal emphasis.

RREUSE members are:

Austria: Verein RepaNet c/o ARGE Müllvermeidung;

Belgium: Koepel van Vlaamse Kringloopcentra vzw. KVK; Ressources;

Finland: SEKY Työ & Tiominta Ry;

France: Emmaus France; Emmaus International; Fédération Envie;

Germany: Recycling partner e.G.; BAG Arbeit;

UK: Community Recycling Network; Create UK; Furniture Recycling Network;

Spain: AIRES; Asociacion Espanola de Recuperadores de Economia Social y Solidaria AERESS;

Greece: Oikologiki Etaireia Anakyklosis / Ecological Recycling Society

Funding mechanism

RREUSE activities are financed through three different funding resources:

- Membership fees (1/3 of the funding)
- Grant from DG Environment (50%, but it will be soon the 2/3 of the funding)
- Projects (Leonardo, Life+, etc.).

Objectives

RREUSE's mission is to federate, represent and develop social economy entities working in the sector of reuse and recycling of end-of-life products. It promotes sustainable development taking into consideration its three pillars: the protection of the

environment, the social equity and the economic viability. Furthermore RREUSE operates to spread best practices and benchmarking experiences.

Activities

RREUSE's policy work is coordinated by and organised around working groups. Currently there are working groups on policy, general waste policy, WEEE, social issues, bio waste and textile. These groups are all coordinated by a board member and have the task to develop strategies and actions in the relevant subjects; they gather at least three times a year. They monitor development, propose actions and/or joint projects. The whole activity is coordinated by the director of RREUSE with the help of additional staff, a policy officer and/or project manager according to the needs.

According to its mission, RREUSE not only deals with all the environmental issues relevant for the reuse and recycling sector, but also it follows all the relevant themes for social enterprises such as state aid, social inclusion, etc... Activities and strategy are coordinated within working groups.

As an example, the work concerning the implementing measures of the EuP (Energy Using Products) directive will be mainly prepared in environmental NGO working groups and presented in the EuP Consultation Forum for as much as possible product groups under discussion which are of interest of the sector.

Furthermore, RREUSE collects data on the various reuse activities of its members, and reinforce their own network by e.g. promo-movies and by continuously updating its website, preparing a newsletter.

RREUSE will develop guidelines on reusability of especially WEEE, regarding environmental appropriateness to reuse (energy-efficiency, hazardous substances) if funding is available for specific projects. These guidelines shall help RREUSE members to easily determine when reusing appliances is no longer meaningful.

Present and future significant actions

Climate Change

- Reduced VAT rate for environmentally friendly goods
- Waste and climate change (cooperation European Environment Bureau and Friends of Earth)
- Energy efficiency (IEEA project)
- Sustainable production and consumption (SCP)
- Biowaste directive (promotion of)

Resources and Waste

- Waste Framework Directive (WFD)
- WEEE revision
- Biowaste directive (promotion of)
- SCP
- Eco-label, EMAS, green procurement
- WEEE implementation
- Energy Using Products (EuP) directive
- Export and waste shipment
- Energy policy (IEEA project)
- Information society (export of computers to developing countries to promote access internet)
- Taxation (VAT + textile tax)

Horizontal and cross cutting issues

- Integrated Prevention and Pollution Control (IPPC)
- State aid
- Social inclusion
- Services directive

Communication

- Green Week
- Better Regulation Conference
- ACR+ Waste reduction campaign

- Durability label
- Leonardo Bremen project
- New members

Additional remarks

RREUSE does not have any member in the new member states. A Slovak organisation will probably join the network in the near future, while contacts are well developed with Slovenia and Hungary. In Poland there were some contacts with Emmaus, but they did not develop any further cooperation.

Enlarging the network with organisations coming from new member states is one of the main RREUSE priorities.

2.3.10 EARTH

EARTH

European Alliance for Responsible Tourism and Hospitality

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Web site

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E Mail

Contact person

Maurizio Davolio

Short history

The European Alliance for Responsible Tourism and Hospitality (EARTH) is an international non-profit association created in 2008. This initiative promoted by AITR (Italian Association for Responsible Tourism) and DIESIS results from the will to organize and structure a European and international network of responsible tourism. EARTH will represent a place of competences and a professionalism to create news initiatives, partnerships in the field of responsible tourism.

Members

Founding members :

AITR (Italy)	Sociedad Española de Ecoturismo (Spain)
CISS (Italy)	Acsud Las Segovias (Spain)
Local Global sas (Italy)	Setem (Spain)
ICEA (Italy)	Cic – Batà (Spain)
CISV (Italy)	ISMALAR (Spain)
ISTOK (Italy)	Marco Polo Echanger Autrement (France)
Lo Spirito del Pianete Viaggi (Italy)	Ecotour (France)
Regione Toscana (Italy)	TDS (development and sustainable Tourism) (France)
Regione Emilia Romagna (Italy)	Vision du Monde (France)
ICEI (Italy)	ARCHIMEDE / ATES (France)
Legacoop (Italy)	CIToyENS DE LA TERRE (France)
Progetto Mondo – MLAL (Italy)	CADR (France)
UCODEP (Italy)	Tourism for Help (Switzerland)
Viaggi e Miraggi (Italy)	BIRD (Nepal)
COSPE (Italy)	MAS (Mongolia)
ARCI (Italy)	ASPAC (Brazil)
RAM (Italy)	DIESIS (Belgium)
ItalAsia (Italy)	Tourisme Autrement (Belgium)
CESTAS (Italy)	Xiang Yuan You (China)
Le Mat – Europa (Italy)	KATE (Germany)
Robintur (Italy)	ANTREC (Romania)
Viaggi Solidali (Italy)	Mediante (Albania)
CTS (Italy)	Vivalbania (Albania)
La Chiocciola Tour (Italy)	FESFOP (Senegal)
Porte Aperte Associazione (Italy)	

Funding mechanism

EARTH's main economic resource is members' fees, paid on a voluntary basis. The network will also search additional funding from projects and services.

Objectives

EARTH main purpose is to promote the concept of responsible tourism and the principles stemming from it adopting several procedures, such as:

- improving the quality of trips from an ethical viewpoint, through the adoption of good practices inspired by the principles of responsible tourism;
- ensuring collaboration between responsible tourism operators and communities in the Southern part of the world and their organisations;
- dialoguing with public, European, national and local institutions in defining tourism development policies based on the principles of sustainable development and responsibility.

Activities

EARTH aims to:

- Represent associated organisations before the institutions of the European Communities.
- Represent and support the activities of tour operators, travel agencies and associations specialising in responsible tourism.
- Train tourism operators, following the principles of responsible tourism, courses and seminars, training in Universities and schools and hosting placement periods.
- Draw up and manage tourism, economic, social and cultural projects, some in collaboration with other bodies.
- Prepare publications, information and awareness-raising campaigns, meetings and conferences and participate in the international debate on tourism policies. Study and research projects, travel education.
- Participate in projects involving international cooperation.

2.3.11 SOFICATRA

SOFICATRA

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Contact person

Bruno Dunkel

Short history

SOFICATRA was created in 1983 as a branch of SNI, a Belgian public company which managed State investments in the social economy and other economic sectors. In 1993, anticipating the privatisation of SNI, SOFICATRA becomes a European investment company. Its mission is to provide finance and services to Social Economy enterprises throughout the European Union. It operates as the common platform of a network of 11 financial institutions located in 7 different Member States. All partners of this network are shareholders.

Members

SOFICATRA shareholders are:

ESFIN-IDES (France)
CFI (Italy)
P&V (Belgium)
SNI (Belgium)
Mercator Bank nv (ex HBK) (Belgium)
Banque Nagelmackers 1747 sa (Belgium)
MONTEPIO GERAL (Portugal)
TRIODOS BANK (The Netherlands)
AGRUPACIÓN (Spain)
GLS Gemeinschaftsbank e.G. (Germany)
Société Générale Coopérative sc (Belgium)
SAVE sc (Belgium).

Funding mechanism

SOFICATRA is funded by its members' capital which is continuously re-invested.

Objectives

SOFICATRA's aim is to provide specific solutions in the following fields (among others):

- investment financing;
- financial engineering;
- consultancy on mergers and acquisitions;
- search for partners;
- training of executives and managers;
- implementation of companies' plans.

SOFICATRA is a specialised entity in the financing of SMEs with a co-operative or a participatory nature. The financial stakes in SMEs are completed either directly by SOFICATRA or in association with one of the partners.

SOFICATRA is also a coaching partner for SMEs whose development project requires a financial, tax or strategical expertise.

SOFICATRA acts also in favour of the transfer of company ownership to the personnel (on a majority or a minority base). SOFICATRA can help also with the setting up of profit-sharing schemes to the benefit of executives, employees and workers. Different similar mechanisms have been developed by SOFICATRA partners such as ESOP (Employee Stock Ownership Plans), MBO (Management Buy Out), EBO (Employee Buy Out) and RES (Rachat d'Entreprises par les Salariés).

Thanks to the network, SOFICATRA vocation is to ease the implementation of European partnerships between SMEs. SOFICATRA can help with the identification of new partners as well with the follow-up of a feasibility study or with the financial building of the partnership.

Activities

SOFICATRA Group structure is today based on two core-businesses: finance (SOFICATRA) and services (IMPULSE EUROPE, a 100% subsidiary of SOFICATRA, dedicated exclusively to service provision).

The main financial products proposed are:

Equity financing

SOFICATRA offers a full range of financial means of intervention in the field of equity financing: growth capital, equity transfers, redeployment capital, mezzanine financing on mergers and acquisitions.

The strategy adopted is that of developing niche activities specific to each market. In a number of cases, this strategy is pursued through a network of partnerships with major foreign financial institutions.

Corporate lending

Activities: medium and long-term loans, lease financing, financing of major industrial or construction projects, international syndication, specialized financing facilities and project financing.

Suppliers of long-term and specialized financing for medium-sized and large businesses: this traditional remains the Group's key activity. In addition to its stabilized French corporate customer base, it is developing internationally while extending its range of services to include re-capitalization financing and all kinds of sophisticated corporate finance, tax and legal services, as well as specific asset management solutions.

Present and future significant actions

SOFICATRA is one of the founding member of CoopEst, a financial facility aiming at initiating and fostering the development of co-operatives, mutual societies, associations, foundations and social enterprises (which together can be referred to as Social Economy) (see also page 119).

The target countries of CoopEst in Central and Eastern Europe are Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

The creation of CoopEst is based on the evidence that the access to long-term financing (private and public) in Central and Eastern Europe is still very limited and difficult for Small and Medium enterprises (SME) – mainly due to the weakness of their financial structure.

Therefore, CoopEst aims to provide long-term financial support both in terms of equity (subordinated loan), long-term loans and guarantees to sustainable and socially responsible projects in the target countries enabling them to leverage further funding for the development of their activities.

CoopEst intends to intervene through local financial intermediaries in the respective countries. Therefore, the target groups are established financial institutions in Central and Eastern Europe with a direct link to or an interest in the Social Economy sector and/or socially responsible business (eligible institutions could be cooperative or commercial banks, credit unions, micro finance institutions).

SECTION 3

National Maps

3.1 ITALY

3.1.1 The concept of Social Economy

In Italy, the concept of Social Economy is known but not widely used to put under the same umbrella the four families.

The cooperative movement is well established and has a long tradition, but it is mainly considered as part of the economic system, even if non profit¹⁰. To underline that, it can be remarked that the competence for cooperatives has been transferred from the Ministry of Labour to the Ministry of Industry.

The role of the cooperative movement is recognised by the Constitution. Over the years it has been developed through strong horizontal representative organisations, having similar functions and structures but different ideological backgrounds (see Legacoop, Coonfcooperative and AGCI descriptions).

Mutual societies are not very well developed.

Associations and foundations are more often perceived as part of the third sector rather than the social economy.

The term 'third sector' became popular because it appeared as a neutral term, free of an a priori link with any theoretical or ideological tradition. It gained its official recognition with the creation of the Third Sector Forum (see description at page 74).

The Italian third sector, or third system, is the sector that works for the public benefit and does not distribute profit. It comprises the following principal families of organisations:

- *'associazioni non riconosciute'* (non-recognised associations) is commonly used to refer to cultural or interest-representation associations, often called *'di promozione sociale (for the social promotion)'*. Typical are the *'circoli ARCI'* (non-profit cultural and recreational associations) which operate cultural facilities, restaurants, bars, etc.
- *'organizzazioni di volontariato'* (voluntary organisations) refers to voluntary organisations delivering services

Though unincorporated and with unlimited liability, associations of both types listed above can in practice operate as enterprises.

Further principal families of organisations are:

- social co-operatives
- NGOs, which work with developing countries
- recognised associations and foundations.

Social cooperatives are the linking element between the cooperative movement (where they represent the organisations promoting not only the mutual interest of members but also the general interest of the community) and the third sector, where they bring a businesslike approach to the achievement of social objectives.

¹⁰ According to the law, all the Italian cooperatives are by definition non profit.

3.1.2 Essential figures

There are not updated and specific statistics about social economy as a whole or its families. The most recent data have been published by a research done by CIRIEC for the European Social and Economic Committee¹¹:

Cooperatives and other similar accepted forms	Mutual Societies and other similar accepted forms	Associations, foundations and other similar accepted forms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agricultural Cooperatives (2005: 89.139 jobs) - Worker Cooperatives (2005: 364.378 jobs) - Social Cooperatives (2005: 189.550 jobs) - Consumer Cooperatives (2005: 60.890 jobs) - Otros (2005: 133.067 jobs) <p><i>(All forms of cooperatives: 2006 1.020.400 jobs 11.830.000 members 70.397 enterprises)(1)</i></p> <p><i>(Mutual Societies: 989 jobs 421.229 members 324 enterprises)</i></p>	p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incorporated Associations (1999: 142.821 jobs 1.107.498 volunteers 61.309 entities) - Unincorporated Associations (1999: 151.739 jobs 1.931.590 volunteers 140.752 entities) - Foundations (1999: 56.145 jobs 63.226 volunteers 3.008 entities) - Committee: (1999: 1.813 jobs 38.783 volunteers 3.832 entities) - Other forms: (1999: 146.571 jobs 61.009 volunteers 7.861 entities) <p>Among them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health Associations (1999: 8.821 entities) - Research and Education Associations (1999: 8.307 entities) - Volunteering organisations (1999: 670.826 volunteers 15.071 entities)
837.024 jobs 10.410.839 members	p.m.	499.389 jobs

The data of mutual societies are integrated into those of cooperatives.

(1) Estimates for all cooperatives in Italy, including those affiliated to Legacoop, Confcooperative and AGCI. Source: G. Perra (Confcooperative)

¹¹ European Economic and Social Committee, *The social economy in the European Union*, 2007

In terms of scale, the social enterprise sector (using the EMES definition) comprises¹²:

- 7,100 social co-operatives
- around 2,000 of the 10,000 voluntary associations (although they theoretically should not offer services on a permanent basis)
- several hundred other associations
- between 1,000 and 1,500 other co-operatives, which operate for the public interest but do not call themselves social co-operatives
- approximately 200 of the 800 public institutions for charitable and social care (istituzioni pubbliche di assistenza e beneficenza – IPAB; Public Institutions for Social-Assistance) which have converted themselves into private foundations (though their board appointments and many decisions still require government approval)
- a few conventional companies

Altogether these are estimated to total around 11,000 social enterprises in Italy. The key family is the social co-operatives.

¹² GHK in association with Toby Johnson and Roger Spear, *Social Enterprise : An International Literature Review* , SBS/SEnU - March 2006

3.1.3 The main representative organisations of the cooperative movement: Legacoop, Confcooperative, AGCI

A major role in the promotion and development of Italian social economy is played by cooperatives' representative organisations. In Italy cooperative representative organisations are horizontal, as they represent all the cooperative sectors. They are organised in sectoral federations and regional and local branches (generally at province level).

We describe hereunder the two main organisations (Legacoop and Confcooperative) and a smaller one AGCI. The structure and the functions of those organisations are quite similar. Their main difference concerns their ideological background, whose relevance has decreased during time and is nowadays not very significant.

All the organisations are officially recognised as social partners. Membership is on a voluntary basis.

Legacoop

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Short history

The origins of Legacoop date back to 1886 when 100 delegates, representing 248 enterprises and 70,000 members, gathered at a Congress in Milan to set up an organisational structure which would assure the development and the coordination of a cooperative movement, quite varied within itself. Thus the *Federazione Nazionale delle Cooperative* was founded, and in 1893 it was transformed into the *Lega delle Cooperative*. The Lega was an expression of both the secular-socialist groups and the Catholic groups, also founded on a strong social solidarity principle. Before the First World War, cooperatives had already acquired a certain economic solidarity and those characteristics which later led to its political and organizational relaunch after 1918.

Today, the cooperatives belonging to Legacoop are active, often leaders, in many sectors of the economy.

In recent years, a continuous growth has been recorded in social cooperatives which carry out activities in providing social-assistance and health services and integrating the disadvantaged into the work force.

Social cooperation, along with the promotion of new cooperative businesses, especially in the South, is one of the areas of growing commitment for Legacoop in providing a contribution to welfare reform and to the increase in employment.

Members

The members are the cooperatives affiliated on a voluntary basis. Each cooperative joins the local and regional Legacoop's branch, together with the national sectoral associations.

The central structure is made up of:

Sectoral Associations: Ancc; Legacoop Agroalimentare; Ancab; Ancd; Ancpl; Ancst; Legapesca; Mediacoop; Legacoopsociali; LegacoopTurismo

Sectoral Structures (Services and Support Structures): ABITA; CCC; CCPL; CNS; CONFIDIFIN PESCA; CO.NAD; COOP ITALIA; DROM; GARDAS; INRES.

Funding mechanism

Contributions of members: the amount of individual contributions is defined according to the characteristics of each member (turnover, number of employees, etc.). State Funding covers some core activities while specific projects are funded by regional, national or European project based funding.

Objectives

Legacoop aims are to:

- Foster the values, culture, and practices of cooperatives, focusing in particular on those areas of the country where cooperatives are less widespread;
- Foster the industrial development, the social quality and the visibility of its members, both cooperatives and other bodies;
- Grant the full and conscious participation of the members to the decision making process of the enterprise;
- Grant an increasing contribution of Legacoop and its members to the solution of the main social and economic national issues, as the functioning of the markets, social cohesion, gender equality, migrants integration, work improvement, protection of the environment, development and qualification of the workers;
- Promote and foster the development of relations between cooperatives, as an added value to the cooperation principles;
- Help the diffusion of cooperatives at international level, with particular attention to the developing countries.

Activities

Legacoop works for cooperatives and members to fulfil the social function that is recognised to cooperatives in the article 45 of the Italian Constitution.

Its main areas of activities are:

- representation of members' interests (participation and consultation on the main legal provisions concerning cooperatives)
- participations as "social partner" to negotiations of work contracts and work conditions together with trade unions and employers' representatives
- audit of associated cooperatives (mandatory audit requested by the law)
- information to members on different topics (legislation, tenders, European policies and opportunities)
- advice and support to members (legal, fiscal, etc.)
- promotion of cooperatives .

Present and future significant actions

The last Congress of Legacoop, held in Rome in March 2007, identified the following areas of activity for the period 2007-2011:

- Spreading and strengthening the knowledge of cooperation,
- Supporting cooperative growth, especially small and medium cooperatives,
- Facilitating inter-sector and inter-territorial projects for production chain cooperation and integration, developing cooperatives nationwide and promoting entry into new sectors (utilities, energy, local public services, professions, media)
- Internationalisation processes
- Governance issues

- CSR
- Youth
- Equal opportunities
- Communications
- Reform of welfare
- Active work policies

Additional remarks

Legacoop has a long-lasting very good, friendly and collaborative relationship with the Polish Cooperative Organisations, both at bilateral and multilateral level.

Confcooperative

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Short history

The Confederazione Cooperative Italiane was first established in 1919. After its dissolution by the Fascist Government, it was re-established on a new basis in 1945 by representatives of the Catholic world. In 1947, co-operation and its social function received the official acknowledgement in art. 45 of the Italian Constitution and Confcooperative itself was acknowledged as a primary national association representing, assisting, protecting and auditing the co-operative movement.

Over the years Confcooperative has implemented a policy sensitive to the needs and changes of the social, civil and economic world.

Members

About 18,500 cooperatives involving approx. 3 millions people are affiliated to Confcooperative.

It is organised territorially into 22 Regional Unions, 80 Provincial Unions and 5 Inter-provincial Unions.

The sectoral articulation that operates within the Confcooperative, includes 8 National Federations:

Federabitazione (housing);

Fedagri (agricultural and agro-food co-operatives);

Federcasse (banking);

Fedeconsumo (consumer co-operatives);

Federcoopescia (fisheries);

Federcultura Turismo Sport (culture, tourism and sports);

Federlavoro e servizi (workers, production and services);

Federsolidarietà (social solidarity, health care and mutuals).

Fondo Sviluppo and Elabora are the national operational bodies that support Confcooperative on the ground of finance, training and advice.

Funding mechanism

Contributions of members: the amount of individual contributions is defined according to the characteristics of each member (turnover, number of employees, etc.). Specific projects are funded by regional, national or European project based funding.

Objectives

Confcooperative objectives are to:

- Represent all the members;
- Foster the reform of the cooperative legislation;
- Promote the development of cooperatives, consortia according to its values and principles.

Activities

In the framework of its activities of assistance, representation, monitoring and defence of its members, Confcooperative is active in a number of different fields:

- Fostering and developing the reflection;
- Carrying out political and organisational tasks
- Developing and promoting laws in the field of cooperation;
- Negotiating and signing Collective Work Contracts in different economic branches;
- Negotiating partnerships with institutional bodies and social parts;
- Dialoguing with the EU and international Institutions

Present and future significant actions

In the years between 2001 and 2004 Confcooperative has begun some important projects. One of the most important projects is «Technology and Leadership», funded by Fondosviluppo and managed by Elabora. The project aims at reinforcing the organisation, increasing the number of members, and developing the cooperatives by widespreading the last ICT technologies.

“Sustainable housing in Europe” or SHE (<http://www.she.coop>) is a demonstration project funded by the European Commission under the 5th Research & Development Framework Programme. Coordinated by Federabitazione Europe, the project aims to assess and demonstrate the real feasibility of sustainable housing using pilot projects in four different countries – Denmark, France, Italy and Portugal – integrating sustainability and closer participation of tenants in the principal stages of the construction decision-making process.

Within Confcooperative's activities, international relations have always played an important role. The Confederazione adheres to and is present with its own representatives in many European and international organizations.

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Contact person

Maurizio Zaffi, President

Short history

AGCI was founded in 1952 and was officially recognised in 1961, when a group of cooperatives with republican, social democrat, and liberal views left the Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e Mutue in order to create a third centre within the Italian cooperative world.

Members

Individual Cooperatives, Consortia, National and Local Federations.

Funding mechanism

Contributions of members: the amount of individual contributions is defined according to the characteristics of each member (turnover, number of employees, etc.). Specific projects are funded by regional, national or European project based funding.

Objectives

AGCI is a free and independent non-profit organisation, and its objectives are the institutional representation, assistance, defence, and monitoring of the cooperative movement.

Activities

AGCI promotes and manages for its member activities concerning information, exchange, services, political coordination, diffusion of cooperative consciousness, and technical and professional training of workers.

AGCI is active in Italy as well as abroad, with Cecop, Cogeca and others.

Present and future significant actions

Today one of the main activities of the Association is the implementation of a system of enterprises all connected to each other. This network should have a modern organisation allowing the movement to confirm itself as main actor in the economic sphere, free from all political restraints and with the objective of improving work and civil commitment.

3.1.4 The third sector forum

Forum del Terzo Settore (Third Sector Forum)
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Massimo Novarino

Short history

Forum del Terzo Settore – The Third Sector Forum - was officially opened on June 19th, 1997, and was acknowledged as social part on February 12th, 1999.

Third Sector Forum represents more than 100 organisations of second and third level active in Italy in the following areas: voluntary sector, associations, international cooperation, social cooperatives, fair trade and ethical finance.

Members

Full members: ACLI - Associazioni Cristiane Lavoratori Italiani; ACSI - Associazione Centri Sportivi Italiani; ActionAid International (Italia); ADA NAZIONALE Associazione per i diritti degli anziani; ADICONSUM - Associazione Italiana Difesa Consumatori e Ambiente; AGCI – Solidarietà; AGESCI - Associazione Guide e Scout Cattolici Italiani; AIBI - Associazione amici dei bambini; AICS - Associazione italiana cultura e sport; AMBIENTE E LAVORO; ANCC-COOP - Associazione Nazionale delle Cooperative di Consumatori-COOP; ANCESCAO - Associazione Nazionale Centri Sociali Comitati Anziani e Orti; ANCOS – Associazione Nazionale delle Cooperative Sociali; ANOLF - Associazione Nazionale Oltre Le Frontiere; ANPAS - Associazione Nazionale Pubbliche Assistenze; ANSI - Associazione Nazionale Scuola Italiana; ANTEAS - Associazione Nazionale Terza Età Attiva per la Solidarietà; ANTHAI - Associazione Nazionale Tutela Handicappati e Invalidi; ARCI; ARCI RAGAZZI; Arci Servizio Civile; ASI - Alleanza Sportiva Italiana; AUPTEL - Associazione delle università popolari della terza età e dell'età libera; AUSER – RisorAnziani; AVIS Nazionale; CENASCA - Centro Nazionale Associazionismo Sociale Cooperazione Autogestione; CIPSI - Coordinamento di Iniziative Popolari di Solidarietà Internazionale; CISP Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli; CNCA - Coordinamento Nazionale Comunità di Accoglienza; CNESC - Conferenza Nazionale Enti Servizio Civile; CNGEI Corpo Nazionale Giovani Esploratori ed Esploratrici Italiani; COCIS - Coordinamento delle Organizzazioni non governative per la Cooperazione Internazionale allo Sviluppo; COMITATO NAZIONALE PER IL TELEFONO AZZURRO APS-ONLUS; COMUNITA' DI CAPODARCO; COMUNITA' EMMANUEL; Confederazione Nazionale Misericordie d'Italia; CSI - Centro Sportivo Italiano; CTG - Centro Turistico Giovanile; CTS - Centro Turistico Studentesco e giovanile; EMMAUS ITALIA; ETSI-CISL - Ente Turistico Sociale Italiano; EVAN - Ente Volontariato Anspi Nazionale; Fairtrade Transfair Italia; Federazione Impresa Sociale Compagnia delle Opere; FEDERAZIONE SCS-CNOS - Servizi Civili e Sociali - Centro Nazionale Opere Salesiane; Federsolidarietà – Confcooperative; FENALC - Federazione Nazionale Liberi Circoli; FISH - Federazione Italiana per il Superamento dell'Handicap; FITEL - Federazione italiana tempo libero; FITUS - Federazione Italiana Turismo Sociale; FIVOL - Fondazione Italiana per il Volontariato; FOCSIV - Volontari nel mondo; Fondazione ANT Italia Onlus; Fondazione Cesar - Centro europeo di ricerche dell'economia sociale e dell'assicurazione; Fondazione Exodus; INAS; INTERSOS Organizzazione Umanitaria per l'Emergenza; LA GABBIANELLA

- Coordinamento per il Sostegno a distanza; Lega Coop Sociali; Legambiente; MCL - Movimento Cristiano Lavoratori; MODAVI - Movimento Delle Associazioni di Volontariato Italiano; MOIGE Movimento Italiano Genitori; MOVI - Movimento di Volontariato Italiano; Movimondo; Polisportive Giovanili Salesiane; TOURING CLUB ITALIANO; U.S. ACLI; UISP - Unione Italiana Sport Per tutti; UNIEDA - Unione Italiana di Educazione degli Adulti; UNPLI - Unione Nazionale Pro Loco d'Italia.

Observers: AGE - Associazione Italiana Genitori; ASSIF - Associazione italiana Fundraiser ASSOETICA; ASTER-X Impresa Sociale del Terzo Settore - Società Consortile a.r.l. senza fine di lucro; ASVI Agenzia per lo Sviluppo del Non Profit; Banca Etica; CESVOT - Centro Servizi Volontariato Toscana; CNOS - Centro Nazionale Opere Salesiane; COMITATO ITALIANO PER L'UNICEF; COSIS - Compagnia Sviluppo Imprese Sociali; CSEN - Centro Sportivo Educativo Nazionale; CSV.net , Coordinamento Nazionale dei Centri di Servizio per il Volontariato; EISS - Ente Italiano di Servizio Sociale; FAI - Fondo per l'Ambiente Italiano; FASS - Facoltà di scienze sociali - pontificia università S. Tommaso d'Aquino di Roma; FEDER-ITALIA FIAeF - Federazione Italiana Aerobica e Fitness; FONDAZIONE CERVIAAMBIENTE; FONDAZIONE SODALITAS; IAL-CISL Nazionale; Istituto per l'Ambiente e l'Educazione; Scholè Futuro Onlus; MOVIMENTO CONSUMATORI; SENIORES ITALIA - Partner per lo sviluppo.

Funding mechanism

The member organisations are gathered by contribution level, depending on the number of their members and their presence in the country. A minor source of fundng comes from sponsorships.

Objectives

The main objective of the Third Sector Forum is to give value the individual experiences and activities that citizens are implementing in their territory. This objective can improve the quality of life of communities, and can be reached through innovative strategies based on principles as equity, social justice, subsidiarity, and sustainable development.

Activities

The main activities of Third Sector Forum are:

- Social and political representation by the Government and the institutions;
- Managing and supporting the networks between its members;
- Communicating values, projects, initiatives and requests of the members of the Third Sector.

Thanks to different agreements, 17 regional fora and many provincial and local ones were constituted, bringing together all the parts of civil society acting on the territory.

Operationally, the Third Sector Forum works through thematic Workshops. They bring together the representatives of members and aim at defining lobbying actions, documents, opinions, and actions on an increasing number of issues. Nine permanent Workshops have been set on the following issues:

- Welfare ;
- European and international policies ;
- Cultural and tourist policies ;
- Communication and publishing ;
- Legislation ;
- Immigration and multi-cultural issues;
- Active labour policies and social enterprise;
- Permanent education and training ;
- Environment and sustainable development.

Present and future significant actions

The present priorities of Third Sector Forum are:

- Strengthening of the network, increasing the number and capacities of both local fora and member associations;

- Lobby to the government and the parliament through the participation to Permanent Legislative Commissions and through the presentation of specific proposals;
- Participation in the Italian Institute of Donations and in the Foundation for the South. The first is now working on the definition of a certification tool for fund raisers, while the second gives grant for social projects aiming at the development of the South of Italy.

3.1.5 Social Enterprises networks and support structures: CGM, DROM, Compagnia delle Opere, COSIS, Banca Etica, Etimos

CGM

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Short history

CGM was established in 1987; at the time it grouped 5 consortia. It grew rapidly both in terms of national coverage and number of member consortia.

Created as a second level social cooperative (cooperative whose members are legal persons) it has recently become a cooperative group, whose members are both territorial consortia and trademark companies (see below).

It took its name from Gino Mattarelli, one of the pioneers of Italian social cooperatives, who died a few months before the creation of the consortium.

Members

CGM Gruppo cooperativo is a national network of social cooperatives. It is a second level organisation, meaning that individual social cooperatives are members of local consortia, which adhere to CGM. It has also some funding members and a small number of other organisations.

CGM members are: 81 local consortia and 4 funding members (Fondazione Oltre, Fondosviluppo, Banca Intesa-San Paolo, PIA SpA). The 81 local consortia associate more than 1100 social cooperatives, involving more than 35000 people (workers, users, volunteers, etc.) and producing a global turnover of approx. 1 billion euro. They are present in the whole Italian territory, with a strong diffusion in the northern regions (54% north, 19% centre, 27% south).

Funding mechanism

The consortium is financed by its members. Every member pays a membership fee, calculated as follows: 2x1000 of the global turnover of social cooperatives who are members of each territorial consortium. Moreover the consortium finances itself through the development of projects and services (consultancy, training, etc.).

Objectives

CGM is the biggest network enterprise of social co-operatives in Italy. Its aim is to promote communities' wellbeing through the development of social cooperatives providing social services and work integration.

Its mission is to be the expert system of social entrepreneurship, conducting social cooperatives towards the authentic social enterprise and helping social enterprises to networking in order to help citizens and their communities to reach development and social cohesion objectives.

Activities

Cgm carries out editorial activity, studies and researches, training, technical-managerial and organizational advice. Moreover it coordinates relationships between social cooperatives' sector and public actors (mainly Government and Ministries) and promotes and encourages new initiatives for social cooperatives.

Its main fields of action are: disabilities, childhood and adolescence, labour inclusion of disadvantaged persons, migration, international cooperation, active labour policies, mental health and social tourism.

Present and future significant actions

In 2005 Cgm has decided to create trademark companies for its more consolidated activities in order to increase the know-how accumulated by Cgm during the last years. These companies manage specialized and consolidated activities according to a strong entrepreneurial logic.

They are:

1. ACCORDI (AGREEMENTS): for labour inclusion, particularly in the environmental area.
2. CGM FINANCE (FINANCE CGM): inter-group financial company.
3. COMUNITA' SOLIDALI (SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES): care (elderly, disabilities, mental health).
4. LUOGHI PER CRESCERE (SPACES TO GROW): education (childhood, minors, education).
5. MESTIERI (EMPLOYMENT): labour mediation, guidance and training.

All these companies belong to CGM cooperative group which has created the new trademark Welfare Italia.

Welfare Italia, persone comunità servizi (people, communities, services) is the trademark used by Cgm to promote itself. It represents a new conception of welfare in our country: global community, quality, capacity to attract new resources. Cgm wants to promote organisations developing a democratic welfare, capable of involving citizens and other profit and non profit actors.

The trademark Welfare Italia aims at valorising the resources of the network, creating a group based on an agreement subscribed by member companies.

The consortium pact is also the document that defines the conditions and the requirements to use the Welfare Italia trademark and underlines the importance of training to create and maintain a common language.

The purpose of Welfare Italia is to establish strong partnerships with citizens and organizations, public and private enterprises, in order to:

- Give concrete answers to citizens' needs
- Promote the idea of wellbeing
- Plan and offer quality services at an affordable price.

Additional remarks

CGM has started working in Poland in 2001 within the framework of the SCOPE project, coordinated by CECOP (see page 28).

The first project involved, on the one hand, Polish nurses (mainly coming from medical cooperatives) who were trained and tutored to work in Italy and, on the other hand, Polish cooperatives who participated to training and study visits on the Italian system. It was run in collaboration with NAUWC.

During the last three years, CGM enlarged its cooperation to other representatives of Polish social economy. In 2007 it signed a protocol of agreement with Barka Foundation in order to promote mutual exchanges and to support the newly born social cooperative system in Poland.

Presently, CGM is about to start a big cooperation project, funded by the Italian banking foundation Unidea, in order to use CGM development model of social cooperatives as a model for promoting the growth of Polish social enterprises. CGM will promote several activities (seminars, visits, advice, etc.) in order to increase know-how and skills of Polish social cooperatives. The long term aim is to create a stable collaboration network between CGM and Polish social cooperatives.

Similar projects are being promoted by CGM in several countries. In order to promote its international activities CGM has just launched a Foundation in collaboration with some important actors of fair trade and international cooperation development. The aim of the Foundation is to create contacts and links with similar foreign bodies to promote twinnings and exchanges between social enterprises and their territorial networks.

DROM

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Short history

DROM, national consortium of social cooperatives, was created on November 23rd, 1999. Its opening followed the discussion and the decision taken by Legacoop to create a national body representing social cooperatives.

Members

Currently the members are 14 consortia of cooperatives from 13 different Italian regions. Territorial consortia include about 500 social cooperatives, that give work to about 15 thousand worker members, 9000 of which are women.

Funding mechanism

Membership fees, projects and services-related activities.

Objectives

The Consortium, is a non profit organisation based on the principles of the mutuality, solidarity, the respect of the individual, the protection and promotion of the vulnerable groups. Drom promotes and supports territorial consortia and member cooperatives fostering collaboration at national and European level, with a particular attention to the problems of vulnerable categories.

It operates in synergy with legacoopsociali (the federation representing social cooperatives associated to Legacoop).

Activities

Consortia and cooperatives members of DROM work to help elderly people, minors, drug-addicts, migrants, psychologically vulnerable people, disabled people and other disadvantaged subjects; they also create social and work inclusion paths for people facing difficulties.

These activities can be grouped in 5 main fields:

- Promotion of the cooperative culture, marketing, image and communication;
- Monitoring and Research;
- Creation of Social Enterprises with a particular attention on the South of Italy;
- Technical Assistance;
- Creation and Development of a Network between Social Enterprises.

Present and future significant actions

Among the projects implemented, it is important to underline the following ones:

Integ.r.a. Project: aimed at the promotion of the socio-economic integration of refugees and asylum-seekers in Italy, trying to improve their living conditions. The project is financed by the European Social Fund (EQUAL project).

Reenergy is a project developed within the framework of the EU initiative Equal. The objective of the project is to promote the development of strategies for the growth and development of social economy. This can be achieved by giving priority to renewable sources when creating new entrepreneurial activities.

Innovating local development is an Equal project aiming at promoting a transnational work of reflection, elaboration and synthesis of strategies fostering growth, sustainability and social enterprises quality through common processes of negotiated territorial promotion.

DROM is member of the APE, the Agency for the Promotion of Social Cooperation: in this context, DROM acts to improve the social and living conditions of disadvantaged people, in order to facilitate their working integration through training courses, creation of social enterprises and different forms of "auto-employment".

Compagnia delle Opere

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Short history

The association Compagnia delle Opere (CDO) was established in 1986 to « promote and defend a dignified presence of people within the social and the work context, and to promote and defend the presence of enterprises in society, fostering an idea of the market and its rules that includes and respects every aspect, dimension and moment of life of a person ».

Members

Today CDO counts more than 34.000 enterprises and 1000 non-profit organisations among its members. These organisations and enterprises involve in their different activities more than 500.000 people as employees as well as third sector operators, active in services, trade, constructions and handycraft.

Funding mechanism

Membership fees.

Objectives

CDO:

- Promotes and fosters human, economic and cultural relations among its members, with the aim of sharing the enterprise' responsibility among them. It furthermore connects all entrepreneurs through a network that allows them to exchange information, so that everyone can take advantage of it by sharing experiences and advice.
- Builds and keeps constant relationships with national and international institutions to examine specific economic and social problems and find answers to them.
- Is particularly careful about solidarity with the poorest, voluntary work in non-profit organisations, cooperation between NGOs and the countries where they work, and to the growth of employment through the development of small enterprises.

Activities

The association:

- Act as promoter, assistant and manager in defence of its members. It operates through special initiatives and tools for facilitating the relationship between members and political and economical institutions.
- Promotes and spreads entrepreneurial culture and supports the creation of new entrepreneurial initiatives, both in the non-profit and in the profit sectors. It operates for improving employment at all levels.
- Thanks to trustworthy partners it offers a wide range of services, which help limiting the expenses allowing the enterprises to save money.

- Sponsors and organizes special researches, workshops and international meetings on the most important issues related to cooperation and social life. It furthermore fosters people's creativity in the definition of new business areas.

Present and future significant actions

Matching is the most important workshop organised by CDO to give a concrete support to small and medium enterprises' activities.

This intervention, whose first edition dates back on 2005, helps enterprises to directly get in touch, with focused meetings allowing buyers and sellers' interests to find a common base.

Additional remarks

CDO has an office in Poland. Its contacts are:

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COSIS

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Contact person

Silvana Torquati

Short history

On March 10, 1995, Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Roma established Compagnia Sviluppo Imprese Sociali S.p.A. to foster the birth, growth and development of social enterprises. The experience developed in the banking world, the awareness of non-profit issues, the intention to get involved in a new way to help and to alleviate underprivilege, encouraging the creation of new jobs, attracted from the very beginning important business groups.

In 1997, to meet the growing demand of loans, Compagnia raised funds by issuing "Solidarity and Work" bonds. This was the first ethical bond issue placed with Italian investors. The project was successful, thanks to the help of such important industrial groups as Toro Assicurazioni, Standa, Pirelli, Olivetti, Unipol, Società Autostrade, Benetton.

Members

Fondazione Europa Occupazione e Volontariato; Impresa e solidarietà; Italia lavoro spa; Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Puglia; Atlantia spa; SAIAT spa; Unicredito Italiano spa; Confederazione Cooperative Italiane; Associazione Compagnia delle Opere; ANCST Cooperative e Servizi (Legacoop).

Funding mechanism

COSIS is funded by its members according to the number of shares they own.

Objectives

Specialized finance for the non-profit sector: its main objective is to support and foster the birth, growth and development of social enterprises, through special types of financing, while triggering awareness of social responsibility processes.

Activities

Cosis is committed to finance activities in several non-profit sectors, such as:

- Kindergartens,
- housing for people with different skills,
- various forms of craftsmanship,
- multimedia labs,
- social tourism facilities,
- biological agriculture and winegrowing,
- urban waste recycling,
- floriculture

The activities funded should be economically and socially sustainable projects, marked by strong ties with local communities and attuned to their needs, capable of generating new employment opportunities, especially for people who cannot find a job.

The financial products offered by COSIS concern both participation in the cooperative capital and loans at preferential rates to nonprofit enterprises that want to start new activities, buy equipment or real estates.

Present and future significant actions

In 1994 COSIS obtained the first EU Global Grant addressed to social enterprises. Sovvenzione Globale OASIS, (Orchestrare Azioni di Sviluppo per le piccole e medie Imprese Sociali), is a fund for the development of small and medium social enterprises. COSIS and Fondazione Europa Occupazione, working as active partner and intermediary, respectively, have managed this fund, providing in-kind contributions (services) and financing (subscription to shares and disbursement of loans) to cooperatives for the creation of jobs and to consortia of social cooperatives operating in Southern Italy. Out of 85 OASIS-financed projects in a year, more than 90% involved an equity investment, turning COSIS into an actual "ethical merchant bank".

Thanks to the experience gained in the management of Sovvenzione Globale, COSIS expanded its reach, preparing to provide services (assistance, tutoring and control in the different implementation stages of the projects financed) to foster the development and firming up of social entrepreneurship.

The first phase of OASIS ran from 1994 to 2001. At the end of this period, COSIS asked for the possibility of reinvesting the loans that were being reimbursed and launched a new call in 2004. This call was operational until 2007. Presently COSIS is negotiating with the Structural Funds Managing Authority the ways to use the new financial tools provided for in the planning phase 2007-2013.

An important innovation in COSIS action is the possibility to finance micro-credit and to operate in foreign countries. COSIS Statute has recently been changed in that sense and operational tools are being set up. A specific interest will be devoted to Mediterranean countries.

Banca Etica

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Short history

Banca Etica is the first institution of ethical finance in Italy. The bank's solid roots are to be found in the world of the third sector organisations, of voluntary work and of international cooperation.

The first experience of ethically oriented finance in Italy is represented by the MAG co-operative societies (self-management mutual associations): their traditional aim is to raise savings among their members and to finance "socially oriented projects".

In the 1990s the MAGs had to review their organisation, as a consequence of new legal rules. This forced them to seriously consider the possibility of incorporating the first "ethically oriented" bank in Italy. In order to create such a bank, many social co-operatives and voluntary organisations were involved.

In December 1994, the entire MAG movement and 21 non profit-making organisations founded "L'Associazione Verso la *Banca Etica*" (literally: The Association Towards *Banca Etica*). In June 1995, it was reorganised into a co-operative company, with the purpose of gathering 6,5 million Euro, the necessary amount to incorporate a *popular bank* according to Italian law.

Following an important fund raising campaign, in December 1998 the Italian Central Bank granted *Banca Popolare Etica* the authorisation to start operating as a bank and thus to begin its financing activity. It is the first time that a banking institution, with the purpose of operating exclusively in sustainable and alternative finance, has filed a request and obtained such an authorisation.

The ambitious project became reality and, on the 8th of March 1999, *Banca Etica* opened its first branch office in Padova.

Members

The real capital of the Bank is represented by its shareholders, by the trust they put into the project of the Bank. Therefore, the life of the Bank depends on its members; *Banca Etica* considers its shareholders as the human resource they represent, and not only as the financing they helped to raise. For this reason, their active involvement in the bank's life is considered of primary importance.

Today, the Bank counts on 60 local shareholder groups, which represent the meeting point where shareholders participate in the bank's social and cultural activity.

Funding mechanism

Banca etica acts as a regular bank, collecting and managing savings raised from private citizens, as singles or families, organisations, companies and institutions in general, and investing them in initiatives pursuing both social and economic objectives, operating in full respect of human dignity and the environment.

Objectives

The idea behind *Banca Etica* consists in creating a place where savers, driven by the common desire of a more transparent and responsible management of financial resources, may meet socio-economic initiatives, inspired by the values of a sustainable social and human development.

The Company adopts the following principles of Ethical Finance:

- Ethically oriented finance is aware of non economic consequences of economic actions;
- Access to finance, in all its forms, is a human right;
- Efficiency and soberness are components of ethical responsibility;
- Profit produced by the ownership and exchange of money must come from activities oriented towards common well-being and shall have to be equally distributed among all subjects which contribute to its realisation;
- Maximum transparency of all operations is one of the main conditions of all ethical finance activities;
- The active involvement of shareholders and savers in the company's decision making process must be encouraged.

Activities

Banca Etica grants financing to organisations operating within the third sector which carry out socially oriented economic projects, having the legal form of co-operatives, associations or social institutions. The main activities include:

- Evaluation procedures: *Banca Etica* carries out a thorough analysis of the social and environmental responsibility.
- Financing: *Banca Etica* gives primary importance to the following aspects: (i) the reliability of the project, which undergoes economic and practical feasibility analysis, and (ii) the relation of personal trust between the Bank's personnel and those who represent the organisation requesting the financing. Therefore, *Banca Etica's* evaluation is not based exclusively on the wealth asset and thus on the securities the client is able to ensure.
- Guaranteeing correct and transparent use of all money entrusted to it. Not only does *Banca Etica* comply with all applicable laws, but it also applies the following guidelines: (i) all of *Banca Etica's* customers, savers and financed organisations undertake, in writing, to adhere to the bank's Tasks – Fundamentals (i.e. article 5 of the bank's Articles of Association) and in particular beneficiaries undertake not to invest the money they receive in ways which may be contrary to such tasks; (ii) all information regarding the loans granted are public: names, terms of contract, to include the capital amount granted are all published on the bank's internet site and on *BancanotE*, the bank's magazine, sent to shareholders with no extra cost.

Present and future significant actions

Banca Etica got funds for a number of projects it developed. Among the most important, there are:

- Innesco – project on eco-fuels;
- Echo-Action – project aimed at the active involvement of citizens and local bodies in the realisation of energy plans for their municipality.

ETIMOS (ex CTM Mag)

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Short history

In 1989 the financial cooperative Ctm-Mag was established. It was a self-managed initiative aimed at sustaining the development of fair trade and social economy in Italy.

In 1997 Ctm-Mag took part to the first Microcredit Summit in Washington, being one of the first EU organisations approaching micro-finance themes.

With the creation of Banca Popolare Etica, of which it is a founding member, Ctm-Mag changed name and fields of action. It became Etimos, and started focusing its attention on the international scene.

In 2002 Etimos was one of the founding members of Sefea (European Ethical and Anternative Finance Company).

Members

Becoming a Etimos consortium shareholder - by subscribing at least one capital share (equal to 258 Euro) - is the fundamental condition to access the savings and credit services offered.

With some of its shareholders, Etimos has established a tighter partnership: the so-called cartel members, name given from year to year by the board of directors in conforming with a few requisites. The cartel members are committed to capitalizing the consortium, to investing financially in Etimos projects and to promote its activities and corporate goals within the territory. These members are :

Caritas Italiana, Banca Popolare Etica, Cooperativa Sociale La Siembra, Cooperativa Sociale Oltremare, Associazione Overseas, Fondazione Fontana Onlus, Fondazione San Zeno, Fondazione Un raggio di Luce, Fondazione Choros, Cooperativa La Rondine, Cooperativa Arcobaleno, Cooperativa L'altrametà, Provincia padovana dei frati minori conventuali.

Objectives

Etimos has two main objectives: to allow, even in the poorest areas, the access to credit, and to foster ethical saving, offering investing opportunities with a high social value and attentive to economic sustainability at the same time.

Another objective is the strengthening of the associations it finances. This is possible through a deepening of their education and by offering them the possibility of belonging to the international network of which Etimos, together with all its members, is part.

Activities

Etimos is active at local level in different countries where it finances its members, as micro-finance institutions, village banks and banks providing credit to poor people, cooperatives, associations, and different bodies. These organisations have a deep knowledge of the social and economic local reality and a direct and regular relation with the final beneficiaries. Thus they can better promote the development of the communities through a number of tools including microcredit, the incentive and the

managing of savings, the prefinancing and the support to production, microleasing, assistance and training on issues concerning the starting and the running of microenterprises.

An integrated approach is of the outmost importance for Etimos: besides its financial intermediation activity based on the cooperation values, Etimos can offer its know-how and experience also in the fields of technical assistance, project managing, research and formation.

Present and future significant actions

Etimos has projects going on in Angola, Morocco, Mozambique, Palestine, Republic of Guinea, and Senegal, Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Perù, Uruguay, Sri Lanka, Albania, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, and Romania.

3.2 SPAIN

3.2.1 The concept of Social Economy

In Spain the concept of social economy is well known and developed. It includes any economic activity following the principles of:

- Primacy of people over capital
- democratic organisation
- profits distributed with democratic criteria
- primacy of general or collective interest over individual interest
- contribution to social cohesion, solidarity and social responsibility.

According to the Spanish legislation the organisations sharing these principles and recognised as parts of social economy are:

- cooperatives,
- mutual societies,
- associations,
- foundations
- employee-owned enterprises (SAL – sociedades anonimas laborales)
- special employment centres (centros especiales de empleo)
- social insertion companies (empresas de insercion).

It should be underlined that the legal regulations concerning each of these categories may be slightly different in each region (Comunidad autonoma).

3.2.2 Essential figures

There are not updated and specific statistics about social economy as a whole or its families. The most recent data have been published by a research done by CIRIEC for the European Social and Economic Committee:

Table 2 (*)

Co-operatives and other similar accepted forms	Mutual Companies and other similar accepted forms	Associations and other similar accepted forms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All cooperatives (2005: 313.972 jobs 26.146 enterprises) - Production Cooperatives (2005: 108.867 jobs 10.192 enterprises) - Cooperative Banks (2005 : 16.831 jobs 86 enterprises) - Agricultural Cooperatives (2005 : 68.413 jobs 3.659 enterprises) - Consumer Cooperatives (2005 : 12.344 jobs 327 enterprises) - Land workers Cooperatives (2005: 2009 jobs 356 enterprises) - Services Cooperatives (2005: 8.207 jobs 416 enterprises) - Fishing Cooperatives (2005: 154 jobs 16 enterprises) - Transport Cooperatives: (2005: 854 jobs 214 enterprises) - Health Cooperatives (2005: 997 jobs 1 enterprises) - Education Cooperatives (2005: 10147 jobs 273 enterprises) <i>Other accepted forms:</i> - Labour Societies (2005 : 125.646 jobs 20.279 enterprises) - Labour special entities (2005: 47.370 jobs 1573 enterprises) - Labour insertion companies (2005: 1.618 jobs 60 enterprises) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mutual Societies (2001 : 3.548 jobs ** 487 enterprises) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Voluntary Associations (2001 : 233.123 jobs ** 123.228 entities) -Public Utility declared Associations (2001 : 22.992 jobs ** 1.277 entities) -Singular entities (ONCE, Cruz Roja and Cáritas) (2001 : 49.011 jobs ** 3 entities) - Foundations (2001 : 74.934 jobs ** 2.490 entities)
<p>488.606 jobs 48.058 enterprises</p>	<p>3.548 jobs ** 487 enterprises</p>	<p>380.060 jobs ** 126.998 entities</p>

(*) Source: Ministerio de Trabajo y Asuntos Sociales, CEPES, García Delgado (2005) y CIRIEC-España (Observatorio español de la economía social).

** Equivalent Full time Jobs

3.2.3 The horizontal representative organisations: CEPES, CEPES Andalusia

CEPES

Confederación Empresarial Española de Economía Social

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Short history

The Spanish Social Business Confederation of Social Economy (CEPES, in the Spanish acronym) established in 1992, is a business confederation at national level with an inter-sectoral nature that makes it a large institution able to establishing itself as a platform for institutional dialogue with the public authorities.

Members

CEPES, as an organisation that brings together several economic activities existing under the concept of Social Economy Enterprise, is made up of 25 organisations. All of them are national or regional confederations and social economy business groups that represent the interests of Cooperative Societies, employee-owned enterprises (SAL – sociedades anonimas laborales), Mutual societies, Social Insertion Companies, and Special employment Centres with more than 200 support structures at regional level.

Funding mechanism

The majority of CEPES financial resources come from CEPES members, while some additional funding is granted on the basis of a specific agreement signed with the Ministry of Labour. Specific projects are funded by additional public sources at national and international level.

Objectives

CEPES acts to be a reference for the concept of social economy creating a unique platform in order to represent all the association based on solidarity action, analysing and proposing positive actions in favour of the development of social economy, defending social cohesion and insertion policies, developing training for entrepreneurship and providing tools for internationalization of business.

Activities

CEPES main activities are to:

- increase social economy visibility at external level (towards mass-media, academic world and entrepreneurial community);
- represent and defend all its members interests working as a platform for institutional dialogue with the public authorities;
- spread the knowledge of the social economy in Europe, Mediterranean Countries and Latin America;
- create a strategic alliance with the organisations representing the civil society;
- to provide information on legal, fiscal and funding issues to its members;
- to support its members' activities;

- to realise studies and researches;
- to follow and try to influence legislation affecting the social economy;
- to provide long life training.

Present and future significant actions

The present strategic axes of CEPES action are the following:

- to ameliorate internal cohesion among members;
- to increase external visibility and recognition;
- to favour the development of positive and fruitful relationships with the other social partners and public institutions;
- to favour the development of the social economy through the participation in the Observatory of SMEs and in the Spanish Social and Economic Committee.

CEPES-Andalucía

Confederación de Entidades para la Economía Social Andaluza

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Short history

The Business Confederation of Social Economy enterprises of Andalusia is an intersectorial employers' organisation created in 1993 that brings together employers' organisations (federations, associations, funds) of Social Economy Enterprises and autonomous employers in the Autonomous Community of Andalusia.

Members

The number of members is fifteen, including institutions that bring together cooperatives, employee-owned enterprises (SAL - sociedades anonimas laborales), autonomous workers organisations and others:

Cooperatives: EMCOFEANTRAN (Empresas Cooperativas Federadas Andaluzas de Transporte); FAECA (Federación Andaluza de Empresas Cooperativas Agrarias); FAECTA (Federación Andaluza de Empresas Cooperativas de Trabajo Asociado); FEDECCON (Federación Andaluza de Cooperativas de Consumidores y Usuarios)

SAL: ASLAND (Asociación de Sociedades Laborales de Andalucía); FEANSAL (Federación Andaluza de Sociedades Laborales)

Autonomous workers organisations: AGT (Asociación General de Transportistas de Andalucía); CADAES (Confederación Andaluza de Autónomos y Microempresas); CEMPE ANDALUCÍA (Confederación de Pequeñas Empresas y Autónomos de Andalucía); COAG ANDALUCÍA (Andalucía Coordinadora de Organizaciones de Agricultores y Ganaderos de Andalucía); UPA ANDALUCÍA (Unión de Pequeños Agricultores de Andalucía)

Others: ACES (Asociación Andaluza de Centros de Enseñanza de Economía Social); EIDA (Asociación de Empresas de Inserción de Andalucía); FEDERACIÓN DE MUTUALIDADES DE PREVISIÓN SOCIAL DE ANDALUCÍA ; FUNDACIÓN PM40 (Fundación por la Inclusión contra la Exclusión PM40).

Funding mechanism

CEPES-Andalucía financial resources come from members and from public financing (European, national and local) for specific projects and activities.

Objectives

The main objective of CEPES-Andalucía is to defend the interests of its members, being officially recognised as a social partner. It also aims at extending social economy business models as a mean to create employment and achieve a fairer society with a greater distribution of wealth.

CEPES-Andalucía intends to answer to specific commitments:

- The promotion of entrepreneurial and business skills, offering business formulae that are adequate for the development of the entrepreneurial spirit and business initiative.
- The problem of employment, generating higher-quality jobs with greater stability and with a larger growth than the traditional economic system, contributing to maintaining the population in geographical areas where conventional economy is absent or in recession.

- Social cohesion and integration: associations and cooperatives favour labour and social integration of persons and groups at risk of social exclusion.
- Participation with all social sector organisations and representation of social enterprises in front of institutions in order to defend their interests.
- Promote a local Pact for social economy (II Pacto por la Economía Social)
- Draw guidelines in several working fields (educational, social, economical cultural and environmental sectors)

Activities

- Education and innovation: CEPES-Andalucía organises 16 different courses in all the Universities of Andalusia in collaboration with Regional Ministry of Innovation, Science and Enterprises
- Promotion of dialogue between the Administration of Andalusia, Trade Unions and the Confederation of entities for Social Economy. This project, at its second edition, aims to carry on an Agreement of Social Concertation named "Pact Andalu".

Present and future significant actions

SOLES (project of Free Software for Social Economy)

ESINNOVA.ES (technology portal for Social Economy)

ESANDALUCÍA.ES (Virtual Trade Centre for Social Economy)

E-Consultores (project of consultancy on-line)

Programme of Excellence and Continuous Amelioration (the main objective is to bring a Culture of Excellence into the organisations working on social economy in Andalusia).

Additional remarks

Relationships between CEPES-Andalucía and Polish institutions are not stable but have started. A delegation from Malopolska region visited Cepes Andalusia headquarter in order to know better the social economy in Andalusia and to learn more about the "II pacto por la Economia Social".

3.2.4 The sectoral federations: Confesal, Coceta, Faedei

CONFESAL

Confederación Nacional de Sociedades Laborales

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Short history

The origin of CONFESAL date to the 80s when the first workers' owned companies (SAL) were created in the four more industrialized regions of Spain: Catalonia, Navarra, Basque and Asturias. Afterwards, these four companies decided to join together and work for the creation of national confederation. Finally, in 1987, Confesal (National Confederation of Workers' Owned Companies) was established.

Members

CONFESAL reunites Associations, Federations and Workers' Owned Companies all over Spain:

ACEL - Agrupación de Empresas Laborales y de Economía Social de Cantabria
AELIB - Associació d'empreses Laborals de les Illes Balears
AEMTA - Organización de Sociedades Laborales de Castilla-León
AEXEL - Agrupación extremeña de Empresas Laborales
AGALEL - Agrupación galega de Empresas Laborais
AMUSAL - Asociación de Empresas de Economía Social de la Región de Murcia
ANEL - Asociación navarra de Empresas Laborales
AREL- Agrupación riojana de Empresas Laborales y de Economía Social
ASALMA - Agrupación de Sociedades Laborales de Madrid
ASATA - Agrupación de Sociedades asturianas de trabajo asociado
ASES - Asociación aragonesa de Sociedades Laborales
ASESCAN - Asociación de Empresas de Economía Social de Canarias
ASLE - Agrupación de Sociedades Laborales de Euskadi
FEANSAL - Federación empresarial andaluza de Sociedades Laborales
FECMES - Federación empresarial de Economía Social de Castilla-La Mancha
FESALC - Federación de Sociedades Laborales de Cataluña
FEVES - Federación Empresas valencianas de Economía Social

CONFESAL associates 20.000 enterprises and almost 130.000 workers.

Funding mechanism

CONFESAL is a non-profit organisation and its activities are financed by its members fees (associated members' dues are calculated by the number of votes) or by funding coming from several organisations:

- the costs of infrastructures are covered by the Ministry of Labour (Directorate-General for the Social Economy)
- other kinds of funding depend on the activities (for example publishing) or on the specific projects.

Objectives

CONFESAL main purpose is to develop the social economy by increasing competitiveness of the existing enterprises and by creating new ones. In particular, CONFESAL aims to:

- Represent and defend social, entrepreneurial and economic interests of Spanish workers' owned companies (SALs);
- Alert public administration and private entities to the main economic, political and social items concerning SALs' activities;
- Develop relationships and exchanges between similar organisations, namely within the social economy;
- Raise awareness of the public opinion on a new model of entrepreneurial organisation such as the SAL;
- Coordinate the Federations and Associations of SALs in order to supply and distribute their services to all members.

Activities

CONFESAL is committed to work in several fields, such as:

Communication: CONFESAL publishes the journal "Economía Social", distributed to associated enterprises, territorial organisations, universities, public administrations and private citizens related to social economy.

Relations and cooperation with several institutional bodies: CONFESAL cooperates with public institutions and private organisations to promote the SAL entrepreneurial model; furthermore, as a social economy organisation, CONFESAL participates and cooperates with institutional bodies and social agencies, such as: Confederación Empresarial Española de la Economía Social (CEPES), Consejo Económico y Social (CES); Confederación Europea de Cooperativas de Producción CECOP. Finally, CONFESAL signed agreements with two important trade unions like UGT (Unión General de Trabajadores) and CC.OO (Confederación Sindical de comisiones obreras) in order to augment its knowledge on the following issues: working risks prevention, education, promotion of workers' companies, international cooperation and employment creation.

Development of Workers' Owned Enterprises model throughout new enterprises and employment creation. CONFESAL aims to develop SALs' model in Spain and in other countries, within the European Union and in the rest of the World, especially in Latin America.

Present and future significant actions

Currently, Confesal is working on a European project: "Social dialogue as a tool to fight against Age Discrimination in Employment; enhancing the ability of all age groups to participate in employment and employment-related activities".

The main goal of this project is to contribute to initiate a social dialogue at the European level on active ageing between social economy actors and national social partners.

This project can therefore be presented as a kind of "avant-garde" of the social dialogue at the European level in the sector of the social economy through the participation of social partners actively involved in national social dialogue.

COCETA

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Short history

The Spanish Confederation of Associated Work Co-operatives (COCETA) was established in 1986 in order to raise awareness on workers' cooperatives and to promote their growth and development.

Members

COCETA is formed by 15 Unions and Federations of Workers' Cooperatives. They are active in the following Spanish Communities: Andalucía, Aragón, Asturias, Castilla la Mancha, Castilla Leon, Catalonia, Basque, Extremadura, Galicia, Islas Balearic Island, Canarias, La Rioja, Madrid, Murcia and Valencia.

At the present time, COCETA includes almost 18.000 associated workers' cooperatives and more than 260.000 workers.

Funding mechanism

COCETA activities are financed by members' fees and State grants. Other kinds of funding depend on the activities or on specific European projects.

Objectives

COCETA main objectives are to represent and defend members' interests in the political, social and economic arena. COCETA coordinates entrepreneurial policy actions at national level, facilitating cooperation between cooperatives (inter-cooperation) in order to foster their development.

Activities

COCETA aims to:

- Strengthen institutional external relations and contacts with other national cooperative and social economy organisations in order to carry on common actions to develop the sector;
- Promote collaboration agreements and protocols with universities on training for cooperatives;
- Increase the use of management methodologies helping cooperatives' performances and competitiveness and to draft a sectoral development plan.

Present and future significant actions

At the moment, Coceta is working on different significant actions and projects:

- Training dedicated to people willing to work in cooperatives.
- Coceta encourages the creation and the development of cooperatives and with this objective, Coceta stimulates public authorities to take new measures. These measures should facilitate the management and improve the competitiveness of the cooperative enterprises.
- Legal field: Coceta is working at the national and European level in the analysis and the development of legislative measures which can affect working cooperatives, in order to try to improve its conditions and development tools.

- Coceta has been involved as partner in the project Leonardo da Vinci UCE (European Cooperative University) in Network, whose promoter is the French organization of College Cooperatif and in which also participates the University of Warsaw as partner. In this Project, Coceta has been able to work jointly for the creation of a space in network directed to cooperative pedagogy training.

FAEDEI

Federación de Asociaciones Empresariales de Empresas de Inserción

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Asunción García Maynar, President

Short history

FAEDEI officially starts to work on January 1st 2008. Its predecessor, FEDEI (Spanish Federation of Integration Enterprises) was constituted in 1998 and had a consolidated experience. Three are three key events that marked FAEDEI history:

- The agreement between CONPEEI and FEDEI signed in November 2005 and publicised during the "Fifth Integration Enterprises Days" organised by FEDEI.
- In May 2007 the representatives of the associations of 11 regions (comunidades autónomas: Aragón, Andalucía, Canarias, Castilla-La Mancha, Castilla-León, Cataluña, Extremadura, Madrid, Navarra, País Valenciano and País Vasco) signed the constitutional act of the Federation of Entrepreneurial Associations of Integration Enterprises. The act gave the task of creating the Federation to four already existing federations, lets' say AREI in Aragón, EIDA in Andalucía, ADEICAN in Canary Islands and AMEI in Madrid. The federation was registered on July 11, 2007, under the Law 19/1977.
- The General Assembly held in October 2007 approved the cessation of FEDEI and the transfer of its task to the new federation.

Members

- ADEICAN, Asociación Canaria de Empresas de Inserción
- AEIGA, Asociación de Empresas de Inserción de Galicia
- AMEI, Asociación Madrileña de Empresas de Inserción
- AREI, Asociación Aragonesa de Empresas de Inserción
- EIDA, Asociación de Empresas de Inserción de Andalucía

There are also other organisations which participate to the federation, without being members:

- Asociación de Empresas de Inserción del País Vasco
- AVEI, Asociación Valenciana de Empresas de Inserción
- FECLEI, Federación Castellano-Leonesa de Empresas de Inserción
- Centros de Inserción Social de Navarra
- ACEI, asociación Catalana de Empresas de Inserción,
- AIRES, Associació Intersectorial de Recuperador i Empreses Socials de Catalunya.

Funding mechanism

The main financial resources come from membership fees. Since last year, FAEDEI receives also some core funding from public sources. Projects are funded by national and local authorities.

Objectives

FEDEI represents its members' interests at a national and international level. It promotes the role of social integration enterprises as a tool to fight social exclusion and to create employment.

Activities

FEDEI aims to:

- Represent and defend interests of peoples who live in situation of social exclusion;
- Promote and harmonize the work integration enterprises' interests at a national and international level;
- Raise awareness of the general public on the role of social integration enterprises;
- Collaborate with institutions and other organisations in order to create a favourable environment for social integration enterprises;
- Claim attention on social work integration to Local Governments;
- Inform and advise its members about their interests;
- Participate in the social dialogue and negotiation of work conditions and contracts with public authorities and trade unions;
- Promote work integration enterprises committed to create new jobs;
- Promote information exchange between its members.

Present and future significant actions

- Consolidation of integration enterprises through tools and measures that facilitate the integration of people at risk of social exclusion in transitional employment:
 - 1- Law on integration enterprises
 - 2- Exemption for integration enterprises of the "de minimis" regulation.
 - 3- Development of regulations to support integration enterprises.
 - 4- Follow up of processes of work integration within enterprises.
 - 5- Creation of protected markets.
 - 6- Training.
- To be the institutional reference point for all the public administrations and bodies working on inclusion in order to create a favourable environment for all the organisations working with social excluded groups and a common space of social relations and synergies.
- Promotion of the association model at national, regional and local level.

3.3 FRANCE

3.3.1 The concept of Social Economy

The initial idea of 'social economy' in France grew up in the 19th century but was subsequently eclipsed by the co-operative and public sectors. Then, in 1980, the first 'Social Economy Charter', promoted by UNIOPSS (*Union Nationale des Offices Publiques Sociales et Sanitaires; National Association of Health Care and Social Welfare Organisations*) and others, defined the social economy in vague terms as being "at the service of mankind". In 1981 the Socialist Party came to power and set up DIES, the *Délégation Interministerielle à l'Economie Sociale (Interministerial Working Group for the Social Economy)*, which defined the social economy in terms of its legal structures as "co-operatives, mutuals and associations that approach them" and its principles of private ownership, democracy, solidarity and non-profit. In 1983 IDES, the *Institut de Développement de l'Economie Sociale (Institution for the Development of the Social Economy)*, was established.

Meanwhile activity was burgeoning in the worlds of associations and local development, which emphasised the activity undertaken rather than the legal structure. In the 1980s, as a response to long-term unemployment, the social economy (*économie solidaire*) grew up under the banner of decentralising and reweaving the social fabric, and reconnecting the economy with its roots in society. Thus, the French government defines the social and solidarity economy (*économie sociale et solidaire*) as being composed of a variety of organisations, defined either by their legal status (associations, co-operatives, mutuals, foundations) or their activities and objectives (integration, fair trade), and which recognise certain common principles: voluntary nature, democratic operation, general interest purpose.

The French model has been a large influence on European thinking on the social economy; French organisations have been active members of the sector's European representative organisations, and French Members of the European Parliament have supported the development of the sector.

3.3.2 Essential figures

There are not updated and specific statistics about social economy as a whole or its families. The most recent data have been published by a research done by CIRIEC for the European Social and Economic Committee:

THE SOCIAL ECONOMY IN FRANCE

Table 3 (*)

Cooperatives and other similar accepted forms	Mutual Societies and other similar accepted forms	Associations, foundations and other similar accepted forms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperative Banks (2003: 206.700 jobs 5 cooperative groups) - Agricultural Cooperatives (2003: 150.000 jobs 3.600 enterprises (13.300 CUMA)) - Production Cooperatives (2003: 35.200 jobs 1.580 enterprises) - Consumer Cooperatives (2003: 17.050 jobs 70 enterprises) - Others (craftsmen, trademen) (2003: 33.000 jobs 1.046 enterprises) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health Mutuals (2003: 58.000 jobs 750 enterprises) - Mutual Insurance companies (2003: 27.700 jobs 34 enterprises) (with 15.000 FTE volunteers) GROUPAMA (MI+bank) 29.400 jobs 1 enterprise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social Action Associations (2002: 746.910 jobs 139.000 FTE.volunteers -health 33.078 entities) - Health Associations (2002: 151.840 jobs 2.223 entities) - Research and Education Associations (2002: 194.230 jobs 50.000 FTEvolunteers 15.233 entities) - Grant-making Foundations (2002: 10.100 jobs 72 entities) - Others (p.e. culture & sport) (2002: 331.920 jobs 531.000 FTE volunteers 77.585 entities)
<p>439.720 jobs 6.301 enterprises</p>	<p>110.100 jobs 785 enterprises</p>	<p>1.435.330 jobs 720.000 FTE volunteers 128.191 enterprises</p>

(*) Source: Edith Archambault and Philippe Kaminski

3.3.3 The horizontal representative organisations: CEGES, GNC

CEGES

Conseil des Entreprises, Employeurs, et Groupements de l'Economie Sociale

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Michel Porta

Short history

The Council of Enterprises and Groups for Social Economy was established the 30th of October 2001 when the CNLAMCA (National Committee for mutual activities, Cooperatives and Associations) during an extraordinary assembly changed its statute and created the CEGES.

Members

CEGES includes all the families and movements of the Social Economy: associations, cooperatives, mutual societies and workers trade unions:

ASFONDES, Association des fondations de l'Economie Sociale;

College Employeurs, Collège des syndicats d'employeurs des entreprises de l'Economie sociale;

CCOMCEN, Comité de coordination des œuvres mutualistes et coopératives de l'Education nationale;

CPCA, Conférence permanente des coordinations associatives;

CNCRES, Conseil National des Chambres Régionales de l'Economie Sociale;

FNME, Fédération Nationale de la Mutualité Française;

GEMA, Groupement des Entreprises Mutuelles d'Assurances;

GNC, Groupement National de la Coopération.

Funding mechanism

CEGES is financed by:

- membership fees whose amount is decided by the Board of Directors every financial year;
- Social Economy movement and employers' trade unions (covering all the remaining financing resources).

Objectives

CEGES' objectives are:

- to promote the Social Economy recognising the different entrepreneurial models;
- to assure the eventual synergy between the roles of employers' movements and organisations, which are grouped in the "group of employers organisations" (*college des employeurs*);
- in doing that, CEGES maintains all the necessary relationships with public bodies and private economic and social bodies.

Activities

CEGES works through "working groups" whose task is to discuss and elaborate position papers on issues affecting social economy, such as:

- Local, national and European development
- North-South relations,
- Fiscal measures
- Capital Stocks
- Training

Ceges collaborates within a platform created by the associative movement on SSGI legislation.

Present and future significant actions

Ceges has created a new working group with the employers' trade union. The goal is to support the representation of employers working in different sectors.

Additional remarks

Some of CEGES's members created partnerships with Polish organisations working in different sectors, such as: insurance, mutuals and public health.

GNC

Groupement National de la Coopération

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Contact person

Ms Caroline Naett, Secretary-General

Short history

GNC (National Group of Cooperation) was established in 1968. Since its foundation the GNC worked to promote cooperatives as a new entrepreneurship way to face the market transformation at national and international levels.

Members

The GNC members are national federations of cooperatives. A distinction is made between four categories of co-operatives according to the nature of their members or activities: users' co-operatives (for instance, consumer co-operatives, social housing co-operatives), professional co-operatives (crafts workers, farmers, fishermen, carriers and retailers), workers' co-operatives (Scop), credit co-operatives (Banques Populaires, Crédit Agricole, Crédit Coopératif, Crédit Maritime, Crédit Mutuel, etc.). The following National Associations belong to GNC:

Association Nationale de la Copropriété Coopérative
Banque Fédérale des Banques Populaires
Caisse Nationale des Caisses d'épargne
Fédération Nationale des Caisses d'Epargne
Comité de Coordination des Œuvres Mutualistes et Coopératives de l'Education Nationale
Groupe CAMIF
Confédération de la Coopération, de la Mutualité et du Crédit Maritimes
Confédération Générale des Sociétés Coopératives de Production
Confédération Nationale du Crédit Mutuel
Confédération Nationale de la Mutualité, de la Coopération et du Crédit Agricoles
Coop de France
Fédération Nationale du Crédit Agricole
Crédit Coopératif (Groupe)
Fédération Française des Coopératives et Groupements d'Artisans
Fédération Nationale des Coopératives de Consommateurs
Fédération Nationale des Sociétés Coopératives d'HLM
Les Enseignes du commerce associé
Office Central de la Coopération à l'Ecole.

Funding mechanism

GNC is financed by membership fees whose amount is decided every financial year by the Board of Directors.

Objectives

The GNC mission is to:

- Create a meeting point for all different cooperative realities
- Represent the French cooperatives' interests at both national and international stage

- Create a legal and financial environment where cooperatives can develop and find better opportunities
- Promote social economy including mutual companies, cooperatives and associations activities.

Activities

GNC works mainly on lobbying activities.

GNC carries out campaigns of information and several publications. GNC, for instance, created "a research magazine" about co-operatives, mutual societies and associations. This magazine is published every year.

Additional remarks

Several co-operative organisations members of GNC are present in Poland. Credit Co-operative, for instance, owns shares in the Polish bank "BISE" and several Co-operatives of associated trade work in Poland too.

3.3.4 The sectoral federations: CGSCOP

CG SCOP

Confédération Générale des Sociétés Coopératives de Production

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Contact person

Mr Patrick Lenancker, President

Short history

The origin of CG SCOP (General Confederation of workers' cooperatives) dates back to 1884, when 29 workers' associations founded their Consultative Chamber in Paris. Through this initiative, they wanted to create an enterprise whose shares could become a collective share. The main goal was the economic independence of the workers and a work with dignity.

In July 1903 the first Consultative Chamber Congress of Workers' Associations took place. In 1915 the term scop is added into the Labour Code. In 1937 the consultative Chamber is transformed in General Confederation of Workers' Cooperatives.

Finally, in 1992, the cooperatives statute was revised to allow the integration of new investments in order to stimulate co-operatives' development and, at the same time, to let workers to keep the majority of the capital.

Members

The CG Scop leads and coordinates the Scop Enterprises network and represents Scops at the national level in France. Twelve regional unions accompany the day-today development of Scops and provide representation at the regional and local levels. Three professional federations represent member Scops in dealing with authorities in their respective fields and provide economic, technical and legal advice as well as support in the development of their activities. The three professional federations encompass the following three sectors of activity:

- Building and public works (BTP)
- Communication
- Manufacturing, metallurgy and technologies (Témis)

The Scop network associates on 1.707 cooperatives and 36.196 workers.

Funding mechanism

CGSCOP is financed by membership fees whose amount is decided every financial year the Board of Directors.

Objectives

The CG SCOP works for cooperatives supporting their management and development, encouraging and facilitating enterprises creation and helping them to grow up in their regions; it also represents and pleads for cooperatives with local actors, Public Governments, local communities, administrations, economic and financial partnerships. Furthermore CG SCOP supports developing experiences exchange and contributes to new partnerships creation.

Activities

The CG Scop has three essential tasks:

- Gathering:
On a basis of free adhesion, the Confederation joins together SCOPs functioning according to co-operative principles established by the law. Its publications and its many exchange structures support communication among its members and take part in animating the network.
- Representation:
The Confederation, recognized by the Authorities as the only representative body of SCOPs, frequently takes part in the elaboration process of legislative texts involving directly or indirectly the SCOP Movement by defending its point of view. Its representatives are members of the Higher Council of Co-operation and of the Economic and Social Council. CG SCOP lobbies the European Institutions (European Commission, European Parliament) and the inter co-operatives authorities.
- Support to internal and external development
Vector of solidarity among SCOPs, the Confederation provides a coherent support to SCOPs (financial tools, training, consultancy, etc.) in connection with its twelve regional Unions and its three professional federations (Building and public works, Communication, Manufacturing, metallurgy and technologies).

Present and future significant actions

At European level, CGSCOP is developing projects of exchanges. Currently, there are three priority axes:

- Management and co-operative training.
- Participation and salary savings of co-operatives (lobbying). CGSCOP will organise a meeting with European cooperatives' chief executives coming from Spain and Italy.
- The development of European cooperative society.

Additional remarks

Currently, CGSCOP wishes to identify the possibilities of *Business to Business* relationships and wants to contribute to the development of training for cooperatives managers.

3.3.5 Social enterprises networks and support structures: AVISE, CNEI, Coopérer pour entreprendre, CRESS, Esfin-Ides

AVISE

Agence de Valorisation des Initiatives Socio-Economiques

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Contact person

Farbod Khansari

Short history

In 2002, on the initiative of the Caisse de dépôts (State Fund that manages public money), the three main families of social economy in France, mutual societies (FNMF, MACIF, Fondation MACIF), associations (CPCA, FONDA) and the co-operative sector (CGSCOP) created together the Agency of Valorization of Economic Initiatives (AVISE). AVISE received also the support of actors such as the National bank of the Savings banks (Caisse nationale des caisses d'Épargne), the Co-operative Credit Bank, IDES (Institute of Development of the Social Economy) or Active France.

Members

Caisse des dépôts
CGSCOP (General Confederation of worker's Co-operative)
Groupe Chèque Déjeuner
CNCE (National bank of the Savings banks)
Crédit Coopératif
FNCE (National federation of the Savings banks)
FNMF (National Federation of French mutuality)
FONDA
Fondation MACIF
MAIF
France Active
IDES (Institute of Development of the Social Economy)
MACIF
CPCA (Permanente Conference of Associations' Coordinations)

Funding mechanism

- Caisse des dépôts
- State grants
- European social fund

Objectives

Avise is committed to:

- Ensure the development of existing economic initiatives (integration by the economic way; new shapes of co-operatives; evaluation of the social utility)
- Support emergence of new initiatives which create employments and social cohesion
- Contribute to the consolidation and the perpetuation of activities of social utility by:

- A territorial approach, within the framework of device of support to activities and services of social utility carried by D.L.A. (Local Guidance Tool)
- An approach by activities of social utility in the fields of the environment, of the culture and sport, etc.
- Support to public policies which support activities and employment of social utility.

Activities

Avise's main activities are:

- Engineering and services:
 - information or guidance service: telephone directory inquiries, tools such as D.L.A. (Local Guidance Tool) and T.S.F. (Transfer of Know-how); access to European funding.
 - Tools and resources: Website, methodological guides, information, events
- A resource centre addressed to social economy project promoters, actors working on the enterprises creation, territorial collectivities, and public authorities.

Present and future significant actions

AVISE is collaborating on several social economy projects, such as:

EQUAL EST PROJECT: ECONOMIE SOCIALE ET TERRITOIRE

The project, promoted by CGSCOP, aims at strenghtening the identity adn the recognition of social economy and at promoting local development and employment, namely in the care sector. It will set up a Resource Centre for Social Enterprises in three regions.

EQUAL CREATIVE PROJECT

The project, coordnated by COOPERER pour ENTREPRENDRE aims at consolidating the Business and Activity Cooperatives network, passing from a bi-national dimension (France and Belgium) to a wider European one.

EQUAL PROJECT « LES TEMPS POUR VIVRE ENSEMBLE »

The project aims at facilitating conciliation of work and life time of handicapped people and their families, in order to reduce discriminations they dtil have to face. It is coordinated by GIP Handicap et compétences.

CNEI

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Short history

The CNEI is the National Committee of the Integration Enterprises, created on 23rd March 1988 to fight against unemployment and social exclusion. It was started as a regional movement created by local actors' initiatives. They put their experiences in common to promote integration enterprises at national level. Today, CNEI is a national network which represents the entire integration sector in France and counts 597 integration enterprises and 22 regional unions. CNEI counts more than 35,000 employees in several productive sectors. CNEI is an important social actor and signs partnership agreements with national foundations and financial bodies.

Members

The CNEI is composed by 22 regional unions called UREI (Regional Organisations of Integration Enterprises) and URSIE (Regional Unions of Economic Integration Structures).

Funding mechanism

The CNEI is financed by:

- The ESF and State grants
- The contributions of its members (Membership fees).

Objectives

CNEI's main purposes are:

- To promote integration enterprises and contribute to get the people in great difficulty (long-term unemployment, obsolete qualification etc.) out of assistantship.
- To represent, at national level, the collective interests of the integration enterprises and the Temporary Work Integration enterprises (E.I. and E.T.T.I.) and their promotion with the partners: public authorities, economic sectors, actors in the social field.

Activities

CNEI executes several activities, such as:

- The commitment for an ethics of "integration by the economy", through the national Charter of integration enterprises and the implementation of a process of labellisation for adhering EI/ETTI.
- The elaboration of methodological tools, the implementation of training cycles responding to the needs for professionalisation of the management of the EI/ETTI and personalised courses for social and professional requalification of people in difficulty.
- The implementation of an exchange network between managers of Integration enterprises and their partners, the organisation of regional and national meetings or symposia, the participation in events.
- Information and communication: complete and updated information on the EI/ETTI through a national directory, a data base and an internet site, a bimonthly press review, a quarterly magazine (CNEI MAG), a compendium of official texts and technical books.

Activities of Regional Unions

The regional Unions promote the integration enterprises at regional level and represent the sector towards public authorities and the economic and social partners. The regional unions are political, technical and operational relays on the entire national territory through different activities:

- To support project promoters: formulation of the project, technical assistance, follow-up etc.
- To take part in feasibility studies and company audits.
- To foster commercial development through searching for new markets.
- To organise specific training and to be places for exchange where the managers of integration enterprises compare their experience and their point of views.

Present and future significant actions

The CNEI encourages integration enterprises to develop activities at European level. CNEI is an active member of ENSIE (European Network of Social Integration Enterprises).

Additional remarks

For the moment, CNEI has not established yet contact with Polish social economy. In the future, the organisation hopes to develop projects with Polish organisations.

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Short history

In November 1995, the first Business and Employment Co-operative (BEC) was created in the Rhône-Alpes region: the SCOP "Cap Services".

A BEC is a business incubator that provides budding business people with an easy transition from inactivity to self-employment. Intending entrepreneurs pass through three stages:

- First, they remain technically unemployed but develop their business idea under the wing of the BEC;
- Next, if it looks like being a success, they become that oxymoron, a 'salaried entrepreneur' with the security of a part-time employment contract;
- Finally they become a self-sufficient business, sharing in the ownership and management of the co-operative.

The structure thus provides the small business person with the best of both worlds – control over one's working life, but with the support of a group of people who are facing the same problems and want to pool their enthusiasm and expertise. It helps to overcome one of the most discouraging features of becoming self-employed – the isolation. BEC clients are in all sorts of activities from cookery, industrial cleaning, furniture restoration and organic horticulture to violin making, jewellery, translation and web design.

At the annual congresses held in 1997 and 2000, SCOP Entreprises decided to work with and encourage the development of this innovative approach to business creation. With their support, Coopérer pour Entreprendre was born: a loose group of business co-operatives linked together in a Union for a Social Economy (*Union d'Economie sociale* - UES) in November 1999. The UES provides a legal framework for business and employment co-operatives. This gives them the space to develop their activities for the long term; while respecting their commitment to working closely with their members and encouraging the creation of new co-operatives.

Members

The Coopérer pour Entreprendre network has 56 BECs members in France, Belgium and Quebec. The network is growing rapidly.

BECs willing to become members sign Cooperer pour entreprendre Charter and participate to the life of the network, before being officially admitted as members and acquiring capital shares.

Funding mechanism

Individual BECs in general rely on a combination of earned and grant financing. The earned portion is derived by levying a service charge of 10% of turnover on the member businesses. This is complemented with grant income from local authorities that wish to encourage entrepreneurship.

At national level, the federations receive grant income from various government departments including the Délégation générale à l'emploi et à la formation professionnelle (DGEFP) as regards training, the Délégation interministérielle à l'innovation, à l'expérimentation sociale et à l'économie sociale (DIIESES) as regards the social economy aspect, and the Délégation interministérielle à la ville (Div) as regards

urban regeneration and L'Agence nationale pour la cohésion sociale et l'égalité des chances (ACSé) as regards the inclusion of minorities. Other financing is provided by the Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations, the Fondation MACIF and other foundations.

Objectives

Coopérer pour Entreprendre aims are:

- To establish a common approach th research and development;
- To ensure the seasibility and long term future of new BECs;
- To act as a resource centre for the network
- To become an agent for collective development;
- To promote the BEC concept in Europe and in other regions of the world.

Activities

The Coopérer pour Entreprendre network has defined four priorities:

- 1) Expansion
Create new co-operatives.
- 2) Europe
Build partnerships with neighbouring countries such as Italy, Spain, Denmark, Sweden and Belgium.
- 3) Communication
Work to promote its objectives and activities with public authorities and agencies involved in job creation.
- 4) Recognition
Promote the inclusion of the "salaried entrepreneur" operating within a business co-operative in national legislation.

Present and future significant actions

Coopérer pour entreprendre is running an Equal project aiming at consolidating the Business and Activity Cooperatives network, passing from a bi-national dimension (France and Belgium) to a wider European one.

The Creative project foresees the identification of characteristics of a 'quality process' for BECs and the production of studies and tools in order to better organise and structure the network at national and transnational level.

CNCRES

Conseil National des Chambres Régionales de l'Economie Sociale

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Contact person

Yves Forestier

Short history

The CNCRES is an association created on 15/06/2004 as a place of permanent dialogue between its members. Its main purpose is to animate, promote, defend and represent all the Regional Chambers of Social Economy (CRES). In respect of subsidiarity, the CNCRES gives them its support and reinforces their actions by working on common positions and proposals.

The CNCRES represents the CRES within CEGES (The Council of the Companies, Employers and Groupings of the Social Economy) and CSES (Superior Council of the Social Economy, advisory authority created by decree).

Members

The CNCRES federates 23 CRES in the following regions : Alsace, Auvergne, Aquitaine, Basse Normandie, Bourgogne, Bretagne, Centre, Champagne Ardenne, Franche Comté, Haute Normandie, Ile de France, Languedoc Roussillon, Limousin, Lorraine, Martinique, Midi-Pyrénées, Nord Pas de Calais, Pays de la Loire, Picardie, Poitou Charentes, Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur, Réunion, Rhône Alpes.

Cres are organisations which represent the co-operative movement, associations and mutual societies at regional level.

Funding mechanism

The CNCRES is financed by:

- The contributions of its members (Membership fees)
- The DIIESES (Interdepartmental Delegation of Social Innovation and Experimentation and the Social Economy) for its mission of animation of network
- ARF (association of French area) and the Caisse de Depots
- Actors of Social Economy (Large companies like Macif, Maïf, Crédit Coopératif...)

Objectives

- To consolidate the representation of the CRES at national level
- To contribute to the structuring of social economy
- To support the structuring of the CRES and the mutual exchange between CRES
- To promote social economy in the region
- To support the development of actions for social innovation
- To ensure the functioning of authorities of the CNCRES

Activities

National Level

- Participation in national authorities (CSES, CEGES...)
- Analysis of CRES' organisation and missions
- Development of CRES' network: seminars, meetings with directors, Work Groups, etc....

- Development of partnerships at national level (Trade union employers, Macif, CPCA, Avise...)
- Supporting and developing the regional observatories of social economy and creation of a national observatory;
- Support to the implementation of each phase of the evaluation process.
- Publication of guides on experiences and organisation of fora (presently a guide on home care services)

Regional Level

The CNCRES' Members promote the social economy in the different French regions. Each CRES (Regional Chamber of Social Economy) has a particular history and develops specific activities on a regional base. Therefore, the following activities are common:

- Structure, representation, development and support of local platform, of social economy. Organisation of working groups on different topics.
- Research, observatory, engineering: dialogue with local and public authorities and universities.
- Development of the social economy sector: documentation, training for students, employees and volunteers, entrepreneurship development.
- Promotion and communication: website management, publication of guides, training to the general public and the elected officials.

Present and future significant actions

- Implementation of the national Observatory of ESS
- The Month of ESS (social economy) in November of each year.

Additional remarks

The CNCRES is a relatively recent structure which is in rapid development. For the moment, the CNCRES have not yet developed a transnational network.

Esfin-Ides

Institut de Développement de l'Economie Sociale

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Short history

The Institute for development of the social economy (IDES) was created in 1983 on the initiative of social economy institutions, which wanted to invest part of their reserves in a common financial tool for the purpose of supporting other social economy organizations : co-operatives (workers, users, consumers, co-operatives, multi-stakeholders etc.), mutual societies and associations.

Since 1990, IDES is a subsidiary of ESFIN S.A., a holding company created by the organizations of social economy such as the mutual societies, the workers co-operatives (CGSCOP) and the Co-operative Credit. The organization ESFIN-IDES represents a financial partner for social economy companies.

Members

ESFIN-IDES is a holding company constituted by the following groups:

COOPEST: Investment Company of the social economy in Central and Eastern Europe

ESFIN PARTICIPATIONS: Risk Capital society

SOFINEI : finance company for the companies of social inclusion

SPOT: finance company for the creation of new co-operatives

SOFICATRA: European company created by Italian, Belgian, Portuguese, Spanish and French investors in the social economy

ESFIN GESTION: management company

FONTANOT PARTICIPATIONS: an investment fund

Funding mechanism

-State grants: 25%

-Caisse des Depots (public financial institution): 14%

-Organizations of Social economy (Co-operatives Bank, Mutual Societies, etc.)

Objectives

ESFIN-IDES main purpose is to support and to provide long-term financial support through specific financial tools created for the organizations of the social economy (particularly for the co-operatives).

Activities

ESFIN-IDES aims to support activities in almost all productive sectors, such as:

- Services to enterprises
- Building construction
- Retail
- Food farming
- Advising

Furthermore, IDES aids those enterprises working on solidarity sectors, such as: environment, fair trade, sustainable tourism, bio retail.

The interventions are related to development operations or to take-over operations through financial tools, namely:

"Titre participatif " (Specific securities for social organizations)

- Do not give right to vote.
- Refunding after one 7 years minimal period.
- Possibility of repurchase by the company.
- Credit of last row.

Other financial Tools

- Convertible bond in action (OCA) dedicated to subsidiary companies SA of co-operatives.
- Refundable loan and "participative loan" dedicated to mutual insurance companies and associations.

Present and future significant actions

CoopEst (<http://coopest.typepad.com/>)¹³, the subsidiary company of ESFIN-IDES was set up in October 2005 in Brussels, by several financial institutions active in the field of the Social Economy sector in Belgium, France, Italy and Poland.

Currently, there are three main projects in which ESFIN-IDES and CoopEst have invested in Poland:

- TUWTUW: a project about the creation of a mutual insurance company.
- Fundus Micro: a project of Microfinance.
- IINIASTIVA Micro: a project of information technology.

Additional remarks

ESFIN-IDES has invested in the Polish bank (BISE).

¹³ The target countries of CoopEst in Central and Eastern Europe are Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

3.4 SWEDEN

3.4.1 The concept of Social Economy

According to the report « The Social Economy – a third sector for prosperity, democracy and growth? » prepared in 2000 by a working group of the Ministry of Culture, in Sweden “The concept Social Economy refers to organised activities which primarily aim at serving the community, are being built on democratic values, and are organisationally independent of the public sector. These social and economic activities are run mainly by associations, cooperatives, foundations and similar groups. The main driving force of the Social Economy is the benefit of the public or the members of a particular association, and not the profit motive. ”

Social Economy was adopted as an official EU term 1989. Sweden has primarily used the term with reference to the Community 's structural funds. More recently it has been used in connection with comprehensive employment and regional policy measures.

In November 1997, the Swedish Government decided to appoint the Working Group on the Social Economy and its Development. This was assigned the task of “reviewing the conditions under which the Social Economy operates and demonstrating its importance for society. ” The working group, which has been in operation from March 1998 to December 1999, was made up of public officials from five ministries, special advisers and experts.

The working group was instructed to study three areas:

- The relationship between the Social Economy and the public sector.
- Financial support to the Social Economy from the Swedish Government and the EU.
- Legislation and economic conditions that may have an impact on the Social Economy.

The working group was also instructed to highlight such issues as employment, the delivery of services, education and research and rural development.

The working group has submitted the following reports (Published in Swedish only. Titles translated here):

- The Social Economy in the EU member state Sweden – tradition and renewal in one concept (Ministerial Communication 1998:48),
- The Social Economy – a third sector for prosperity, democracy and growth? with a separate appendix section.
- Social Economy in practice – 19 examples.

The same definition was taken on board by the Seven European Conference on Social Economy, which took place in Gavle in June 2001, organised by the Swedish Government in collaboration with Swedish and European Social Economy Organisations.

More recently, the concept of social enterprise has become popular thanks to the work developed within the Equal programme.

Equal provided resources (grants) to organizations and other actors to start projects, organised in form of so called development partnerships. The idea was

that public authorities, the private sector and the social economy sector cooperate in order to develop new ideas, work procedures and methods about how to counteract structures that contribute to discrimination in working life.

With the implementation of these Equal projects, there were established 8 national thematic groups (NTG) for spreading of results and experiences of these development partnership initiatives. The aim of one of these - "NTG social enterprising - a way back into the labour market" - was to facilitate the start and operation of social enterprises and thereby create work opportunities for groups who today are excluded from the labour market. Another objective was to identify obstacles and to suggest changes in legislation, rules and their application. It also spread information about existing social enterprises and their socioeconomic and human benefit. The results and knowledge gathered during the realisation of Equal projects and the dissemination activities by the NTG groups made the concept of social enterprises well-known and well-accepted as an enterprise model for integration of socially excluded into the labour market.

With the start of the new ESF funding period 2007-2013, the Equal programme will not be continued. However the new ESF programme provides the possibility to develop projects with a similar approach and model.

Furthermore the new Swedish government has given the assignment to the four government authorities NUTEK, AMS, Försäkringskassan, Socialstyrelsen to create a cross-sectoral programme that stimulates the start-up and growth of social enterprises. Besides of creating transversal solutions throughout the authorities the programme shall propose modifications to the legislation in order to better guarantee the financial situation of persons working in social enterprises and their rights with regards to reimbursements from the social security system. The programme shall also provide possibilities to finance social enterprises as well as their participation in public procurement.

3.4.2 Essential figures

There are not updated and specific statistics about social economy as a whole or its families. The most recent data have been published by a research done by CIRIEC for the European Social and Economic Committee:

THE SOCIAL ECONOMY IN SWEDEN

Table 4 (*)

Cooperatives and other similar accepted forms	Mutual Societies and other similar accepted forms	Associations, foundations and other similar accepted forms
- Agricultural Cooperatives (2005: 23.500 jobs 200 enterprises) - Consumer Cooperatives (2005: 33.000 jobs 500 enterprises) - Housing Cooperatives (2005: 7.000 jobs 14.070 enterprises) - Others (p.e. Tourism, Education) (2005: 36.000 jobs 4.000 enterprises)	Mutual Societies (2005: 11.000 jobs 230 enterprises)	- Foundations (2004: 23.135 jobs 4.218 entities) - Associations: (2004: 72.062 jobs 27.194 entities)
99.500 jobs 18.770 enterprises	11.000 jobs	95.197 jobs 31.412 entities

(*) Source: Jan Olsson (for cooperatives and Mutuals) & Lisa Frobel (Serus)

3.4.3 The horizontal representative organisations: KFO

KFO

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Jan Olsson, KFO
Lena Widman, KFO
Lisa Fröbel, SERUS Ek. För.

Short history

From April 2008 Kooperativa institutet KOOPI will cease to exist and the responsibility for the cooperative social economic issues will be organised by KFO. KFO has for this purpose created a committee, which includes the following organizations:

KFO (the Co-operative Employer's Association),
KF (the Swedish Co-operative Union and Wholesale Society),
Folksam (insurance and finance),
Riksbyggen (property).
HSB (housing),
Fonus (funerals),
Coompanion Sweden.

Members

In the Employers' Association KFO membership can be held by activities of preferably co-operative or other idea based character, as well as activities which are owned by users, customers or employees, in their capacity as employer. Employers who have or have had connection to such activities can also hold membership in KFO.

Funding mechanism

KFO is funded through its annual member fees and a service fee is also paid to a service joint-stock company owned by KFO.

Objectives

The Employers' Association KFO is an employer organization, which primarily provides service for cooperative enterprises, non-profit organizations and popular movements.

KFO operates directly or through its service joint-stock company in order to:

- give its members consulting employer service;
- reach agreements with employee organizations on behalf of its members;
- assist its members in negotiations and disputes with employee organizations and individual employees;
- work for good relationships between the members and their employees;
- contribute to its members' development as employers.

Activities

KFO gives advice and support in both small and larger issues and shares their knowledge. KFO is everyday available for employers' and their work procedures build on personal and close contacts.

Present and future significant actions

KFO works with issues concerning public procurement and access to capital on behalf of its members and cooperative partners.

KFO has been one of the main actors involved in creating the proposal of agreement between the Swedish government and idea based organizations within the social area.

3.4.4 Social enterprises networks and support structures: Coompanion

Coompanion

Swedish Association of Cooperative Development Agencies

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Contact person

Jan Olsson

Short history

The Swedish CDAs (cooperative development agencies) are a unique example of an organisation that for three decades has been able to preserve and adapt its structure to the changing context and to maintain the balance between community and association, centre and periphery, entrepreneurship and public service.

The first CDAs were born in the early 1980s as an essentially spontaneous process of local self-organisation within a highly structured institutional environment.

In 1994 the 25 Cooperative Development Agencies working in Sweden joined together and formed FKU (*Förening för kooperativ utveckling*, the Swedish Association of Cooperative Development Agencies).

In 2006 the whole system decided to use the same name, so they adopted the brand of COOMPANION.

Members

Coompanion Sweden is formed by 25 Cooperative Development Agencies federated at national level. The local agencies are fully independent and are generally constituted as associations, whose members are enterprises, cooperatives, local networks, associations and local authorities, training bodies and trade unions.

Funding mechanism

To establish a CDA, a local founder association has to collect matching financing from its members or other local organisations. Once financing is secured by the founders, the CDA is entitled to receive state cofinancing. Central financing sets a general budgetary framework, and defines Coompanion's mandatory tasks. Together, local and central funding form the CDA's baseline operating budget, which provides for the employment of a skeleton staff, and finances the mandatory activities.

The principles that applied to the starting of a CDA are also applied (with some minor modifications) in allocating public support in the years to follow, which is to say that a CDA is expected to mobilise matching financing each year, in order to qualify for a budgetary allocation.

The national federation is very light, funded by membership fees and project activities. Local CDAs provide also in kind resources in terms of staff.

Objectives

Coompanion most important task is to facilitate and improve the terms for cooperative and similar enterprising. The Cooperative Development Agencies are committed to face several issues and needs, such as: a widened labour market, occupational health, sustainable growth, local development, an ageing population, ageing entrepreneurs, the low number of new businesses, enterprise thresholds, the reductions in the public sector,

young people's values as well as poorly functioning markets, such as the electricity and banking markets.

Activities

Coompanion's Cooperative Development Agencies form a support structure of around 100 professional advisers committed to:

- Supply knowledge for entrepreneurship
- Offer both broad and specific competence on the capacity to accept commissions as well as on the experience of managing projects.
- Provide a wide advisory service
- Organise courses, seminars, information meetings, study visits and study trips
- Produce information, guidance and training material such as magazines, news sheets, books, publications and films.
- Facilitate access to capital and attitude changing activities to increase the legitimacy and status of those starting up an enterprise.

CDAs work mainly at local level in collaboration with local authorities and all the other actors concerned, but they are also involved in national and international projects. An important working tool is the web-based course and discussion forum *Lärka* (www.larkaportal.se) that links the CDAs and is open to their consultants and board members. The forum facilitates learning and methodological development as the organisations explore new fields of activity.

At national level the role of Coompanion Sweden is to lobby national government and to coordinate priority actions decided by the General Assembly.

Present and future significant actions

Recently, many CDAs have actively participated in the EQUAL programme fostering the creation of social enterprises and their support structures.

With the background in the experience learnt from Equal, the national federation recently put social enterprise at the top of its priorities. From an operational point of view this means:

- the implementation of a few big projects funded by the national government to promote the creation of social cooperatives;
- participation in policies to promote social cooperatives as a tool to integrate disadvantaged people into work;
- the creation of a working group to train local consultants;
- the creation of a national platform to promote social enterprises in collaboration with other concerned actors.

Additional remarks

The CDA model has spread to the Baltic countries, Poland and Slovakia.

In Poland, Swedish CDAs have transferred their experience to Wamacoop in Olzstyn and to *Agencji Rozwoju Spółdzielczości* created in Krakow by NAUWC (National Auditing Union of Workers Cooperatives - *ZLSP Związek Lustracyjny Spółdzielni Pracy*).

3.5 United Kingdom

3.5.1 The concept of Social Economy

The term social economy acquired some popularity during the 80s, but it was never part of the common British vocabulary. It is more used in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The term "third sector" is definitely better known. It includes the voluntary sector, associations, co-operatives, foundations and social enterprises. Some of its components, notably the co-operative movement and the voluntary sector are relatively strong in the UK. Comparative statistics show the UK to be among those countries with the larger shares of economic activity and employment within the social economy. However certain types of social economy organisations, such as worker co-operatives and social co-operatives, have not grown very fast in the UK. What has grown fast in recent years is the number of businesses identifying themselves as 'social enterprises'.

The British government's definition of 'social enterprise' stands out from accepted usage in continental Europe, in that it is very outcome-oriented and permissive. It makes no reference to the content of trading activities nor to ownership or stakeholder participation, but focuses on the sole criterion of non-profit distribution. The definition reads: "*A social enterprise is a business with primary social objectives whose surpluses are principally invested for that purpose in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners.*" This definition expresses the government's intention to create a movement of reform within the mainstream business sector, as much as to support the growth of a separate, and possibly marginal, sector defined in a more rigid or ideologically 'purist' way. A second item on the government's agenda is the reform of public services. It seems an entrepreneurial approach as a way to increase the quality and user-responsiveness of public services, which can avoid some of the deleterious effects of contracting-out to purely commercial companies.

Based on this definition of social enterprise, in 2001 the British government created the Social Enterprise Unit within the Department of Trade and Industry.

The three-year strategy was launched in July 2002 with the publication of *Social Enterprise: a strategy for success*. The foreword contributed by the Prime Minister demonstrated the government's determination to act. It set targets in three domains: creating an enabling environment, making social enterprises better businesses, and establishing the value of social enterprise.

In 2005/6 a Minister for the Third Sector (Ed Miliband, since succeeded by Phil Hope) was appointed, and the unit was combined with the Active Communities Unit of the Home Office, which dealt with voluntary organisations, to form a new Office of the Third Sector (OTS), located within the Cabinet Office, the co-ordinating department reporting directly to the Prime Minister.

The strategy was reviewed in 2006 and updated in the form of the *Social Enterprise Action Plan - Scaling New Heights*. This action plan focuses on engendering cultural change, improving the supply of advice and finance, and improving relations with the public sector. This leads to the following activities:

- fostering a culture of social enterprise

- ensuring the right information and advice are available to those running social enterprises
- enabling social enterprises to access appropriate finance
- enabling social; enterprises to work with government
- ensuring delivery.

3.5.2 Essential figures

There are not updated and specific statistics about social economy as a whole or its families. The most recent data have been published by a research done by CIRIEC for the European Social and Economic Committee:

THE SOCIAL ECONOMY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Table 5 (*)

Cooperatives and other similar accepted forms	Mutual Societies and other similar accepted forms	Associations, foundations and other similar accepted forms
- Cooperatives: (2005: 190.458 jobs 18.895.862 members 609 enterprises)(1) Among them: - Consumer Cooperatives (2004: 14.000 jobs 9.898.000 members 42 enterprises) (2) - Cooperative Banks and Insurance (2004: 12.938 jobs) - Agricultural Cooperatives (2000: 1 2.600 jobs 583 enterprises) - Credit Unions (2005: ca. 900 jobs 564 enterprises) - Worker Cooperatives (2005: 1.340 jobs 397 enterprises)	- Building Societies (2005: 35.615 FT jobs 12.203 PT jobs 63 enterprises) - Mutual Societies (Mutual Insurance) (1997: ca. 267 enterprises)	- All nonprofit sector (1995: 1.473.000 jobs ETC) (3) Among them: -Educational and Research Voluntary Organisations (1995: 587.000 jobs*) -Cultural Voluntary Organisations (1995: 347.000 jobs*) -Social Services Voluntary Organisations (1995: 185.000 jobs *) -Development and Housing Voluntary Organisations (1995: 108.000 jobs *) - Other voluntary organisations (1995: 247.000 jobs *)
190.458 jobs 18.895.862 members 609 enterprises	47.818 jobs 330 enterprises	1.473.000 jobs

(*) Source: Roger Spear (Open University)

(1) Source: Performance Report of Cooperatives Europe, 2005. Refer only to those cooperatives affiliated to Cooperatives Europe.

(2) Source: Eurocoop (2005)

(3) Source: Johns Hopkins study (1995)

3.5.3 The representative organisations: Social enterprise coalition, Social firms UK, Cooperatives UK

Social Enterprise Coalition

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Contact person

Jonathan Bland (Chief Executive Officer)

Short history

In the year 2000 a group of social enterprise regional support networks together with representatives from the co-operative, development trust and Social Firm sectors decided that they could better support their members and harness the growth of social enterprise if they came together under one umbrella organisation. The Social Enterprise Coalition was formed in 2003 as a national body to represent all these different interests and provide a platform to showcase the benefits of social enterprise, share best practice and influence policy.

Members

The Coalition is shaped by four categories of membership:

National Umbrella Bodies of social enterprises which are operating on a national basis and have a membership which covers the majority of regions.

Regional and National Networks of social enterprises, subject to one per region to cover the nine English regions and one each for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

National Social Enterprises: social enterprises that operate in more than one region.

Partner Organisations: organisations that do not qualify for membership in any of the above categories. This includes social enterprises working on a regional or local level.

Through these organisations the Coalition reaches a combined membership of over 10,000 organisations.

Funding mechanism

The Social Enterprise Coalition is funded through a mixture of commercial activities, such as membership and events, grant funding and contracts.

Objectives

The Social Enterprise Coalition provides a national platform for showcasing the benefits of social enterprise. It shares best practice and influence policy in order to create an enabling environment for social enterprise. Furthermore, SEC is committed to representing the totality of social enterprise in all its forms, working to make social enterprises develop and support each other.

Activities

The Coalition undertakes several activities, such as:

- working with all levels of government, banks, financial institutions, legal bodies to inform policy;
- organising seminars and conferences;
- publishing policy documents, training materials and best practice guides;

- providing information about the sector;
- raising awareness about the benefits of social enterprise through a range of campaigns

Present and future significant actions

EQUAL

The Social Enterprise Coalition's Equal program aimed to increase awareness amongst national policymakers and opinion-formers of key issues affecting social enterprises. There were four areas of activity: increasing opportunity for networking and peer review amongst EQUAL funded social enterprise partnerships; influencing key national policies on specific areas; raising profile of key success stories; and developing a bank of resources.

Policy work focused primarily on health and social care, public procurement and business support and was organised around policy working groups, development of policy papers and presentation of key messages to policymakers. Other outputs included the production of publications, development of case studies, podcasts and media articles.

Future perspectives

Over the next year the Coalition will focus on working with its members to define the next big ideas for social enterprise and to raise the profile of social enterprise as a mainstream way of doing business. It will continue to expand on its own enterprise activity, building on the high profile Voice conference (which took place in Liverpool in February 08) and the Enterprising Solutions Awards. The Coalition is also currently developing a range of new member services.

Significant additional resources have been secured from the Government's Office of the Third Sector (OTS) under its strategic partners programme to boost the Coalition's capacity to work on policy, and a research team has been created to shape a national research programme on social enterprise and to undertake regular national surveys on social enterprise. New OTS resources will also facilitate work on social enterprise with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities to raise the profile of social enterprise.

Social Firms UK

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Contact person

Sally Reynolds (Chief Executive Officer)

Short history

Social Firms UK is a charitable company formed in 1999 to lead the development of the Social Firm sector in the UK. It emerged from a pilot Social Firm development programme run in 1997/98. It has an average of 300 members every year.

Members

Full members: all formats (QAC Enterprises), Aquamacs Devon & Cornwall, Assembly Packing, Benchmark, Benedicts Coffee (Newpath Services Ltd), Busters Cafe Doncaster, Busters Coffee Merchants, Cafe Nova, Cando Business Services (Bizmatch), Coventry Transport Museum (Newpath Services Ltd), Growing Links, Haven Products Ltd, Hillcrest Branch, Jigsaw, Kingsmeadow Catering Company, Lambeth Accord, Leeds Social Business Centre, Light Engineering, Links to Work, N Coda, Netherne Printing Services, Newco Products, Newpath Laundry, Newpath Packaging & Warehousing (Newpath Services Ltd), Office Administration, Outreach 3 Way (Work Matters), Oxford Wood Recycling, Regard (Bizmatch), Riverside Centre, IOW, Solstice Nurseries, Speakup Self Advocacy Ltd, Spokes (Bizmatch), Spot On, St Annes Textiles, The Newlink Project Ltd, The Pluss Organisation, The Secret Garden, The Shetland Soap Co. (c/o Cope Ltd), The Soap Co. (Keswick) CIC, Top Bites, Upkeep (Shettleston Community Enterprises Ltd), Viewpoint, Workmatch Ltd.

Associate members: A12 Industries, Adult & Community Services Employment, Alternative Angles, Broomby CIC, CARE Devon, CEiS, Cottage & Rural Enterprises (CARE) Ltd, Daily Bread Co-operative (Northampton), Disability Initiative Services, E Net, Grampian Housing Association, Green Shoots Catering Haldane Associates, Hammersmith & Fulham MIND, Help IT, ICOF Ltd (Co-operative Community Finance), Inclusive Solutions, INSPIRE Ltd (Partnership Through Life), Jacobs Well Appeal, Learning First Ltd, Newpath Ventures Ltd, Norah Fry Research Centre, Phoenix Community Furniture, Rag Tag n Textile, Rerun, Sandwell African Caribbean Mental Health Foundation, Shaw Trust, Swansea Discover IT, The Kent Autistic Trust, Tyddyn Mon Co. Ltd, Wag A Lots.

Funding mechanism

Social Firms UK's income comes from different resources: voluntary income, membership subscriptions, investment income, earned income and grants.

Objectives

Social Firms UK aims to create employment opportunities for people severely disadvantaged in the labour market, through the development and support of Social Firms. Social Firms UK is also committed to promote the development of Social Firms throughout the UK, provide support to developing Social Firms, improve conditions for Social Firms and map the development of Social Firms.

Activities

Social Firms UK works to:

- represent members at government level and within the Social Enterprise Coalition;
- raise the profile of Social Firms;
- secure resources for future development;
- create new regional and national opportunities;
- maintain a resource centre;
- promote research into the sector;
- encourage best practice within Social Firms;
- develop a quality mark for the sector (Star Social Firm).

Present and future significant actions

Most of the activities of Social Firms UK aim at promoting the services and the products of social firms in order to increase their level of business income. In this framework Social Firms UK is presently focusing on:

The UK Social Firms Trade Directory

It is an on-line trade web site (<http://www.trade.socialfirms.co.uk>) where it is possible to buy social firms products. It aims both at increasing sales of social firms and educating potential customers of social firms.

The Star Social Firm

The Star Social Firm is a new quality standard for Social Firms. It is awarded to Social Firms that have proved the quality of their business and the employment they provide for severely disadvantaged people. Star Social Firms are companies that have proved to be thriving, sustainable businesses, where staff say, 'this is a good place to work!' The Star Social Firm quality mark - the first in the social enterprise sector - has been developed by Social Firms UK and, externally validated by SFEDI (Small Firms Enterprise Development Initiative).

Lobby to the government

In UK social firms do not receive any subsidy for their social objective. Social Firms UK is lobbying for a 'smart start-up mechanism' composed by a start-up fund and a mentoring system to promote the creation of new social firms.

In order to incentivise more start-ups of social firms, Social Firms UK is also promoting lower taxes on salaries of disadvantaged people for all the companies which employ at least 25% of disadvantaged workers.

Co-operatives UK Union of Cooperative Enterprises

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Contact person

John Goodman

Short history

Co-operatives UK were launched in January 2003 following the merger of the Co-operative Union and the Industrial Common Ownership Movement (ICOM) in December 2001. The merger of the Co-operative Union and ICOM was a significant event bringing together, for the first time, two great wings of the co-operative movement. Co-operatives UK has gone through a considerable period of change realigning their business to meet the challenges of promoting co-operative enterprise in the 21st Century.

Members

Co-operatives UK is itself a co-operative organisation owned and democratically controlled by its members. Co-operatives UK membership comprises individual co-operative enterprises ranging in size and diversity from small worker owned co-operatives to large consumer owned co-operatives. Our membership also includes organisations that promote and support co-operative development (Co-operative Development Bodies).

Co-operatives UK membership includes a number of co-operative federations and associations. Existing members include:

- Association of British Credit Unions (ABCUL)
- Co-operative Personal Management Association (CPMA)
- Confederation of Co-operative Housing Ltd (CCH)
- Country Markets
- Plunkett Foundation
- Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society (SAOS)
- Supporters Direct
- Ulster Agricultural Organisation Society (UAOS)

Member federations and associations are invited to take part in the United Kingdom Co-operative Forum (UKCF). The UKCF brings together the diverse range of organisations in the United Kingdom dedicated to the development of co-operative enterprise and education in the United Kingdom.

Funding mechanism

Most of the funding comes from memberships' subscriptions that co-operatives pay according to the number of employees. Members pay also for specific services they ask for, such as legal advice, participation to events, etc. Another source of income comes from specific projects.

Objectives

Co-operativesUK is the trade association for all types of co-operative enterprise throughout the UK. It is an Industrial and Provident Society owned and democratically controlled by its members. Its objectives are to grow membership, enhance services, invest in its people, support co-operative development and be a strategic voice for co-operation.

It believes that co-operatives and the wider social enterprise sector make a substantial contribution to the UK economy, and provide effective sustainable solutions to many of the social and economic challenges of modern society.

Activities

CooperativesUK main activities are:

- Acting as the voice of the sector, promoting and developing new co-operatives in all sections of the economy ;
- Providing legal, constitutional and governance advice ;
- Carrying out legal registration of third sector organisations ;
- Developing codes of good practice in governance and accounting standards and supporting and monitoring its members in adhering to them ;
- Working with government nationally and in the devolved nations and regions to develop policy to promote and support the sector ;
- Delivering special projects to meet organisational and sector objectives ;
- Delivering a range of other services to support its members.

Present and future significant actions

The main present priorities of CooperativesUK are :

- Lobby the Treasury to reform cooperative legislation ;
- Lobby the government to obtain more funding to promote social enterprises in cooperative forms;
- Improving information about members and cooperatives in order to be able to spread good and reliable data ;
- Development of members benefits, such as free legal advice, free access to employment advice, special rates for events, cheaper access to banking services through the Coop Bank, discounts on accountancy, payroll and telecommunications services) ;
- New projects funded by the Lottery on social enterprises and local food.

3.5.4 Support, training and Finance: Cooperative College, CDA system and Co-operative and Community Finance

Cooperative College

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Chris Cooper

Short history

The Co-operative College was established in 1919 as an adult and staff training centre for the co-operative movement. Under the guidance of the Professor Fred Hall MA, it attracted large numbers of students, including many from overseas co-operatives. In 1946, Dr Robert Marshall, became the Chief Executive Officer and built up the reputation of the College as a national and international educational institution. The Co-operative College today is dedicated to the promotion of co-operative values, ideals and principles within co-operatives, communities and society.

Members

Cooperative College is a charity, so it does not have members. It is governed by a Board of Governors comprising appointed representatives from the Co-operative and Mutual sector and Higher Education. The Board of Governors reports to the Board of Co-operatives UK in its capacity as Trustee of the Co-operative College.

Funding mechanism

A small amount of core funding is provided by the cooperative movement and by public authorities. The main source of funding comes from fees for training and consultancy and from projects.

Objectives

Cooperative College provides learning and resources based on co-operative values. Its main objectives are:

- To create and develop relationships that enable all partners to build capacity.
- To provide inspiring and dynamic learning programmes.
- To undertake research to generate an evidence base to inform policy and practice.
- To promote and develop the use of its co-operative heritage for the benefit of current and future generations.
- To develop its people using innovative methods to enhance organisational knowledge and skills.

Activities

Cooperative College is working in four distinct areas:

1) National and International:

the Co-operative College is working with funding bodies including the European Union and UK Government agencies, on projects that help the co-operative movement become better informed and equipped to meet the business and social challenges of the new millennium.

2) Forming Partnerships with Schools

The Co-operative College is working with schools to develop curriculum resources designed to change the perception of co-operation among students and educationalists alike. In partnership with the Co-operative Group initiative to establish a network of Business and Enterprise Specialist Schools, the College is working with sponsored schools to develop co-operative curriculum materials and approaches that introduce young people to the values of co-operative, mutual and social enterprise.

3) Working with Young People

The Co-operative College is involved in new initiatives supporting young people in co-operatives. A partnership between Canadian co-operative education institutions and the College has established the Co-operative Futures programme to take place on an annual basis. The Education Development Fund is helping to support and develop young co-operators and facilitate young co-operators' participation in youth seminars arranged by the International Co-operative Alliance. The College supports development of networks for young co-operators involving young employees and young co-operative members.

4) Developing Members in the UK

The College is working with partners across the UK on a range of action research projects designed to encourage a wider section of members to get involved in their democratic process. These include working with Leisure Trusts on cultural change, with board members in Social Enterprises on governance issues, with Housing Co-operatives on informal activities to involve members and developing new learning modules for members of Football Supporters Trusts. In all of these areas of activity the College is helping organisations identify and address diversity issues in membership.

Present and future significant actions

The College Strategic Plan for 2008-10 builds on two aims:

- Diversifying its operations and building new long-term income streams consistent with its charitable object, vision and mission.
- Addressing areas that remain important in its operations, but have been a drain on its resources.

The Plan reflects how areas of work developed over the past five years have become significant income streams in a more diverse operation. It shows that these new area of business will continue to grow. Examples include:

- international work: the College's objective of refocusing and rebuilding its international work led to delivery of activities in over twenty countries spread across the five inhabited continents in 2007.
- work with schools and young people: has led to the College being at the cutting edge in developing new co-operative models of school governance as the Government continues to pursue its agenda of fundamental reform to education delivery.
- co-operative identity: The College programmes on co-operative identity, developed with co-operatives in the UK, has led to it becoming acknowledged as the global leader in this field.
- Rochdale Pioneers Museum and National Co-operative Archive: The designation of the Archive and establishment of the Co-operative Heritage Trust and Endowment Fund to complement the Co-operative Heritage Fund provide a secure future for the Archive and Museum for the first time in their history.

Cooperative Development Agencies

Short history

Cooperatives Development Agencies (CDAs) were born in the early 1980s as a response to deindustrialisation and rapidly growing unemployment. Left-wing local governments funded radical economic development projects such as co-operative development agencies (as they were generally called) as a form of resistance to the Thatcher government. At one point there were about 75 CDAs, covering much of the UK, particularly the urban areas. Many of them closed down as the funding was cut, but some of the current CDBs (Cooperative Development Bodies is the term presently more used) are survivors from that time. They have largely survived through entrepreneurial growth and diversity of funding, pursuing whatever economic development programmes were available whilst trying to hold onto their original mission. That means most CDBs now deliver a wide range of services to a wide range of clients. They nearly all have a social enterprise rather than purely co-operative focus. Some CDBs are more recently formed. Several are the result of initiatives from the retail consumer co-operatives. For example, Co-operative Futures is partly funded by, and was the brainchild of, Oxford, Swindon & Gloucester Co-operative Society.

These CDBs have all grown autonomously, so that there is a great diversity amongst them in culture, size, legal structure and other characteristics. Some have a voluntary management committee, others are worker co-operatives. The recent restructuring of Co-operativesUK included creating a membership category for CDBs, most of which are now members. Services are being developed to meet their needs.

Members

There are about 25 co-operative development bodies across the UK but not every area has access to co-operative development expertise and the resources vary according to local situation. Geographical coverage of the UK is patchy, with Birmingham (the second largest city in the UK) having no CDA.

The following CDBs are members of Co-operativesUK: Avon CDA, Cambridge CDA (The Social Enterprise People), CDA South East Hants and Wight, Co-active, Co-operative and Mutual Solutions (CMS), Co-operative Assistance Network Ltd, Co-operative Business Consultants Limited, Co-operative Futures, Co-operative Solutions Limited, Community Enterprise Unit, Coventry & Warwickshire CDA, Economic Partnerships Limited, Employee Ownership Scotland, Greenwich CDA, Hackney Co-operative Developments (HCD), Harlow CDA, Kent CDA, Leicester and County CDA(CASEDA), Lincolnshire CDA, Northamptonshire CDA, Rochdale Social Enterprise Initiative (ROFTRA), Sheffield Co-operative Development Group Ltd, Social Economy Agency Northern Ireland, Social Economy and Co-operative Development Cornwall Limited (KABIN), Social Enterprise and Co-operative Development Limited(SECOD), Social Enterprise London, Social Enterprise Sunderland (SCOERC), Southampton Area Co-operative Development Agency, Suffolk Acre Ltd, Tamil Co-operative Development Agency, The Guild (Eastern Region) LLP, Tower Hamlets CDA, Upstart Services Ltd, Wales Co-operative Centre Ltd - Canolfan Cydweithredol Cymru cyf.

A complete list of addresses and web site can be found on Co-operativesUK web site: <http://www.cooperatives-uk.coop/Services/co-operativeDevelopment>.

Funding mechanism

CDBs are generally funded by a mixture of sources. Financial resources coming from local authorities are matched with European funds, usually from ERDF. Some core funding comes also from sponsors and private donors, while specific projects are funded on *ad hoc* basis.

Objectives

CDAs provide high quality, professional support to create and sustain businesses that involve their employees in ownership and management. CDAs also support community-

based economic initiatives that enable people to take control of their economic lives. They aim to be leading advisers and consultants in employee ownership, people centred economic development and social enterprise.

All services are free and underpinning all CDA's work are its values and beliefs, which include a commitment to :

- Co-operative principles at the heart of all activity
- Local people, local economy, local networks
- Professionalism and excellence
- Equal opportunity in all aspects of work.

Activities

CDBs usually provide a range of business development and support services including feasibility studies, business planning, funding and financing, incorporation and training. Many of them have websites and libraries/resource centres (some of them online).

Current activities include:

- General advice on co-operative/democratic/social enterprise models of managing a business.
- Development support to groups and individuals in setting up co-operative enterprises.
- Start-up training programmes - from basic introductory programmes to comprehensive ones providing nationally recognised business management and administration qualifications.
- Trading sector training services include a range of tailor made programmes from short one day sessions to comprehensive courses on different aspects of managing a co-operative enterprise.
- Consultancy services include feasibility studies, business analysis, and management reviews.
- Access to finance and loans.

Co-operative & Community Finance (former ICOF)
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Fax: +44 (0)1179 166 751

Web site

www.icof.co.uk

E-Mail

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Contact person

Alain Demontoux, Operations Manager

Short history

ICOF was born in 1973 out of a series of informal meetings in Northampton inspired by the principles and practice of one of the largest common ownership co-operatives in the UK - Scott Bader. The idea was to encourage successful common ownerships to lend money to ICOF which would then be lent on to new co-operative ventures. In 1976 the Industrial Common Ownership Act provided £250,000 of funding to lend to co-operative enterprises. This established ICOF as "the relevant national body for co-operative finance" with central government. During the eighties ICOF expanded through being entrusted by many local authorities to administer co-operative loan funds in their areas. ICOF's first 21 years had been devoted exclusively to financing the worker co-operative sector. A review of the market and the range of products and services showed a clear way forward. Whilst retaining a commitment to common ownership and workplace democracy, lending was extended to organisations engaging in economic activity to fulfil primarily social, mutual or community objectives. Therefore ICOF Community Capital was established in 1994 as a new UK investment society offering individuals and organisations withdrawable membership shares. ICC has become the ICOF fund in most demand.

Members

The members of Co-operative & Community Finance are its shareholders. Shares have £1 nominal value, which must be paid in full. The minimum investment is £250. Joint applications by more than one individual, are welcome. The shares are non transferable and they are not quoted on any exchange. Membership is 'one member - one vote' regardless of the size of the shareholding.

Investors receive amongst other things newsletters, annual audited report and accounts, an invitation to the AGM, dividends where possible and considerable satisfaction.

Borrowers are also members as well as various sympathetic and support organisations as are the Board of Directors (members of social economy businesses and representatives of affinity organisations.).

Funding mechanism

Co-operative & Community Finance manages a number of loan funds throughout the UK. Those funds use both investors' money and public funding coming from national and local authorities.

Objectives

Co-operative & Community Finance encourages local economic regeneration by enabling people to create, own and democratically control the businesses in which they work, or which operate in their local community. Co-operative & Community Finance funds are available to enterprises which practise or support principles of co-operation, common ownership, employee, community or social ownership, equal opportunity, workplace democracy, and sustainable development.

Activities

Co-operative & Community Finance manages a number of loan funds throughout the UK. Many are specific to cities like London, Manchester, Swansea and Wakefield, and others cover large areas like the West Midlands or parts of South Wales.

For those in areas not covered by these specific funds, the ICOF Fund plc is a national fund for worker co-operatives and Community Capital and Co-operative Loans are UK wide funds available for co-operatives and any other trading social enterprises. There is also the London Development Agency's social enterprise fund and the Phone Co-op's co-operative fund.

Two new ring-fenced regional funds for the East Midlands and the East of England have recently been launched.

Co-operative & Community Finance will only invest in co-operatives, employee owned businesses and social enterprises that are economically viable. Each enterprise must be able to demonstrate the ability to pay interest and repay the capital on any agreed loan finance.

Applications are welcome from:

- Those starting a co-operative, employee owned business or social enterprise
- Those who are seeking to expand a co-operative, employee owned business or social enterprise
- Those wishing to take over an existing business and convert it to a co-operative or social enterprise. This may be where a business would otherwise close, be sold to a third party, or become a privatised public utility.

Co-operative & Community Finance provides also management services for a variety of loan funds and micro-credit institutions in Europe.

Present and future significant actions

Currently Co-operative & Community Finance is working with several Regional Development agencies to support their work through ICOF Community Capital. Furthermore, it continues to develop its consultancy and back office services working with several organisations to address the problems encountered by social enterprises in accessing finance.

3.6 FINLAND

3.6.1 The concept of Social Economy

The term social economy does not have a clear definition in the Finnish context. The cooperative sector, which is generally considered an important part of the social economy, is not perceived very "social". There may be two reasons. Firstly, the cooperative system is very well established in the traditional economic system (80% of Finnish citizens are members of a consumers' cooperative, while cooperative banks have a market share of 35%) and it is constituted mainly by big and old cooperatives, which do not focus on their social aspects. Secondly, the public sector has always managed many services which represent an important activity field of the social economy.

A term more used is "third sector" which does not exactly define which types of organisations it includes, but anyway it can be characterised by using words general interest, ethical, social, voluntary and non profit. The activities of third sector organisations can be characterised by words: solidarity, individual, freedom of choice and flexibility.

Defining the third sector in Finnish way it included 123.000 associations in 2005. The associations had 3.700.000 members and 63.000 employees whilst the whole social economy included approx. 130.000 organisations, 9.700.000 members and employed 181.522 persons.

Third sector organisations have been supported from public funds, many traditional associations for disabled persons are performing as extensions of the state and their way of working resembles close those of public sector organisations. These associations have of the sole right to provide certain services or are entitled to regular supports by the state. It is customary to Finnish co-operation between public sector and welfare associations that it centralises to established activities of large scale associations. Some associations have no special democratic organisational characteristics and are providing services with public sector finance and closely monitored by the state whilst other associations providing welfare services are hard to be distinguished from the private sector providers.

Since 2004, it exists in Finland a specific definition of "social enterprise". According to the Act on Social Enterprises (1351/2003), a social enterprise is defined primarily as a business, an enterprise among other enterprises. The legal form of the enterprise can be any form of legal business approved in the trade register¹⁴. A social enterprise tries to obtain profit by producing goods and services for the market within any sector. The definition of the social dimension includes an obligation that at least 30% of the enterprise's total work force is either disabled or a combination of disabled and long-term unemployed. Despite the initial enthusiasm, few social enterprises have been founded, however. By the end of June 2007, there were 115 enterprises in the social enterprise register. Half of them are newly established enterprises, about 10 are cooperatives.

¹⁴ The enterprise form may be: Company (Oy, Oyj), co-operative (Osk), associations (ry), foundation, sole entrepreneur (Tmi), open company (Ay) and company with one fully responsible partner (Ky).

The registered social enterprises employed a total of 470 people at the time of their registration, of which 180 people were handicapped and 57 were long-term unemployed¹⁵. The majority of social enterprises have grown considerably, especially in terms of employment. For 2008 it is foreseen an increase of 150 workers in existing social enterprises, which indicates a quick and impressive rate of growth.

3.6.2 Essential figures

There are not updated and specific statistics about social economy as a whole or its families. The most recent data have been published by a research done by CIRIEC for the European Social and Economic Committee:

THE SOCIAL ECONOMY IN FINLAND

Table 6 (*)

Cooperatives and other similar accepted forms	Mutual Societies and other similar accepted forms	Associations, foundations and other similar accepted forms
- Agricultural Cooperatives (2004: 44.552 jobs 45 enterprises) - Consumer Cooperatives (2004: 31.736 jobs 43 enterprises) - Cooperative Banks (2004: 9.848 jobs 281 enterprises) - Worker Cooperatives (2004: 3.500 jobs 750 enterprises) - Housing Cooperatives (2004: 125 enterprises) - Others (2004: 2.221 enterprises) <i>(Cooperatives Europe:2005 112.146 jobs 4.945.492 members 4.469 enterprises)(1)</i>	-Mutual Insurance companies (2004: 5.405 jobs 100 enterprises)	-Social & Health Action Associations (2003: 19.857 jobs 1.364 entities) -Research and Education Associations (2003: 5.969 jobs 250 entities) - Foundations (2003: 21.522 jobs 665 entities) - Others, mainly education (2003: 27.644 jobs 5.259 entities) - All associations: 123.000 entities)
95.000 jobs 3.670 enterprises	5.405 jobs 100 enterprises	74.992 jobs 7.538 entities

(*) Source: Pekka Pättiniemi (Coops & Mutuals), T Köppä (Assoc. & Found.)

(1) Performance Report of Cooperatives Europe, 2005. Refer only to those cooperatives affiliated to Cooperatives Europe.

¹⁵ Paavo Saikkonen. *Tietoja sosiaalisista yrityksistä 1.1.2004–30.6.2007. (Information on social enterprises 1.1.2004 -30.6.2007) Ministry of Labour 07.07.2007*

3.6.3 Representative and support organisations: Pellervo, CoopFinland

PELLERVO

Confederation of Finnish Co-operatives

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Contact person

Mr Per-Erik Lindström, Director

Short history

The origins of Pellervo date back to the end of the 19th century when Cooperative movement came to Finland. The Pellervo Confederation of Finnish Cooperatives was established in 1899.

In 1930 the total number of cooperatives reached its highest point: almost 6.000. During the 1990s there was a new rise of Pellervo members, thanks to the so-called new cooperatives.

In 2005, the total number of cooperatives was little over 3.700 with 3,6 million memberships. Almost 70% of the Finnish households are members in a consumer's cooperative. Today Pellervo integrates almost 400 member cooperatives. Most Pellervo's members are market leaders in their respective fields. Pellervo includes both consumer and producer members and the association representing the increasing numbers of new cooperatives.

Members

There are approximately 400 cooperatives belonging to Pellervo, associating about 1,3 million individuals on a voluntary basis. The central structure is made up of the following associations: cooperative retail societies, cooperative dairies and milk selling cooperatives, co-operative banks, cooperative slaughterhouses, sawmill, mill, electricity and machinery cooperatives, phone company cooperatives, insurance associations, farmer and other associations, Finlands Svenska Andelsförbund, Hankkija Farming Ltd, Finnish Animal Breeding Group, Valio and cooperative dairies, Cooperative slaughterhouses, The Animal Breeding Group, The Egg Producers' Group Munakunta, The Metsäliitto Cooperative, The Cooperative Banking Group, The Local Insurance Group, Hankkija-Maatalous Oy.

Funding mechanism

Pellervo is funded by membership fees (each cooperative pay according to its turnover) and by income coming from rental of real estate properties acquired in the past.

Objectives

Pellervo aims to develop the cooperative system in Finland. Its main objective is to improve the cooperation between associated enterprises. Pellervo gives support to its member organizations locally, nationally and internationally. Furthermore, Pellervo is member of the ICA (International Cooperative Alliance), and shares its objectives and values.

Activities

Pellervo offers ideological support and function both as a service centre and an opinion leader within the cooperative.

Pellervo main fields of intervention are:

- Cooperative legislation and other legal procedures significant in cooperative actions
- Development of public relations in the co-operative business
- International servicing of customers' needs and organizational connections
- Organise Activity and Communication
- Publications and other means of communication
- Legal Services (specialists help in matters concerning cooperative related business and administration)
- Travel Services (domestic and international excursions for the benefit of union leaders and personnel)
- Economic Research (providing new knowledge and bring forth new perspectives critical problems of the national economy).

Present and future significant actions

One of the main sectors of activities of Pellervo concerns agriculture cooperatives. Pellervo has been very active in the Baltic countries and in Russia. Recently, they focused their attention on Sweden, since Finnish cooperative bought a very important Swedish agriculture cooperative.

Another major area of work concerns cooperative promotion. Even if Finland is the most "cooperativist" country in the world, for many years no attention was devoted to cooperative promotion. Only recently, Pellervo has launched a series of promotional actions to revitalise the idea and the values of cooperatives. Various activities (especially publication of leaflets, dissemination of information, etc.) are organised, often in collaboration with Coop Finland, the University of Helsinki and the cooperative regional organisation of Tampere.

CoopFinland

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Contact person

Pekka Pattiniemi - President

Short history

Coop Finland was created 11 year ago as an association of professional advisors and consultants for cooperatives. In 2000 it took over the tasks of The Association of Finnish Cooperatives, which had gone bankrupt. Since then, Coop Finland became the representative organisation of workers' cooperatives in general.

Members

20 workers' cooperatives are direct members of Coop Finland. About 100 cooperatives adhere to it through two regional organisations (Lapland and Western Finland).

Funding mechanism

The main funding mechanisms are:

- Membership fees;
- KSL (National People's Association for Adult Learning) ;
- National and European projects (\pm 70%).

Objectives

- Promotion of workers' cooperatives;
- Help to people who want to establish cooperative enterprises;
- Representation of small scale cooperatives;
- Development of the cooperative system;
- Consultancy, i.e. training on how to develop a cooperative enterprise, training for cooperatives' managers, workers etc.

Activities

- Lobbying activities to national government;
- Networking;
- Seminars (2-3 per year) on issues of interest for cooperative development (legislation, taxation, etc.)
- Projects which allow the development of the previous two activities together.

The organisation is very small, so most of the activities are realised on a voluntary basis by the members. I.e. lawyers, who are members of the Board, are in charge of lobbying, while local members of cooperatives provide advisory services at local level.

Many activities are organised in close cooperation with other organisations, like Pellervo.

Present and future significant actions

An important area of interest is the creation of consortia or networks among individual cooperatives.

A second action concerns cooperative development through training. A combined system of training and consortia building is being developed in order to strengthen existing cooperatives and to foster the creation of new ones.

At transnational level, Coop Finland participates to an important project to define and promote social economy in the Nordic Countries. The project is run in collaboration with Swedish cooperatives, Danish and Norwegian Foundations and foresees research, study visits and exchanges in order to understand better the reality of the social economy in the Nordic Countries (Iceland and Greenland included).

Acronyms and abbreviations

BE	Belgium
BG	Bulgaria
CCACC	Consultative Committee of Cooperative Associations
CCACCE	Coordination committee of European Cooperative Associations
CDA	Cooperative Development Agency
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
CEP-CMAF	European Standing Conference of Co-operatives, Mutual Societies, Associations and Foundations
CIS	Community of Independent States
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CZ	Czech Republic
DE	Germany
DG Empl	Directorate General Employment and Social Affairs
DG Entr	Directorate General Enterprises
DK	Denmark
DP	Development Partnership
EE	Estonia
EESC	European Economic and Social Committee
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ES	Spain
ESF	European Social Fund
ETG	European Thematic Groups
ETUC	European Trade Union Confederation
EU	European Union
FR	France

HU	Hungary
ICA	International Cooperative Alliance
IT	Italy
LV	Latvia
MP	Member of Parliament
NAP	National Action Plans
NAUWC	National Auditing Union of Workers Cooperatives
NGO	Non Governmental Organisations
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OTS	Office of the Third Sector
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
R&D	Research and Development
RO	Romania
SCE	European Cooperative Society
SDA	Social Development Agency
SE	Social Economy
SE	Sweden
SK	Slovakia
SL	Slovenia
SME	Small Medium Enterprises
SSGI	Social Services of General Interest
TSR	Territorial Social Responsibility
UK	United Kingdom
VAT	Value added tax
WISE	Work Integration Social Enterprise

SOCIAL ECONOMY TEXTS is an editorial series that presents important texts in the discussion about social economy in Poland. The series is part of the ESF funded project "PROMES".

Among the texts' authors are: people working for the project, people working in social economy initiatives, people from various other disciplines who are interested in the social economy.
All materials published in the series are available on the website: www.ekonomiaspoleczna.pl



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