



Social
Economy
Europe



Annual
Report
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Social Economy Europe



Annual
Report
2015

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1. President's foreword



Dear members and friends of Social Economy Europe,

I would like to begin by thanking my predecessor Alain Coheur and Víctor Meseguer for their remarkable work in 2015, which is at the basis of this Annual Report. I would also like to thank Jan Olsson and Marie Collard, with whom I shared the Vice-Presidency of SEE, for their strong commitment to make of Social Economy Europe a solid organisation, representing and defending the European social economy.

This V General Assembly gives us the opportunity to put forward, once more, the effective contribution of our enterprises and organisations to the economic and social development of Europe, and to present our proposals to make the social economy into a pillar of the European Union.

Since the creation of the CEP-CMAF (European standing conference of cooperatives, mutual, associations and foundations) in November 2000, and after its change into Social Economy Europe, we have made a fascinating way forward. Together, we have worked to promote the entrepreneurial model of the social economy within the European Union and towards its institutions. I would like to bring out the dedication, strategic vision and commitment, of my predecessors in the Presidency: our current Vice-president, **Alain Coheur**, who has led this organisation for the last 8 years, **Jean-Claude Detilleux**, **Ann David**, and **Maurice Duranton**, who passed away in 2014 and whom we will always remember with affection and acknowledgment for his contribution to our organisation.

The work of Social Economy Europe has contributed to improve the visibility and the recognition of the social economy, not only by institutions and public administrations, but also by the overall European society. Nowadays, all European institutions acknowledge social economy's contribution to economic development, high quality jobs creation, social cohesion or to the promotion of entrepreneurship, just to mention some of the EU's strategic objectives to which we deeply contribute.

This growing recognition has carried positive outcomes, such as the re-establishment of the **European Parliament's Social Economy Intergroup** - supported by more than 80 MEPs from 6 political groups - , the adoption by the 28 Member States of the Council Conclusions on "**The promotion of the Social Economy as a key driver of the economic and social development in Europe**"; or the growing interest of the European Commission for the social economy.

In what regards the European Commission, I would like to emphasize the importance of the meeting between Commissioner Elzbieta Bienkowska and the bureau of the Social Economy Intergroup, that took place last 12th of April 2016 and in which I had the great pleasure to take part. These sort of meetings enable a permanent High Level political dialogue on social economy, thereby contributing to the commitment of the Commission towards an active promotion of the development of social economy enterprises and organisations. We believe that it is time to move forward towards an Action Plan for the Social Economy, and so we shared it with Commissioner Elzbieta Bienkowska.

The social economy represents a different business model, based on democratic governance and whose main objective is not maximising profits in the short-term, but ensuring the sustainability of the enterprise, its activities and its jobs, as well as to create wealth that is redistributed and has a positive impact on the overall society. A model that has shown its dynamism and competitiveness by creating high quality jobs and new enterprises and by gaining market shares.

The social economy is a key actor of the EU economy and the Single Market. Our enterprises and organisations contribute to the achievement of the EU objectives of a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth; to the creation of high quality jobs; to foster social innovation and to the diversity of forms of enterprises. Furthermore, many of our enterprises and organisations are key actors in the provision of services of general interest for European citizens.

We are on the right way towards a greater recognition and promotion of the social economy. Our enterprises and organisations will keep contributing to the economic and social development of the European Union.

Yours sincerely,



Juan Antonio Pedreño Frutos
President of Social Economy Europe

2. Alain Coheur introduction

President of SEE 2008-2015



Dear members, dear friends of the Social Economy,

I have been the President of Social Economy Europe during the last eight years, it has been an exciting and very rich experience.

My mandate began with the decision of changing the name of our organisation, created in 2000 as the European standing conference of cooperatives, mutual, associations and foundations (CEP-CMAF). We changed it into **Social Economy Europe**.

This decision represented a strong message showing our openness to go beyond legal forms. The social economy is, above all, about values and principles, about a different form of enterprise and organisation. It was also an important sign to reinforce our visibility vis-à-vis EU Institutions and the overall society. Social Economy Europe was created to be a common space for all social economy enterprises and organisations, with a common voice on key European policies. We built the organisation upon the principles of mutual respect and complementarity with its member organisations.

I would like to insist on several key moments that helped us to become what we are today: a reputed organisation.

In September 2008, during the drafting of the report on the social economy, whose rapporteur was Patrizia Toia (S&D, IT), Social Economy Europe submitted a set of proposals that were mostly taken into account. The European Parliament adopted the report in January 2009. This text remains ever since a reference for the social economy.

The previous months to the renewal of the European Parliament's Social Economy Intergroup, in 2009 and 2014, were of an intense activity. SEE published two memorandums on the occasion of the European elections and reinforced its contacts with MEPs from different political groups. Both in 2009 and 2014, SEE was appointed as the organisation in charge of the secretariat of the Intergroup.

In 2010, SEE contributed to the Spanish and Belgian Presidencies of the Council of the EU, that decided to make of the social economy one of their priorities. We were involved in the two European Conferences on social economy, held in Toledo and Brussels. Furthermore, SEE actively took part in the III Forum on Social Services of General Interest, organised by the Belgian Presidency.

On the 11th of January 2013, we decided to move forward by giving legal personality to SEE. We also decided to appoint a new bureau formed by: Marie-Caroline Collard, Treasurer, Jan Olsson, Vice-President and Juan Antoñio Pedreño, Vice-President. I would like to sincerely thank the three of them for the commitment and their work in favour of SEE.

Last but not least, I would like to bring out another major achievement, the set-up of the Charles Quint training programme, in close collaboration with our Belgian member SAW-B. The last eight years have been of key importance for SEE and for the social economy. Social economy enterprises and organisations have increasingly gained political visibility and acknowledgement from European institutions. Our key role in this process has also conducted to adhesion of new members, boosting the solidness of our organisation.

I would like to express my gratitude to SEE members, not only for having entrusted me during the last three mandates, but also for their active contribution to SEE.

As witness of its success, I am convinced of the positive economic and social impact of the social economy business models. I believe that the social economy gives an answer to European citizens' demand of a more democratic, fair and ethical economy. Furthermore, it offers an entrepreneurial paradigm closer to the aspirations and values of many EU citizens, who are potential entrepreneurs.

From now on, I will continue defending the social economy and its virtuous business models, as Vice-President of Social Economy Europe and Co-Spokesperson of the EESC Social Economy Category.

Yours sincerely,



Alain Coheur

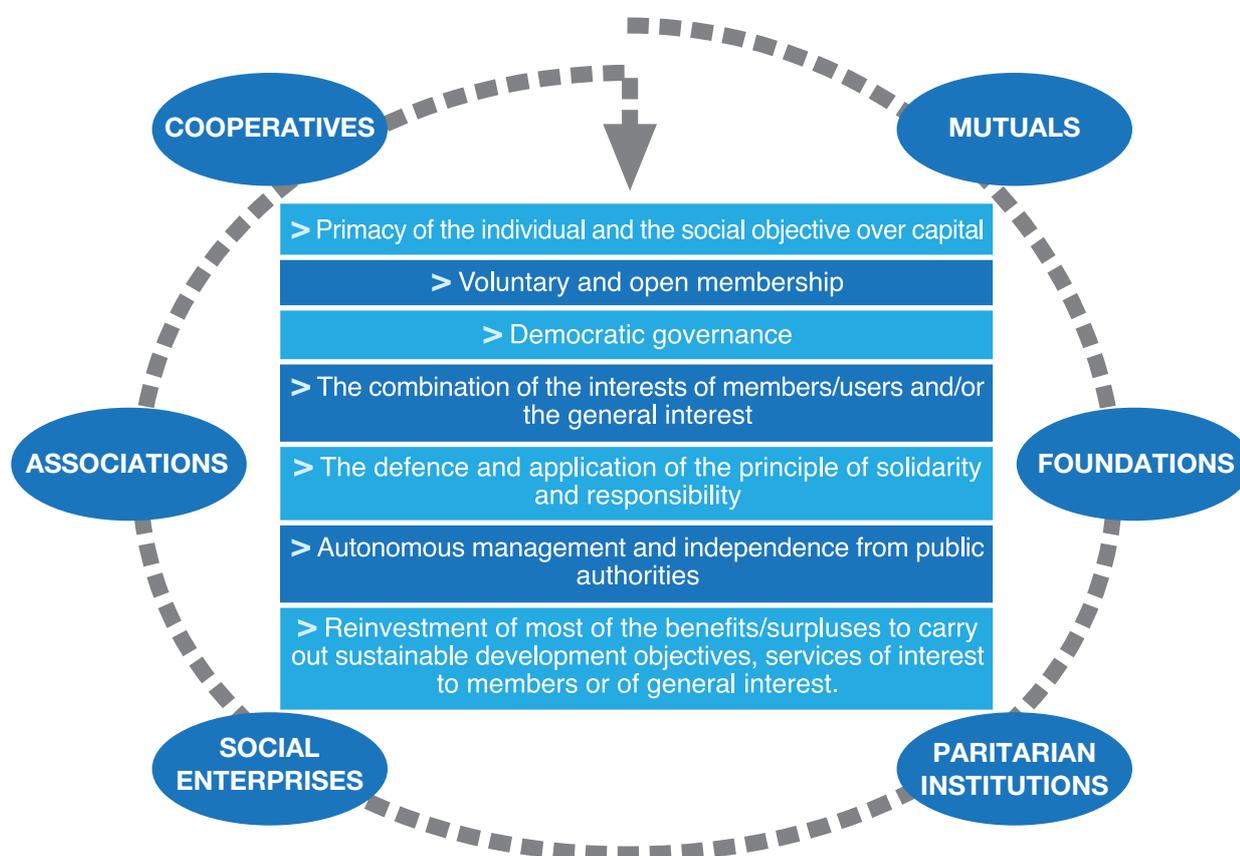
Vice-President of Social Economy Europe
Co-spokesperson of the EESC Social Economy Category

3. The social economy in 2015: a dynamic and growing sector

3.1. United around values

The social economy is formed of enterprises and organisations ranging from small and medium sized enterprises to large business groups, and operates in all economic sectors.

Social economy actors, such as cooperatives, mutuals, associations, foundations, social enterprises and paritarian institutions; share common values and characteristics conferring them a unique identity and added value:



The social economy fosters an economy with a human face, in which the maximization of benefits is not a goal in itself. In the social economy, benefits or surpluses are a means to:

- > create and maintain high quality jobs
- > ensure the sustainable development of the enterprise or organisation
- > redistribute wealth among members, stakeholders and society.
- > contribute to the general interest
- > create better life conditions for people and local communities.

To sum up, the social economy is particularly close to society's needs and able to bring innovative solutions to create and keep high quality jobs, boost sustainable growth, foster the diversity of forms of enterprise, promote entrepreneurship, social integration through work of people at risk of social exclusion, and to contribute to local and regional development, among other key EU objectives.

3.2. Some key facts and figures

In the EU, there are **2 million social economy enterprises and organisations, accounting for approximately 10% of all European businesses**. The social economy **employs over 14.5 million people**, equivalent to 6.5% of the entire EU working population.

In contrast to the overall economic trend of growing unemployment, the social economy has experienced employment growth during the last years: **from 11 million jobs in 2002-2003 to 14.5 million in 2009-2010** .

- > **In France**, the social economy represents 10.5% of the employment (+0,2% in 2015), i.e. **2,37 million employees**. 67.7% of social economy's employees are women. The social economy accounts for 6% of the French GDP.
- > **In Spain**, the social economy accounts for 12.5% of the employment, i.e. **more than 2.2 million employees**. 50% of these employees are women and 47% are under 40. Between 2008 and 2015, the Spanish social economy created 210,00 jobs through the set-up of 31,000 new enterprises. The Spanish social economy represents 10% of the country's GDP.
- > **In Italy**, the social economy is formed of 335,000 productive units that employ **2.2 million people** (+39.4% over the past 10 years). The Italian social economy has a total revenue of nearly 200 billion euros.
- > **In Luxembourg**, the social economy is formed of 33,490 enterprises that employ around **8% of the working population**, this percentage has more than doubled since 2000. 2/3 of social economy's employees are women.

- > In the Belgian regions of Walonia and Brussels, the social economy represents **12% of the overall employment**, i.e. 245,943 jobs in the social economy. 71% of these employees are women.
- > In Croatia, the social economy accounts for almost **52.000 productive units**.

3.3. 2015: a historic year for the social economy



The European social economy has experienced important successes in terms of increased political acknowledgement and visibility. These steps forward are very confirm its growing importance as a key economic actor.

In November 2014, the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union set-up a roadmap towards the development of European policies to stimulate the growth of the social economy: The

Rome Strategy “Unlocking the potential of the social economy for EU growth”. Undoubtedly, the efforts of the Italian Presidency of the Council in favour of the social economy set-up a basis to reach the following milestones:

- > January: The **European Parliament’s Social Economy Intergroup** is formally re-launched and its bureau is constituted.
- > May: The **Council Conclusions on “A New Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015”** underline the importance of the enterprises of the social economy to job creation and sustainable development.
- > June: The **European Commission creates a unit responsible for the social economy** within the Directorate-General Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs.
- > July: **Luxembourg Presidency of the Council** is launched and officially confirms through an event in Brussels that the promotion of the social economy will be among its priorities.
- > July: **The Governments of Spain and Portugal adopt the Murcia Declaration on social economy** in the framework of the Spain-Portugal meeting on “Social Economy as vehicle for employment creation”
- > September: SEE presents its **White Paper “Social Economy, tacking back the initiative. Proposals to make the social economy into a pillar of the European Union”**.
- > September: The **European Parliament** adopts the report on **“Social Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation in combatting unemployment”**, whose rapporteur is Verónica Lope-Fontagné MEP (EPP, ES).

- > September: The **EESC** renews its **Social Economy Category** and creates a **permanent study group on social economy enterprises**.
- > October: The Council decision on “**Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States for 2015**” states that “Member States should actively promote the social economy and foster social innovation”.
- > December: The **Committee of the Regions** adopts its opinion on “**The role of the social economy in restoring economic growth and combating unemployment**”, whose rapporteur is Luis Gomes (EPP, PT)
- > December: **SEE General Assembly** elect **Juan Antonio Pedreño** as **President of Social Economy Europe**, he substitutes Alain Coheur, firstly elected in 2008.



- > December: The governments of **France, Italy, Luxembourg, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain**, adopt the **Luxembourg declaration “A roadmap towards a more comprehensive ecosystem for social economy enterprises”** and decide to actively promote regular high-level meetings of high political representatives in charge of the social economy. The declaration is adopted on the occasion of the conference “**Boosting social enterprises in Europe**”, organised by Luxembourg Presidency.

- > December: The Council of the European Union adopts its **historic Conclusions on “The promotion of the social economy as a key driver of economic and social development in Europe”**.

4. Who we are

4.1. Our objectives

Created in November of 2000, Social Economy Europe is the EU-level representative organisation for the social economy. SEE has a wide social basis, it is formed of the European organisations of **mutual and cooperative insurance sector, health mutuels and health insurance funds, foundations, associations of general interest, social integration enterprises, paritarian institutions** and **ethical and alternative banks and financiers**; the national umbrella organisations of the social economy of **France, Portugal** and **Spain**, the **Wallonia and Brussels based social economy** and the **European Network of Cities and Regions for the social economy**.

Social Economy Europe defends towards European institutions the interests of the 2 million Social Economy enterprises and organisations that employ over 14.5 million people.

Social Economy Europe works in areas of common interest for its members and acts in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, ensuring the added value of the its actions.

Aims :

- > To promote all social economy actors in Europe seeking to contribute to economic and social development.
- > To highlight the role of social economy enterprises at European level and to promote their defining values.
- > To support the political and legal recognition of the social economy at European level.

SEE will work to reach the following strategic objectives during the period 2016-2019:

- > To boost the visibility of the social economy among society -citizens and institutions-, of its effective contribution to the economic and social development of the European Union, and of its suitability as an entrepreneurial model.
- > To reinforce the dialogue with European Institutions and contribute to set-up and implementation of a European Action Plan on social economy.
- > To consolidate SEE as the representative organisation of the social economy at EU-level by reinforcing its cooperation with all actors working in favour of this economy with a human face.

4.2. Our members



AEIP: The European Association of Paritarian Institutions

AEIP, founded in 1996, is a Brussels-based advocacy organisation, representing the Paritarian Social Protection Institutions, established and managed by employers and trade unions on jointly basis, within the framework of the collective agreements.

advocates for its members' values and interests at the level of both European and International Institutions. In particular, AEIP - through its working groups - deals with EU coordinated pension schemes and pension funds, healthcare, unemployment, provident and paid holiday schemes.

AEIP was entrusted by its members with the responsibility to protect and defend the Paritarian social protection schemes at local and European level. Its ambition is to be a leader, exercising its influence to strengthen and ensure the sustainability and the further development of the Paritarian model in Europe.

The Association currently gathers 27 leading large and medium-sized Social Protection Management Organizations, equally representing the employees and the employers through a joint governance scheme; plus 39 affiliates from 22 countries. AEIP covers, through its members, **75 million European citizens** and **€ 1.3 trillion** in assets.

The Association promotes and develops programs, aimed to contribute to the sustainability of the Paritarian social protection systems at local level, taking into account the specific national realities.

More details at: www.aeip.net



AIM: The International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies

AIM is the umbrella organisation of health mutuals and health insurance funds in Europe and in the world. Through its 63 members from 30 countries, **AIM provides health coverage to 230 million people in the world and 160 million in Europe** through compulsory and/or complementary health insurance and managing health and social facilities.

AIM strives to defend the access to healthcare for all through solidarity-based and non-for profit health insurance.

AIM's mission is to provide a platform for members to exchange on common issues and to represent their interests and values in the European and international Institutions.

The AIM was founded in 1950 based on mutuals' values which are: solidarity; not-for-profit orientation; Universal Access to healthcare.

Mutuals and health protection organisations believe that people are at the centre of the healthcare system. Nowadays mutual societies in Europe and some other mutual societies in the world fight to preserve and embody these ideas in health protection bodies.

More details at: www.aim-mutual.org



AMICE: Association of Mutual Insurers and Insurance Cooperatives in Europe

AMICE is the voice of the mutual and cooperative insurance sector in Europe. The Brussels-based association advocates for appropriate and fair treatment of all mutual and cooperative insurers in a European Single Market. It also encourages the creation and development of innovative solutions for the benefit of European citizens and society.

Mutual and cooperative insurance follows the principles of solidarity and sustainability and is characterised by customer-membership and a democratic governance. The mutual business model, with its focus on using surpluses for the benefit of its members, is the natural way to provide insurance.

AMICE has more than 100 members in 21 countries including six national associations of mutual and cooperative insurers. These associations represent a further 700 mutual and cooperative insurers.

In Europe, the close to **2,700 insurers** united in the mutual and cooperative sector account for more than half of all insurance undertakings and for a market share of just over 30%. They provide cover for more than **409 million members-policyholders** and employ just over 450,000 staff in Europe. For the first time in 2014, the sector wrote more than EUR 400 billion in insurance premiums and reported record asset values of EUR 2.8 trillion.

More details at: www.amice-eu.org



CASES: Cooperativa António Sérgio para a Economia Social

CASES is a Public Interest Cooperative that gathers the State and six representative organizations of the social economy sector, which are:

- > **ANIMAR**: Portuguese Association for Local Development
- > **CONFECOOP**: Portuguese Cooperative Confederation
- > **CONFAGRI**: National Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives and Agricultural Credit of Portugal
- > **CNIS**: National Confederation of Solidarity Institutions
- > **UMP**: Union of Portuguese Misericórdias
- > **UMP**: Union of Portuguese Mutuals

CASES' mission is to promote the strengthening of the social economy sector, deepening the cooperation between the State and the member organizations in order to stimulate their potential to serve the socio-economic development of the country.

CASES bases its activity on core three core values: cooperation and inter-cooperation; social and environmental responsibility; solidarity, democracy and transparency.

More details at: www.cases.pt



CEDAG: European Council of Associations of General Interest

CEDAG was founded in 1989 to provide a voice for the associative sector in Europe.

Its name has evolved over its twenty-six-year history to better reflect the objectives of its membership, and it is now known as the European Council for Non Profit Organisations.

Non-profit organisations make a huge impact in improving the lives of citizens across Europe in diverse fields (protection of the environment, cultural activities, health and consumer protection, anti-discrimination, youth and sport, etc.) and contribute to the European GDP, job creation and innovation.

CEDAG's main mission is to defend and promote the interests of non-profit organisations in decision making at the European level, and to support its civil society at national level with information and advice, and activities to strengthen the community of non-profit organisations across countries. As a result, a major focus of our work is advocating for civil dialogue to be established and practiced by public authorities across Europe.

CEDAG works towards a vision of a pluralist society, where participatory democracy and active citizenship help to bridge the legitimacy gap between decision makers and citizens which is increasingly apparent in modern representative democracies. We are supported by financial contributions from members, and through projects. CEDAG is an independent, organisation and is not affiliated to any political party or ideology, trade union, religious belief or any public or private body.

CEDAG's vocation is to respond to the needs of civil society. Its membership covers a majority of EU Member States, and extends beyond the EU.

More details at: www.cedag.eu



CEPES: The Spanish Confederation of Social Economy Enterprises

CEPES is the largest national organization representing the existing almost **43.000 social economy enterprises and organisations** in Spain that employ over **2.2 million people** and associate **20 million people**. The social economy accounts for **10% of the Spanish GDP**.

CEPES is a nationwide cross-sector business confederation responsible for the institutional dialogue of the social economy with Public Authorities. CEPES brings together 28 national and regional confederations and specific groups of business that represent the interests of Co-operatives, Worker-Owned societies, mutual benefit societies, social integration enterprises, special employment centres for disabled people, fishermen's guilds and associations of people with disabilities.

Objectives:

- > Foster and defend the social economy and its actors.
- > Have an impact and influence the establishment of national and international Public Policies and legislation.

- > Favour national economic development as a way to achieve stability and pluralism in economic markets.
- > To raise awareness of society and the world of business on a socially responsible way of doing business based on specific values.
- > Express and defend the common interests of the associated members before society and the Administration as well as at European and international levels.
- > Defend and express the common aspects and interests of Social Economy before all instances in the economic, social, cultural or political spheres of the State and the European Union.
- > Analyse all types of general problems across Social Economy components and agree on relevant solutions.
- > Establish and facilitate the services that may be of common or specific interest to Social Economy organisations

More details at: www.cepes.es



EFC: The European Foundation Centre

The EFC is the platform for and champion of institutional philanthropy - with a focus on Europe, but also with an eye to the global philanthropic landscape. We support our members, both individually and collectively, in their work to foster positive social change in Europe and beyond. Our European and global perspective on institutional philanthropy and the landscape it inhabits gives us a “helicopter view” that presents a unique opportunity for us as an organisation, hand in hand with our members, to reflect on, understand, engage with and together strengthen the environment for philanthropy. Established in 1989 by 7 foundations, the EFC now represents more than **200 philanthropic organisations** from 36 countries, including foundations and corporate funders, **with a combined annual expenditure of more than € 14 billion**, as well as 57 affiliated partner organisations.

More details at: www.efc.be



ENSIE: The European Network of Social Integration Enterprises

ENSIE unites national and regional networks of Work Integration Social Enterprises (WISEs), enterprises whose main identifying principles are: the social and professional integration of vulnerable groups, the decision to carry on their activities at the very core of the economic system and a strong pedagogical dimension towards relevant European stakeholders from the European Institutions to other EU-level civil society organisations.

At the moment, ENSIE gathers **27 national and regional networks**, from 18 EU Member States: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom and from Serbia and Switzerland.

Together, they totalize some **2,500 WISEs**, and **more than 400,000 employees**. In 2015 ENSIE put in place several activities in order to raise awareness and promote WISEs. Throughout this year specific activities were planned in order to support the members in the framework of the transposition of the public procurement Directive and their involvement within the Structural Funds and the European Semester processes. In 2015, ENSIE focused on important topics to WISEs such as: active labour market policies, social and economic impact measurement, integration of homeless people and in-work poverty. More details at: www.ensie.org



ESS-France: The French Chamber of Social and Solidarity Economy

ESS France was officially created on the 24th October 2014, following the enacting of the French Law n°2014-856 of 31st July 2014 on the social and solidarity economy, which mentions it in art. 5. Although the Law mentions it, it did not create it.

In fact, ESS France was born thanks to the will of its 7 founding members, which are: the French Foundations Centre (**CFF**), the National Council of the Regional Chambers of the Social Economy (**CNCRES**), **Coop FR**, the National Federation of French Mutuals (**FNMF**), the Mutual Insurers Group (**GEMA**), the Associative Movement and the Movement of Social Entrepreneurs (**Mouves**). Furthermore, ESS France is also formed of the following active four members: the Social Economy Partner of the Republican School (**ESPER**), the Movement of the Solidarity Economy (**MES**), the Federation of non-for-profit Private Hospitals and of Home-care Services Providers (FEHAP); **FINANSOL** an association of solidarity finance; and a partner the Union of Employers of the Social and Solidarity Economy (**UDES**).

According to its Statutes, ESS France pursues four core objectives:

- > Organising the dialogue between its members
- > Representing the Social and Solidarity Economy (ESS) towards public authorities and institutions in France, in Europe and at international level, as well as regarding other economic and social partners
- > Promoting and advocating the values, interests and specificities of the Social and Solidarity Economy
- > Promoting the elaboration and dissemination of studies, research and data on the Social and Solidarity Economy

ESS France' mission is to give evidence, to encourage, to defend, to propose, to stimulate and to act in order to ensure that French and European public policies recognise, support and go along with, this kind of economy, proud of its specificities and its utility.

Some facts on EES France' members:

- > **CFF**: 280 members
- > **CNCRES**: 26 Regional Chambers of the Social Economy
- > **COOP FR**: 23.000 French cooperative enterprises
- > **FNMF**: 426 health mutuals

- > **GEMA:** 53 adherent societies (mutual insurers or their subsidiaries or any other enterprise having a cooperative or mutualist statute)
- > **Mouves:** 300 managers of social enterprises
- > **Associative Movement (Mouvement Associatif):** 600.000 associations (2 million employees and 16 million volunteers)
- > **ESPER:** 46 Social and Solidarity Economy organisations (associations, mutuals, cooperatives and trade unions)
- > **UDES:** 25 entities and employer's organisations (associations, mutuals, cooperatives) from 14 professional fields and sectors; 70.000 enterprises and one million employees
- > **Finansol:** 60 members, all major actors of solidarity finance.
- > **MES:** 22 adherents (support agencies, research centers, federations or groups of local initiatives)
- > **FEHAP:** 1.600 managing agencies, grouping together around 4,000 centers and private non-for-profit services.

Hence, **ESS France represents** towards public authorities and institutions in France, in Europe and worldwide, **2.3 million employees, active in 223.000 social and solidarity economy entities in France.**

More details at: www.ess-france.org



FEBEA: The European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks and Financiers

FEBEA is an international not for profit association incorporated under Belgian law, created in Brussels in 2001 with the **goal of developing ethical and solidarity-based finance in Europe** through advocacy, communication and the participation of European citizens. Today FEBEA federates **28 members** (14 banks, 7 savings and loan cooperatives, 4 investment companies and 3 foundations) based across 15 European countries, with about **3.400 employees, serving more than 600.000 people** between customers and shareholders, with combined balance sheet assets amounting to almost **32.000 million €**.

FEBEA members are banking institutions with a strong commitment to the support of the Social Economy, ethical banking institutions and finance companies working for ethical finance and microfinance.

In order to reach its goal of developing ethical and solidarity-based finance in Europe, FEBEA supports its members by:

- > Facilitating the exchange of information and best-practices and the co-operation between national networks and practitioners of the social economy and finance in Europe and the European Economic Area;
- > Representing its members towards the EU institutions and other financial and political organisations;
- > Creating dedicated financial and non-financial instruments.

More details at: www.febea.org



REVES: European Network of Cities and Regions for the Social Economy

REVES is the unique European network that brings together local authorities and social economy organisations. Created in 1996, REVES today represents more than 60 local/regional authorities and social economy organisations from 18 EU Member States.

REVES members act together in order to promote social and solidarity economy, for a fairer, inclusive, participative and responsible society. In this context, partnership between local authorities and social economy is considered a driving force to build sustainable local communities and contribute, at the same time, to strengthen solidarity and responsible citizenship also at EU level.

REVES activities are based on 3 pillars:

- Exchange of good practice/Training (example: REVES Award on excellence regarding partnerships between social economy and public authorities; Community-Led Local Development and use of European Structural and Investment Funds; Social Franchising; Integration of Migrants...)
- Experimentation/Joint project development (example: Territorial Social Responsibility; new methodologies to pool private and public funding for the social economy; linking energy efficiency and social action; development of an online role-play game on social economy entrepreneurship...)
- Dialogue with European and national policy-makers (example: follow-up of the Social Business Initiative; European Parliament: active involvement in the activities of the Social Economy Intergroup, Participation in the European Commission's Expert Group on European Structural and Investment Funds, Single Market Strategy; vice-presidency of Social Economy Europe)

More details at: www.revesnetwork.eu



SAW-B: Solidarité des Alternatives Wallones et Bruxelloises

SAW-B (Brussels and Walloon Region Social Economy Organisation) is a pluralist social economy federation. It brings together more than **120 social enterprises in the Walloon Region and Brussels** (cooperatives, associations, research centres, etc.) active in sectors like renewable energies, solidarity finance, fair trade, community services, recycling, education and training, and more. Among our members we gather together about ten federations and networks as well. This represents 15.000 workers.

SAW-B aims at promoting an economic and social alternative. To this end, we follow three main missions: Advocating and representing the social economy at regional, Belgian and European level; providing support and guidance for project initiators in the social economy, in order to create new enterprises or develop those in place; finally, spreading and arousing a critical thinking of economic alternatives, together with workers of social economy enterprises and the society in general.

Concretely, we employ about 15 people and we generate 1.291.000€ turnover, in order to help in the start-up phase or further growth of some 50 social enterprises; to develop tailored modelling tools for

social enterprises; to promote and encourage the use of social clauses in public procurement; to publish articles and studies on social economy specific issues; to raise awareness - and to educate on economic alternatives; and to carry out researches on social impact assessment, short circuits, etc.

More details at: www.saw-b.be

4.3. Our governance and our team

General Assembly



SEE General Assembly held in Luxembourg

The General Assembly is the supreme body of SEE and meets at least once a year to approve the budget and the annual accounts and to establish strategic guidelines and the Work Plan.

It is formed of representatives of all the member organisations. It is chaired by the President of the Board of Directors.

The General Assembly met twice in 2015, on the 25th of June, in Brussels, and on the 3rd of December in Luxembourg, at the headquarters of the Luxembourgish Union of the Social and Solidarity Economy (ULESS).

The General Assembly of the 3rd of December elected Juan Antonio Pedreño as President of Social Economy Europe. Pedreño substituted Alain Coheur, who led the organisation between 2008 and 2015. Alain Coheur, Emmanuel Verny and Luigi Martignetti were elected as SEE' Vice-Presidents.



Luigi Martignetti, Jan Olsson, Juan Antonio Pedreño, Alain Coheur and Emmanuel Verny

Bureau

The Bureau is composed of the President and the three Vice-Presidents of the Board of Directors, its main function is to politically led and represent the organisation.

In 2015, the Bureau met three times.

Board of Directors:

The Board has broad powers to run and manage SEE and meets at least three times per year, under the request of its President.

Furthermore, the Board appoints the association's representatives at public or private bodies, as well as at the different boards, organisations or committees in which the association is represented.

- > **President:** Juan Antonio Pedreño Frutos, CEPES
- > **Vice-President:** Alain Coheur, AIM
- > **Vice-President and treasurer:** Emmanuel Verny, ESS-France
- > **Vice-President:** Luigi Martignetti, REVES
- > Francesco Brigantini, AEIP
- > Helen Sheppard, AMICE
- > Joao Leite, CASES
- > Patrick Debucqois, CEDAG
- > Miguel Angel Cabre de Luna, EFC
- > Salvatore Vetro, ENSIE
- > Fabio Salviato, FEBEA
- > Marie-Caroline Collard, SAW-B

- > **Director: Víctor Meseguer Sánchez**

5. Social Economy Europe in 2015

5.1. A permanent dialogue with European institutions

Social Economy Europe main “raison d’être” is to maintain a permanent dialogue with the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of the European Union to ensure that they take into account the social economy, as a key economic and entrepreneurial actor, whilst developing their socio-economic policies.

SEE also maintains a continuous and fruitful dialogue with the European Union main advisory bodies: the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

SEE permanent dialogue with the different European Institutions has contributed to boost the visibility of the social economy and of its contribution to the **economic and social development of the European Union**. In 2015 the European Institutions have produced **88 official documents** with references to the social economy and to co-operatives, mutuals, social enterprises and social entrepreneurship.

5.1.1. The European Parliament and the Social Economy Intergroup

Over the last decades the European Parliament has been a key Institution for the social economy, mainly because of the work carried out by the members of its **Social Economy Intergroup**, firstly established in 1990.

Social Economy Europe, as the organisation in charge of the secretariat of this Intergroup, plays a key role in providing support to its members and for the organisation of its public activities.

On the occasion of the European elections of May 2014, and of the constitution of the 8th European Parliament, Social Economy Europe -in collaboration with its members and with other social economy organisations- led a campaign to ensure the re-establishment of the Social Economy Intergroup. On 11th December 2014, the Conference of Presidents of the EP officially confirmed the re-establishment of the Intergroup.

In 2015, Social Economy Europe had more than **25 meetings** with Members of the European Parliament and their parliamentary assistants.

a) The Social Economy Intergroup



MEPs Sofia Ribeiro (EPP, PT), Sven Giegold (GREENS/EFA), Beatriz Becerra (ALDE, ES), Marie-Christine Vergiat (GUE/NGL, FR), Elena Gentile (S&D, IT), Patrizia Toia (S&D, IT), Jens Nilsson (S&D, SE) and SEE President Alain Coheur

> On the 27th of January took place the constitutive meeting of the Social Economy Intergroup. A new bureau formed of 5 Co-Presidents -**Jens Nilsson** (S&D, SE), **Ramón Luis Valcárcel** (EPP, ES), **Beatriz Becerra** (ALDE, ES), **Marie-Christine Vergiat** (GUE/NGL, FR) and **Sven Giegold** (GREENS/EFA, DE)- and 2 Vice-Presidents -**Sofia Ribeiro** (EPP, ES) and **Elena Gentile** (S&D, IT)- was appointed.

SEE was also confirmed as the organisation in charge of the secretariat of the Intergroup. Alain Coheur, Juan Antonio Pedreño and former SEE Vice-President Jan Olsson, participated in this constitutive meeting in representation of SEE.

In 2015 the Intergroup organised 3 big public hearings, that were attended by more than **300 people**.



Minister Nicolas Schmit and Jens Nilsson MEP (S&D, SE)

> On the 4th of March, in view of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council, that was about to take over in the second semester of 2015, the Co-President of the Social Economy Intergroup, Jens Nilsson, met the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social and Solidarity Economy of Luxembourg, Nicolas Schmit. The meeting served to have a first exchange of views on the agenda of LU Presidency on social economy. Social Economy Europe, as the

secretariat of the Intergroup, participated in the meeting. The press release of this meeting can be found at: <http://www.socialeconomy.eu.org/blog/meeting-minister-nicolas-schmit>

> On the 22nd of April, SEE participated in the Intergroup's public hearing on **"Integrating the social economy into the EU policy programme"**. The minutes of the hearing can be found at: <http://www.socialeconomy.eu.org/blog/eps-social-economy-intergroup-first-public-hearingi>

> On the 25th of June, SEE and its member AMICE, took part in the public hearing on **"Financing social economy enterprises"**. The minutes of the hearing can be found at: <http://www.socialeconomy.eu.org/blog/social-economy-intergroup-hearing-financing-social-economy>



Asistentes a un evento del Intergupo

> On the 23rd of September, Social Economy Europe, together with its members AIM, AMICE, CEDAG and EFC, actively participated in the public hearing on **"A European legal framework for social economy enterprises and organisations"**. The minutes of the public hearing can be found here: <http://www.socialeconomy.eu.org/blog/2309-seig-public-hearing-its-time-social-economy-work-together>

In addition to the organisation of successful public hearings, SEE has also collaborated with the members of the Intergroup in various parliamentary activities. For instance, on the 27th May, 26 MEPs submitted a Parliamentary question asking the European Commission to set-up a unit within DG Growth dealing with the ensemble of the social economy. The parliamentary question can be found at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+WQ+E-2015-008860+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

b) Report on “Social Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation in combatting unemployment”

On the 10th of September the European Parliament adopted the Report on “**Social Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation in combatting unemployment**” whose Rapporteur was Verónica Lope Fontagné MEP (EPP/ES).

SEE actively contributed to the report by having several meetings with the rapporteur and with her parliamentary assistants, aiming at providing information about the effective contribution of social economy enterprises and organisations to high quality jobs creation and to sustainable and inclusive development.

The report states that the social economy “(...) contributes not only to a more sustainable, smart and inclusive business model, but also to the European social model, and is part of the single market, deserving to be strongly recognised and supported by the EU and the member states”.

Moreover, it addresses concrete recommendations to the European Commission and Member States on how to better take advantage of the social economy potential in the framework of Europe 2020 strategy, improve the access of social economy enterprises and organisations to public procurement through the introduction of social and environmental clauses, to improve their access to finance or to enhance the support to the social economy and the promotion of its further development.

The full report is available at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A8-2015-0247+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>

c) IMCO study on social economy



In 2015 the European Parliament’s Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection commissioned the making of a study on social economy.

assesses the cultural, regulatory and financial obstacles that hinder the full development of the social economy and proposes some key actions that could be taken at European level to overcome those barriers. Moreover, it analyses the opportunities offered by the Digital Single Market to the further development of the social economy.

during the elaboration of the study.

The study has been recently presented to the IMCO Committee and published. It can be found at: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/578969/IPOL_STU\(2016\)578969_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/578969/IPOL_STU(2016)578969_EN.pdf)

d) Towards a GUE/NGL European Forum on Social and Solidarity Economy



GUE/NGL Forum on Social and Solidarity Economy

In May 2015, the European United Left/ Nordic Confederation Group (GUE/NGL) decided to make of the social and solidarity economy one of its main strategic priorities for the parliamentary term 2014-2019.

Moreover, the group set as one of its main goals for 2016 the organisation a European Forum on Social and Solidarity Economy. To this end, the GUE/NGL organised several preparatory meetings, where SEE

actively participated together with some of its members and with other social economy organisations.

On the 26th of February took place the meeting **“The social and solidarity economy in Europe: current status, challenges and perspectives”** in which SEE and its members, SAW-B and REVES, participated.

On the 3rd of September, SEE participated in preparatory meeting of the Forum, alongside with some of its members ENSIE, CEPES and SAW-B.

The last preparatory meeting of the EFSSE took place on 30th of November, also with the participation of SEE and its members ENSIE and REVES.

5.1.2. Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the EU

In November 2014, at the conference **“Unlocking the potential of the social economy for EU growth”** that took place in Rome -under the Italian Presidency of the Council- Nicolas Schmit -Minister of Labour, Employment and Social and Solidarity Economy of Luxembourg- expressed his willingness to make of the social economy one of the priorities of Luxembourg’s Presidency of the Council.

In December 2015, SEE offered to Minister Nicolas Schmit its full support to Luxembourg’s Presidency initiative to promote the further development of the social economy at European level.

Undoubtedly, Luxembourg Presidency of the Council has constituted a benchmark for the visibility and the promotion of the social economy at EU-level.

Social Economy Europe has strongly supported and contributed to the main initiatives of the Presidency to promote the social economy as key driver of economic and social development in the European Union.



Jens Nilsson MEP (S&D, SE), Ariane Rodert (EESC), Denis Stokkink (PLS), Alain Coheur (SEE) and Jean-Christophe Burkel (ULESS)

a) Launching event on social economy

On 9th of July, Alain Coheur, took part, as a speaker, at the launching event of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council regarding the social economy.

representation of SEE members attended the event.

b) Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States for 2015

On the 5th of October 2015, the Ministers responsible for employment, social affairs and consumer policy from the 28 Member States adopted a Council decision on **“Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States for 2015”**. The guidelines state that “Member States should actively promote the social economy and foster social innovation”.

The decision on **“Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States for 2015”**, can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/europe2020_guidelines_part2_en.pdf



Juan Antonio Pedreño at the LU Presidency conference

c) Presidency conference “Boosting social enterprises in Europe”

On the 3rd and 4th of December took place in Luxembourg the Presidency’s conference on **“Boosting social enterprises in Europe”**. SEE and its members actively participated in the conference.

The conference mainly focused on social innovation and on the creation of an eco-system suited to promote access to finance for social economy enterprises. SEE President, Juan Antonio Pedreño, Helen Sheppard (Deputy Secretary General of AMICE and member of SEE Board of Directors) and Daniel Sorrosal (Policy and Advocacy Manager at FEBEA) were among the speakers of the event.

All the relevant information about the conference can be found at: <http://www.eu2015lu.eu/en/agenda/2015/12/03-04-conf-economie-sociale/index.html>



d) Luxembourg declaration “A roadmap towards a more comprehensive ecosystem for social economy enterprises”

On the 4th of December, coinciding with the closing of the Luxembourg Presidency conference on “Boosting social enterprises in Europe”, the Ministers and State Secretaries in charge of the social economy of France, Italy, Luxembourg, Slovak Republic, Republic of Slovenia and Spain, adopted the Luxembourg declaration **“A roadmap towards a more comprehensive ecosystem for social economy enterprises”**.

The declaration points out the necessity to acknowledge a common understanding of the social economy in Europe and asks the European Commission to take into account and to include the social economy into the modernisation of the Single Market Strategy. Moreover, the signatories commit themselves to promote regular high-level meetings of high political representatives in charge of social economy to lay the foundations of enhanced cooperation.

SEE submitted to the Presidency a document with proposals to the declaration that were -mostly- taken into account.

The text of the declaration can be found at: <http://www.eu2015lu.eu/en/actualites/communiqués/2015/12/04-declaration-luxembourg/>



e) Council Conclusions on “The promotion of the social economy as a key driver of economic and social development in Europe”

On the 7th of December, the EPSCO configuration of the Council of the EU, adopted historical Council Conclusions on “**The promotion of the social economy as a key driver of economic and social development in Europe**”.

For the very first time, the representatives of 28 Member States agreed on the importance of promoting the further development of the social economy. Moreover, Member States committed themselves and invited the European Commission to take concrete actions to support the development of the sector and to improve its visibility and recognition.

SEE and its members actively supported the adoption of the Conclusions.

The Council Conclusion can be consulted at: <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15071-2015-INIT/en/pdf>

SEE press release on the adoption of the Conclusions can be found at: <http://www.socialeconomy.eu.org/blog/historic-council-conclusion-promotion-social-economy>

5.1.3. Murcia Declaration on social economy



On the 20th of July, the governments of Spain and Portugal, represented by the Minister for Employment and Social Security of Spain, Ms. Fátima Bañez García, and by the former Minister for Solidarity, Employment and Social Security of Portugal, Mr. Pedro Mota Soares, adopted the Murcia Declaration on social economy, in the framework of the Spain-Portugal summit “**The social economy as vehicle for employment creation**”.

The declaration supports the adoption of policies allowing social economy enterprises to act accordingly to their own organisational and functional characteristics, encourages the organisation of regular

meetings of those responsible for the social economy in EU Member States, and supports the adoption of initiatives aiming at strengthening the social economy sector in Europe.

The summit was organised in close collaboration with our Portuguese and Spanish members: CASES and CEPES. Juan Antonio Pedreño and Eduardo Graça, President of CASES, participated in the meeting.

The text of the declaration can be found at: http://www.cases.pt/O_content/actividades/Jornada_Hispano-Portuguesa/Murcia_Declaration.pdf

5.1.4. The European Commission



Head of Unit Michel Catinat in a conference at the EESC

a) Creation of the unit “Clusters, Social Economy and Entrepreneurship”

In June 2015, the Commission confirmed the set-up of a unit in charge of the Social Economy within the Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW).

Michel Catinat, a senior civil servant of the European Commission, was appointed as Head of Unit.

the appointment of Mr. Catinat, SEE has had a permanent and productive dialogue with him and his team.

The organisation chart of the Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, can be found at:

<file:///C:/Users/SocialEconomy/Downloads/Organigramme%2001.06.2016%20EN.pdf>



GECES meeting

b) Renewal of the Expert Group on social entrepreneurship

In February 2015 the Commission made a call for applications to select new non-public members of the Expert Group on social entrepreneurship (that was set up by the communication on the Social Business Initiative of 2011).

Alain Coheur (AIM), Miguel Ángel Cabra de Luna (EFC) and Fabio Salviato (FEBEA)- were appointed as private experts.

On its seventh meeting of 16th September 2015, the group adopted a new working method based on 4 Working groups:

- > Working group 1: Improving access to funding
- > Working group 2: Increasing the visibility

- > Working group 3: Improving the legal environment
- > Working group 4: Strengthening the External Dimension

The outputs of the 4 working groups would be integrated in a final report, that will be presented and possibly adopted at the 11th GECES meeting, that will take place on 14th October 2016, in Brussels.

The GECES secretariat is formed by European Commission's civil servants from various units and Directorates-General: unit F2 "Clusters, social economy and entrepreneurship" (DG GROW), unit F1 "Innovation policy and investment for growth" (DG GROW), unit E1 "Job Creation" (DG EMPL), unit C3 "Securities Markets" (DG FISMA) and unit C4 "Asset management" (DG FISMA).

In 2015, SEE has monitored and contributed to the work of the experts group. The GECES met twice in 2015: on the 16th of September and on 24th of November, on the day before, SEE organised informal meetings to have an exchange of views between private experts and SEE members on the GECES work.

More information about the Expert Group on Social Entrepreneurship can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/social-economy/enterprises/expert-groups/index_en.htm



Exchange of views with Commissioner Marianne Thyssen

c) DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion' Strategic Dialogue

In 2015, SEE actively participated in the meetings of the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion' stakeholders dialogue.

- > On the 18th of March, SEE took part in the last stakeholders dialogue organised in the framework

of the European Platform Against Poverty and Social Exclusion (EPAP). The main aim of the meeting was to have an exchange of views on the new format of the EPAP Annual meeting, that the Commission decided to transform into Annual Conventions for Inclusive Growth (ACIGs). The meeting was chaired by the former Director for Europe 2020 and Social Policies, Lieve Fransen.

- > On the 1st of October, SEE participated in the roundtable discussion on "**Forging common action to achieve the Social Triple A for the EU**", where participants had the opportunity to have an exchange of views with **Commissioner Marianne Thyssen** on different social affairs and issues.
- > On 10th of December, SEE participated in the last meeting of the year, focused on the upcoming **European Pillar of Social Rights**.

5.1.5. The European Economic and Social Committee

Over the last years, the EESC has been very active in the promotion of the social economy in Europe, mainly through the work of its Social Economy category and of the social enterprise project. SEE has actively cooperated with the EESC in this domain.

In September 2015, the members of the EESC were renewed for the next 5 years. Alain Coheur and Miguel Angel Cabra de Luna, who was already member of the Committee during the previous mandate, were appointed as members.

a) EESC's Social Economy Category

Further to the membership renewal of the EESC, its Social Economy Category also renewed many of its members. In December 2015, SEE Vice-President, Alain Coheur, and Krzysztof Balon, President of the Council of Working Community Associations of Social Organisations of Poland, were appointed as the Category Spokespersons, replacing in this position Miguel Angel Cabra de Luna.

More information about the category is available at: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.categories-social-economy>

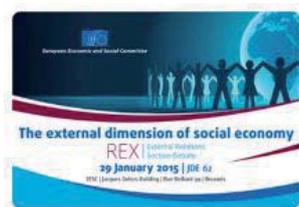
b) Permanent study group on social economy

In September 2015, the EESC bureau decided to create a permanent study group on social economy enterprises to continue the work carried out under the “social enterprise project”. The group is formed of 15 EESC members.

c) Opinion on building a financial ecosystem for social economy enterprises

In April 2015, Nicolas Schmit, Minister for Labour, Employment and the Social and Solidarity Economy, on behalf of the future Luxembourg Presidency requested the EESC to draw up an exploratory opinion on “Building a financial ecosystem for social economy enterprises”. The opinion was adopted in September.

The text of the exploratory opinion can be found at: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.int-opinions.35932>



d) SEE participation at EESC events

> On the 29th of January, Alain Coheur and Juan Antonio Pedreño, participated in the first panel of the EESC External Relations Section Debate on “The external dimension of the social economy”. More information on the event can be found at: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.events-and-activities-rex-meeting-jan2015>

- > On the 3rd and the 4th of February, took place in Brussels the EESC event on “**A new generation 4 A new Europe**”, the EESC requested SEE to propose a young social economy entrepreneur. In collaboration with its Spanish member CEPES, SEE proposed Pablo Ascasibar (member of a Spanish workers cooperative).



- > On the 16th of June, SEE was invited to participate in the Workshop “**How to contribute to the social and civic dimension of governance?**”, in the framework of the EESC Civil Society Day 2015. Erdmuthe Klaer, Deputy Secretary General of REVES, represented REVES and SEE in the event.

- > On the 17th of June, Juan Antonio Pedreño, participated in the conference “**The Economy for the Common Good: Changing the way business and the economy work**”. On the 10th of November, he participated in a second event on the same topic, that took place in Madrid. The full video of the conference (in Spanish) at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOPxvE9OWWQ>



- > On 10th of July, Alain Coheur, participated in the first panel of the closing event of the Social Enterprise project “**Social enterprises: Make it happen!**”, to have an exchange of views on how to improve the access to finance for social economy enterprises, allowing them to scale-up. More information about this event can be found at: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.events-and-activities-social-enterprise-happen>

- > On the 12th of November, SEE Director, Víctor Meseguer, participated in the event on “**EU Industry and Monetary Policies: the role of the EIB**”.

5.1.6. The Committee of the Regions

a) Opinion on “**The role of the social economy in restoring economic growth and combating unemployment**”

On the 3rd and 4th of December, the plenary of the Committee of the Regions adopted the Opinion on “**The role of the social economy in restoring economic growth and combating unemployment**”, whose Rapporteur was Luis Gomes (EPP, PT), Mayor of Vila Real de Santo Antonio, Portugal.

SEE alongside with its members REVES and CASES, closely followed the CoR’s work on this document and was consulted several times. Alain Coheur, and former Vice-President, Jan Olsson (REVES), were invited to make a speech on the occasion of the opinion’s adoption by the SEDEC committee.

The text of the opinion is online at: <http://cor.europa.eu/en/activities/opinions/pages/opinion-factsheet.aspx?OpinionNumber=CDR%201691/2015>



Rafa Climent (Minister of Economy of Valencia) and CoR members, Luis Gomes (EPP, PT) and Benedetta Brighenti (S&D, IT)

b) European Entrepreneurial Region Awards 2015

SEE, alongside with other stakeholder organisations (UEPME and EUROCHAMBRES), is member of the jury of the European Entrepreneurial Region Award of the Committee of the Regions. The EER, identifies and rewards regions with outstanding forward-looking entrepreneurial visions.

The awarded regions in 2015 were: Lisbon, Northern Ireland and the Valencia Region. In 2015, Glasgow, Lombardia and Malopolska, were selected and awarded as the European Entrepreneurial Regions 2016.

On the 15th October, former SEE President, Alain Coheur, participated in a conference, in the framework of the EER awards, on inclusive entrepreneurship.

More information on the EER award can be found at: <http://cor.europa.eu/en/takepart/eer/Pages/eer.aspx>

5.2. SEE White Paper “Social economy taking back the initiative. Proposals to make the social economy into a pillar of the European Union”



In September 2015, SEE presented its White Paper “**Social economy taking back the initiative. Proposals to make the social economy into a pillar of the European Union**”. In this document, SEE proposes a set of possible actions at European level to support the further development of the sector and urges EU institutions and Member States to pay particular attention to the social economy and to set up constructive and ambitious policies measuring up to the social economy's significance at European level.

“In a changing world, the social economy fosters a project for a society and an economy built on solidarity and democracy, for which citizen's actions are at the heart of its activities”.

online at: <http://www.socialeconomy.eu.org/sites/default/files/archives/EN%20-%20White%20Paper%20-.pdf>

5.3. Alliances and cooperation agreements

5.3.1. CIRIEC-Mont Blanc Meetings- SEE

On the 27th of September, Alain Arnaud (President of CIRIEC International), Thierry Jeantet (President of the Mont Blanc Meetings) and Alain Coheur (former President of Social Economy Europe), signed a cooperation agreement between their respective organisations.

5.3.2. A fruitful dialogue with Cooperatives Europe

SEE considers that the dialogue and cooperation with Cooperatives Europe is of key importance to unite efforts and strengthened the voice of the social economy in Europe.

On the 28th October, Juan Antonio Pedreno met Cooperatives Europe President, Dirk J. Lehnof, in Berlin, to initiate a high-level dialogue between both organisations.

5.3.3. Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF) 2016

SEE is a member of the Honorary Committee of the Global Social Economy Forum, to be held in Montreal on the 7th and 9th of September.

More information on GSEF can be found at: <http://www.gsef2016.org/?lang=en>

5.4. SEE at social economy events and other activities

- > On the 28th of January, SEE participated in the **closing conference of the Social Entrepreneurship Network (SEN)**, that took place in Brussels.
- > On the 13th of February, SEE met Boris Marcel, Florian Guillaume and Malo Richard the entrepreneurs behind **“Europe Tomorrow”** an initiative aiming at facilitating the duplication of socially innovative projects and at influencing public policies to enhance the support to social innovation. More information at: <http://europetomorrow.org/>
- > On the 12th of March former SEE President, Alain Coheur, met with the **working group “social affairs” of the French Regions representation to the EU**. The meeting served to present SEE’s work and to have an exchange of views on how to further promote the development of the social economy at EU-level.
- > On the 25th of March, SEE attended the conference **“Future of Europe: Social Economy first?”**, whose keynote speaker was professor and Nobel prize winner Muhammad Yunus. More information on the conference can be found at: <http://pr.euractiv.com/pr/future-europe-social-economy-first-125165>
- > On the 17th April, SEE participated in the **CSR & Cooperative Affairs Working Group of the European Association of Cooperative Banks (EACB)**, to present SEE’s work as the organisation in charge of the secretariat of the European Parliament’s Social Economy Intergroup.

- > On the 24th of April, Emmanuel Verny (ESS-France) represented SEE at the inauguration of the event “**Carrefour Européen de bonnes pratiques de l’entrepreneuriat social**”, organised by the Regional Chamber of the Social and Solidarity Economy of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Region. More information on this event can be found at: <http://www.cresspaca.org/participez-au-carrefour-europeen-des-bonnes-pratiques-de-actu-985.html>
- > On the 2nd of September, SEE met two representatives of the **Irish Social Enterprise Network**, Chris Gordon and Stuart Fraser.



- > On 12 of September, SEE Director participated in the **SOLIKON Congress**, that took place in Berlin. Concretely, he took part in the roundtable “**Convergence of alter-economic movements involved in systemic change at European and International level**”, organised by **RIPESS Europe**. More information on the SOLIKON congress can be found at: <http://solikon2015.org/en>
- > On the 11th of November, SEE Director participated in the hearing on “**Economic and social impact of the employment of persons with disabilities**”, held in the European Parliament, and organised by ILUNION, a Spanish group of social integration enterprises.



Victor Meseguer, Denis Stokkink, Jan Olsson and Nicole Alix, at the conference ESS+Europe

- > On the 20th of November, SEE Director participated in the Forum “**ESS+Europe**”, that took place in Paris. The event was organised by REVES, the Atelier Île-de-France, the RTES and the representation to the EU of the Île-de-France Region. Victor Meseguer took part in the plenary session “**What development drivers should Europe offer to Social Economy?**”.

More information on the event and on the plenary session can be found at: <http://www.atelier-idf.org/connaitre-ess/ess-europe/ess-et-europe/ess-plus-europe-cycle-1/leviers-de-developpement-ess-au-niveau-europeen.htm>



Minister Schmit at the MBM-SEE conference on “Towards a fairer EU economic development: the role of the social economy”

- > On the 27th of November, SEE and the Mont Blanc Meetings co-organised the session “**Towards a fairer EU economic development: the role of the social economy**”, in the framework of the 7th edition of the Mont Blanc Meetings. Thierry Jeantet, Nicolas Schmit, Alain Arnaud (CIRIEC-International), Thierry Leguay (parliamentary assistant to Marie-Christine Vergiat MEP), Juan Peris Mencheta (parliamentary assistant to Miguel Urbán MEP) and Alain Coheur,

were the main speakers. Danaë Desplanques, Deputy Delegate General at Education and Solidarity Network, moderated the conference.



Victor Meseguer at the regional conference "Business for the community well-being"

> SEE Director participated in the of the Regional Conference "**Business for the Community Well-Being**", held in Belgrade on the 8th of December. The event was organised by the European Movement in Serbia in collaboration with the Impact Hub Belgrade, and with the support of Regional Cooperation Council, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Erste Bank, the Serbian Government Social Inclusion and

Poverty Reduction Unit, and Euricse. More than 100 participants gathered to discuss about Social Economy, addressing its potential, challenges and perspectives in the context of the South East Europe 2020 Strategy.

The main outcomes of the regional coinference can be found at http://www.emins.org/uploads/useruploads/projektiEnpdf/Zakljucci-i-preporuke-ENG_draft.pdf

5.5. Our new website and our presence in the social networks

On the 1st July 2015 Social Economy Europe released its new website <http://www.socialeconomy.eu.org>.

This official website has been ever since a key tool to enhance the visibility of SEE's work and its communication towards relevant stakeholders in the social economy and the general public.

Social Economy Europe's website provides with information about all activities promoting the social economy and its enterprise model in Europe. Furthermore, SEE website offers updated relevant information about the activities and events of the Social Economy Intergroup of the European Parliament, such us Public Hearings; as well as information on the activity of other EU institutions concerning the social economy and its promotion at EU level, be it interesting events, meetings or the publication of key documents.

Social Economy Europe's website also contains information about our members and what we do, thus ensuring high transparency on our work.

Social Economy Europe has a strong and active social media presence via its Twitter account **@SocialEcoEU**, and has currently around **1.180 followers**. Through its more than 1.100 tweets, Social Economy Europe shared updated relevant information on its activities and any important information concerning the social economy, its actors and/or SEE's members.

In order to strengthen its communication, SEE foresees to launch a public monthly newsletter.



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