



# Social Economy Europe

The EU-level representative  
organisation for social economy



- Where do we come from ?
- Who are we ?
- What do we do ?
- Who do we work with ?



# Historical background

Social Economy in Europe from  
1989 to now



# Historical background

- From 1989 to March 1998

Creation of a Social Economy Unit within DG XXIII Enterprise Policy, Distributive Trades, Tourism and the Social Economy : **Social Economy recognised at political level by the European Commission.**

- From March 1998 to November 2000

The European Commission creates the Consultative Committee for Co-operatives, Mutual societies, Associations and Foundations (CCCMAF): **Social economy representatives take part of the policy making process.**



# Historical background

- November 2000  
Re-organisation of the formal consultative structures of DG Enterprise + creation of the Enterprise Policy Group = **dissolution of the CCCMAF**.  
Creation of the European Standing Conference of Co-operatives, Mutual societies, Associations and Foundations (**CEP-CMAF**).
- January 2008  
The **CEP-CMAF** becomes **Social Economy Europe** with a permanent secretariat as an independent representative structure.



# Our membership

- International and European organisations
- National organisations
- Network organisations

Social Economy Europe is open to European organisations representing new forms of social economy enterprises as well as to national representative organisations that gather several social economy families.



# Our membership

International and European  
organisations



# Mutual Societies

- **AMICE**      **Association of Mutual Insurers and Insurance Cooperatives in Europe**

AMICE was created in 2007 by the two Europe based mutual and cooperative insurance associations: AISAM and ACME. AMICE members directly employ over **320.000 people** and ensure over **100 million members**. They count over 20 % of the European insurance market.

- **AIM**      **International Association of Mutual Health Funds**

AIM was set up in 1950 to represent mutual health funds at European and international level. In Europe, mutual health funds provide social coverage to more then **150 million people** in Europe.



# Associations

- **CEDAG**      **European Council for Voluntary Organisations**

CEDAG was established in 1989. It is a network of regional and national umbrella bodies from across the EU member states. Together, they represent over **50,000 non-profit organisations** with over **9 million** individual members.



# Cooperatives

- Cooperatives Europe      **Common platform of the cooperatives within Europe**

Cooperative Europe has a membership of **175 co-operative organisations**. It represents **163 million member** co-operators, owning **250 000 co-operative enterprises** and giving jobs to **5,4 million European citizens**.



# Foundations

- EFC **European Foundation Centre**

EFC was established in 1989 and represents over **220 members** from over **30 countries**, with assets totalling some **111 billion Euros**.



# Our membership

National organisations



# France

- **CEGES**      **Conseil des Entreprises, Employeurs et Groupements d'Economie Sociale**

CEGES is the organisation representing social economy in France, with 8 members. It was established in 2001. In France, **760.000 business**, which means almost **2 million jobs**, are part of the social economy.



# Spain

- **CEPES** **Spanish Business Confederation of Social Economy**

CEPES is the organisation representing social economy in Spain and has 24 members. It represents the interests of more than 51.500 enterprises and organisations, which means a total of **2.5 million jobs**.



# Our membership

Network organisations



## Regional level

- **REVES**      **European Networks for Cities and Regions for Social Economy**

REVES was established in 1997 and has 85 members representing local authorities and social economy organisations. REVES is the European network of territories that are currently developing or are willing to develop policies to promote social economy. Activities are based on **local partnerships between public authorities and social economy organisations.**



# Sectoral level

- **ENSIE**      **European Network for Social Integration Enterprises**

ENSIE was established in 2001 and gathers 12 national and regional networks, representing 9 countries of the European Union. Social **integration enterprises** are at the heart of the economic system. They aim at integrating socially and professionally excluded people and have a strong pedagogical dimension.

- **FEDES**      **European Federation of Social Employers**

FEDES was established in 2007 and has 5 members. FEDES represents service providers for **disabled and dependant people**, in their mission as employers.



# The Values

- the primacy of the individual and of social objectives over capital - **PEOPLE**
- the defence and implementation of principles of solidarity and responsibility - **MEMBERS**
- conjunction of member users' interest and the general interest - **GENERAL INTEREST**
- democratic control by members - **DEMOCRACY**



# The Values

- voluntary and open membership – **SOCIAL COHESION**
- management autonomy and independence with regard to the authorities - **AUTONOMY**
- surpluses are primarily intended for sustainable development projects, for member services interests and for the general interest - **SOLIDARITY**



# Our objectives

- Promotion of social economy at EU level
- Promotion of social economy actors at national and EU level
- Reinforce political and legal recognition of the social economy and the CMAF at EU level



# Our activities

- active participation to the political debate, direct lobbying,
- organisation of events (conferences, exhibitions) and active participation to other events,
- support to our members' activities at EU and national level,
- networks building and reinforcement,
- facilitating information and communication sharing between actors in the field of social economy (member organisations – research bodies...),
- thematic activities developed in working groups (SIG, competition policies, disability, troika).



# Main aims

- **social economy** is acknowledged and the values it entails are clarified. The specificities of social economy enterprises and organisations are taken into account in the EU policy making process.
- **social economy actors** are recognised as important players and as integral parts of the European social model through jobs creation – innovation – entrepreneurial spirit – social, economic and environmental cohesion – local development – civil dialogue ...
- **Priorities:** membership; visibility; statutes for mutual societies, associations and foundations ; EUROSTAT; social dialogue...



# Interlocutors

- **Members of the European Parliament**  
**How?** Via the Social Economy Intergroup of the European Parliament.
- **Representatives of the European Commission**  
**How?** Informal and formal meetings.
- **Members of the EECS and CoR**  
**How?** Direct collaboration with the Social Economy Category of the CESE



# News

- European conference for social Economy (21-22 November) promoted by the French presidency
- Mainstreaming disability based on the social economy example
- Development of social economy in the Mediterranean countries