2007
Annual Report

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European Network for Social Integration Enterprises a.s.b.l.
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1. Presentation of ENSIE a.s.b.l.

ENSIE (European Network for Social Integration Enterprises), asbl, brings together some national and regional networks and federations for social integration economy. Networks and federations are made up of Social Integration Enterprises. 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 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.
  - Programs of citizenship based on information and the training of the role of the employed individuals within the activity and the administration of the enterprise and on the practice of democratic economy.
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:

1. reinforce social integration economy actors by the exchange between the member organizations,

2. stimulate co-operation and partnerships by promoting good practices and by distributing research results and new applications,

3. organize information exchange between members about national and local legislative policies,

4. to represent the network and to promote its activities in all relevant European levels,

5. work out texts and proposals in order to contribute to the definition of fight against exclusion European policies,

6. 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:

1. the labour market and social integration of vulnerable groups by improving their employability and productivity,

2. the economic viability of social integration companies and the reinforcement of their economic role in general,

3. equal opportunities for all by supporting the European Union strategy (gender mainstreaming).
2.2 The structure of the network

ENSIE a.s.b.l. currently joins together 12 national and regional networks, representing 9 countries of the European Union (Germany, Austria, Belgium, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and United Kingdom). All of these networks work according to local constraints, to achieve the objectives of social rehabilitation of vulnerable populations.

- **an 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  
  Germany: BAG Arbeit, Bundersarbeitsgemeinschaft Arbeit e.V  
  Ireland : DEP, Dublin Employment Pact  
  Portugal : ANIMAR, Associação Portuguesa para o Desenvolvimento Local  
  Spain : FEDEI, Federación Española de Empresas de Inserción  
  Spain : CONPEEI, Confederación Española de Empresas y Entidades de Inserción  
  United Kingdom SOCIAL FIRMS IN UK

- **some regional networks:**
  Belgium (Wallonie) RES, Réseau d’Entreprises Sociales  
  Belgium (Flanders) SST, Samenwerkingsverband Sociale Tewerkstelling  
  Spain : ACEI, Asociación Catalana Empresas Inserción

- **a local network :**
  Italy Consorzio Sociale Abele Lavoro

For more details, visit www.ensie.org
1.2.1 The new members

**DEP – Dublin Employment Pact**

DEP is based in Dublin, Ireland. This network is made up by several non-profit making organizations who work for local development, social inclusion and the integration of disadvantaged people. They create a specific program for people in difficulty, "Community Service Program". This program foresees 50% of disadvantaged people and that the enterprises deliver community services: personal services, services to the local community, transport. Some 30,000 people take part in this program.

**SOCIAL FIRMS IN UK**

Social Firms in UK is a charitable company emerged from a European project in 1997 and based in Redhill, closed to London. There are 137 members. It works to support and represent members at political level. Till December 2006 Social Firms just worked with disabled people, now they work with other disadvantaged group: with ex-offenders, drug-addicted… The Social Firms normally receive some financial helps from the government but just for the start up of the firm. One of the main aims of this network is to help government not to assist but to invest.

1.2.2 The partner networks in 2007

**OBJECTIF PLEIN EMPLOI**

Objectif Plein Emploi is a Luxembourg association funded in 1999 in order to fight against unemployment. This network is made by a Resources Centre and 30 local associations. Its main objective is creating sustainable local development projects, in order to create working places for unemployed people and helping them in their personal and professional evolution.

**SKOOPI**

SKOOPI, Swedish network, today consists of 50 social (work) cooperatives and its services are for these co-operatives and not for all social enterprises/firms. SKOOPI emphasises strongly on the democratic aspects and our co-operatives tend to be small (in average its member co-op's have 12 members). In Sweden the 100 or so existing co-op's involve 1500 persons. In Sweden to favour people in difficulty, the 40 working hours can be divided between workers. The social cooperatives seek to demonstrate that people, who are not productive, are doing their 100%. They use instruments as social auditing, the RSE. They also calculate how much the public authorities spare with the IEs.
The Integration Enterprises Romand Council joints together the French-speaking Switzerland people and instances who recognize themselves in its theses founders and want to work with the realization of its objectives. The CREI objectives are:

1. To identify the integration enterprises in the region and to propose to them to gather within the network CREI;

2. To promote the specific interests of the institutions active in the field of insertion near the inter-cantons and federal authorities which are responsible for unemployment and the socio-professional integration in order to obtain a clear framework of recognition;

3. To make known with the decision makers and the general public, the action and the results of the active institutions in the field of social integration;

4. To organize specific trainings necessary to the development of professional competences of the collaborators of the social integration companies;

5. To promote contacts and exchanges with the similar institutions from abroad, in particular in the French-speaking countries;

6. To assume a strategic function of strategic control and alarm/information to the members of the sector.
2. Meetings of the decision-making bodies

The General Assembly of ENSIE took place in Brussels the 4th June 2007, with the new directors’ election.
The Boards of directors have been organised in:
Brussels, the 4th June 2007 with the election for the Steering Committee
Trento, the 30th November 2007.

3. Institutional representation and contacts

3.1 International level

3.1.1 RIPESS Network – Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy

The RIPESS aims at contributing to a better cohesion of the practices of the Social Solidarity Economy and to empower the various actors concerned with this sector in the whole world.
Every four years RIPESS network organizes, in partnership with continental organizations, an intercontinental meeting to promote the various ways of thinking social economy.
At the beginning of the year, the European Institute for Solidarity based Economy (INEES), based in Luxembourg and animated by Eric Lavillunière, was promoted as organizer of the 4th international forum Lux’09 "Globalisation of Solidarity", which will be held in the Esch-on-Alzette (Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg) from the 19 to the 25 April, 2009.
The meeting envisages:
- from the 19 to the 21 April: ground visits in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, Belgium, France and Germany:
- from the 22 to the 25 April: a conference with several workshops, plenary sessions, continental and intercontinental meetings.
In 2007 ENSIE took part in the meetings of the steering committee for the meeting organization and was named moderating network of the workshop “solidarity-based entrepreneurship”. The themes of each workshop will be outlined in the interactive forums of the site: www.lux09.org.
3.2 European level

3.2.1 European Economic and Social Committee

In 2007 the relationship with the European Economic and Social Committee has continued and ENSIE have met the spokesperson of the category “Social economy”, member of group III: Miguel Angel Cabra de Luna. ENSIE also took part in the seminar: " Social economy: a key sector for growth and jobs", which was organized the 3rd December, 2007 in the building of the EESC.

3.2.2 The European Commission – “Education Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency”

ENSIE took part in the symposium on the program “Lifelong Learning”, organized by this head office, the 12th February 2007.

3.2.3 The European Commission – “Competition” Directorate general

In 2005 the “Competition” directorate launched an action plan on the State aid reform. Various measurements were already taken within this framework, in particular with the end of the year 2006, the reform of the de minimis regulation. In 2007 the Commission started to reform the State aids exempted of preliminary notification, in particular the SME, training and employment aids. Two consultations relating to this regulation were launched and ENSIE answered them. In November, ENSIE also met the civil servant of this direction, who was in charge of the new regulation drafting, in order to know how react to obtain changes.

3.2.4 The European Commission – “Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities” Directorate general

ENSIE has continued its debate with this directorate-general on Active Inclusion – Minimum income schemes and the integration of people excluded from the labour market. The 15th June it was invited to the conference of the stakeholders, in Brussels. In 2007 the relationship with this directorate-general multiplied and intensified, thanks to the activities started with the Inter-network IRIS (see 4.2.5).

3.2.5 Parliamentary Inter-group of “Social economy”

The Parliamentary Inter-group of “Social economy” functions like a discussion forum intended to exert a political lobbying and to relay certain concerns of the social economy organizations (organized at European level, but also at national or local level) with the more high level. This year the subjects of the meetings were:

- to see site SEE (http://www.socialeconomy.eu.org/).
The Inter-group also produced a “Social economy”, Memorandum, attached (attachment 1).
In 2007 ENSIE took part in the six meetings of the Inter-group as recognised organization of social economy, privileged contact for the specific problems relating to the social integration companies. On the 21st November, 2007 ENSIE presented its activities to the other recognized actors of social economy.

3.2.6 IRIS – The Inter-network of Ethical and Solidarity-based Initiatives

IRIS is the Inter-network of responsible economy Initiatives, founded the 15th January 2007. IRIS is a dialogue and cooperation space between European and international networks representing different families of responsible economy initiatives: responsible finance (FEBEA, INAISE), Fair Trade (IFAT), 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, Italie). 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. Objectives of the Inter-network are:
• connect, exchange and dialogue within the responsible economy networks;
• promote mutual training and support;
• dialogue with public institutions;
• develop further links and initiatives between governmental concepts and methods initiated by the Inter-network members.

During this year the inter-network IRIS represented its members in a communication work on their activities, that it is by the diffusion of communication material, the web-site maintenance: www.irisnetwork.eu, but also by the direct contacts with responsible and authorities on all the levels: from local to Europe.
IRIS managed ground projects for the development of the social and solidarity-based economy, by organizing the networking among its members and being a platform ready to coordinate their efforts. In the different projects and their phases, IRIS tried to involve all the actors with the processes.
The ground projects were:
- the multi-party social contract: highly participative devices of local sustainable development and support for the most disadvantaged people;
- the development of three projects of “Responsible Cities and Territories responsible for social cohesion and sustainable development”: Paris (France), Timisoara (Romania) and Trento (Italy). In a responsible territory1 for social cohesion2 and sustainable development a dialogue process starts territorially in order to work out and create new jointly-responsibility forms between collective actors and citizens aiming at assuming the changes necessary to assure the well being of all, including future generations, in an inclusive and equal relation.

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1 Local territory (municipality or more communes) or regional
2 Social cohesion is, according to the social cohesion strategy of the Council of Europe, as the capacity of the company to ensure the all being and to avoid the disparities. This capacity is built by the joint responsibility between the actors.
In the inter-network, ENSIE is the privileged representative of the socio-economic integration based on solidarity.

ENSIE took an active part in the Inter-network life with its presence during the meetings with the authorities and the working groups with the governmental representatives in charge of National Action Plans/Inclusion. In these last meetings IRIS, in partnership with the Council of Europe and the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal opportunity, tried to identify, implement and promote the complementarities between the various approaches of fight against poverty and social exclusion, in particular the conventional assistance approaches (that it is by the public policies or assistance NGOs) and the citizen ethical and solidarity-based approaches (ethical and solidarity-based finance and responsible consumption) that the Council of Europe supports in its platform (attachment 2 and 3).

ENSIE represented the Inter-network IRIS in the European Commission meetings for the European networks active in the Inclusion and Social Protection Process and the VI European Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion, “Minimum Social Standards: A Strategy for Protection and Empowerment” (attachment 4). Concerning the ground projects, this year, ENSIE worked as an expert on the multi-party social contract evaluation (attachment 5).

The 29 and 30 November ENSIE with the other IRIS’s members and in partnership with the Council of Europe, the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal opportunity and the Province of Trento, presented the year of co-operation and work of the Inter-network IRIS. The seminar was entitled: “Unlocking the ethic and solidarity-based initiatives for a sustainably inclusive society” (see 5.1.2).
4. Activities in order to promote the social integration enterprises entrepreneurship

4.1 Meetings

4.1.1 II International meeting of integration enterprises

The II international meeting of the integration enterprises has been organized from the 2nd to the 5th October 2007 in Brussels. It brought together 250 sectoral directors and/or persons in charge of integration enterprises, active in 7 different countries, for three days of good practices exchanges. During all the year 2007 ENSIE took part in the preparation meetings, giving its support for the logistic level and set of themes. ENSIE was the responsible for the workshop: "the development of Integration Enterprises: why, how and which financial mean with?". In this workshop 4 speakers, moderated by Patrizia Bussi, discussed on the need for having a mission recognition or a instances’ recognition, the commercial and noncommercial resources in the receipts of I.Es.(integration enterprises) and the possibility of real good practices transfers. During this workshop ENSIE also presented its manifesto, document resulting from the deliberation on the importance to undertake differently and the financings used with this goal (attachment 6).

4.1.2 The seminar “Ethical and Solidarity–based initiatives: unlocking their potential for a sustainably inclusive society”

This seminar was organised in Trento by the IRIS inter–network in partnership with the Council of Europe, the European Commission – Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities Directorate and the Trento Autonomous Province. ENSIE was co–moderator of a working group: “Ethical finance and social integration enterprises based on economic solidarity: approaches with a view to a cohesive society”. The recommendations of this working group underlined the INAISE/FEBEA/ENSIE’ will of working together:

- in lobbying activities;
- with the creation and reproduction of financial instruments adapted for the creation of new social integration enterprises (ex : Sifa, Sofinei, the inclusion capital);
- on the evaluation of the social integration economy’s added values in order to attract more investors (ex : use of the SROI – Social Return on Investment).

In the framework of the increasing citizens’ responsibility ENSIE was moderator of the working group: “Social integration enterprises in European regulations”.


Some ENSIE’s members were speakers in this group about the new general block exemption regulation.

4.2 Speeches

4.2.1 Brussels, Training session “Europe” – 25 September 2007

Patrizia Bussi spoke about the position of the integration enterprises in front of the general block exemption regulation.

4.2.2 Poitiers, Together for the employment, to be innovative! – 8 and 9 November 2007, COORACE

Congress organized by the COORACE (France) - Salvatore Vetro (RES) presented a speech on the “European Experiences and analyses around three problems:
• to involve the employees in the enterprise’s life
• to invest ourself in a territorial project at the employment service
• to work and be trained lifelong”

In 2007 ENSIE often spoke in the meetings organized by the IRIS inter-network:

4.2.3 Strasbourg, Preparation of the guide for the organisations engaged in the fight against exclusion and poverty – 15 May 2007

Patrizia Bussi spoke as expert for social integration enterprises.

4.2.4 Paris, Preparatory Meeting “New synergies for an inclusive, cohesive Europe” – 22 November 2007

Patrizia Bussi and Matthieu Grosset (CNEI) intervened as expert on the socio-economic integration based on solidarity at the European and French level.

4.2.5 Trento, The seminar “Ethical and Solidarity-based initiatives: unlocking their potential for a sustainably inclusive society” – 29 and 30 November 2007

ENSIE’s several speakers expressed themselves during the two seminars organized by ENSIE (see 5.1.2); Salvatore Vetro (RES) and Truda Ann Smith (BAG ARBEIT) intervened in the plenary sessions respectively for the multi-party social contract and the conclusions.

Patrizia Bussi spoke as expert for social integration based on solidarity.

4.3 Newspaper

4.3.1 “In Europe the integration enterprises do not have all same philosophy”. In order to help the people in difficulty, certain enterprises and specialized associations are open doors for the access into the job market, whereas others prefer to offer the start a stable job. – Le Monde (France) – 22 May 2007

Francine Aizicovici contacted ENSIE’s directors and Patrizia Bussi to write an article on the integration enterprises in Europe and the various systems of integration in Europe (attachment 9).

4.3.2 « A work made for you ». The solidarity based economy and the integration enterprises. – Lëtzebuerg (Luxembourg) – 11 October 2007

In this article Eric Lavillunière speaks about the II international meeting of the integration enterprises (see 4.1.1) and uses the ENSIE’s manifesto to describe the solidarity based economy not like a social sector but like a manner of making economic activities differently in order to improve inhabitants’ quality of life creating job and social cohesion, one pillar of the sustainable development (attachment 10).

4.4 Information dissemination

ENSIE took part in the translation of research summary “Social Enterprises, At the crossroads off market, public and civil society; Routledge ED. London and New York. 2006, published in English by professor Marthe Nyssens of the University of Louvain.
5. Proposed activities

5.1 Information

5.1.1 Communications for the members

The members received information about ENSIE’s political and institutional meetings, activities, projects and researches, by e-mail.

5.1.2 Web-site

The ENSIE’s web-site, www.ensie.org, offers a free and fast access to the ENSIE’s activities and the European policies.

5.2 Research and monitoring activities

During 2006, ENSIE, monitored, at the European level, the basic themes for the social integration enterprises:

- state aids and the financing of the social integration enterprises: ENSIE answered the two consultations of the DG “Competition”, met the civil servant responsible for the drafting of the new regulation, took part in training courses to sensibilize the greatest number of people and organized, within the framework of the inter-network IRIS’s seminar of November, a workshop on the regulation;

- active inclusion of the people furthest from the labour market and the minimum income (MI): ENSIE maintained its participation in the debate with the European Commission on the subject and took part in the conference of June 15 organized by the Commission;

- the Inclusion National Acion Plans (PANs/Inclusion): thanks to the constitution of the inter-network IRIS, ENSIE could know and start some new relationships with several national representative in order to promote the participation of the ethical and solidarity based initiatives, such as the integration enterprises, in the debates which will give themes for the next PANs/Inclusion redaction.
ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Social Economy Memorandum

Attachment 2 – 1st meeting with the governmental representatives in charge of National Action Plans/Inclusion

Attachment 3 – 2nd meeting with the governmental representatives in charge of National Action Plans/Inclusion

Attachment 4 – Program of the VI European Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion

Attachment 5 – The multi-party social contract evaluation (FR)

Attachment 6 – Manifesto

Attachment 7 – Program of the seminar “Ethical finance and social integration enterprises based on economic solidarity: approaches with a view to a cohesive society”

Attachment 8 – « Le Monde » article

Attachment 9 – « Lëtzebuerg » article