

THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF SOCIAL ECONOMY



The main objective of the Euro-Mediterranean **Network of Social Economy** is the **co-ordination** of sector organisations from **France, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Portugal** and **Spain**. The Network was established in October 2000.

The members of the **Euro-Mediterranean Network of Social Economy** have defined the following criteria that rule their co-ordinated actions:

- ❑ The Euro-Mediterranean Network of Social Economy must not be a competitor or duplicate of any representative organisation of the Social Economy or its families existing at the moment in Europe;
- ❑ The efforts of the Network are directed to consolidate the concept of Social Economy in Europe in the philosophy of creating unitary platforms representing all ways of doing business other than the traditional way, in the context of defence of social cohesion and solidarity, always respecting the personality of the various families;
- ❑ The Mediterranean Basin should be a natural geographical area of action for the network, aiding in the development of similar Social Economy structures in the Southern countries of the Mediterranean sea, and carrying bridges of integration in the concept of social representation organs as well as paving the way for setting up free trade in the zone (year 2010).

Members of the Euro-Mediterranean Network of Social Economy

At the moment, the members of the **Euro-Mediterranean Network of Social Economy** are the following:

- Conseil des Entreprises, Employeurs et Groupements de l'Economie Sociale. **CEGES. (France)**
- Panhellenic Forum of Social Economy. **PANCO (Greece)**
- Confederazione Cooperative Italiane. **CONFCOOPERATIVE (Italy)**
- Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e Mutue. **LEGACOOP (Italy)**
- Office du Développement de la Coopération. **ODCo (Morocco)**
- Federação Nacional das Cooperativas de Consumidores. **FENACOOP (Portugal)**
- Instituto António Sérgio do Sector Cooperativo. **INSCOOP (Portugal)**
- Confederación Empresarial Española de la Economía Social. **CEPES (Spain)**

The International Center of Research and Information on the Public, Social and Co-operative Economy-Spain, **CIRIEC-SPAIN**, is participating as an **Associated Member** of the Network.

General Objectives of the Euro-Mediterranean Network of Social Economy

- ❑ To co-operate in the pursuit of a Social Economy as a full social partner in European social and civil dialogues, inside the national authorities in the Mediterranean area and the Community Institutions.
- ❑ To co-ordinate activities by Network members in the European social forums in which they participate or are members and which are involved in the decision-making process affecting the Social Economy.
- ❑ To design joint strategies to contact and approach the main Community institutions (Council, Parliament, Commission, Economic and Social Committee, Committee of Regions, etc.) in order to publicise and defend the interests of the southern European Social Economy.
- ❑ To facilitate dissemination and exchange of experiences and information among members of the Network, particularly with regard to changes in legislation occurring in each country.
- ❑ To co-ordinate and promote projects, studies, seminars and events to further knowledge of the Social Economy among national and Community governments and the society in general.
- ❑ To conceive joint strategies to defend and extend unified concepts of the Social Economy in European Union Member States, contributing the work, which has been carried out by southern European Social Economy organisations.
- ❑ To promote co-operation and internationalisation of Social Economy enterprises by promoting and supporting the establishment of transnational co-operation agreements among enterprises in the sector from the countries taking part, in order to improve their competitiveness and strategic position in the global economy.
- ❑ To contribute to dialogue between the southern European Social Economy organisations and their counterparts in the southern countries of the Mediterranean basin, promoting the establishment of contacts, exchange of experiences and channelling of resources for development of the sector in those countries.
- ❑ To design and implement transnational co-operation projects aimed at facilitating development of Social Economy enterprises in the countries of the Mediterranean Basin European, taking into account the creation of a Free-Trade Area in the region.

The Network has a **Permanent Secretariat** in charge of the co-ordination of its activities and projects, which is assured by the **Spanish Business Confederation of Social Economy (CEPES)**.

For more information about the **Euro-Mediterranean Network of Social Economy**, please, contact:

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