Report of activities
2006
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ENSIE  
_A demanding but essential challenge_

Thanks to ENSIE, I’ve developed a definitive conviction about the fundamental importance of the European debate and the mobilisation in Europe and for Europe.

I’m involved in integration through work for 28 years. The experience of sharing and debating in a spirit of mutual benefit and open relationship is one of my essential and determinative steps in life.

Today, thanks to all our achievements, I have developed the conviction that the social firms’ future in our own countries will be linked to their European recognition we will manage to build.

I’m also convinced, and I hope that we agree that the solidarity we have been developing between us via our mutual engagement in ENSIE is a support force and a strong help to develop integration through work in our respective countries.

Two years ago, I wrote: « we still have to bring more to ENSIE than ENSIE has to “bring in” to us ». This is still true, but I think that ENSIE has already brought enormously to us, individually and collectively, by developing our ability to analyse the present and to elaborate some perspectives the present analysis and the perspectives elaboration.

As chairman, I did my best to lead the network so that we all could conjugate our differences without vainly focusing on specific characteristics which are not relevant at the European level and, perhaps, even at the national level either.

The elaboration of the Social Integration Enterprises’ identifying principles allowed us to understand the fundamental of what gathers and identifies us.

ENSIE has now to increase its activities in order to make known and recognised the reality and efficiency of our enterprises, who are belonging to the economic market and who are developing themselves in order to promote social integration and citizenship.

Today three main lines remain essential:

- **To strengthen ENSIE’s representativity** by gaining new member States and new representative networks.

- **To intensify the cooperation** with other social economy networks but also in fighting against poverty and social exclusion. To be known and recognised at a European level, we first have to be known and recognised by the networks which already have a European recognition and a proven influence.

- **To multiply** our contacts with European institutions (Commission, EESC, Council of Europe…) and attend meetings about employment and social inclusion, so that our achievements can be recognised and our influence be real and efficient.

ENSIE is a beautiful and noble adventure, based on conviction, solidarity, involvement, and, also, friendship. ENSIE is a work in progress but a real work. ENSIE and its involvement with other
European social economy and fighting against poverty and exclusion actors, cooperates in the building of a Europe based on economic development, social cohesion and equal opportunities.

Thanks to you all for this journey we have made together. Good luck to ENSIE and best wishes to the chairman, Hansjörg BÖHRINGER and to those who will support him as they have done for me during all these years.

I hope we will manage to build a social and political Europe, whose concerns will mainly be the « distortion of solidarity and of equal opportunities » rather than the « distortion of competitiveness ».

Long life to ENSIE and social integration economy in Europe.

Best regards to everyone.

Christian JACQUOT
ENSIE (European Network for Social Integration Enterprises), asbl, brings together some national and regional networks for social integration economy. These networks are made up by enterprises, called 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. Their existence has for

- **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 its objectives as the representation, maintenance, and development within the European Union of networks and federations for economic social integration in Europe.

ENSIE takes for its objective:

1. to reinforce the power of the actors in economic social integration enterprises through the interchange between the member organisations,

2. to stimulate cooperation and partnerships by promoting proper practices, research results, new applications,

3. to organise the exchange of information on the legislative national and local policy levels between member organisations,

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

5. to elaborate on the contributions and propositions in order to participate in the definition of a European policy against social exclusion,

6. to develop a close and solid collaboration with other European networks active in the social economy with the objective of obtaining synergetic results.

ENSIE wants to contribute to a sustainable development within the European Union. This includes the following aspects:

1. the job market and the social integration of disadvantaged risk-groups by improving their employment opportunities and productivity,

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

3. the promotion of equal opportunities while maintaining the strategy advocated by the European Union in terms of gender mainstreaming.
2.2 The structure of the network

At the moment, ENSIE a.s.b.l. gathers 12 national and regional networks, representing 8 countries of the European Union (Germany, Austria, Belgium, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Portugal). All these networks pursue, in a manner adapted to local constraints, objectives of social integration of disfavoured publics. Together, they totalize some 5,500 Social Integration Enterprises, and more than 200,000 salaried persons.

 an European network:
  CECOP, Confédération Européenne des Coopératives de Production et de Travail Associé, des Coopératives Sociales et des Entreprises Sociales et Participatives - European Confederation of Workers’ Cooperatives, 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
  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

 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

 a national center services:
  Ireland DBD, Local Employment Service

For other details, visit www.ensie.org
3. Meetings of the decision-making bodies

The General Assembly of ENSIE took place in Brussels the 17th May 2006. The chairman was Mr Christian Jacquot.
The Boards of directors have been organised in:
Brussels, the 23rd February 2006
Brussels, the 11th December 2006.

4. Institutional representation and contacts

4.1 International level

4.1.1 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 of this sector for action.
The assignments of the RIPESS:
- Reinforcing dynamics of intercontinental exchanges and the various ways of thinking about the Social Solidarity Economy
- Promoting the principles, values, and practices as well as networking of actors of the social solidarity economy
- Participating in the social change by the criticism of neo liberalism and the promotion of creative economic initiatives aiming at the inside-out development of our communities.
- Making an advocacy in favour of intercultural diversity, democracy and grassroots participation to Community development and human fulfilment
- Supporting, advising and following-up on enterprises with social responsibility.

During this year ENSIE has continued the activities of partnership with the RIPESS network and has attended to the meetings for the thematic organization of next intercontinental meeting in 2009, 4th Forum on “Globalising Solidarity”.
The next intercontinental meeting will not be organised in Brussels, as the responsible peoples explained during the Dakar forum in November 2005.
RIPESS invited applications from other candidates with a view to finding a new country that is prepared to host the 2009 event.

In November RIPESS, received and accepted the candidature for the European Institute for the solidarity-based economy (INEES), based in Luxembourg and led by Eric Lavillunière.
4.2 European level

4.2.1 Parliamentary Inter-group of “Social economy”

The inter-group has been supported by the two vice-chairmen: Philippe Busquin and Mario Mauro. This Inter-group is like a discussing forum which tries to do political lobbying and to transfer and communicate social economy sector worries. The inter-group is recognised by political parties (to create an inter-group three political parties must attend) but is not an official instance of the European Parliament. It can’t stop any decision. It has an informal function.

ENSIE is the main contact concerning specific problems for social integration enterprises (in UK: social firms). ENSIE met the Commissioner Mr V. Spidla.

4.2.2 European Economic and Social Committee

The European Economic and Social Committee is at the European level, the institutional enclosure of consultation, representation, information and expression of the organized civil company. The committee delivers opinions which are the results of the synthesis of often different initial positions.

In this process the Committee mobilizes the representatives of the organizations of employers including the public companies (I Group), employees (II Group) but also of the other components of the organized civil company (III Group).

ENSIE started the first contacts and seeks a partnership for the organization of the international meeting of the integration enterprises.

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

ENSIE met official, pertaining to various divisions:
- Chief of Unit (EMPL/D1) - Social Dialogue, Industrial Relations and Adaptation to the change
- Official of Unit (EMPL/D2) - European Employment Strategy, CSR, Local Development
- Officials of Unit (EMPL/E2) - Inclusion, Social Policy Aspects of Migration, Streamlining of Social Policies

ENSIE is becoming direct interlocutor for the E2 Unit.

4.2.4 The European Commission – “Enterprise and Industry” Directorate general

ENSIE met an official of the Unit (ENTR/3) - Crafts, small businesses, cooperatives and mutuals

4.2.5 The Council of Europe – Unit of Social Cohesion and the Inter-network of Ethical and Solidarity-based Initiatives, IRIS

On the basis of its strategy of social cohesion, definite like the capacity of the society to ensure the good being of all on a principle of co-responsibility of the public and private actors, including the citizens themselves, the Council of Europe engaged, since 2003, a process of political dialogue aiming at facilitating the expression of new forms of fight against poverty and social exclusion being based on the initiatives citizen and the dialogue with the public authorities.

This dialogue was managed until now between the representative institutions within the Council of Europe (Parliamentary Assembly, Local and Regional Authorities Congress, Ministers Committee, CDCS, etc.) and European networks of ethical and solidarity-based (in UK, responsible) initiatives, in particular in the fields of ethical and solidarity-based finance, responsible consumption including equitable trade and the socio-economic insertion based on solidarity.
At the end of 2004 it led to the creation of a Platform of political dialogue on the ethical and solidarity based initiatives of the citizens for the fight against poverty and social exclusion. It also led the networks to agree on the idea of an European Inter-network of Ethical and Solidarity-based Initiatives, which will constitute at the beginning of 2007 formally.

ENSIE is the main representative of integration through market based on solidarity and it’s going to be one of the founder member of the Inter-network of Ethical and Solidarity-based Initiatives. The European Inter-network of Ethical and Solidarity-based Initiatives is a space of dialogue and cooperation between European and international networks representing different families of ethical and solidarity-based initiatives, especially solidarity-based finance (FEBEA, INAISE), fair trade (IFAT) and responsible consumption (ASECO, URGENCI), socio-economic solidarity-based insertion (ENSIE) and social responsibility for territories (REVES), with the participation and support of institutional partners (Council of Europe and the Trento Autonomous Province, Italy).

Enhance exchanges and dialogue between various ethical and solidarity-based initiatives in order to fight against social exclusion and poverty and promote the sustainable social development.

### 4.2.6 European Trade Union Confederation

ENSIE met one European civil servant detached in the ETUC and in charge for the social policies. Some partnerships are considered.
5. Activities in order to promote the social integration enterprises entrepreneurship

5.1 Projects

5.1.1 The project of the Inter-network of Ethical and Solidarity-based Initiatives

In December 2006 the European Commission gave its agreement to the project of launching and activity for the Inter-network of Ethical and Solidarity-based Initiatives, IRIS.

The project has three main levels:
- To create some guidelines to explain the positive complementary between the inter-network actors, with the concept “territories for social inclusion”, the social multi-party contract (SMC).
- To explore citizens and children solidarity potential
- To cooperate with media

ENSIE sustains the work integration importance in the fight against exclusion and poverty and we are responsible to evaluate the SMC and its possible transfer on a European level.

ENSIE is called to support the role of integration through economy in the fight against the exclusion and the possible diffusion of the multi-party social contract. During the Seminar: Renewing dialogue and co-operation to combat poverty and exclusion: public authorities, citizens' network, media - December 2006, Trento - Patrizia Bussi spoke in the session «The social multi-party contract for social inclusion».

The presentation explained concrete examples of existing complementarities between the social integration enterprises and solidarity-based finance, fair trade and responsible consumption solidarity. In particular Partizia presented:
- SOFINEI, ethical financial instrument used to create and support social integration enterprises
- Bases 202, Spazio in movimento - the creation of a solidarity based place
- Terre Group, the particular contract with the workers

5.1.2 The PUSH project: Transfer and Dissemination of Innovation from ESF Article 6

Promoting organisation: Foundation Lawaetz-Stiftung

The network was partner with several national actors of the integration through work and the cities of the European network Metronet in order to discuss on the various policies concerning subsidized employment. The target public of this policy are the people furthest from the labour market, not having a qualification, a basic training and knowledge of languages. To develop these policies with a European base can help to find more innovating and more coherent solutions, favourable to the development of the social integration enterprises and the financing of their added value of integration and citizen. With this intention all the actors of the territories concerned were invited to discuss and compare.

The final Conference of the project was organized in Brussels on September 22. Truda Ann Smith intervened to present the objectives of the subsidized employment in Europe and network ENSIE.
5.2 Meetings

5.2.1 International meeting of integration enterprises

From the 18 to 22 October, 2004, the federation of integration enterprises of Quebec (CEIQ) organized in Montreal the First international meeting of integration enterprises. 250 people could meet up and think about the integration enterprises’ problems. At the end of this event, the representatives of Belgium announced that they will organised the second international meeting in spring 2007.

The objective of this second international meeting is to continue the work undertaken in 2004 and to prepare the shutter “integration through work” of the “international meeting of globalisation of the solidarity” which should take place in 2009 in Luxembourg (page 8).

The matters will regard:
- To give a progress report about integration through work in the various countries participants
- To discuss about topical themes for the social integration enterprises.
- To organize new exchanges between professionals of integration through work on concrete projects (exchanges of trainers, good practices...)
- To welcome active partners of the sector arriving from Asia, Africa... and to integrate their contributions and experiences.

As at Quebec in 2004, the focus would be laid on the activities of integration enterprises, but not exclusively. Indeed, to take into account social and economic realities specific to the various continents, in certain moment it will be advisable to consider the activities of integration particular to the various countries (the micro credit and the support of initiatives of popular economy, programs of urban development...)

ENSIE is helping the organizer at the logistic and thematic level. ENSIE will be responsible for the organisation of the workshop: "the development of Integration Enterprises: why, how and which financial mean with ?".

5.2.2 4th International Forum “Globalising Solidarity”

The organisation of the 4th International Forum “Globalising Solidarity” is managed by the European Institute for the solidarity-based economy (INEES), European national networks and European networks. ENSIE is organising this meeting as representative of the social integration enterprises. This meeting will take place in 2009 in Luxembourg.

5.3 “European Employment Week”

ENSIE was partner in the European Employment Week, which on the 17, 18 May 2007 was organised in Brussels. The ENSIE’s leaflets were given and Patrizia Bussi was actively involved.

5.4 Speeches

5.4.1 Barcelona, The social integration enterprises and the State Aids - 6 March 2006

Salvatore Vetro and Brigitté Ogée made their speech to present the management of the State Aid in the social integration enterprises of their countries.
5.4.2 Besançon, Forum of the Cooperative Credit Group, “Ethical responsibility and economic performance”  – 3 May 2006

Christian Jacquot at Salvatore Vetro participated in this meeting.

5.4.3 Barcelona, VIII Galician Day for Social Inclusion, Integration Enterprise  – 1 June 2006

Salvatore Vetro participated in this meeting, organised by the general Directorate for employment promotion, Galician’s public authorities and the La Coruna University, and presented the ENSIE network.

5.4.4 Malte, Joint Seminar Employment Task Force/Structural Funds Task Force Seminar - Supporting the Social Economy as a Tool for Inclusion – 3 November 2006, EAPN

The Employment Task Force of EAPN has underlined social economy as a key area in relation to access of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion to the labour market, life long learning and social inclusion. EAPN and others view it social economy as a potentially interesting area for future action against social exclusion.

Christian Jacquot made a speech about our work, during the debate “Lobbying on social economy at EU level”.

5.4.5 Madrid, The social integration enterprises in the European framework – 6, 7 November 2006

Salvatore Vetro made a speech during this meeting organised by the University “Autonoma de Madrid”

5.4.6 Dijon, The week of integration - November 2006

Integration through economy: a progressive course towards commercial employment - program organized by Sati TV. The Sati device is an original combination of an accessible television on Internet, a network of videoconference and a network of centres where the public ones meet. ENSIE took part in this week of integration with the interventions of
Patrizia Bussi: general presentation of ENSIE’s network
Christian Jacquot: the social integration in Europe
George Tabacchi: the social integration in Italy

5.4.7 Paris, Work social integration enterprises in the European policies – December 2006

This work seminar was organized by the CNIAE (The National Council of integration organizations through economic activity, France).

In the framework of the implementation of its European actions, the CNIAE has organizing a two-days seminar on the role of Work Integration Social Enterprise in the EU social inclusion policies.

This seminar aim was:

- Gathering experts, involved in the European policy in order to take into account Work Integration Social Enterprises in the implementation of European policies and programmes.
Salvatore Vetro spoke about ENSIE and the Services of General Interest.
6. Proposed Activities

6.1 Information

6.1.1 Communications for the members

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

6.1.2 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.

A reorganisation of ENSIE’s communication activities is envisaged in 2007.

6.2 Research and monitoring activities

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


  ENSIE produced a text on the double activity of the social integration enterprises.

- active inclusion of the people furthest from the labour market and the minimum income (MI): ENSIE took part in the debate with the European Commission and answered the "Consultation on action at EU level to promote the active inclusion of the people furthest from the labour market (13.02.2006)". The debates will continue in 2007 and one final conference will be organized by the Commission.