Report of Activities
2010
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2. Presentation of ENSIE a.s.b.l.

ENSIE (European Network for Social Integration Enterprises), asbl, brings together national and regional networks of social integration enterprises in Europe. Recently the «social enterprise» and «social entrepreneurship» concepts are very used but there are different approaches on the definitions. ENSIE and its members in 15 EU Member States have specified their meaning of Social Integration Enterprise.

The identifying principles of the Social Integration Enterprises are:

- **enterprises whose social objective is the social integration and citizenship:**
  Their fundamental and initial objective is the social and professional integration of individuals who through their exclusion and their relegation to a marginal role in society have fallen victim to increasing social and professional handicaps. The social integration enterprises continue to play an ongoing role in the social and professional requalification training that restores to individuals at risk, individuals that are vulnerable and have become marginal, the status of gainfully employed workers. They offer such individuals the opportunity to prepare themselves for their integration into the labour force and to gain access to employment and the training to acquire needed skills.

- **enterprises at the core of the economic system:**
  In their drive towards their social objectives, the social integration enterprises have decided to carry on their activities at the very core of what is most frequently a major factor in the phenomenon of exclusion: the economic system. Faced with concrete situations and their inherent pressures, all of the actors involved in social integration enterprises are forced to overcome the challenges of productivity and, by this fact, of integration. This aspect of integration in a concrete economic context that is subjected to market demand constitutes an effective instrument for the individual and collective upgrading of excluded and marginal persons. This very position induces an obligation towards continuous innovation impacting on the very core of the enterprise.

- **enterprises with a strong pedagogical dimension:**
  The social integration enterprises initiate educational programs designed on the basis of existing potential within the enterprise.
  - Programs of socialisation based, on the one hand, on the rights and privileges of the employed persons and, on the other hand, on the human entrepreneurial community.
  - Programs designed for professional training within a concrete production environment.
  - Programs covering the scope for integration based, on the one hand, on the necessity for dealing with problems and, on the other hand, on the management of integration at the workplace or place of production.
2.1 Objectives of the network

ENSIE takes as its objective the representation, maintenance, and development within the European Union of networks and federations for economic social integration in Europe. ENSIE seeks in particular to:

- reinforce social integration economy actors by the exchange between the member organizations,
- stimulate co-operation and partnerships by promoting good practices and by distributing research results and new applications,
- organize information exchange between members about national and local legislative policies,
- to represent the network and to promote its activities in all relevant European levels,
- work out texts and proposals in order to contribute to the definition of fight against exclusion European policies,
- develop a close and solid co-operation with other European social economy networks.

ENSIE wants to contribute to a socially sustainable development in the European Union. That includes the following aspects:

- the labour market and social integration of vulnerable groups by improving their employability and productivity,
- the economic viability of social integration companies and the reinforcement of their economic role in general,
- equal opportunities for all by supporting the European Union strategy (gender mainstreaming).

2.2 The structure of the network

At the moment, ENSIE a.s.b.l. gathers 19 national and regional networks, representing 15 countries of the European Union (Austria, Belgium, Cheque Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom) and one European confederation.

All these networks pursue, in a manner adapted to local constraints, objectives of social integration of people far from the labour market. Together, they totalise approximately some 4 200 Social Integration Enterprises, and more than 420 000 salaried persons.
A European network:

- CECOP, European Confederation of Workers’ Co-operatives, Social Cooperatives and Social and Participative Enterprises;

Some national networks:

Austria:

- BDV, Bundesdachverband für Soziale Unternehmen

France:

- CNEI, Comité National des Entreprises d’Insertion
- COORACE, Coordination des Associations d’Aides aux Chômeurs pour l’Emploi

Germany:

- BAG Arbeit, Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Arbeit e.V

Grand Duchy of Luxembourg:

- OPE, Objectif Plein Emploi

Ireland:

- DEP, Dublin Employment Pact

Portugal:

- ANIMAR, Associação Portuguesa Para o desenvolvimento Local

Slovenia:

- SËNT, Slovensko združenje za duševno zdravje

Spain:

- FAEDEI, Federación de Asociaciones Empresariales de Empresas de Inserción

Sweden:

- SKOOPI, Sociala arbetskooperativens intresseorganisation

United Kingdom:

- SOCIAL FIRMS IN UK

Some regional networks:

Belgium (Wallonia):

- RES, Réseau d’Entreprises Sociales

Belgium (Flanders):

- SST, Samenwerkingsverband Sociale Tewerkstelling
Cheque Republic:

- **FOKUS PRAHA**

Spain:

- **FEICAT**, Federació d'Empreses d’Inserció de Catalunya

**A local network:**

Denmark:

- **TELEHANDELSHUSET**

Italy:

- **CSAL**, Consorzio Sociale Abele Lavoro

Romania:

- **AFF**, Ateliere Fără Frontiere

### 2.3 The new members

#### 2.3.1 ANIMAR

ANIMAR – Portuguese Association for Local Development is constituted by 82 collective and 110 individual members, is a nongovernmental organization that represents since 1993, a Network of Local Development supporting the inclusion of people at risk of exclusion and exclusion in urban and rural areas, improving the conditions that encourage and facilitate initiatives with economic and social impact on a local scale, carried out by individuals and nonprofits entities.

#### 2.3.2 SĚNT

Sěnt is non-profit, non-governmental, voluntary and humanitarian association active in the field of mental health, umbrella organization in this field since 1993. The organization is independent and autonomous and gets the support of the state, local community and EU funds.

Values:

- Mutual support;
- Social solidarity;
- Individuals rights, etc.

The association is active all around Slovenia (hardly in every region) through different programs (daily centers, residential groups and social integration, advocacy in favour of human rights, stigmatization and public information, first fair of social economy organized last year, etc.). It provides also some services like legal consultancy. The NGO has a large network of contacts with other organizations, home and abroad.

In 1994 was born “Dobrovita plus”, a startups intended to the employment of people with disabilities who are engaged to look after green spaces. Then, the association was interested in entrepreneurship and social enterprises; so they decided to collaborate with other countries and...
created four employment centers. Nowadays, they have a strong experience in the field of social enterprises and are open to social entrepreneurship.

2.3.3 SKOOPi

SKOOPi is the Swedish organisation that takes interest in social cooperatives. The members are social cooperatives. By supplying and supporting the social enterprises with education and adequate information frequently, the social cooperatives in Sweden are well organized.

Social cooperatives are enterprises were the members are people who have difficulties getting employment in the traditional labour market – ex-prisoners, ex-drug users, long-time unemployed, and so on. The cooperatives are owned by their members. Each member has one vote each.

Starting social cooperatives gives people with different disabilities an opportunity to implement to the labour market and become recourses to the society – instead of burdens.

SKOOPi serves as an important organisation that can put pressure to the authorities to improve their support to the social cooperatives.

2.3.4 FOKUS PRAHA

The objective of Fokus Praha is to help people with mental health problems to live a full-value life in society. To meet this purpose, Fokus Praha, develops a wide scale of social and work rehabilitation services verging on self-confidence and practical life skills recovery of those with mental health problems.

They have been in practice since 1990. They make every effort to put across legislative and other changes in the field of psychiatry and social services in the Czech Republic. They lay emphasis on community care, restrictive precautions minimization and law protection of people with mental disorders. They put across new standards of social services – sufficiency, availability and best-quality. They also strive to affect the public not to have any prejudices against those with mental health problems. They do their jobs professionally with love and respect to everyone. They offer comprehensive community care. The organization is composed by psychotherapists, sociotherapists, worktherapists, psychiatrists, experts in education and other workers including volunteers.

Fokus Praha is member of the national Fokus association - 10 regional members (organizations named Fokus - providers of community based services for people with mental health problems). Fokus Praha is also member of the providers of social care services network named SKOK (lobby to the Government in social and health care) and of the social economy network TESSEA, which is partly dedicated to social integration enterprises (social firms).

The association Fokus has two kinds of activities:

a) providing of community based service (community mental health teams, rehabilitation services, day care centers, supported living, supported employment, sheltered workshops, cooperation with hospitals;

b) social enterprises active in gardening, catering, laundry. They also work in collaboration with the Skoda Company.
The jobs offered are usually non permanent ones but not always. In catering for example, the jobs can be long term contracts.

2.3.5 TELEHANDELSHSET

Telehandelshuset is a social enterprise which integrates disabled people into the labour market through employment and vocational education in the business field of telemarketing and customer service. Telehandelshuset enjoys 15 years of experience and nowadays enjoys considerable acknowledgement, both as a legitimate business, but also for its competences as job training facility.

2.3.6 ATELIERE FĂRĂ FRONTIERE

Ateliere fără frontieră (AFF) is a Romanian non-profit association whose mission is the social and professional integration of persons in troubles through a workshop which proposes a solidarity-based and economic activity: recycling and repackaging of computers collected from companies and responsible institutions. The integration workshop is a project carried out in partnership with the Romanian organization Samusocial and with the support of the European Social Fund.

It’s a French model, inspired by Ateliers Sans Frontières, conceived as a pilot project which can be taken over and adapted where necessary. This Romanian association creates “bridge” employment for disadvantaged people and it’s not considered as a sheltered workshop. AFF wants to work with individual coaching on: 1) timetable, rules and codes; 2) regulation of urgent matters; 3) training, job-coaching.

The target is mixed for age, sex and problem: AFF doesn’t work with a specific target but often with persons who cumulate many discriminations and problems. In a year 57 persons have been integrated and 90% of the electronic material collected has been repackaged.

This project, supported by a complex partnership among associative-public-private sectors, represents an integrated model of sustainable development established on three pillars: social, economic and environmental.

2.4 The network resources

Concerning human resources, 2010 has been rather complex. In March Patrizia Bussi came back to work from her maternity leave. She was engaged as coordinator with a part-time contract. Her substitute, Justine Constantin, decided to continue as administration responsible of the “Social Economy” Romanian project with a part-time contract as well. The 1st of March Nathalie Osmalsky arrived. She was engaged half-time and she took care of the Romanian project analysis. At the end of July her contract finished and in these same days Patrizia Bussi was engaged with a full time contract. At the end of the year the team was made up by one full time plus one half time.

Concerning the financial resources, in 2010 ENSIE has been financed by the membership fees and the different projects.
3. Meeting of the decision-making bodies

The General Assembly of ENSIE took place in Vienna, the 25th of June 2010.

The Boards of directors have been organised in:

- Brussels, the 11th February 2010,
- Brussels, the 2nd of December 2010.
4. Institutional representation and contacts of the network with the political and associative fields

The European Union joined forces with its Member States to make 2010 the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The key objectives were: to raise public awareness about poverty and linked issues (not having enough money to spend on food and clothes, suffering poor housing conditions and even homelessness) and renew the political commitment of the EU and its Member States to combat poverty and social exclusion.

Within this framework the European institutions organised several activities and ENSIE, as a network fighting against exclusion and giving an employment and a qualification to disadvantaged group, made itself heard! At the end of 2010 the present and past hard works were recognised and ENSIE received an official recognition from the European Commission. In December 2010 ENSIE signed a triennial partnership agreement with the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion as European network active in the fight against exclusion.

4.1 **European level**

4.1.1 **European Economic and Social Committee**

The European Economic and Social Committee in collaboration with the Tuscan Region, in Italy, organised the 2010 Biennial Conference: “Education to combat social exclusion” in Florence. From the 20th to the 22nd of May Italian and European personalities, as well as many civil society organizations, brought together in order to debate the links between education and social exclusion. The 2010 Biennial Conference went on for three days. During the second day there were three workshops which dealt with the three milestones of social inclusion through education:

- Workshop 1 - Education as a gateway to social engagement: the foundations of inclusion;
- Workshop 2 - Education as a gateway to the labour market: making inclusion real;
- Workshop 3 - Education as a gateway to the exercise of rights: active inclusion.

Charlotte Gruber, ENSIE’s president, presented the network and its enterprises as creativity actors in time of economic and social crisis.

4.1.2 **The European Commission**

ENSIE maintained its dialogue with the civil servants of the General Directorates who are responsible for the topics linked to social economy and work integration. ENSIE used electronic post, verbal exchanges and concrete actions in cooperation with Social Economy Europe (SEE) (see point 4.1.6).
ENSIE also, answered to a European Commission consultation: the consultation from the European Commission on the future EU 2020 Strategy in collaboration with the European organization Social Economy Europe. The European Commission regularly consults on a range of issues in order to collect public opinion on European Union policies. The goal is to enable all citizens to play an active role and to participate in the making of European policies. Consultations are regularly opened regarding numerous fields of activity.

- **Contribution to the consultation from the European Commission on the future EU 2020 Strategy**

As the new Commission had taken up post at the beginning of the year, President BARROSO presented his vision for the European Union in 2020, marked by the search for solutions to exit the crisis. The EU 2020 strategy, based on the Lisbon strategy, wished “for Europe to lead, compete and prosper as a knowledge-based, connected, greener and more inclusive economy, growing fast and sustainably”. In their reply, Social Economy Europe and ENSIE recalled that social economy enterprises had demonstrated resilience during the crisis and that they were capable of providing viable solutions for Europe’s economic, social and environmental development. The question of European statutes for foundations, mutual societies and associations was raised once again.

ENSIE attended the several meetings that the General Directorate Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion organised with the European stakeholders experts in order to promote and sustain the European Commission and the stakeholders initiatives for 2010.

ENSIE participated in the organisation of an open session at the participative Forum « Building together a society for everyone – A circle against exclusion » on the 19-20 of October, at the Halles de Schaerbeek, in Brussels.

- **Open Space: Social Integration Enterprises – an innovative promotion of active inclusion of vulnerable groups**

This session presented and examined the role of social integration enterprises through examples of good practices from Austria, Belgium and Italy. The objective was to discover what social integration enterprises can offer apart their mission of “giving a job”.

### 4.1.3 European Parliament

In 2010 the new European Parliament began its work.

The renewal of the social economy intergroup was confirmed in December 2009. From January on, ENSIE with Social Economy Europe, whose it is a member (see point 4.1.6) sought to establish the
necessary structures to enable the intergroup to work in a more efficient manner and provide the expected results.

Social Economy Europe has played a very active role in establishing the new bureau. The intergroup is now co-chaired by Italian MEP and Vice-President of the European Parliament, Mr Mario MAURO (PPE) and Belgian MEP Mr Marc TARABELLA (PES). Vice-presidents are German MEP Mr Sven GIEGOLD (Greens/EFA); Bulgarian MEP Ms Mariya NEDELCHEVA (PPE); Italian MEP Ms Patrizia TOIA (S&D) and French MEP Ms Marie-Christine VERGIAT (GUE). A secretariat, comprising parliamentary assistants and Social Economy Europe provides the logistic support for the intergroup’s activities. Bureau and Secretariat meetings are organised on a regular basis.

An assessment of activities and a review of the functioning of the intergroup took place. Weakest points were identified and means were proposed - particularly relating to the smooth running. Divergences in expectations and objectives to be reached were thoroughly looked at. A wide consultation regarding the topics to be dealt with was launched among civil society actors engaged in the activities of the intergroup, so ENSIE was also questioned.

Objectives of the social economy intergroup:

- to promote exchanges of views on EU policies and legislation linked to social economy issues,
- to provide regular opportunities for dialogue between MEPs, social economy experts, European Commission officials, civil society representatives and other relevant stakeholders,
- to bring together MEPs from all political parties and all member states,
- to ensure that the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers take into account the social economy and its actors whilst developing their policies.

Decision was taken that the intergroup’s activities would be fully included in the European Parliament’s work. Specific recommendations in link with the subjects dealt with during public hearings are edited and sent to members of the European institutions.

Six public hearings were held and three of those led to the drafting of recommendations. One hearing was organised jointly with the “public services” intergroup. ENSIE attended all the hearings. In the hearing of the 6th April, Salvatore Vetro presented the network and the recommendations of the peer review: The social economy from the perspective of active inclusion - Employment opportunities for people far from the labour market. This peer review was organised by the European Commission at the request of the Belgian government.

4.1.4 Presidencies of the Council of the European Union: Spain and Belgium

Spain and Belgium successively held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2010. In these two countries, the concept of the social economy is recognised as such. In Spain, draft legislation is being created and in Belgium, regional decrees define the social economy.

ENSIE has been involved in the two major events directly linked to the social economy organised by the two presidencies and has also participated in the 3rd Forum on Social Services of General Interest (SSGI) organised by Belgium.
• Spanish Presidency (1 January 2010 - 30 June 2010)

The Spanish Presidency was marked by the making of a draft law on social economy and the institutional measures that followed. The Spanish Council of Ministers announced on 26 February 2010 its approval for legislation on the social economy. Some days previously, the Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, had emphasised that this legislation would enable a legal framework to be defined for all forms of entrepreneurial forms. The draft law was the subject of a major collaboration between the sectors involved, in particular the CEPES (FADEI is one of its member).

It was therefore in a dynamic context that a major conference on the social economy was organised by the Spanish Presidency on 6 and 7 May 2010 at Toledo on: “The social economy in Europe: challenges and opportunities in a globalised world”.

The conclusions highlight the fact that the social economy enterprises are market players that contribute to the building of a strong Europe in a globalised world. The conclusions also included proposals regarding the priorities and measures which could be taken for the development of the social economy in the enterprise policies in the European Union. Finally they emphasise that the social economy represents another business format based on values like long-term benefit, the primacy of people over capital and respect for the environment.

• Belgian Presidency (1st July 2010 - 31 December 2010)

ENSIE was strongly involved in the organization of the conference on the social economy, which directly followed the 3rd Forum on the SSGI.

Social economy conference: “The social economy and the Europe 2020 strategy: Local added value and territorial roots” – 27&28 October 2010

The Belgian Presidency wished to give a positive message on the social economy to the European bodies in order to underline the importance of considering the social economy in a transverse and integrated manner in the provisions adopted at European level, notably the Europe 2020 Strategy. The aim of the conference was to show the important role which the social economy can play within the framework of the broad guidelines of the European Union, principally the Europe 2020 Strategy.

The Belgian presidency wished to emphasise the “integration” dimension in the activities of certain actors of the social economy, particularly by illustrating some responses “as regards the integration of vulnerable persons, in particular within the framework of active inclusion, but also as regards combating poverty and the reintegration of disadvantaged persons into society”. Charlotte Gruber,
ENSIE’s president, moderated the workshop: “The social economy as vector of inclusion”. ENSIE through its Austrian member, BDV, presented the SYSCOM project conclusions (see point 5.1.1) in the workshop “The social economy as knowledge facilitator”.

The conclusions of the conference contain a series of nine recommendations calling for a greater recognition of the social economy in the development of the European policies and in already existing European programmes and attest that social economy can give positive and sustainable answers to the challenges of the European society.

3rd forum on SSGI – 26&27 October 2010

This event followed two previous forums successively organised under the Portuguese and French presidencies. The topics of the Forum were looked at: the European legal environment and the quality approach. ENSIE took part in the redaction of two positions circulated during the forum: the Social Economy Europe position and the European manifesto project: In favour of a new EU approach on social services of general interest launched by Uniopss¹ and the Labo de l’ESS.

4.1.5 IRIS - The Inter-network of Ethical and Solidarity-based Initiatives

IRIS is a dialogue and cooperation space between European and international networks representing different families of responsible economy initiatives: responsible finance (FBEA, INAISE), Fair Trade (WFTO), responsible consumption (ASECO, URGENCI) and Social Integration Enterprises (ENSIE), with the participation and support of institutional partners (Council of Europe and the Trento Autonomous Province, Italy). It aims at creating synergies between these various families, in particular for the fight against poverty and social exclusion and the promotion of social development by solidarity links. In this context it was the founder of the CRIES platform: Resources Centre for Ethical and Solidarity-Based Initiatives, created in Timisoara.

In 2010 IRIS attended the meetings in order to form a European branch of RIPESS²: RIPESS Europe. The debates about the feasibility of this network and the IRIS role are ongoing.

IRIS leads also projects in which ENSIE is participating (see chapter 5).

4.1.6 SEE – Social Economy Europe

ENSI, trough Salvatore Vetro, Treasurer, and Charlotte Gruber, President, took part actively in the five plenary sessions of Social Economy Europe and in one Presidents meeting, in 2010.

¹ Union nationale interfédérale des œuvres et organismes privés sanitaires et sociaux : www.uniopss.asso.fr
Labo de l’ESS : www.lelabo-ess.org

² Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of the Social Solidarity Economy (http://ripess.net.reseauope.net/)

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ENSIE is a member of SEE since September 2008 and is recognised as the organization of social economy, having privileged contacts for the specific problems relating to the social integration companies.

In 2010 ENSIE worked strictly with Social Economy Europe contributing to the redaction of the answer about the 2020 Strategy, answering to the internal consultations about the social enterprise, the inter-group priorities and the e-mails concerning different themes (training on social economy at the International Labour Organization, meeting among Academics and Commissioners...
5. Activities in order to promote the social integration enterprises entrepreneurship

5.1 Projects

5.1.1 SYSCOM - Systematic Competency Documentation in Social Integration Enterprises

2010 was the second and last year of the SYSCOM project. Presented in 2008, in the framework of the Lifelong Learning Program, by the German network Bag Arbeit, SYSCOM allowed ENSIE to work with three members: Bag Arbeit, the Austrian network BDV and the Belgian-Flanders network SST, a Polish network TRATWA and an evaluation experts association FAST.

The objective of the project SYSCOM was to “upgrade” the position of the Social Integration Enterprises (SIEs) and their umbrella organizations in the national and European-wide debate on EQF (European Qualifications Framework) and NQF (National Qualification Framework). The European Qualifications Framework is a common European reference framework which links countries’ qualifications in order to make qualifications more comprehensible across different countries and systems in Europe. It has the following principal aims: to promote citizens’ mobility between countries, improve transparency and recognition in all sectors of education, training, and lifelong learning. The SYSCOM partnership has focused on lifelong learning (LLL) principles and transparency in the EQF as an opportunity for the SIEs, low skilled and transitory employees. To support and promote the recognition of all learning outcomes and all competences is the objective of all involved umbrella organizations and SIEs in the SYSCOM partnership. The emphasis is on opening up NQF debates with data and material for the recognition of informal and non-formal learning of their transitory employees or participants. The SYSCOM partnership sees the NQFs as a tool supporting coherence of policy development and lifelong learning, aiming at improving access, progression and recognition of the learning outcomes.

In short, the objective of SYSCOM project is to promote lifelong learning for the low skilled as well as to support the recognition process for their uncertified qualifications and learning achievements in the discussions of the EQF.

In this project, Ensie is the main partner for the activities of transfer and dissemination across Europe. For this reason ENSIE managed and animated the project web-site: www.syscomproject.eu. The project foresees five meetings in two years for the ENSIE’s members, one in 2009 and four in 2010:

11 – 12 February: Brussels;
24 – 25 June: Vienna;
8 – 9 – 10 September: Wraclow;
2 – 3 December: Brussels.
The final conference of the project was organised the 3rd of December in the European Economic and Social Committee. The partners, the ENSIE’s members and other stakeholders debated and discussed the project results, presented some good practices and imagined how NQF could be useful for the disadvantaged workers.

**Summary of the SYSCOM project recommendations**

The recommendations, the guidelines, the presentations and the national studies documents can be found in the web-site: [www.syscomproject.eu](http://www.syscomproject.eu).

The recommendations are focusing on two levels:

1. The policy level to be addressed by the umbrella organizations and
2. The level of Social Integration Enterprises and all umbrella organizations that are not yet involved in the EQF and NQF debate nationally but already being confronted with the changes evoked by the EQF.

SIEs, umbrella organizations and ENSIE have two big interests: learning outcomes must be the “benchmark” and the accountable result of the general education and training system. As the training providers in the social sector are the experts for learning outcomes for the low skilled in all Member States, they will be the ones who have to make sure that formal, informal and prior learning are accepted within EQF/NQF. To train the staff (trainers, social workers, adult learning teachers, coaches’, etc.) on the issue of NQF/EQF has started with the SYSCOM project and will be continued with other projects. „Training the trainers” – that is qualifying staff to support the target group has already become one of ENSIE’s priorities.

5.1.2 **Social Economy, an Innovative Model for Promoting Active Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups**

**Presentation of the project**

ENSIE was the transnational partner of this project, presented under the European Social Fund in Romania by the Romanian Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection. The other project partners are BBI (Bernard Brunhes International), National Agency for Employment, Association INTEGRA ROMANIA, D.GASPC Sector 1 Bucharest (General Department for Social Assistance and Child Protection), Social Assistance Department from Timisoara, City Hall of Piatra Neamț.

The project pursues 6 important aims:

- Research on the state of play and opportunities concerning social economy in Europe and Romania;
- Development of an adequate Romanian legal framework;
- Establishment of resource centres at national and local level;
- Development and provision of specialised training and formal education;
- Establishment of national and transnational partnerships;
- Information and awareness raising;
ENSIE is involved in the following activities:

1) Analyses EU legislation and policies in the field of social economy;
2) Analyses the social economy mechanisms from the other EU member states, including financial opportunities;
3) Identifies models that can be adapted to the Romanian context;
4) Facilitates communication between relevant actors from the EU and Romania;
5) Organizes the study visits and transnational seminars;
6) Coordinates the activity related to the participation at education and training programs abroad;
7) Facilitates communication between transnational networks in the social economy field, social enterprises as well as pilots of social economy in Romania.

ENSIE (staff and members) worked hardly for this project in 2010. Unfortunately several and continuous difficulties explain the significant delay of the project and of ENSIE’s activities. During 2010 only two steering committees were organised: 8 February and 5 November. ENSIE and BBI often asked for a bigger involvement of the Ministry and for political decisions. The Romanian Ministry was probably not really prepared to lead such scope European project: Romania is establishing the process about the utilisation of European funds and very often new rules are published, the staff of the Romanian Ministry in charge of this project (and others European projects) is very reduced and we are in a relatively unstable period in Romania.

The work done by ENSIE

1) and 2) The analyses about the EU legislation and policies in the field of social economy and the other analyses concerning social economy mechanisms from the other EU member states, including financial opportunities were finished by the eleven members of ENSIE and its staff. The analysis concern nine countries: Austria (bdv), Germany (Bag Arbeit), Belgium (RES and SST), France (CNEI), Luxembourg (OPE), United-Kingdom (Social Firms in UK), Ireland (Dublin Employment Pact), Spain (FEICAT and FADEI) and Italia (CSAL).

This work consisted in 3 researches: a research on the legislative framework at the national level in the social economy field, a research about the enterprises of social economy and a research about the existing trainings in Social Economy at the academic level. The 2 first researches had to be done through a questionnaire (questionnaire at the national level and questionnaire at the enterprise level). These 2 questionnaires were realized in English by ENSIE and BBI in 2009.

ENSIE’s staff participated in the research and in the writing and commenting of the draft report about the Social Economy at the European level.

5) Justine Constant, Salvatore Vetro, Treasurer of ENSIE and Claudio Valerio of BBI organised a study visit, addressed to the Romanian partners, from the 9th to the 12th February in Belgium. During these three days, a steering committee, several enterprises and universities visits were organised in Liege.
and Antwerp. The Romanian State Secretary has had the opportunity to meet Belgian politicians, supporters of the social economy.

6) ENSIE was also involved in the development and preparation of specialized trainings: Patrizia Bussi and Sébastien Pereau an external trainer from ConcertES (Belgium), went in Romania in order to give social economy trainings.

7) Patrizia Bussi worked for the redaction of the call for project in order to select the social economy pilot projects. Nowadays the call and its attachments are ready but a new decision concerning the financings must be taken.

Patrizia Bussi also participated in one of the legislative groups (7 – 8 October) to share her expertise concerning the social economy definition and principles and to give her consultancy for the redaction of the draft of law. Salvatore Vetro attended another legislative group (23 – 24 November) to share the results of his lobbying work at regional level in order to obtain the “social economy” decree – 20112008.

5.1.3 Models of good practice in the social inclusion area

This project is managed by CRIES (Resources Centre for Ethical and Solidarity-Based Initiatives), IRIS is the transnational partner and Servicul Appel association, Integra Romania association and Institutul Cultural Timisoara are the national partners. The project objective is to increase the social inclusion promoting transnational models of social and solidarity-based economy good practices.

Ensie is also indirectly involved because Patrizia Bussi is engaged as expert in the field of the social integration enterprises. The project started in July 2010 and Patrizia Bussi started to work on it in November 2010. The ENSIE’s tasks are: to support Romanian actors, interested in developing social integration enterprises, to work in order to prepare a good environment for their development (promotion, lobbying, legislative work...). Between the 8th and the 10th of November, Patrizia Bussi took part in the first project meeting and shared her expertise about social economy with the others European and Romanian experts. She underlines the important role of the social integration entrepreneurship, describing some good practices.

5.1.4 Breakable workers - GRUNDTVIG project

“Breakable workers” was deposited in 2009 by ENSIE and three of its members (Bdv, Bag Arbeit and CSAL) to the initiative of the Italian network CSAL which should have been the coordinator. CSAL didn’t obtain the budget for this project but the three others partners and ENSIE (that had deposited the project in the Flemish Community of Belgium) decided to continue the project. The two main aims of the project are: to support participants in training and further education activities in the acquisition and the use of knowledge, skills and qualification to facilitate personal development, employability and participation in the European labour market; and to support improvements quality in vocational education and training system, institutions and practices.

The project activities started in 2010. ENSIE presented the project to its members during the board of directors of February and participated in the two partners meetings. The first meeting took place in Berlin the 28th and 29th June, the second in Graz the 7th and 8th October. The topics of the German meeting were the job placement strategies, the integration structures and the role of social
marketing in placement work. The topics of the Austrian were the options for long-term unemployed people who have no professional education or qualification and are confronted with several personal and professional problems.

5.1.5 Active Europe project – FEBEA

In 2010 the European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks (FEBEA), which is also an IRIS member, launched the “Active Europe” project. With this project the FEBEA network was willing to make all the stakeholders aware of the impact of existing social inclusive initiatives on employment and economic activities. FEBEA wanted to show that one of the levers for “reactivating” the single market could consist in implementing a favorable framework for the spreading and financing of such initiatives in all the European Union member states. The Active Europe project was designed to:

- mutualise means and experiences of different European networks active in the social sector and the ethical and solidarity-based finance sector as well as promoting existing experiences;
- create a coalition gathering financial institutions, social organizations and European networks in order to improve the financing of the social inclusion through economic activity initiatives;
- involve European institutions in order to create favorable conditions for the growth of social inclusive initiatives and for fostering their financing.

FEBEA asked ENSIE to cooperate in the redaction of the “atlas of job creation good practices for social inclusion”. The network provided good practices from Germany and United Kingdom and wrote a political manifesto. Salvatore Vetro, the Treasurer, presented the European situation concerning the work integration during one project conference.
5.2 Speeches and participation to meetings and workshops in national and European Union institutions

5.2.1 Social Enterprises/ Enterprieses of general interest. Which is their future in Europe?
The 1st of March, Salvatore Vetro was the speaker for ENSIE at the European meeting on social enterprises, organized by our member CECOP. Sally Reynolds from Social Firms in UK also shared her experience during this meeting.

5.2.2 “Social Economy” Parliamentary Intergroup – The social economy in the European year for combating poverty and social exclusion
The 6th of April, Salvatore Vetro participated to this hearing in order to present the recommendations of the peer review: The social economy from the perspective of active inclusion - Employment opportunities for people far from the labour market.

5.2.3 Mutual learning on active inclusion and homelessness
The 5th of Mai, Patrizia Bussi and Salvatore Vetro took part in this European Conference organised by the European Commission.

5.2.4 Education to combat social exclusion – Biennale organised by the EESC
The 21st of Mai, Charlotte Gruber presented the network and its enterprises as creativity actors in time of economic and social crisis in the workshop “Education as a gateway to the labour market: making inclusion real”.

5.2.5 Sustainable employment and integration: which opportunities and which directions? – Seminar organized by SAW-B
The 23rd of June, Justine Constant presented the network and the integration schemes differences in Austria, France, Italy and United Kingdom during a seminar organized by the Belgian social economy association SAW-B.

5.2.6 The nongovernmental sector 20 years after – achievements and challenges - Civil Society Development Foundation
The 7th of October, Patrizia Bussi took part in this seminar, organized in Bucharest by the CSDF, Romanian foundation. She was there as a member of the “Social Economy” project delegation.

5.2.7 Social Integration Enterprises – an innovative promotion of active inclusion of vulnerable groups
The 19th of October, ENSIE organized this open space in the framework of the participative Forum « Building together a society for everyone – A circle against exclusion », organized by the European
Commission. Charlotte Gruber, Salvatore Vetro and Georges Tabacchi (CSAL), moderated by Patrizia Bussi presented the services that the social integration enterprises can offer apart their mission of “giving a job”.

5.2.8  I Foro Europeo de empresas de inserción - FECLEI

The 25th of October, Salvatore Vetro was a speaker in this forum organized by this regional network of social integration enterprises, Feclei. Salvatore Vetro talked about the support policies in Europe for the sector.

5.2.9  “Active Europe” Conference - FEBEA

The 29th of November, Salvatore Vetro was present at this conference in order to give a speech about the European situation of policies in order to support the work integration.

5.2.10  WI (work integration) and European issues - PLS

The 8th of December, Salvatore presented the network in the meeting in Brussels, organized by the European Think tank “Pour la Solidarité”.

5.2.11  Jornadas Europeas de Empresas de Inserción

The 15th of December, Michel Sexauer (CNEI) made a speech about the network during these European working days, organized by the Andalusia Regional government.