

SEE

Activity Report 2023



SEE

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2nd Edition of the European Social Economy Awards, November 14, 2023

Cover Picture:
SEE General Assembly in Goteborg (Sweden), June 7, 2023

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It is an honor to present the 2023 Activity Report of Social Economy Europe (SEE). The last year has witnessed numerous milestones and advancements that have reaffirmed the importance and impact of social economy in Europe and globally.

I would like to start by thanking all the members of SEE's Board of Directors for their unwavering dedication and commitment. Their effort has been fundamental in achieving the significant progress we have seen this year. Additionally, I want to express my gratitude to the entire technical team of SEE, effectively and dedicatedly led by Sarah de Heusch: Paula, Laura, Carlos, Ángel, and all collaborators who have worked tirelessly to carry out our mission. Their dedication and professionalism have been vital to our success, with a heartfelt and endearing memory for Victor Meseguer, who in February left our organization to take on the role of Commissioner for Social Economy in the Government of Spain. But allow me to give special thanks to three people who have accompanied me for the past six years at the helm of Social Economy Europe. More than SEE colleagues, they are friends with whom we have collectively brought Social Economy Europe to the spectacular moment of representation and dialogue in which the Social Economy finds itself. I am referring especially to Patrizia Bussi; Alain Coheur and Jérôme Saddier.

2023 has been a crucial year for social economy, with the adoption of the Resolution Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development by the UN General Assembly on April 18th. This resolution has highlighted the importance of the social economy in promoting democracy and social justice, especially in times of crisis. It recognizes the vital role of the social economy in fighting poverty and reducing inequalities exacerbated by crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. Additionally, it emphasizes the social economy's contribution to labour standards, local community development, digital and green transitions, and democratic participation. Indeed, I believe that social economy enterprises may be the only ones providing solutions to the three main challenges of today's society: combating all types of inequalities

(income, gender, power, etc.); fighting climate change and strengthening democratic systems, something especially important at this time.

The collaboration and support of the Member States of the European Union have been essential in advancing our agenda. Throughout this year, we have seen a growing commitment from European governments to promote the social economy, culminating in significant events such as the San Sebastián manifesto, signed by 19 Member State governments and 3 organizations, including Social Economy Europe, highlighting the crucial role of social economy entities in social, economic, and environmental progress. This manifesto emphasizes the significant contributions of the social economy to the European Single Market and society in general, representing a substantial portion of economic output and innovation. This manifesto was followed by the Liège Declaration, signed in February of 2024, which sets a roadmap and a commitment to this business model that aims to rebuild our economies and societies putting people first.

This year, during the Spanish Presidency of the European Union, the Commission presented a Recommendation on Social Economy to the Council for approval. This Recommendation invited policymakers to better adapt policy and legal frameworks to the needs of social economy entities and made suggestions on specific policies such as employment policy, state aid, public procurement, taxation, research, education, skills and training or social assistance and services. It will also provide tailored financial and non-financial support at all stages of the business life cycle. It as well highlights how institutional structures and stakeholder engagement can facilitate the work of social economy entities, including their participation in Social Dialogue. The Recommendation will serve as a basis for many countries to adopt policies for the social economy.

SEE has been preparing the ground for the 2024 European elections. Together with its members, it has drafted a memorandum requesting candidates and, particularly, future Members of the European Parliament (MEP) to support three key points: the renewal of the European Parliament's Social Economy

The Moment of Social Economy

Foreword by Juan Antonio Pedreño, President of Social Economy Europe

Intergroup, the appointment of a Commissioner responsible for Social Economy, and the continuation of the Social Economy Action Plan and the inclusion of social economy in all cross-cutting policies. The Social Economy Intergroup is a key dialogue space between Social Economy organizations (SEE) and the Parliament and it is an essential instrument for the cross-cutting implementation of social economy in various European policies.

The Social Economy Action Plan is a roadmap designed to promote and consolidate this key model for the European development, with social cohesion as a central element. This plan, titled Building an economy that works for people, is undoubtedly the largest exercise in policy co-creation towards and with the social economy. I would say it is the result of the largest public-private collaboration exercise. With a fundamental challenge of “Growing to scale.” The plan aims to consolidate a social economy ecosystem in Europe within a nine-year horizon, with an initial budget of 2.5 billion euros and over 50 measures, instruments, programs, and legislative initiatives.

Today, the social economy in Europe represents 6.3% of employment, with the goal of reaching 10%, which would mean employing 22 million people. This growth will not only increase decent work within the EU but also allow us to have greater influence on public policies, promote dialogue as a main objective, and gain greater visibility and recognition.

In 2023, SEE has led the European Alliance together with the European Commission to improve the skills and capacities of social economy enterprises. This Alliance involves almost 100 entities from across Europe, including social economy organizations, training and education centres, local and regional authorities, and clusters. The fact that the Social Economy leads this Alliance for the social economy and proximity industrial ecosystem is further proof of its recognition and relevance.

In the last two years, the advances have contributed to this international momentum of the social economy. The International Labor Organization (ILO) adopted a resolution on decent work and the social economy. The OECD approved a recommendation on the social economy and conducted a comparative study of the different legal frameworks that countries currently have to promote the social economy and facilitate its development. The United Nations adopted, for the first time, a resolution in its General Assembly on the social economy. The Davos Forum has prepared a document on the social economy as an actor in inclusive societies. And in December 2021, the European Commission approved the European Social Economy Action Plan, which was widely supported by the European

Parliament and aims to “promote social innovation, support the development of the social economy and enhance its social and economic transformative power”.

The future presents itself with numerous challenges for the model we represent, including increasing the number of social economy enterprises and jobs, attracting young talent to the social economy, achieving greater recognition and visibility of its contributions to society, promoting better legal frameworks that provide security for social economy enterprises and organizations, participating in social and institutional dialogue, and leading a dignified and inclusive digital and green transformation in Europe. To address these challenges, SEE has established four working groups dedicated to governance, projects, social finance, and disability, which have met regularly throughout the year to develop strategies and concrete actions, and above all, to increase the internal cohesion of the organization. All of this allows us to advance in the economic and institutional consolidation of SEE, which will enable us to increase the organization’s management capacity, expand the workforce, and tackle new projects and new challenges.

The social economy is experiencing a unique moment with great opportunities ahead. In 2023, SEE has participated in numerous high-level events and conferences, such as the European Social Economy Conference in Gothenburg and San Sebastián, where crucial topics like the green and digital transition were discussed, and important commitments were signed to strengthen the social economy. Additionally, SEE has collaborated with international organizations such as UNTFSSSE and has been actively involved in creating the Ibero-American Network for the Promotion of Social and Solidarity Economy, which aims to support the development of social economy organizations and foster conditions for their integration into regional trade.

In conclusion, 2023 has been a year of significant progress and preparation for the future. The social economy has demonstrated its ability to create quality jobs, promote social inclusion, and contribute to sustainable development. It is time to seize this momentum and continue working together to strengthen the people-centred economy that Europe needs. We thank all our members and collaborators for their dedication and continuous support. Together, we will continue driving a more social and just Europe. A final remembrance for the co-presidents and vice-presidents of the Intergroup.

It is the moment of social economy.

Juan Antonio Pedreño
President of Social Economy Europe (SEE)

Who we are

Members

Social Economy Europe has now 24 members!



Our Governance and Team

Bureau



Juan Antonio Pedreño
President of SEE (CEPES)



Alain Coheur
Vice-President (AIM)



Patrizia Bussi
Vice-President (ENSIE)



Jérôme Saddier
Vice-President (ESS-France)

Who we are

SEE Board of Directors 2021-2024



Leonardo Pofferi
ACI



Angela Achitei
(ADV Romania)



Sarah Goddard
(AMICE)



Filipa Farelo
(CASES)



Diana Dovgan
(CECOP)



Mathieu de Poorter
(CEDAG)



Bénédicte Sohet
(ConcertES)



Luca Pastorelli
(DIESIS)



Marie Vial
(EMN)



Heather Roy
(Eurodiaconia)



Daniel Sorrosal
(FEBEA)



Luca de Fraia
(Forum Nazionale Terzo
Settore)



Mathilde Viot
(IPSE)



Miguel Angel Cabra
(Philea)



Luigi Martignetti
(REVES)



Paul O'Sullivan
(The Wheel)



Carmen Comos
(CEPES)



Konstantinos Papadakis
(PASE KALO)



Justyna Iwankiewicz
SZOWES



Petro Darmoris
(Social Economy Ukraine/
Ukrainian Social Academy)



Michal Szwarc
(TechSoup Europe)

Who we are

SEE Staff



Sarah de Heusch
Director



Paula de Diego
Policy Lead and Project Officer



Laura Almirante
Communications Coordinator



Ángel Hernández
Technical and IT Coordinator

An acknowledgement to those who worked with us in 2023



Luka Elosegui
Intern

“My internship at Social Economy Europe (SEE) has been an enriching and invaluable experience. It has not only deepened my understanding of European social economy policies but also provided me with practical insights into the functioning of a renowned organization. I am grateful for the support and mentorship provided by the SEE team, which has significantly contributed to my personal and professional growth. I express my sincere gratitude to SEE for this opportunity and for facilitating this internship. This experience has inspired me to pursue European policy advocacy, and I am confident that the skills and knowledge I have gained will be instrumental in my future endeavours”



Mileva Chialvo
Intern

“The internship was very useful both personally and professionally because I learned about the functioning of an organization of such a high level as Social Economy Europe and I had the opportunity to link with EU institutions and international organizations (UN, ILO, etc.) that helped me in my development, especially because the area in which I want to work professionally is the social economy. On the other hand, the contact with European projects was a novelty for me and I really enjoyed being able to collaborate with other companies and entities, generating an interesting synergy, and being able to make different contacts that can be very useful for my career in the future”

2023. A pivotal year for social economy

UN adopts the resolution “Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development”

The adoption of the resolution “**Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development**” by the UN General Assembly on April 18, 2023, marks a significant achievement for the social economy, placing it prominently on the international agenda. It recognizes the importance of the social economy in promoting democracy and social justice, especially in times of crisis. It highlights the role of social economy in combating poverty and addressing societal inequalities exacerbated by crises like COVID-19 and climate change. The resolution emphasizes the contribution of the social economy to labor standards, local community development, digital

and green transitions, and democratic participation. It urges UN member states to develop strategies to support social economy enterprises, enhance their legal frameworks, and integrate them into policy-making processes. Additionally, it calls on UN entities and financial institutions to prioritize the social economy in their development agendas. The resolution concludes by requesting the Secretary-General to prepare a report on promoting the social and solidarity economy for sustainable development, underscoring the significance of this business model in creating a fairer, more inclusive, and sustainable global economy.



SEE is part of the UNTFSSSE that helped pave the way to this resolution and will also contribute to the implementation of the resolution by the UN agency. This is just the beginning, and it is also in continuity of the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (2015), **ILO and OECD** recommendations on SE that were both adopted in 2022.

The attraction of SEE is worldwide and also permeating to different international spheres like the World Economic Forum summit in Davos (January 2024), where OXFAM presented its **Inequality Report** in which it highlights the virtues of SE to prevent the growing inequalities and propose a fairer and more sustainable world.

2023. A pivotal year for social economy

Member States engage further in promoting SE

2023 is a year of exceptional engagement by European members states towards SE. Not only through the adoption of the recommendations on conditions frameworks for SE by Member States (MS), but also by engaging in the San Sebastian manifesto, during the San Sebastian event “People, Planet, Action”, organized November 15th 2023 by the Spanish government during its Presidency of the EU Council. The manifesto was signed by 22 representatives including 19 MS Governments, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and Social Economy Europe. It emphasizes the pivotal role of social economy entities in promoting social, economic, and environmental progress. It highlights the significant contributions of the social economy to the European Single Market and society, representing a substantial portion of economic output and innovation. The manifesto outlines commitments to accelerate a just green transition, promote social cohesion, create quality jobs, reinforce reindustrialization and

territorial cohesion, facilitate sustainable finance and digitization, as well as support welfare and social services systems. It also emphasizes the importance of education and training, cultural initiatives, and social inclusion. The signatories pledge to support initiatives like the **European Social Economy Action Plan**, the **European Parliament’s Social Economy Intergroup**, including SE in external and partnership policies, and data gathering for adapted impact measurement. They advocate for greater recognition of socially responsible and green investments, access to finance and markets, and involvement in policy formulation and governance.

Overall, the San Sebastián Manifesto underscores the essential role of the social economy in addressing contemporary challenges and advancing sustainable development, calling for collaborative efforts to strengthen its impact and recognition at local, national, and international levels.



The manifesto paves the way to the reinforcement of the **Luxemburg monitoring committee** as well as the **Liège Roadmap** that was signed February 2024 by over 20 governments, under the leadership of Belgian Presidency of the EU Council, and particularly the efforts of the Walloon government. The Luxemburg monitoring committee was established in 2015 by representatives of 6 EU governments to promote a common understanding on the scope of the social economy and to make sure it is an actor of the modernization of the single market strategy. It also proposes high-level meetings between those responsible for matters concerning social economy from different

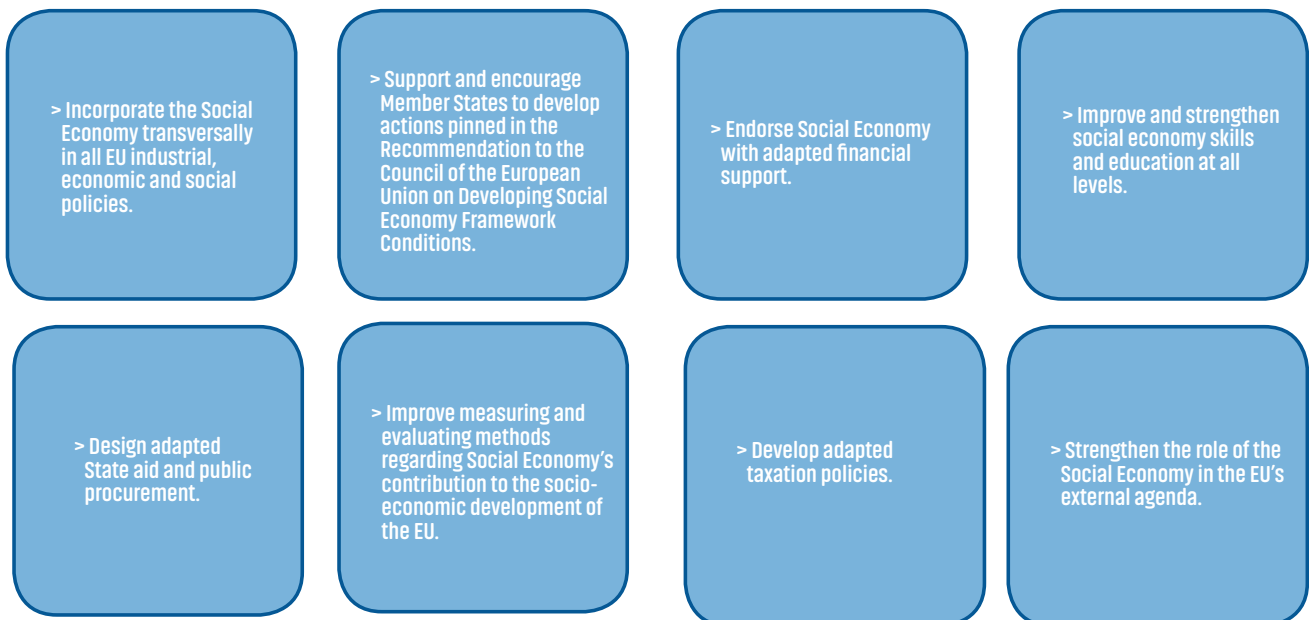
Member States. The Luxemburg Committee is reinforced in its actions.

With the Liège manifesto over 20 governments commit to pursuing 25 concrete actions to boost the Social Economy in Europe including measures to ease the access to finance, to deploy regulatory frameworks and strategies, to raise awareness and improve the data collection on social economy, amongst others. The Liège roadmap supports 2 main points of SEE’s memorandum: pursuing the Social Economy Action Plan and appointing a Commissioner for SE; two points that are in the hands of MS government.

SEE prepares for EU elections in 2024: the memorandum

In 2023, SEE prepared for European Elections that are taking place June 6 to 9, 2024. Together with its members, the Secretariat drafted the SEE memorandum for EU Parliament elections. The memorandum asks candidates, and most of all, future members of European Parliament (MEP) to endorse 3 key points:

1. Renewal of the European Parliament Social Economy Intergroup (SEIG) as it is a key space of dialogue between the Social Economy Ecosystem and the Parliament. The SE cross-sectorial dimension and implication in diverse policies (taxation, public procurement, state aid, skills, industrial strategy, social services...) call for this crucial dialogue.
2. Appointment of a Commissioner responsible for Social Economy to make sure SE stays high on the EC's agenda and is implemented transversally in all EU policies and actions.
3. Pursuit of the Social Economy Action Plan can best be insured if the two previous requests are implemented. In fact, the SEAP was adopted December 2021 and proposes concrete measures to be developed on a 10 years span. Therefore much remains to be achieved, such as:



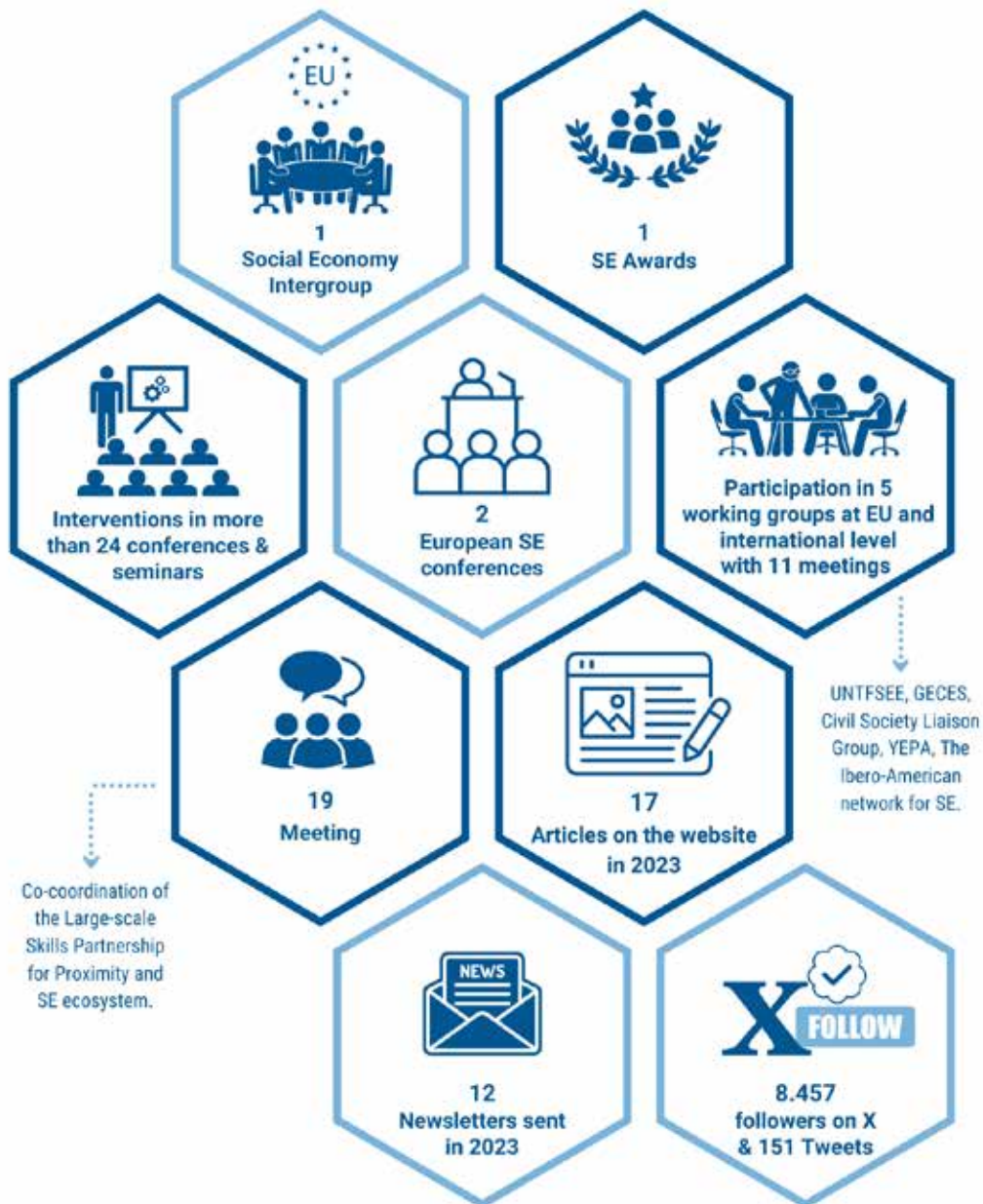
In 2024, the campaign to disseminate the SEE memorandum will be further developed and unraveled.



What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation

2023 in figures





What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation

Key milestones and events

2023 January

16/01:

SEE meets Italian Minister of Labour Marina Calderone, Forum Terzo Settore and Alleanza delle Cooperative Italiane in Rome



23/01:

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez meets SEE president and vice presidents in Madrid



2023 February

08/02:

Adoption of the CoR opinion. Rapporteur: Ricardo Rio

“ This opinion **demonstrates** the strong interest of cities and regional authorities on **social economy** and acknowledges its importance for the society, recognizing the importance of a vibrant **social economy ecosystem** for a **sustainable development** model in all territories

RICARDO RIO
Member of the Board of Directors





What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation

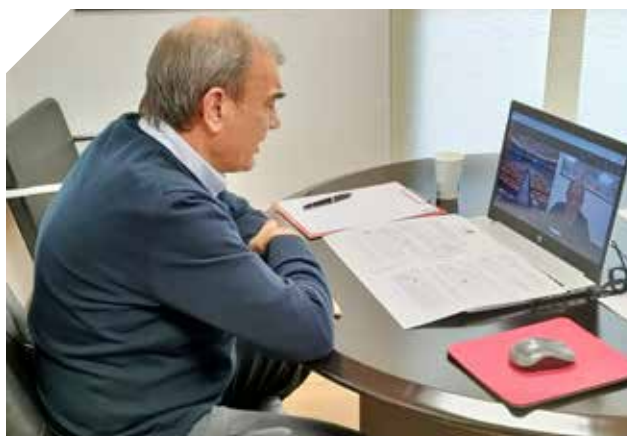
13/02:

SEE Board of Directors (online)



22/02:

President Juan Antonio Pedreño intervenes at the EESC Plenary



28/02:

Intervention of President Juan Antonio Pedreño at the event “Defining the framework conditions of the Social Economy: How far will the EU go?” organized by COMECE at the European Parliament



2023 March

01/03:

Paula de Diego and Carlos Lozano intervene at the event “Inclusivity and the Green Deal-The future of the Social Economy” organized at the Committee of the Regions



09/03:

Commissioner Schmit’s Deputy Head of Cabinet, Santina Bertulesi, meets Social Economy Europe to exchange on full implementation of the European Social Economy Action Plan



20/03:

SEE intervenes at the OECD Summit “Inspiration, innovation and inclusion: Shaping our future with the social and solidarity economy” in Paris

What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation

2023 April

14/04:

SEE President participates at the launching event of the transnational Cooperation Centre for innovation and social economy jointly created by the Portuguese and Spanish Governments in Guarda (Portugal)



18/04:

UN adopts the resolution “Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development”

19/04:

SEE Board of Directors in Paris



19/04:

Joint high-level encounter to celebrate the adoption of the UN Resolution “Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development”



19/04:

CEPES and ESS-France signed a collaboration agreement in Paris with the aim of reinforcing the agreement signed between the governments of Spain and France and promoting the social economy in both countries and in Europe



2023 May

05/05:

SEE Vice-President Patrizia Bussi intervenes at the SEI Forum



What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation

25/05:

SEE intervenes at the Own the metrics campaign event with the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) and the American Sustainable Business Network



27/05:

Intervention of Sarah at "Festival dell' Economia" in Trento



2023 June

07/06:

SEE General Assembly in Goteborg (Sweden)



07-09/06:

European Social Economy Conference in Goteborg (Sweden)



13/06:

The European Commission adopted a proposal for a Council Recommendation on developing social economy framework conditions



2023 July

13/07:

Intervention of Patrizia Bussi at the event “Le città per l’economia sociale, per un futuro giusto e sostenibile” in Bologna, Italy



What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation

16-17/07:

SEE participates at the EU-LAC Summit in Brussels



17/07:

Commissioner Schmit's Deputy Head of Cabinet, Santina Bertulesi, meets Social Economy Europe



2023 September

01/09:

SEE Director Sarah de Heusch intervenes at the Polish economics network Conference Regeneracja! Warsaw, Poland





11/09:

EMES Conference, Frankfurt, Germany



12/09:

Board of Directors in Strasbourg



12/09:

Social Economy Intergroup event on the Council Recommendation on developing social economy framework conditions in Strasbourg



What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation

29/09:

SEE attends the Global Innovation Coop Summit, Montreal, (Canada)



2023 October

02-03/10:

SEE attends the UNTFSEE technical symposium in Montreal



11-12/10:

Annual face to face meeting of the baSE project in Dolo (Italy)



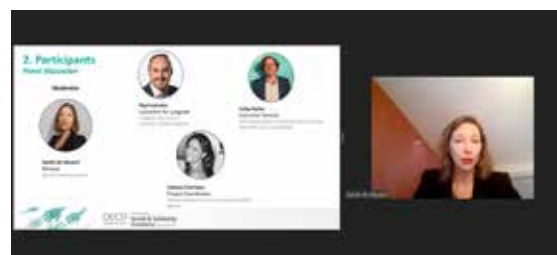
17/10

SEE attends the Social Economy Conference in Barcelona



27/10:

Sarah de Heusch moderates the OECD webinar “Platform cooperatives: Building good jobs and great places”



What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation

2023 November

03/11:

Sarah de Heusch intervenes at The Wheel event on skills, Dublin, Ireland



07/11:

SEE Vice-President Alain Coheur and Sarah de Heusch intervene at the AIM Joint committee meeting “Which legal frameworks for a flourishing social economy where mutuals can play their role?”, Brussels



07/11:

President Juan Antonio Pedreño intervenes at the event to celebrate 10 years of the Portuguese Social Economy Law, Lisbon



13-14/11:

European Social Economy Conference in San Sebastián (Spain)



14/11:

European Social Economy Awards II Edition



15/11:

SEE participates in the European SME Week in Bilbao (Spain)



What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation

17/11:

SEE co-organizes the event “Digital social economy: An opportunity for European citizenship and democracy” at the EESC in Brussels



29-30/11:

President Juan Antonio Pedreño intervenes at the XXIII Regional Conference of Cooperatives of the Americas

2023 December

04/12:

SEE General Assembly in Brussels

14/12 :

Sarah de Heusch intervenes at ConcertES General Assembly, Namur (Belgium)



2024 January

24/01:

SEE President Juan Antonio Pedreño and SEE Director Sarah de Heusch participate at the event on EU funding organized by UCOMUR in Murcia (Spain)



29-31/01:

Creation of the Ibero-American network for Social Economy, México



What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation

29/01:

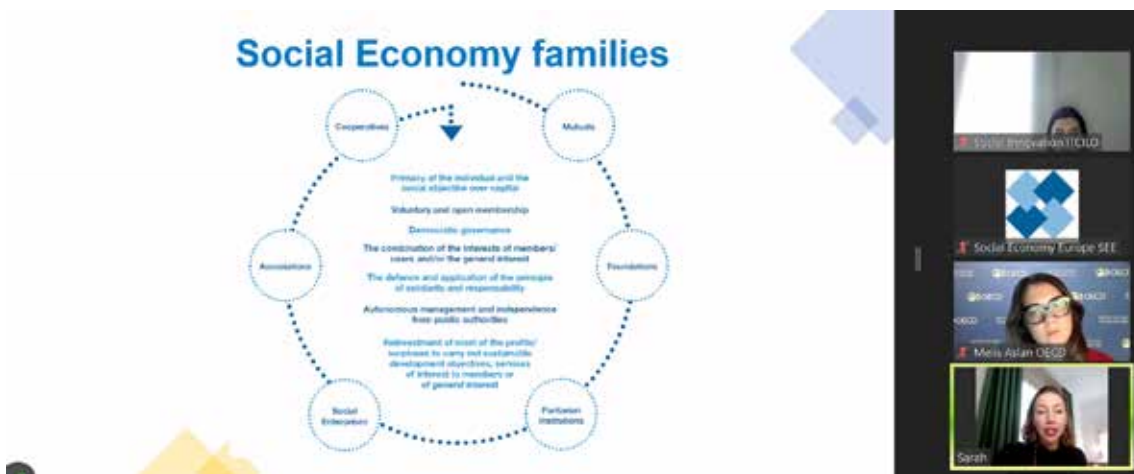
Sarah de Heusch intervenes at SE4Ces event at the EESC, Brussels



2024 February

06/02:

EE intervenes at the ITCILO course on Social Economy



07-08/02:

Kick-off meeting of Laurel project in Barcelona



12-13/02:

European Social Economy Conference in Liège (Belgium)

The Social Economy at the core of the transitions conference took place in Liège on February 12 and 13, in the framework of the Belgian Presidency of the EU Council. Over 600 people participated, most of them social economy actors and grassroots organizations.

They have been two intense days of exchanges, learning and celebration of the global momentum that the social economy is currently experiencing. It was a historic moment as never before has a European conference on social economy greeted as many Ministers and delegates: 19 EU Member States were represented. Many claimed that the social economy is essential and put it in the front line of their political agenda.



What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation



baSE project stand at the Conference





SEE President with Ivanka Shalapatova, Minister of Labour and Social Policy of Bulgaria

14/02:

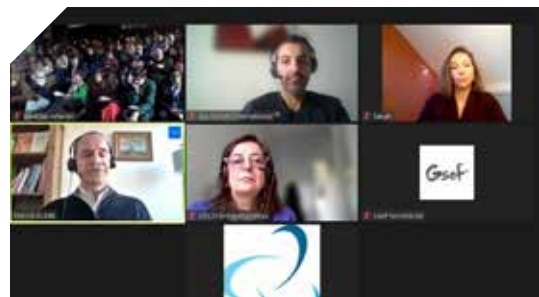
SEE General Assembly in Brussels



2024 March

13/03:

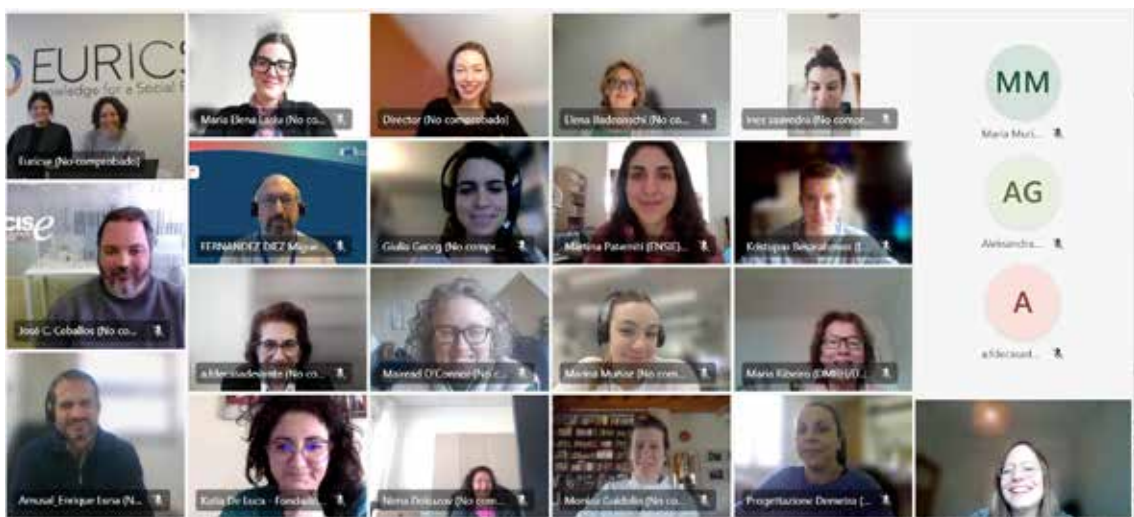
Sarah de Heush intervenes at the meeting on the international dimension with ESS-France



What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation

21-22/03:

SEE participates in the annual event on the Pact for Skills as co-coordinator of the Large-scale Skills Partnership (LSP) for the Proximity and Social Economy ecosystem



2024 April

12/04:

Sarah de Heusch intervenes at the ENAIP event on CCI & Social Economy ecosystem





16/04:

Social Economy Intergroup event “The Social Economy in the EU elections 2024” at the European Parliament, Brussels

The last Social Economy Intergroup meeting of the EU legislature was an important milestone for social economy for the upcoming EU elections in June. SEE could share its manifesto points: the renewal of the

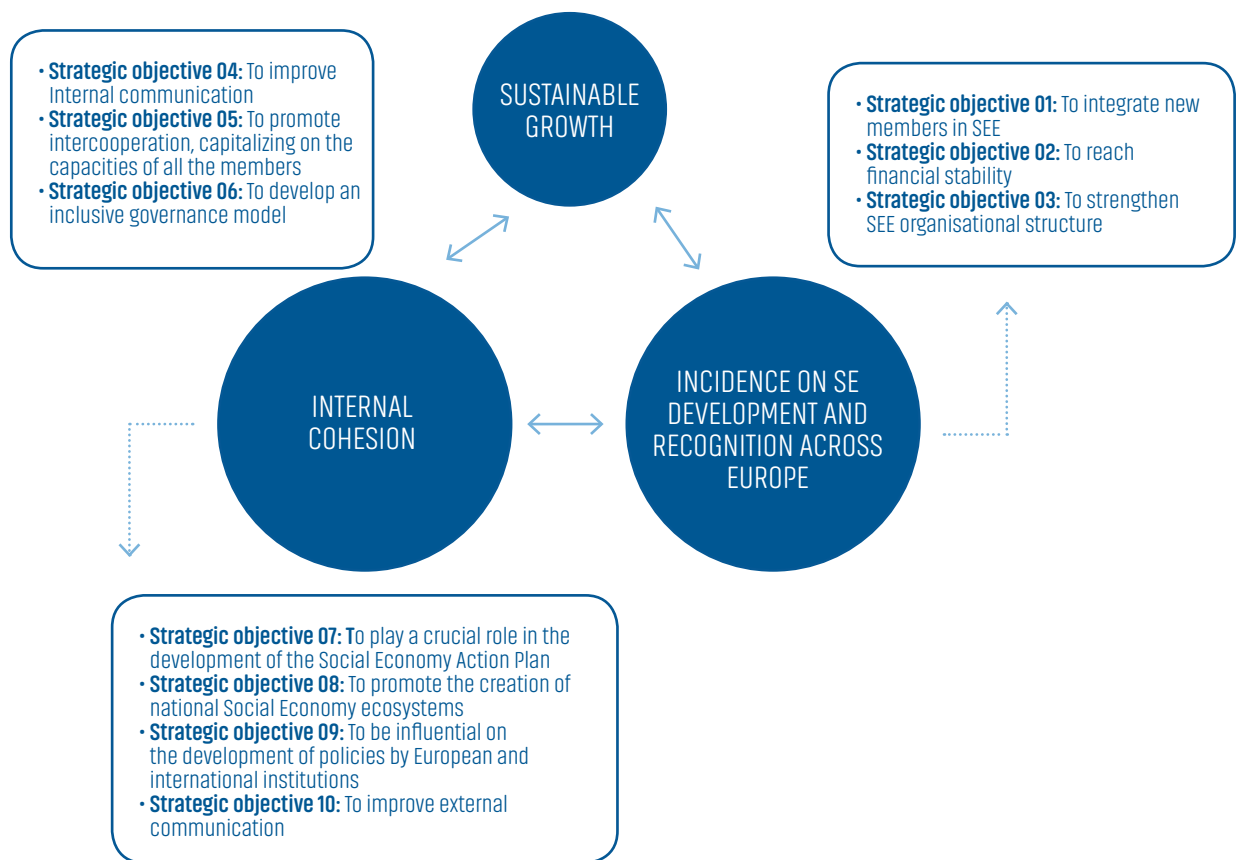
Social Economy Intergroup, the appointment of an EU Commissioner for Social Economy and the pursuing of the implementation of the Social Economy Action Plan. The meeting could count on the intervention of high-level representatives and key figures for SE including MS governments representatives and social economy actors working in diverse sectors of activities who explained the unique contribution of social economy to many crucial challenges that the EU is facing.



What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation



The SEE Strategic Plan 2023-2026



The SEE action plan 2023-2026, was drafted and approved in 2022. It proposes to address 3 main challenges: sustainable growth, internal cohesion as well as supporting social economy development and recognition. To address these challenges, 19 actions are proposed.

The implementation of the strategic plan actually started in 2023 mainly through two new strands of activities: the setting up of 4 working groups and the submission of 9 projects. Of course, SEE continued its work of advocacy towards the EU institutions and internationally.



What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation

Supporting the development and recognition of the social economy



SEE meets Sven Giegold, State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action of Germany during the European Social Economy Conference in San Sebastián (Spain)

Links with EU institutions

One of SEE's main objective, from the get-go, is to link the SE ecosystem to the EU institutions, to provide concertation amongst the different families in order to speak as one voice to all the EU institutions.

Dialogue with the European Commission

As the Commission is the EU institution that designs and implements legislations, policies and actions, SEE interacts in many ways with the EC, and even with different DGs (mainly, but not exclusively, with DG Empl & DG Grow and Commissioner Schmit's cabinet), and on different topics. Here are some of the threads that link SEE to the EC:

GECES

SEE is a member of the European Commission Experts Group on Social Economy (GECES) since 2013. In 2023, the group met twice. The main objective of the group is to connect EC (DG Empl & DG Grow), representatives

of National governments as well as representatives of the SE ecosystem (networks and national representatives). The GECES worked mostly on the follow-up of the implementation of the SEAP.

Implementing the Social Economy Action Plan

The Social Economy Action Plan (SEAP) was launched in December 2021, and has been unravelling since. 2023 was a very constructive year as 2 important milestones were set. First, the launch of the **SE Gateway**, the one-stop shop of SE, where one can find information for and about the social economy in Europe: information about social economy at EU level, social economy ecosystems in the EU Member States (resources and information on major stakeholders), information about the SEAP and relevant EU funding programs. SEE participated in the dedicated working group between the EC and other networks for the collection of information and data prior the launching of the portal.



Commissioner Schmit's Deputy Head of Cabinet, Santina Bertulesi, meets Social Economy Europe to exchange on full implementation of the European Social Economy Action Plan. March 25, 2023



Implementing the Transition Pathway for the Proximity and Social Economy ecosystem

The **Transition Pathway for the Proximity and Social Economy** (TP P&SE) ecosystem was launched at the end of 2022 and is linked to the EU industrial strategy (with 14 industrial ecosystems in total including the P&SE). The blueprint of this ecosystem was a collective process in which SEE participated as one of the authors of the co-creation project. The TP for P&SE is a framework that outlines the steps and strategies for transitioning towards a more localized and socially oriented economy. It emphasizes reducing dependency on long supply chain or globalized economic systems and promoting local production, consumption, and community-based initiatives. Overall, the Transition Pathway for the Proximity and Social Economy ecosystem aims to create more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable communities by fostering economic activities that prioritize social well-being, environmental stewardship, and local autonomy. This initiative proposes 7 green actions areas and 7 digital actions areas (for which actors of the ecosystem can make pledges), 30 concrete actions and 4 megatrends.

In 2023, SEE submitted its **pledges for the TP** and 2 projects proposals directly linked to the objectives of the Transition Pathways: boosting the digital transition of social economy enterprises and SMEs and Greening the social economy

What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation

Coordinating the LSP of the P& SE ecosystem

The **Large-scale Skills Partnership (LSP)** of the P&SE ecosystem is part of the wider **EU Pact for Skills** and focuses particularly on the upskilling and reskilling of the ecosystem in line with the Transition Pathways. SEE coordinates this LSP together with **Euricse**. In 2023, SEE and Euricse started a process to renew the **commitments of the LSP** that has been approved and published in 2024. The new commitment can be considered as a decentralised roadmap to be paved until 2030 through the following 5 pillars:

1. Strengthen the partnership
2. Map the state of the art of skills of the LSP
3. Improve skills intelligence for the ecosystem
4. Knowledge sharing
5. Support partners to develop up- and reskilling activities

Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy (YEPA)

SEE participates in the **Youth Entrepreneurship Academy (YEPA)** co-organised by the EC & OECD. In 2023, it has participated to 2 workshops on the following topics: access to finance and green entrepreneurship.



Collaboration with European Parliament and the Social Economy Intergroup

SEE is the secretariat of the European Parliament's Social Economy Intergroup since its creation.

September 12th 2023, SEE organized together with ville metropole de Strasbourg, ESSFrance and CRESS a **Social Economy Intergroup (SEIG)** event at the Kaleidoscoop in Strasbourg, a symbolic venue promoting cross-border encounters and collaboration. Against the backdrop of the venue's significance, the event aimed to discuss the **Council Recommendation on developing social economy framework conditions**, a topic under negotiation at the time. The first panel examined the recommendation from the European institutions

viewpoint and SE representatives at European level; the second focused on the views of national, local and SE actors themselves. Key figures including MEPs Patrizia Toia, Claude Gruffat, Katrin Langensiepen, and Monica Semedo, alongside other participants, deliberated on various aspects of the Council Recommendation. Véronique Bertholle, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg, highlighted the city's commitment to the social economy, setting the tone for discussions. Patrizia Toia, Co-Chair of the SEIG, emphasized the role of the Social Economy Intergroup in advocating for legal instruments to support SE development and stressed the need for a collaborative approach to harness SE's transformative potential.



The event featured insights from notable speakers such as Juan Antonio Pedreño, President of SEE and CEPES, Giuseppe Guerini, Member of EESC and President of CECOP, Victor Meseguer, Special Commissioner for Social Economy in Spain or Claude Gruffat, Co-Chair of the SEIG among others, who underscored the significance of the Council Recommendation in advancing the Social Economy Action Plan's objectives. Discussions delved into different dimensions of SE,

ranging from how it develops an economy centered around human needs, how it contributes to the EU industrial strategy, but also the importance of state support and developing a level playing field framework that enables a truly fair competition. Overall, participants advocated for the adoption of an ambitious version of the Council Recommendation by Member States to bolster the social economy framework across Europe.



What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation



The last Social Economy Intergroup meeting of the EU legislature entitled *The Social Economy in the EU elections 2024* took place on April 16, 2024



Dialogue within the Civil Society Liaison group of the EESC

SEE is member of the Civil Society Liaison Group of the European Economic and Social Committee, which gathers representatives from 17 countries & about 40 civil society organizations from across the EU. Its overall objective is to provide a framework for political dialogue and cooperation between the EESC and the European organizations and networks with whom the Group liaises on cross-cutting issues of common interest. In 2023 the group met 3 times and organized the civil society days in March. The main areas of concern in 2023 were the essential role of civil society organizations in providing social cohesion and democracy in Europe, especially in times of crisis (post-covid, war...). It recognizes that a strong, independent and diverse civil society is a key ingredient in ensuring a resilient democracy, able to safeguard both our fundamental rights and the integrity of our democratic way of life.

Dialogue with Committee of Regions

February 8, 2023, the Committee of Regions (CoR) adopted the opinion **Creating an enabling environment for the social economy – the local and regional perspective**. The document demonstrates the keen interest of cities and regional authorities in the social economy's role in sustainable development. The opinion, presented by Ricardo Rio, Mayor of Braga, fully supports the **European Commission's Action Plan for the social economy** and emphasizes the need for updated data collection methods and a common methodology for assessing the social economy's impact. The CoR proposes specific policy measures, including establishing clear taxation and state aid guidelines, developing a taxonomy of social investments, and appointing a European Social Economy Capital annually to enhance visibility and support local community development. Emphasizing the importance of proximity and reinvestment in local communities, the opinion underscores the social economy's significance in strengthening Europe's resilience, cohesion, and strategic autonomy.



*This opinion **demonstrates** the strong interest of cities and regional authorities on **social economy** and acknowledges its importance for the society, recognizing the importance of a vibrant **social economy ecosystem** for a **sustainable development** model in all territories*

RICARDO RIO
(PT/EPP), MAYOR OF BRAGA



What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation

Dialogue with Council

SEE interacts with many European governments, especially where there are national or regional SE representative bodies. In particular, in 2023, the network met with Spanish government regarding many policies and economic support related to SE. SEE also met with representatives of the Italian government to promote a recognition of the SE ecosystem as defined by the EU and UN, and to advocate for adapted policies. In the frame of the recommendation to Council on condition framework for SE, the secretariat developed analysis and recommendations it shared with all EU governments. It was even informal adviser to some governments.

Boosting the Social Economy around the globe

SEE's role is to raise awareness about SE within the EU and in its cooperation with the rest of the world. As such, SE is involved in many working groups that have a global outreach.

UNTFSSSE

On April 18, 2023, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution “**Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development**” (A/RES/77/281). This is a historic moment for social economy as the resolution provides an official definition for the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) and acknowledges that it is a major contributor to the achievement and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals. The resolution recognizing SSE's role in promoting democracy and social justice, it encourages Member States to implement national, local, and regional strategies to support and enhance the SSE. This includes developing specific legal frameworks, incorporating SSE contributions into national statistics, providing fiscal and procurement incentives, and including SSE in education and capacity-building initiatives. It also stresses the importance of facilitating access to financial services and funding for SSE entities while ensuring their participation in policymaking processes.

The resolution further calls on relevant UN entities, including country teams, to integrate the SSE into their planning and programming instruments, such as the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation

Framework, to support states in achieving the SDGs. Additionally, it encourages multilateral, international, and regional financial institutions and development banks to support the SSE through various financial instruments and mechanisms. Finally, the resolution requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the resolution, highlighting the SSE's contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and an inclusive, job-rich, resilient, and sustainable recovery. The output of the resolution should be included in the agenda of the UN 79th session on “Sustainable development.”

The resolution also acknowledges the work of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSSSE) which prepares throughout 2023 & 2024 the implementation report of the resolution to be presented in fall 2024. SEE is an observer within the UNTFSSSE and as such contributes to the work and recommendations linked to SSE at EU level.

The Ibero-American network for SE

In 2023, SEE worked together with ACI Americas and governments of Spain, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, and Mexico to the establishment of the Ibero-American Network for the Promotion of the Social and Solidarity Economy. This network aims to support Social and Solidarity Economy organizations, fostering conditions for their development and integration into regional trade. Vice-President of Spanish government Yolanda Díaz highlighted this initiative as a response to global economic disorder, promoting sustainable, democratic development, and equitable wealth distribution, thereby improving living conditions, especially for vulnerable populations. The network is seen as a milestone in strengthening cooperation between Europe and Latin America, enhancing democracy and social justice.

The network was officially created in January 2024, following the footsteps of the UN General Assembly Resolution on the Social and Solidarity Economy, driven by the Spanish ministry, aimed at promoting supportive policies for this approach of economy. Vice-President Diaz emphasized that the Social Economy bolsters strategic autonomy and prioritizes community well-being, offering resilience and local service. Juan



Antonio Pedreño, President of CEPES and SEE, praised the network for complementing efforts to place the Social Economy on the Ibero-American agenda. Alongside representatives from the ILO, UN, and the Mexican government, Pedreño urged governments to empower Social Economy organizations in public policy. He stressed the Social Economy’s role in addressing regional challenges by creating quality employment, fostering inclusive growth, enhancing social protection, and promoting sustainable development through fair, green, and digital transitions.

Key advocacy topics

Council Recommendation on developing social economy framework conditions

SEE played a major role in the **Council Recommendation on developing social economy framework conditions**. As the network that federates the different SE families and major networks, it was able to provide an in-depth **analysis** of the recommendation drafted by the EC to the Council. This was drafted by SEE together with its members and was sent by the Secretariat to all MS governments, and more precisely relevant ministers of the EPSCO that were supposed to vote on the recommendation. Before that, and to prepare input to GECES meeting on the topic, SEE also concerted with other networks such as Cooperatives Europe, RREUSE, Coompanion & Euricse.

To ensure a wide support by Parliament and parties, a Social Economy Intergroup on the recommendations was organized in September. The Spanish Government had a major role in finding consensus and a swift adoption of this policy Recommendation. The **recommendation** was finally adopted by the Council on November 27th. From that date, Governments have 24 months to propose concrete measures at national level, these will be monitored by the EC.

ECBA

On September 5, 2023, the EC adopted a **proposal for a Directive of the EU Parliament and of the Council on European Cross-Border Associations (ECBA)** to facilitate cross-border activities of non-profit associations in the EU. The Commission’s proposal introduces an additional legal form of a European cross-border association (ECBA) in Member States’ national legal systems, which is specifically designed for cross-border purposes and will reduce legal and administrative burden when it comes to the recognition and establishment of non-profit associations engaging in activities in another Member State.

SEE worked together with Social Services Europe and particularly its’ members CEDAG, Philea and AIM on a joint reply to the public consultation.

What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation



Major Social Economy events

Goteborg SE conference

During the Swedish presidency of the EU, Coompanion organized in collaboration with Social Economy Europe, REVES and CECOP a conference in Gothenburg entitled *Social Economy 2023 - Building a stronger and resilient Europe*. The conference was organized with the support from the Region Västra Götaland, School of Business, Economics and Law at the University of Gothenburg and Fremia. The Conference which counted on the participation of key figures such

as Commissioner Nicolas Schmit, Patrizia Toia, MEP co-chair of the Social Economy Intergroup and Yolanda Díaz, Minister of Labor and Social Economy and 2nd Vice President of the Government of Spain was a perfect initiative to continue raising awareness about the power of social economy as a key player on the international scene. SEE President, Juan Antonio Pedreño, and Vicepresidents, Alain Coheur and Patrizia Bussi, also participated as speakers.

In addition, SEE and Cecop organized a parallel session on “social economy as driving force for green and digital transition” in the frame of the conference. The session was divided in 2 panels: one focused on green transition with the participation of prof Bjorn Wikhamn from University of Gothenburg, Hanna Surmatz from

Philea and Lorenzo Giornelli from Ceramiche Noi, and the second one focused on digital transition with the participation of Sibylle Reichert from AIM, Petter Joelson from Digidem Lab and Gianluca Pastorelli from DIESIS.



EU Social Economy Conference in San Sebastián and its manifesto

November 13th and 14th, the European Social Economy Conference “People, Planet, Action” took place in San

Sebastian (Spain) in the framework of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.



What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation

The conference counted on high-level speakers such as Nicolas Schmit, EU Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, Oliver Röpke, President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and Mia

Seppo, Assistant Director General for Jobs & Social Protection International Labour Organization (ILO), amongst many others.



SEE participated in the workshop on European Year of skills in which Sarah de Heusch explained the objectives of the Pact for Skills and the **specific commitments of the Large-scale Skills Partnership (LSP) for the Proximity and Social Economy ecosystem** that SEE & Euricse co-coordinate.

SEE also organized the parallel session How can better Social Economy legal frameworks contribute to building digital commons alongside **Philea** and **SOGA**.





The conference ended with the signature of the **San Sebastián Manifesto** by 22 representatives including 19 MS Governments, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and



Social Economy Europe. The conference was a success as attendees were enthusiastic about the various exchanges and commitments that took place.



What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation

European Social Economy Awards 2023

The second edition of the SEE Awards took place November 14th right after the conference in San Sebastian at the magnificent venue of Tabakalera.

SEE received 271 candidatures from 29 countries, for 4 different categories: Skills (which represents 10% of candidatures), Social Innovation (57% of the total candidatures), Green transition (25%) and Digital transition (8%).





What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation

The winners:

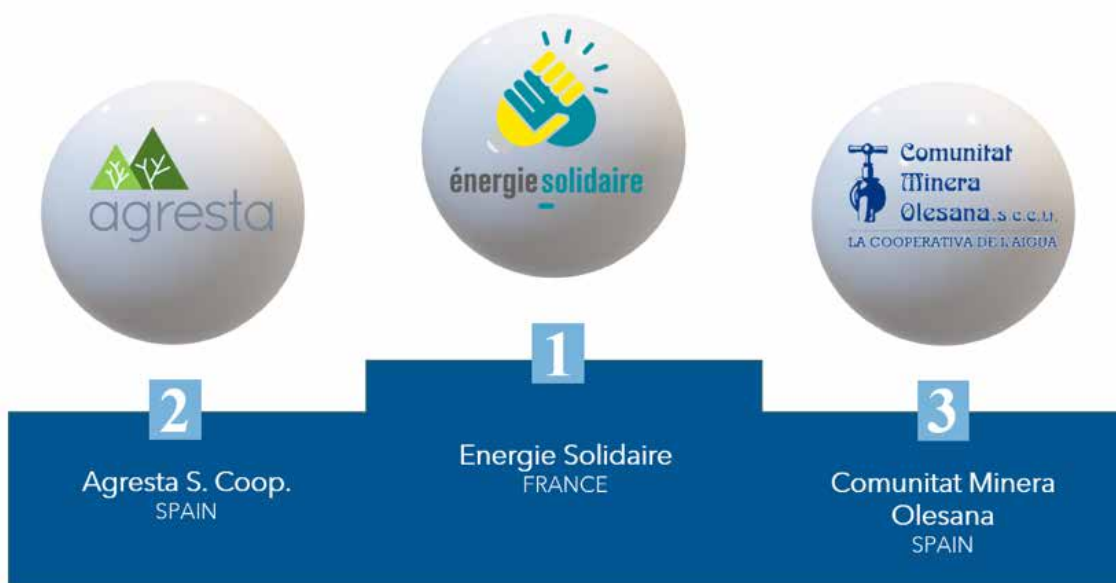
Skills



Social Innovation



Green Transition



Digital Transition



What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation

Special EU Social Economy Awards 2023



Nicolas Schmit

Commissioner for Employment and Social Rights. European Commission.



Patricia Toia

Co-chair of the European Parliament's Social Economy Intergroup.



Yolanda Díaz

Second Vice-President and Minister of Labour and Social Economy. Spanish Government.



Ivanka Shalapatova

Minister for Employment and Social Policy. Government of Bulgaria.



Sven Giegold

State Secretary for Economic Affairs and Climate Action. Federal Government of Germany.



Jury composition:

SEE also thanks the support and work of the Pre-selection jury: Nuria Guilló and Carlos Lozano from CEPES, Ilana Gotz from Euricse, Alessia Sebillio from

Diesis, Konstantinos Papadakis, Maria Zafiropoulou and Stelios Katomeris from PASE KALO, Pascale Zoetaert from ConcertES, Emma Murtagh from The Wheel, Michal Swarcz from TechSoup Europe and Sarah de Heusch and Paula de Diego from SEE.

Sponsors:



Trophies:

Trophies were designed by José Antonio Lucas (an artist from Murcia) & Ceramiche Noi:



What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation

NEC (Social Good Accelerator)

The NEC ESS Europe event on November 17, 2023, organized by SOGA and co-funded by Crédit Coopératif as part of ANCT's Numérique en commun[s] initiative, brought together over 200 participants and 80 speakers to discuss the digital Social Economy's role in promoting European citizenship and democracy. Key speakers, including Gabriela Martin (SOGA) and Adrien Duguet (ACTE), emphasized creating open, inclusive digital spaces, integrating technology into democratic processes, and ensuring transparency and data protection, highlighted by the EurHOPE campaign for youth engagement. Jeanne Bretécher (SOGA)

addressed the impact of digital services and public-private partnerships on social and territorial cohesion, while Sarah de Heusch (Social Economy Europe) stressed the unique contribution and huge potential of SE to building a fairer digital world. Patrick Klein (European Commission) underscored co-creation and partnerships for digital transitions, while Denis Stokkink presented the "Social Tech Academy" project which aims at enhancing digital skills in the social economy. Maxime Baduel, French Ministerial delegate for social economy, stressed the need for accountable, democratic digital models to bolster Europe's resilience.



Growth of the network and internal cohesion

Sustainable growth of the network

2 New members:

In 2023 SEE had the pleasure of welcoming 2 new members: l'Alleanza delle Cooperative Italiane & Social Economy Ukraine.

- **Alleanza delle Cooperative Italiane** (Italian Cooperative Alliance) was born in 2011 with the objective of joining the voice of more than 90% of cooperatives in all Italy.



- **Social Economy Ukraine** -that has been previously incorporated in a different type of organisation- became formally a full member. Petro Darmoris, Director of Social Economy Ukraine, thanked SEE for helping in the creation of Social Economy Ukraine, and commented on the progress in public policy development in Ukraine that this organisation has positively influenced.



What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation

Increase of resources through projects

As mentioned in the SEE Action Plan 2023-2026, SEE is encouraged to increase its revenue through growth of membership as well as through funded projects. This

also allows the network to support the implementation of the Social Economy Action Plan. In 2023, SEE is involved in 2 projects:

baSE

Blueprint for advanced skills & trainings in the social economy (2022-2026) Erasmus+ Programme. The baSE project aims at reinforcing the capacities of Social Economy and its human capital in key areas involving 25 partners from 10 European countries establishing an alliance focused on filling the gaps in terms of

skills mismatches for upskilling and reskilling of social economy practitioners. This contributes to developing a new strategic approach (Blueprint) to sectoral cooperation on the offer of skills for new or updated occupational profiles in the SE sector.



Laurel

tackles Actionable policies for adopting high-quality integrated long-term care. It is a Horizon Programme that aims at building better systems for integrated long-term care. Over the next three years, the project will study existing systems and gather insights into the regional and gender differences of long-term care

provision. Using this intelligence, the project will produce actionable policy recommendations and training tools to help systems all over Europe deliver more effective and equitable care. Laurel was submitted and approved in 2023 but the kick-off meeting took place February 2024.



Other projects in which SEE has participated in 2023:

Helpdesk: The ultimate goal of this project is to increase the use of European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding by social services and to make it easier for social service providers to access these funds. SEE is associated partner and member of its advisory board.

Lifetoken: This project aims to implement an innovative platform that addresses the CO₂ Life Cycle from its emission to its offset by assessing the different Forest Land Management. SEE organized the project final conference on June, 29 at the EESC.

Accessibilitech: is led by Fundación ONCE, and aims at developing a search engine for accessible technologies. SEE participated as an associated partner. The project, aimed at bridging the digital gap for people with disabilities through the creation of a Toolkit offering resources and guidance on accessibility, along with a mapping tool for projects enhancing telework, e-learning, and telecare for persons with disabilities in Europe. The final conference was organized in Brussels on January 18th 2023.

Diversification of SEE resources

The funding of SEE relies on membership fee and EU projects, the situation is neither ideal or sustainable. In 2023, a reflection between SEE secretariat and the bureau started on diversification of means through different options. Given the structural governance changes in the network, it was decided that reflection should be pursued by the executive board that will be elected in June 2024.

To help this reflection, the secretariat is improving its presentation of budget and accountancy, in order to improve transparency as to the different allocations and origin of the network's resources. This work started in 2023 and continues in 2024.

Strengthening the internal participation and governance

The rapid growth of SEE calls for a change in the organizational structure and strengthening of the governance of the network. To encourage inter-cooperation among SEE members and facilitate participation of members to various topics of interest, 4 different working groups were launched in 2023, one of which drafted the new statutes and governance model of SEE. Given this diversification of activities, and in order for members to be kept informed about all the activities carried out by the network and its members, the secretariat regularly communicates through emails, social media and newsletters.

Launch & setting up of 4 Working Groups

WG Governance

The governance WG is coordinated by Carlos Lozano from CEPES and includes the active participation of 11 member organizations (ACI, AIM, CECOP, CEDAG, CONCERTES, DIESIS, ESS-FR, PASE KALO, Philea, SZOWES, and REVES). The WG met 4 times in 2023 and focused on necessary changes in bylaws to comply with changes in Belgian legislation. The proposed changes in governance model (mainly the replacement of the board of directors with a smaller executive committee) were adopted by the extraordinary GA, December 4th 2023. In 2024 the WG will translate and

further specify these bylaws changes within the internal rules of the association. The WF will also address the different categories of members, in order to answer the growing demand for membership by increasingly diverse profiles of organizations.

WG Projects

EU funded projects are a way of financing areas of work of SEE and also to fulfil key objectives related to SEE's missions. Setting-up a working group on projects is an opportunity for SEE and its members to identify the priority areas of work for SEE and to link them to EU objectives and financing opportunities. It is also an opportunity to map which members are working on which topics and to better coordinate efforts across the network regarding project proposals. In fact, all members have strong knowledge in different areas and experience in terms of EU funded projects. But all this is scattered, the WG is an opportunity to promote internal cohesion, encourage synergies, coordinate actions and establish a common SEE workplan on projects to better implement a Social Economy Europe action plan.

The WG met twice, is coordinated by Sarah de Heusch (SEE) and counts on the participation of 13 organizations (ACI, ADV, CEPES, CECOP, DIESIS, EMN, ENSIE, ESS-FR, PASE KALO, SE Ukraine, SZOWES, TechSoup and The Wheel).

WG Social Finance

The SEE Social finance WG is led by FEBEA and gathers ADV, DIESIS, EMN, ENSIE, ESSFR, Fundacion ONCE and Philea). In its activities the group explores common approaches to create constructive inputs for EU Policy,

What we did in 2023: EU advocacy, strengthening the network & members participation

that can improve financial instruments necessary at EU level as well as available resources. The goal of the group is to improve the financing of the Social Economy ecosystem, with the SEAP as its main starting point. The outputs of the WG will feed into the overall SEE Advocacy. The WG met twice in 2023 and produced a policy paper in 2024 on InvestEU funding.

WG Disability

The objective of this WG is to ensure that the contribution of Social Economy to the social and labour integration of people with disabilities is visible and recognised at

EU level. It also allows to explore how new disability-related legislation can generate opportunities for the Social Economy ecosystem (e.g. the European Disability Card). The WG can also identify and exchange best practices as well as ensure that the disability perspective is included in SEE position papers and publications.

The WG met once in 2023 and is coordinated by Fundación ONCE and counts 8 organizations (AIM, ADV, CECOP, CONCERTES, ENSIE, PASE KALO, SZOWES and Philea).

A new governance model

Thank to the preparatory work of the Governance Working Group, in December, the SEE GA adopted new statutes to improve its governance. Indeed the rapid growth of SEE members over the last few years, as well as the diversification of membership called for a reorganization of the network, not only through the activation of WG , but also through its governance.

The large board of directors has been reduced to a minimum of 4 people and a maximum of 12 representatives plus a president which all compose the executive board. Each category of members (European groupings, European networks & national umbrella organizations) can have a maximum of 4 board members. The founders of SEE are the European groupings (or CMAF that stands for cooperatives, Mutuals, Associations & Foundations), they therefore each have a seat at the board and their vote counts double. The representatives of the 2 other categories of members, European networks and national umbrella organizations, are elected by the GA. A gender balance within the executive board is sought.

Within this executive board, at the first meeting, 2 Vice-Presidents and the treasurer are elected. The consensus will be privileged over other decision making processes, if not possible, vote by secret ballot is the last resort.

Communicating and raising awareness on the Social Economy

Communication is an essential aspect of a network's activity. It is done through continuous social media communication (@SocEcEU), regular newsletters (12 in 2023), publications as well as interventions in high-level conferences, seminars and public debates.

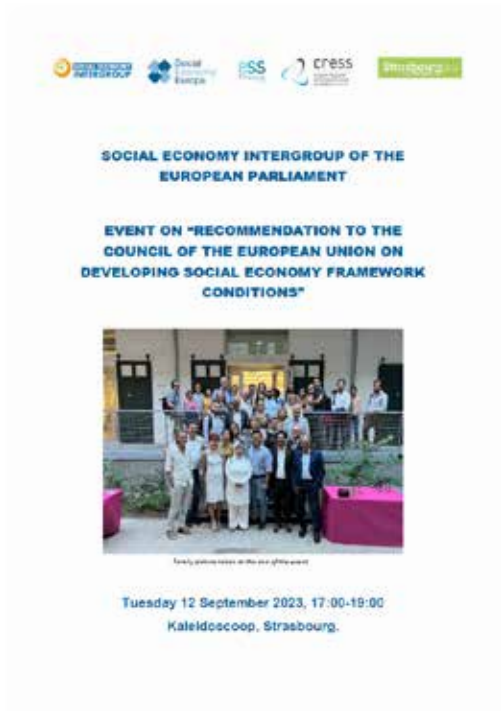
SEE crafted 5 publications:



SEE Memorandum for the European Elections 2024



SEE's Analysis of the Council Recommendation on developing social economy framework conditions



Report Intergroup event on “Recommendation to the Council of the European Union on Developing Social Economy Framework Conditions”, September 12, Strasbourg.



Book: European Social Economy Awards, I edition.



Report Intergroup event: 1 year of the Social Economy Action Plan, 10 years of SEE celebrated on December 7 2022 at the European Parliament (Brussels)

Ways ahead in 2024

UN adopts the resolution “Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development”

If 2023 was a year of changes (with the arrival of a new director, the implementation of the working groups and the design of new bylaws), 2024 is a pivotal year for SEE at different levels.

For the network, on June 24th, elections will take place in Rome which will set-up a new executive board composed by a maximum of 12 persons (a maximum of 4 per category of membership) and a President. There will be no more bureau, the roles of Vice-Presidents and Treasurer will be reduced as different members of the executive board will follow up on different actions or topics.

The network will be growing with the official request for membership by 4 organizations, two of which should be officially accepted in June. It is the national umbrella organization **ASES** from Slovakia and the European network **Microfinance Center** based in Poland.

Beyond these governance changes and the continuous growth of the network, attention on increased income and growth of the SEE team will be crucial. As more EU funded projects are obtained, the team will need to grow. Given the increase in membership and working groups, there is increase work on community engagement and policy work. All this participates to the implementation of the SEAP, and a strong positioning of SEE in the EU arena.

But 2024 is above all an EU election year! The objective will be to make sure Social Economy stays high on the agenda of the new Parliament and Commission. SEE together with its members has elaborated a memorandum with 3 main requests:

- The renewal of the Social Economy Intergroup of the EU Parliament (SEIG)
- The appointment of a Commissioner responsible for SE
- The implementation of the Social Economy Action Plan

To this aim, SEE will disseminate its memorandum largely, will organize encounters with MEPs, political parties and groupings at EU level, participate to EU events linked to the elections as well as organize events to promote the memorandum and the advocacy points. Furthermore, SEE will organise a social media campaign to raise awareness about social economy within the general public and EU candidates. It will also set up a dedicated webpage where EU candidates can endorse the SEE campaign. This should then facilitate the implementation of the 3 points of the memorandum (especially the renewal of the Social Economy Intergroup) after the elections. In fact, once MEPs are elected, there will be a strong behind the scene advocacy to make sure these actions are implemented.

Social Economy Europe thanks its members without whom all this would not be possible. Together we strive for a more social Europe, a Europe that promotes social economy.



Ways ahead in 2024









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