

The social economy and the Europe 2020 Strategy

Local added value and territorial roots

27 and 28 October 2010

Brussels

➤ **27/10** Square Meeting center
Monts des arts

➤ **28/10** Committee of the Regions
Rue Belliard 99-101



Context of the conference

The conference was set up on the basis of the conclusions of different reports and initiatives in the area of social economy, such as :

- The resolution of the European Parliament (Toia report) and its recommendations
- The opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the diversity of entrepreneurship
- The opinion of the Committee of the Regions on the partnerships between local and regional authorities and the social economy organizations
- The conclusions of the conference of Toledo

These different elements contribute to the recognition of the actors of the social economy as active partners in the realisation of the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy. The conference aims at presenting the surplus value of the social economy and to present concrete examples which have been achieved within the three key themes of the Strategy: a knowledge based economy, sustainable growth and inclusion. The emphasis will be placed on the different partnerships on which the social economy relies to contribute to the realization of the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

These key messages will be supported by concrete recommendations of the workshops concerning the three areas of action which are considered as priorities for the development of the social economy enterprises:

- Education, training and R&D
- Fundamental investments in the areas of energy and environment
- Projects in favor of social inclusion: value of social economy enterprises comes from their ability to social innovate



SECRÉTAIRE D'ÉTAT À L'INTÉGRATION SOCIALE ET À LA LUTTE CONTRE LA PAUVRETÉ
STAATSECRETARIS VOOR MAATSCHAPPELIJKE INTEGRATIE EN ARMOEDEBESTRIJDING
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND COMBATING POVERTY



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Programme for the day - 27th october 2010

1pm	registration
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2pm	Welcome plenary session – Julien VAN GEERTSOM – President PPS Social Integration Philippe COURARD, Secretary of State in charge of social economy, Belgium Gil RAMOS MASJUAN, Ministry of Employment and Immigration, Spain Costas ANDROPOULOS, Direction General Enterprises, European Commission Patrizia TOIA, Member of the European Parliament
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2.45pm	Results of Lisbon, challenges and opportunities for social economy enterprises in the Europe 2020 Strategy Moderator : Mark TRULLEMANS Introduction of Europe 2020 Strategy and the Social Economy by academics Professor José Luis MONZON CAMPOS, CIRIEC Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Miguel Angel CABRA DE LUNA – Economic and Social Committee• Apostolos IOAKIMIDIS, DG Enterprises, European Commission• Alain COHEUR – President Social Economy Europe
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3.30 pm	Coffee break
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4pm	The added value of social economy enterprises as a partner to the Europe 2020 Strategy Moderator: Mark TRULLEMANS Panel : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marie-Caroline COLLARD, Director SAW-B (BE)• Louis VERVLOET, Flemish ESF agency (BE)• José Luis MONZON CAMPOS, CIRIEC
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6.30pm	departure for the walk in the Marolles
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7.30pm	Walking dinner – Ateliers des Tanneurs, 58-62 rue des Tanneurs - 1000 Bruxelles
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Programme for the day - 28th october 2010

8.30 am	Inscriptions
9 am	Welcome –Julien VAN GEERTSOM – President PPS Social Integration Monkid MESTASSI, General Secretary of the Ministry in charge of economic and general affairs, Morocco Jan OLSSON, Co-president of REVES
9.45 am	Presentation of three themes for workshops and cross-sectional themes Greet CASTERMANS, VOSEC
10 am	Coffee break and distribution into workshops
10.30 am	Workshops (video – real-life accounts – debate with panel – recommendations)
12.30 pm	Lunch
2pm	Conclusions of workshops by reporters presented during the plenary session and reactions of the regional ministers and DG Regio Moderator : Mark TRULLEMANS Panel : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Freya VAN DEN BOSSCHE, Flemish Minister for Social Economy• Jean-Claude MARCOURT, Walloon Minister for Economy• Benoît CEREXHE, Minister for Employment and Economy from Brussels Capital Region• Rudolf NIESSLER, Director “Policy coordination”, DG Regio, European Commission
3.30 pm	coffee break
4 pm	Conclusion of the conference Marc TARABELLA, Co-President of the EP SE Intergroup A representative from DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission (tbc) Mercedes BRESSO, President of the Committee of the Regions Hungarian political representative (tbc) Philippe COURARD, Secretary of State in charge of social economy, Belgium

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Workshop I: The social economy as knowledge facilitator

The social economy develops innovative and alternative training programmes and this for the professionalization of its own participants and for the training of low-skilled target groups or retraining purposes. In addition to the formal skills, the informal skills are also largely taken into account. The main questions that will be addressed during the workshop are: How to develop training throughout life and work? How to support the social economy in its mission to empower supported people? How to enhance training courses aimed at transmitting knowledge of social economy? How to make sure that the actions, taken by the social economy actors, are recognized in the area of social innovation, in the area of their development as well as in the transmission of these values and knowledge? Furthermore, in order to meet today's societal challenges, some social economy structures are active in R&D. They provide creative environmental solutions that create green jobs for the underqualified and food for thought on the development and responsible use of the results of R&D. How to take into account the integrated vision of the social economy in the support of R&D?

The **SYSCOM** project is part of the European initiative for the European Qualification Framework. This project plans to introduce 8 levels of aptitude, knowledge and skills to improve the transparency of workers' skills and aptitudes and of the qualification systems. The SYSCOM project's aim is to ensure that the social integration enterprises participate in this debate and that their integrated workers are being heard. The countries involved are Austria, Belgium, Germany and Poland.

Philippe Chesneau is regional adviser for the Provence-Alpes-Cote-d'Azur (PACA) region. In his exposé, he will refer to the partnership between social economy actors and other local and regional stakeholders in the education and training field. Using the example of the "Regional development programme for a social and solidarity-orientated economy (SSE)" and the "Local development contracts of the SSE", he will explain his opinion of the social economy's potential in these areas and the importance of cooperation with other structures on the territory.

EKAI Centre (**Fondation EZAI**) is a research institute established in 1998 by Mondragón Corporation and Mondragón University. The aim of this centre is to promote and disseminate knowledge on public policy, generally in the field of economy, and on areas relating to cooperative partnerships and the social economy.

Chairman: Patrick DE BUCQUOIS, CEDAG

Reporter: Koen REPRIELS, VOSEC

Videos

- Ecopower (BE)
- De Boot (BE)

Panel

- Judith PÜRINGER, SYSCOM project (EU project)
- Philippe CHESNEAU, Councillor, PACA Regional Council (FR)
- Adrian EZALAIA, EKAI Center (ESP)

Debate with the audience

Preparing recommendations – summary by reporter

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Workshop II: The social economy as sustainable business driver

Historically, the social economy's capacity to engage actively in sustainable development and provide innovative solutions regarding the use of resources makes it a front line stakeholder in this field. Reemployment, green energy production, proximity and eco-friendly production and services are all developed within this scope, many of which demand citizen participation. The social economy enterprises generate many green jobs, support local development and offer environmental gains. Hence the following questions: How to promote the creation of green jobs while taking into account the specific characteristics of SE? How to promote the integration of social and environmental clauses in public procurement? What role for citizen involvement in the management of common resources?

Flemish social economy enterprises, simultaneously respectful of people and environment, pursue a sustainable goal. They consider sustainability as a key objective of entrepreneurship and not as a means included in a business strategy. The reversal of objective and means to achieve it, puts the bike shops, energy saving companies, recycling companies and green cooperatives of the social economy in Flanders at the centre of sustainable development. This position is further strengthened by the fact that the concept of sustainability is integrated as the basis of their mode of operation: social sustainability is combined with financial, environmental and societal sustainability. It focuses on concepts such as inclusion, participation, dividend limitation, social and environmental investments and societal return on investment. The combination of all these aspects makes the social economy a strong stakeholder and partner for achieving the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy. These elements will be presented by **Mark Willem**, managing director of KOMOSIE, the umbrella organisation of environmental entrepreneurs in the social economy.

With the support of the European Commission's "Intelligent Energy Europe" programme, **POWER HOUSE EUROPE** aims to improve residents' behaviour and improve the skills of professionals working to reduce energy consumption and the ecological footprint in the social housing sector. Undertaking such action will be possible using resources and expertise existing at a European level and by facilitating exchanges and the sharing of experiences.

One of the priority themes of the **CARNEGIE Trust in the framework** of the Civil Society Programme is focused on "a quick and fair transition towards a low-carbon economy". This reflects the growing awareness that climate change is much more than simply an environmental issue. The foundation's initiative focuses on its role in civil society thus enabling this transition to be both efficient and fair. Eden is one of these specific projects that rethink the relationship between civil society, climate change and increasing pressure on world resources. It allows reinventing an economic model taking into account environmental concepts to be implemented in disadvantaged areas. One result of this cooperation will be the publication of a practical guide for associations that are not conducive to the environment to enable them to better understand the pressure on world resources.

Chairman: Luigi MARTIGNETTI, REVES – introduction to the workshop

Reporter: Julie LECOMTE, SAW-B

Video

- Ferme Nos Pilifs (BE)
- Ferme de la Baillerie (BE)

Panel

- Mark WILLEM, KOMOSIE (BE)
- Anu SARNET, Power House Europe (EE)
- Lenka SETKOVA, Carnegie Foundation (UK)

Debate with the audience

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Workshop III: The social economy as vector for inclusion

The social economy enterprises are reinventing the economy every day to combine contributions to the community, creating sustainable jobs and economic activity. They offer a complete range of goods and services based on societal needs. In addition to their central role, their social ambitions lead them to develop many activities that meet both the expectations of their users and those of the workers. Reflections on mobility, financial education, health, work-family balance, gender mainstreaming, and the ageing population are some examples of this. All these criteria for social integration require the target groups to take ownership of their life plan. The active participation of workers is at the heart of SE governance. How to develop this social innovation and push for greater integration of vulnerable groups?

VLAB's objective is to defend the interests of businesses and organisations that provide a suitable job for people with disabilities. A society can only be truly inclusive when it provides the structural mechanisms that allow each individual to exercise his or her fundamental rights such as the right to work, to have an income and lead a dignified life. In the sheltered workshops, social inclusion through economic integration is a fundamental aim, especially considering it is oriented towards different target groups. This economic model generates a lasting impact on the level of the individual, social, economic and budget all together. Indeed, it aims respectively at improved integration, development of the economic cohesion, increased purchasing power and consumption, increased tax revenues and linked to social security. This transforms the Flemish sheltered workshops into real levers needed to achieve the sustainable goals of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Village n°1, a grouping of npo's and socially-oriented businesses, aims to fulfil two missions that fit in with the social economy's ambitions. It assists disabled adults in their life plan and supports people in disability situations or excluded from the traditional labour market in their professional activities. Village n°1 creates jobs, initiates social projects and responds to its environment in a sustainable manner. Its activities promote socio-professional integration and autonomy of the target groups. In welcoming disabled people as well as in providing services to businesses and individuals, Village n°1 defends its core values: dignity, anticipation, results, security and proximity.

Viviana Viviani is the director of Consortium **ESPRIT**, a partnership between associations, cooperatives, unions and others. She will present the consortium's activities which manages, for the Tuscany region, part of the "global grants" of structural funds that aim to promote, through the development of the social economy, the reintegration of disadvantaged people in society and the labour market.

Thierry Beudet will present **MGEN's** (France's largest Mutual Insurance Company) active policy for combating exclusion. Two examples in particular will support this vision: the mandatory "dependence" guarantee that now covers 2 million members and that tends to eliminate the financial compensation boundaries between accidental dependency, elderly dependency and disabled people dependency. The Prevention, Aid and Follow-up network aims to help national education staff to retain their employment and promote their professional rehabilitation.

Chairman: Charlotte GRÜBER, ENSIE

Reporter: Sébastien PEREAU, ConcertES

Video:

- Soleil Vert (BE)
- Activity Cooperatives Flanders (BE)

Panel :

- Christel VANROELEN, Directrice, VLAB (BE)
- Stéphane EMMANUELIDIS, Village n°1 (BE)
- Elisa MANCINELLI, Italian consortium ESPRIT (IT)
- Thierry BEAUDET, President MGEN (FR)

Debate with the audience

Drawing up of recommendations – summary by reporter