

Social Economy's vision for a Green and Fair Transition

Social Economy Intergroup online event-10 November

Questions and answers from participants

❖ **Judith Hitchman**, President of Urgenci International Community Supported Agriculture Network and joint coordinator of RIPESS Intercontinental.

The Farm to Fork strategy is mentioned in the background note for this event, which we very much appreciate. There is also planned EU legislation on sustainable food systems. We believe that it is very important to embed aspects of the social and solidarity economy in this planned legislations and policies and indeed in the overall Green Deal. How can we work collectively toward achieving this? The Green Deal needs to be anchored in fundamental human rights as the optimal path to achieving change and the SDGs. Community Supported Agriculture / AMAP are present in most EU countries. We have 2 pillars: food sovereignty and solidarity economy. The principles of short food chains are already included in your analysis, but we feel we could make a more significant contribution and will be working on the last on Sustainable Food Systems.

❖ **Mathias Fiedler**, President of Eurocoop:

Tax legislation should indeed be addressed. The special model of cooperatives, for example, should also make special taxation possible. This concerns refunds or tax-free allocations to reserves.

In relation to the topic of green and supporting factor such as EESC we have repeatedly asked for this in our opinions <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-information-reports/opinions/promoting-more-inclusive-and-sustainable-banking-union-improving-contribution-community-banks-local-development-and/opinions>

❖ **Giuseppe Guerini**, President of Cecop-Cicopa Europe:

I understand the perplexities about the capital provision requirements in the CRR, however all the data say for Social Economy Enterprises are very virtuous in repaying loans. The support factor does not threaten the sustainability of banks, but it helps to facilitate access to credit. Today a bank has to treat a social enterprise as a private customer on worse terms than SMEs.

❖ **Dražen Simleša**, General Coordinator of RIPESS EU:

Very important words and contribution we heard so thanks to all speakers. We heard a lot on transition, fair and just system, implementation of the Green Deal and the Recovery Plan. As organisations working on transformative policies for social and solidarity economy in many areas, we would also like to secure full implementation of the Green Deal in the areas where it reaches transformative potentials. We have been supporting for several years the IPES-Food and their Farm to Fork Strategy. We would like to see and work together with other organisations on full integration of these goals and activities in EU official documents.

❖ **Hanna Surmatz**, Enabling Environment Manager at the European Foundation Centre:

Tax incentives for individual and corporate donors also when acting across-borders and a better VAT deal are very important - we work on this as Philanthropy Advocacy (joint DAFNE and EFC initiative). Happy to link up Juliane and others to discuss this some more. Best wishes.

❖ **Ivan Steenkamp**:

Are the models on renewable energy only applicable to the EU or can it be replicated in South Africa? We have a lot of Renewable Energy Projects in my country.

❖ **Luce Jacqmin**, Communications Adviser at the European Association of Cooperative Banks:

I would like to share this report with you because it is linked to today's discussion: NEW STUDY "Co-operative banks' engagement to green and sustainable finance" <https://bit.ly/36ffqZe>

❖ **Hanna Hansas**, Project Officer at Dafne:

On VAT - We work within ECCVAT - the European Charities Committee on VAT to advocate for a better VAT deal for public benefit organisations - the focus is on irrevocable VAT costs and how to get a refund/compensation for charities - I will check if and how they looked into the issue of VAT on corporate donations / no VAT on donations done by individuals I take.

❖ **Michal Len**, Director of RREUSE:

Last time I checked is that the VAT directive revision is stuck in council, especially concerning the discussions on reduced VAT rates. if interested RREUSE's original



position on the matter is here https://www.rreuse.org/wp-content/uploads/Position-paper-on-VAT-proposal_29-September-2018-FINAL.pdf happy to continue the discussion in the future.

✦ **Wieteke Dupain**, Programme Manager at EUCLID Network:

To those of interest. If you are a Social Enterprise or are part of a community federating social entrepreneurs. Euclid Network is currently performing a European Commission supported project collecting data on Social Entrepreneurs achievements, legal forms, (EU funding) needs and barriers for success across Europe together with national alliances for social entrepreneurship. Please help us get the voice heard of social entrepreneurs to change future strategies, policies and funding and share the online survey, collecting this data: <http://bit.ly/ESEM-2020>. It would be much appreciated. This way we can provide bottom-up data to influence future decision-making.

If you are interested to become part of the project or learn more. <https://euclidnetwork.eu/2020/09/are-you-a-social-impact-entrepreneur-take-the-esem-survey-and-let-your-voice-be-heard/>