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2015 was characterized by the changes within European Institutions after the 2014 elections and the main objective of this year was to make sure of a renewed interest on the topics of social economy and social enterprises, in particular work integration social enterprises (WISEs). Today, Europe is still facing important challenges especially concerning job creation and the issue of long-term unemployment. In this context, work integration social enterprises remain a key solution for the most vulnerable groups.

ENSIE thus put in place this year again several activities in order to raise awareness and promote WISEs, enterprises whose main identifying principles are: the social and professional integration of vulnerable groups, the decision to carry on their activities at the very core of the economic system and a strong pedagogical dimension beside relevant European stakeholders from the European Institutions to other EU-level civil society organisations.

ENSIE also focused its activities in reinforcing its members and their involvement at national and regional levels; especially concerning the transposition of the public procurement Directive and their involvement within the European Structural and Investment Funds and the European Semester processes.

Thematic topics were also studied according to the interest of ENSIE’s members and specific activities were organised related to WISEs as active labour market measures, the social and economic impact measurement, integration of homeless people and in-work poverty.

Most of ENSIE activities were implemented in the framework of its 4-years framework partnership agreement with the European Commission under the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI).
2. About us

ENSIE - European Network of Social Integration Enterprises - unites national and regional networks of Work Integration Social Enterprises (WISEs).

At the moment, ENSIE gathers 27 national and regional networks, representing 18 countries of the European Union (Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom) Serbia and Switzerland.

Together, they totalize some 2,500 Work Integration Social Enterprises, and more than 400,000 salaried persons. All these networks pursue, in a manner adapted to local constraints, objectives of social integration of disfavored publics.

WISEs identifying principles

These networks are made up by enterprises of which identifying principles are:

- The social and professional integration of individuals who due to their exclusion and their relegation to a marginal role in society have fallen victim to increasing social and professional handicaps.

- Enterprises at the core of the economic system: work integration social 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.

- Enterprises of a strong pedagogical dimension. The work integration social enterprises initiate training and educational programs designed on the basis of existing potential (at professional level and in its participation in society) and develop this individual potential within the enterprise.

Our Board of Directors

President
Ignasi Parody Nuñez
FAEDEI, Spain

Vice President
Hubert Quintelier
SST, Belgium

Executive President
Maria Nieves Ramos Rosario
FAEDEI, Spain
In 2015 ENSIE welcomed 2 new members: Chantier Ecole and Phoenix

Chantier Ecole (France)

Created in 1995 Chantier Ecole is a national network gathering 661 supporting structures of integration workshops (Ateliers d’insertion and Chantiers d’insertion) that are essentially non-profit association and 30 physical persons. Since a few years, the network Chantier Ecole wishes to enrich its practice by the confrontation with the practices of other actors. This desire is coupled with another which is to place its approach in a European framework and not only in a national one. It is in this perspective that they conducted a study visit to Brussels to meet some key players, including ENSIE. With this last, the French network shares the same purpose and common values. It is for this reason that the administrators of Chantier Ecole have validated the adhesion request, in the objective to contribute to the work of the European network.

Phoenix (Germany)

Created in 2011 Phoenix is a regional network from the federal state of Baden-Wuerttemberg in Germany gathering 6 WISEs having 546 permanent employees and 1030 places of work for long-term unemployed. Phoenix Co-operative wishes to improve the networking, communication, the exchange of knowledge, the partnerships in the projects and its most important goal is the lobbying. All the members of Phoenix refer to themselves as “defenders” of the target groups and active in the political life but they do not feel integrated or even represented at the federal level and the European level. The accession to ENSIE will allow them to work lobbying in both directions: make a report on the situation in Germany and introduce the problems at European level as well as be representative of ideas and European standards, and contribute to this through European projects. They are hoping in an active communication, discussions, visits and conferences with NSIE in Germany, a professional communication, participation in European projects, the learning on examples of “good practices”, the development of collective standards methods, the establishment of contacts beyond the borders and the creation of relevant partnerships.

At the occasion of the General Assembly Meeting 2014 ENSIE’s members identified the priority guidelines for the next four years. They were the basis of ENSIE memorandum.
THE WORK INTEGRATION SOCIAL ENTERPRISES, PROMOTING THE EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE FURTHEST FROM THE LABOUR MARKET

The 2020 Strategy and the achievement of its goals would move towards the sustainable development of the European Union. Unfortunately, these goals for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth are still far from being achieved, as shown the current data on employment and people in poverty or at risk of poverty and social exclusion in Europe.

The work integration social enterprises are part of the wider sector of social economy based on three principal fundamentals:

- The primacy of the person and the community purpose
- The democratic governance and inclusiveness
- The collective ownership of the profits and surpluses which are reinvested

ENSIE strongly believes in the possibility to develop 'another way of entrepreneurship' that would not be the victim of the profit maximization, of speculations and that would not be done to the detriment of society. Moreover, the social economy initiatives that have shown evidence all around Europe concerning the satisfaction of social and economic needs (integration, training, local and alternative trade, personal services, etc.), usually have a strong local dimension. It represents an important return on investment for the community that has to be taken into account. For this reason, ENSIE thus continue to call upon the creation within the European Commission a dedicated unit or a transversal department in charge of social economy issues with a specific work integration social enterprises related focus and a European Action Plan for the development of social economy enterprises, in particular work integration social enterprises, in line with the actions initiated by the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee in the framework of the Social Business Initiative. This action plan have to focus on the creation of appropriate national legal framework for work integration social enterprises in the countries where it doesn't exist yet, as well as increasing the visibility of these enterprises and their added-values.

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1See the Social Economy Europe Memorandum, the reference european network concerning the social economy: http://www.socialeconomy.eu.org/spip.php?rubrique390;
As direct actors in active social inclusion, ENSIE and the work integration social enterprises more particularly call on:

The implementation of a concrete strategy to fight against poverty and exclusion that aims, among others, the creation of jobs and that takes into account the positive economic and social impact of work integration social enterprises on employment, inclusion of the most disadvantaged people and local development.

The provision of assistance and guidelines beside public authorities in the implementation of the new opportunities for the development of work integration social enterprises (introduction of social considerations on employment of disadvantaged people and reserved markets) issued through a positive transposition of the 'public procurement' Directive. And, for some countries where the transposition has been delayed, the provision of assistance and guidelines beside public authorities in order to ensure the relevant implementation of the new development opportunities of the Directive.

The establishment of a taxation system, adapted to the Work Integration Social Enterprises’ economic model that fulfill a mission of general interest, with reduced VAT rates and compensation by the State.

The development of a monitoring mechanism for the use of the European Structural and Investment Funds and, in particular, the European Social Fund. This mechanism must ensure that the percentage of the Fund for the reduction of poverty (20%) is respected and the implementation of partnership agreements takes into account the representation of Work Integration Social Enterprises and the promotion and development of this type of companies.

The organization of an annual public hearing beside the European institutions on work integration social enterprises, representing their managers and workers in order to ensure the needs of the sector to be taken into account.
4. Networking

5 & 6 March
Bertinoro, Italy

ENSIE has organised its board meeting together with the transnational meeting of the European project ‘Old Challenges, new pathways: social enterprises fostering improvement and social innovation on social inclusion’ in Bertinoro, Italy. On the 5th March, the board members met with the ENSIE staff to discuss about the financial issues and the activities of the network. At the same time also a special point about evaluation and about communication was presented. The board members participated then actively in the international seminar ‘Social Innovation between policy and development’ which was organised in cooperation of ENSIE, its member EVT, SCF (Scuola Centrale Formazione) and CEC (Comité Européen de Coordination). Giovanni Zonin, president of EVT gave the opening speech of the seminar and presented the particular features of the EVT network in Italy. On this occasion, Patrizia Bussi, Director of ENSIE, talked on a European perspective of social innovation.

4 & 5 June
Barcelona, Spain

ENSIE members met in Barcelona for the General Assembly. 35 participants from 18 different countries were present. Jacopo Lombardi from the European Commission Directorate General ‘Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion’ also participated in the meeting and presented the approach of the European Commission towards social integration enterprises. His contribution was followed by a discussion with the ENSIE members. On this occasion the ENSIE staff also organized working groups about the members’ involvement in the programmes of the European Structural and Investment Funds and about a tool on the economic and social impact of social integration enterprises. The network also organised a European seminar – together with the Spanish members FADEI and FEICAT-on ‘PARTNERSHIPS OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION ENTERPRISES’. The seminar was supported by the European Commission, the Catalan government and the foundation ‘la Caixa’. This seminar offered an opportunity to present different forms of partnerships that social integration enterprises have developed with the public sector on the basis of public procurement and other arrangements and with the private profit sector. Some ENSIE members shared their practical experience with the audience: le RES, CantierAperto and De Omslag on the topic of partnerships with the public sector and RISE Romania, Telehandelshuset, COORACE and SENS on different examples developed with the private sector.
12 & 13 November
Brussels, Belgium

On 13th November ENSIE organised a European Seminar on Impact WISEs with the support of Marek Plura, member of the European Parliament. After an introduction of Marek Plura and of ENSIE’s executive president Maria Nieves Ramos, Risto Raivio from the European Commission Directorate General ‘Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion’ presented the impact measurement in the context of of the actions of the European Union in order to sustain social entrepreneurship. Floriana Nappini, Project Officer of Consorzio DROM, an ENSIE member and responsible for the working group on impact measurement explained the different steps of developing a tool for measuring the economic and social impact created by ENSIE and its members. Then Erika Lambert showed the results of the first testing phase of the tool, a study that was carried out by 9 ENSIE members that questioned in total 772 social integration enterprises in 8 different countries. The ENSIE members that were involved in this first study were: ACT Group (Croatia), RISE Romania, Sent (Slovenia), La Fédération des entreprises d’insertion (France), bdv (Austria), CantierAperto and DROM (Italy), FAEDEI (Spain) et Social Firms England (UK). At this occasion the board members met on 12th and 13th November to discuss the current activities of the network and the financial situation. During this meeting the final vote for the ENSIE slogan took place: ‘Empowering people through social enterprise: creating a stronger society’. The ENSIE members have also evaluated the activities of 2015.

Economic and social impact of WISEs

Following several working groups in 2014 a European tool for the economic and social impact measurement was established and tested according to a common basic framework in 772 enterprises in 9 member networks in 8 European countries. The results of the first testing phase were presented in the meeting IMPACT WISEs organized in the European Parliament on 13th November 2015. On the basis of these results the European tool should be improved according to the experiences of the members involved.

Integration of homeless people

In Spain the network FEICAT has realised a special partnership with the City of Barcelona and the Foundation ‘la Caixa’ in order to integrate homeless people into the labour market. To achieve this goal the Catalan network provided 50 full time workplaces for one year on the basis of a joint agreement that each partner pays for 33% of the monthly cost related to the workplace.

WISE and active labour market measures

The Work Integration Social Enterprises fulfill the general mission to give access to and the re-integration into the labour market for disadvantaged persons. This is their primary goal. In order to promote this type of enterprises, some member states have introduced active employment measures by supporting social economy initiatives and in particular the work integration social enterprises that offer a solution in the fight against unemployment of people that are very far from the labour market. Examples from Belgium and Austria highlight such types of measures integrating the persons farthest from the labour market.

In-work poverty

ENSIE participated as an expert in a project lead by its Belgian member RES on how to increase the WISEs workers purchasing power. In this framework a working group called ‘G+’ (I have more) was created with the interested members of RES to constitute a representative group of workers in order to be able to negotiate attractive prices for a panel of services dedicated to the WISEs workers. In the framework of their activities RES has implemented the project G+childhood to fight against the poverty of working families in the G+ group of enterprises. In this context ENSIE has organised a visit in the social enterprise SUPLA in Cordoba, in Spain. They aim at a integration of local women by offering counselling, training and economic activities in the sector of childcare, cleaning and maintenance of public gardens.
Representation at EU level

ENSIE is a member of Social Platform, Social Economy Europe and RIPESS Europe.

5. Advocacy

Press releases and consultations
- Open letter of support to the coalition for the SE in Romania
- Contribution to the draft regulation on the European Fund for Strategic Investments (MEP Udo Bullmann and MEP José Manuel Fernandez)
- Contribution to the European Parliament draft report on Social entrepreneurship and social innovation in combatting unemployment (MEP Lope Fontagné)
- Letter to Commissioner Thyssen
- Letter to Commissioner Bienkowska
- Publication in the Parliament magazine
- WISEs and active labour market measures
- Long term unemployment consultation
- Consultation on circular Economy
- COR consultation on social economy
- Consultation Work life balance
- Survey of the stakeholders of the EaSI programme

A few numbers

18 Spoke at EU level

2 Spoke at international level

10,619 Website views

638 Facebook likes

470 Twitter followers
Who we met

- Commissioner Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility M. Thyssen
- DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
- DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
- 2 EU presidencies: Latvia and Luxembourg
- Several MEPs met during the organization of the seminar ‘Impact WISEs’, activities of EMPL (Employment and social affairs), IMCO (Internal market and consumers protection) and ITRE (Industry, Research and Energy) committees, Parliamentary Intergroup on Social Economy and the Parliamentary Intergroup on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights
- The Permanent Representation of The Netherlands
- The Slovenian Permanent Representation
- Several EU level Civil society organizations
- 3 European social partners’ organizations
- 4 Foundations
- 4 consultant firms

EU level conferences spoke and participation

- Measuring the effectiveness of philanthropy
- Social impact investing and its role in future social public/private investments: continuing dialogue
- Enabling ecosystem for social enterprises
- Implementation of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities
- Working together for a stronger European labour market
- Developing a common methodology for cross-nationally comparable reference budgets in Europe
- Conference on the social dimension of the EU Presidency in Luxembourg
- Cultural and ethical finance: towards a lasting alliance
- How can VP/SI practitioner access EU funding?
- Upskilling unemployed adults
- Social Enterprises World Forum 2015
- Launch of the Luxembourgish Presidency of the EU Council regarding Social Economy: “Boosting Social Enterprises in Europe”
- Social Enterprise: Make It Happen!
- We Start - Women social entrepreneurs changing Europe
- Mutually and Cooperatives Seminar: The people’s business
- Social Policy in the European Union: State of Play 2015
- Social Enterprises and public procurement
- Building a resilient Europe in a globalised world
- Emerging Observations and Discussion Groups on Opportunities for Third Sector Participation in EU Policy Making
- L’impact de l’économie sociale et solidaire
- Establishing Satellite Accounts for the Social Economy
- Refugees’ labour market integration: challenges and initiatives to maximise potential
- Social dimension of the upcoming Dutch Presidency of the Council of the EU
- Refugees’ integration in the EU labour markets
- Workshop to explore the role of the private sector in addressing social challenges and inclusion
- Boosting social enterprises in Europe
- CSR multi stakeholders’ forum
- Social Entrepreneurship Network final conference
- Social Entrepreneurship for Democratic Governance and Peace
- 3rd World Forum of Local Economic Development
- Homeless and employment EUROGITIES working group Homelessness
- Fostering social enterprises through public procurement pros and cons.
- Parliamentary Intergroups: Social Economy, Extreme Poverty and Human rights
- Expert group on social entrepreneurship (CECEs) meetings
- European Structural and Investment Funds: partners group of experts meeting
Work Integration Social Enterprises - **WISEs Event**

On the 18th and 19th May ENSIE, Eurodiaconia and EASPD held a seminar on Work Integration Social Enterprises. The event aimed to introduce the important role played by WISE to incorporate socially excluded people, as well as people with mental or physical disabilities, into society, through adapted work. The first day was dedicated to sharing of experiences and discussions between the members of the three European networks organising the event. Eurodiaconia, ENSIE and EASPD welcomed WISEs from 11 European countries: PRO ARBEIT & FAIRHAUS (Germany), AAC SHIRAK DIOCESE SOCIAL-EDUCATIONAL CENTRE (Armenia), RENEWAL (Czech Republic), PEDALEN (Sweden), HUMANA NOVA & DOMACI (Croatia), De Omslag (the Netherlands), Frame of Mind (the United Kingdom), NASO (Bulgaria), CHANCE B (Australia), REHAB GROUP (Ireland) JOB-LINK (Belgium) & CUDV Draga (Slovenia). Each organisation presented its activities on stands during the morning, which enabled the participants learn about various products and services. After a brief presentation of the European framework of WISEs, the participants split into small groups for a speed dating. The discussion was structured around three main topics: interest in the workshop, main issues and challenges for WISEs in the participants’ countries and future priorities for improvement at EU level. The EU-level networks proposed a follow-up session to share experiences and challenges with the participants and to identify key priorities for WISEs to address at EU level. A networking dinner concluded this day of sharing between the WISEs representatives. The second day of the event was opened to a wider audience, which had the opportunity to learn more about WISEs’ role for the society, good practices, policy and funding framework. Each participant had the chance to directly exchange with the WISEs representatives through the stands showcasing member organisations’ projects. Three panel sessions focused on specific topics: the role of public authorities and the EU in ensuring an enabling framework for WISEs, the role of private finance in the development of WISEs and the link between the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) and WISEs.

6. Projects

Project ‘Old challenges new pathways: social enterprises fostering improvement and social innovation on social inclusion’ - financed by the European Commission under the Grundtvig action Learning Partnership, in which ENSIE is involved as observers. This project is focused on the role of social enterprises - namely work integration social enterprises (WISEs), and other social and solidarity initiatives - in promoting social inclusion of disadvantaged groups. Its main objective is to explore and contrast different models of intervention in the field of socio-professional integration of disadvantaged groups, which have been widely developed in the last decades in European countries.

- 5 partners from different European Member States
- 1 transnational meeting, 3 study visits, 1 world café, 1 international seminar “Social Innovation between policy and practice” - Bertinoro, Italy
- 1 final seminar, 1 study visit - Porto, Portugal
- 2 projects newsletters
The project G+ Enfance (‘I have more - childhood’) is a national project managed by RES, Belgium in which ENSIE was an expert. The project aims to fight against children poverty in the families of disadvantaged workers in collaboration with the enterprises of the ‘G+’ group (‘I have more) from Wallonia, Belgium. The partnership was composed of the work integration social enterprises members of RES. The activities were implemented between May 2014 and April 2015.

Steps of the project

- State of play of existing initiatives on the territory
- State of play of current legislative framework on childcare and access to culture in Wallonia
- Case studies beside WISEs of the network in order to analyse the difficulties encountered by workers on the topic
- Study visit of a European practice of WISEs in the childcare sector
- New project ideas developed within the enterprises and the network to answer the workers’ problems

3 best practices were identified by ENSIE: Casa Oz from Turin, Italy; WeTek gmbh from Berlin, Germany; SUPLA from Cordoba, Spain. RES members selected SUPLA and ENSIE organised a two-day exchange session hosted by the colleagues of SUPLA in Cordoba, Spain.

The project aims at increasing professional competences of social enterprises and rising their ability to meet the new challenges for labor inclusion of disadvantaged groups and define useful training tools for the implementation of Job Coaching and Social Marketing WISEs activities.

The partners have the following objectives:

- enhance training and consultancy programmes using project output and results
- negotiate and advocate for the recognition of new emergent professional profiles in WISES
- support human resources qualification in the sector and the effectiveness of social inclusion.
- have increased networking activities with other peer organisations, VET system, private sector or local authorities supporting the qualification and capacity building of WISES;
- mainstreaming of good practices in the field of social and professional integration of disadvantaged groups

5 partners (Portugal, Italy, Austria, United-Kingdom and Belgium)
3 transnational meetings, 5 study visits - Porto, Portugal; Liège, Belgium; Vienna, Austria
10 study cases
The project aims at establishing and testing a strategy for cooperation between public and private funding for the development of specific local/regional financial tools supporting social enterprises. A model/guideline for cooperation at EU level will be elaborated, involving ethical financing players, representatives of the beneficiaries and public authorities, and it will then be tested at local level in two regions, Puglia in Italy and Västra Götaland in Sweden.

★ 4 partners (Ireland, Romania, Italy, Belgium)
★ 3 transnational meeting, 3 study visits - Turin, Italy; Liège, Belgium; Iasi, Romania
★ 3 local seminars - Barcelona, Spain; Dublin, Ireland; Liège, Belgium
★ 1 citizen portal

3E4SE European Ethical Financial Ecosystem for local partnerships supporting new Social Enterprises

The project aims at establishing and testing a strategy for cooperation between public and private funding for the development of specific local/regional financial tools supporting social enterprises. A model/guideline for cooperation at EU level will be elaborated, involving ethical financing players, representatives of the beneficiaries and public authorities, and it will then be tested at local level in two regions, Puglia in Italy and Västra Götaland in Sweden.

★ 7 partners at European level: SEFEA, FEEBA, REVES, DIESIS COOP, SOFICATRA SA, ENSIE, FAEDEI
★ 6 local Swedish partners: COOMPANION, CITY OF GOTHENBURG, BRG: Business Region Göteborg, Vastra Gotalandsregionen, Mikrofonden Vast, Ekobanken
★ 2 Italian local partners: Banque Popolaire Etica, Confcooperative - Union régionales des pouilless
★ 2 project newsletters
★ 1 European memorandum and 2 local memorandum
The main goal of the project is to create a training module for jobcoaching in Work Integration Social Enterprises.

The project is divided in 3 parts:
- RESEARCH PHASE - 10 months: Research part on existing modules and real needs of enterprises on the topic
  1. Building tools to do the research 2. Do the research – 2 meetings
- CREATION PHASE - 9 months: Create the training module together (mainly on behalf of University) with objective to do a training for trainers – 1 meeting with 2 people from each country to be trained
- IMPLEMENTATION PHASE - 9 months: Testing the training module: trainers trains jobcoaches in each country. Accreditation phase of the module. Dissemination of the project.

★ 7 partners from 5 European countries (Belgium, Italy, Hungary, Spain and Latvia)
★ 1 kick off meeting
7. Perspectives for 2016

This year 2015 was characterized by a necessity to ensure the promotion of social economy, in particular work integration social enterprises to the new European Institutions. A greater involvement of members has also been requested by the team within the network.

The continuation of ENSIE’s strategy is essential for an efficient implementation of the network activities in 2016.

Following the priority guidelines given this year by the members the team will focus its activities on:

- **Networking** meetings and event on topics linked to work integration social enterprises to reinforce the members’ capacity as relevant stakeholders in employment and social policies; as well as **concrete projects** on social and economic impact measurement of work integration social enterprises in Europe, on democracy in the enterprise, on integration of migrants in the framework of partnerships among work integration social enterprises and public authorities.

- **European and national political activities** linked with the follow-up of the European Commission Social Business Initiative by the new Commission representatives, the transposition of the public procurement Directive in the different EU Member States, the European structural and investment funds, the recognition of work integration social enterprises in their contribution to the employment and social policies.

- **Activities on different projects** notably linked to the professional competencies of work integration social enterprises and the civic engagement of citizens in disadvantaged areas with local and EU level decision-making processes.
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