



European Economic and Social Committee

EESC Project “Social Entrepreneurs – Make It Happen! – a Renewed Commitment”



EESC Social Enterprise Project Closing Event

July 10, 2015



Starting point the Strasbourg Event

- “Social Entrepreneurs – Have Your Say!” January 16-17, 2014
- Objectives → take stock, identify new priorities, network
- Harvesting results throughout → Strasbourg Declaration
- EESC Project “ Social Entrepreneurs – Make It Happen!” → Feb-Oct





EESC Social Enterprise Project “*Social Entrepreneurs – Make It Happen!*”

Phase 1 – January - October 2014

- **Aims:** Taking stock of Strasbourg results, define new and concrete actions
- **Method:** Bridging to local, regional national level → going local, hearing, storytelling, online forums, meetings policy makers...
- **Outcomes:** Project Report presented in October plenary

Phase 2 – January - September 2015

- **Aims:** Disseminate, communicate, support → continue to bridge in new EU Institutional landscape
- **Activities:** going local, meeting EU policy makers, networking with SE stakeholders
- **Outcomes:** supporting MS action, 3000 reports distributed, 1000+ twitter followers, online community, various meetings
- **Final report** to be published September with proposed next steps



Findings – a few reflections

- There is a genuine **interest** in social economy enterprise
- **Visibility** is rising but remains low
- The diverse **concepts** needs clarification and recognition
- MS **implementation** of support remains low
- Parts of the **ecosystem** exist but must be pieced together in a **coherent** policy framework



Findings - key policy recommendations

1. Develop and launch a **2nd phase of the Social Business Initiative (SBI)**
2. Create an **action plan for social economy** in Europe, with the adoption of the Statutes for European Foundations, Associations and Mutuals
3. Continue with the **Social Economy Intergroup**
4. Launch **capacity building programmes** to support and facilitate social innovation
5. Draft a **guidance note** for MS on implementation of **new procurement rules** and provisions in this area
6. **Mainstream** social entrepreneurship and social economy enterprises into the Small Business Act
7. Gather and share the most **suitable financial solutions and financial eco-system** for social enterprises
8. Recognise and support the **contribution of social economy enterprises to employment** and as a stakeholder in social dialogue
9. **Promote social entrepreneurship in education** at all levels
10. Prioritise further **research** and reflect social enterprises better in national **statistics collection** to increase understanding, recognition and visibility



Project recommendations - status

- ✓ Develop and launch a **2nd phase of the Social Business Initiative (SBI)** – *team ready, await policy*
- 2. Create an **action plan for social economy** in Europe, with the adoption of the Statutes for European Foundations, Associations and Mutuals
- ✓ Continue with the **Social Economy Intergroup** – *launched*
- 4. Launch **capacity building programmes** to support and facilitate social innovation
- 5. Draft a **guidance note** for MS on implementation of **new procurement rules** and provisions in this area
- 6. **Mainstream** social entrepreneurship and social economy enterprises into the SBA
- ✓ Gather and share the most **suitable financial solutions and financial eco-system** for social enterprises – *EESC opinion INT/770, LU priority*
- 8. Recognise and support the **contribution of social economy enterprises to employment** and as a stakeholder in social dialogue
- 9. **Promote social entrepreneurship in education** at all levels
- ✓ Prioritise further **research** and reflect social enterprises better in national **statistics collection** to increase understanding, recognition and visibility – *ILO and 3rd sector impact project in progress*



What's next?

- **Short update to project report** – September
- **New EESC mandates** October 2015 – remains EESC priority – await new members, policies, structures?
- **New EESC opinion** “Building a financial eco-system for social enterprises” – plenary September
- **Continues cooperation** with LU Presidency and EU Institutions continue



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Thank you for your support and teamwork!



<http://www.esc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.social-entrepreneurship-make-it-happen>