

10 YEARS



## ***SESSION C***

# ***SUPPORT STRUCTURES FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISES IN EUROPE***

***Dorotea Daniele (DIESIS)***  
***Dorotea.daniele@diesis.coop***



## **Social enterprises networking**

- endogenous factor
- typical of social enterprise legal framework
- weight and importance of SE networks (numbers and functions)



---

## Characteristics of support structures

- Plurality
- Cooperation with non social economy actors
- Skills base of social economy advisors
- Sustainability and continuity
- Close to users



---

## Functions of support structures

- Identity/culture/representation/quality
- Business support
- Business/sectoral development
- Local development



10 YEARS



---

## Services provided by support structures

- Training
- Specialist advice
- Business planning / start up tools
- Social audit and quality
- Marketing
- Access to finance, etc.



## Some examples

Identity/culture/representation/quality: the UK Social Enterprise Strategy, Strategies and Italian consortia of social cooperative

Business support: Business and Employment Cooperatives (FR), Barka (PL)

Business/sectoral development: Social Franchising, RREUSE

Local development: Coompanion (SW), Regional Development Cooperatives (Quebec)

---



## **Some recommendations**

- A bottom-up approach and a strategic vision
- A braided support system
- Make use of peer support among businesses
- Support access to larger markets
- Support structures as motor of SE development
- Light and flexible structures
- Specialised structures within an integrated strategy

