

# YEAR IN REVIEW 2019



diesis  
network

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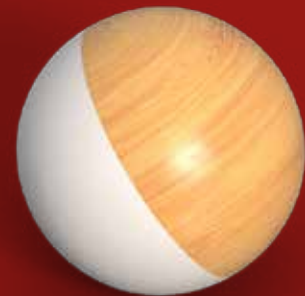
# WHAT'S NEW IN THE DIESIS NETWORK

In 2019 it was full steam ahead in old and new seas! At the turn of the year, it is now time to look back at some of our key milestones achieved last year. With 7 new members joining Diesis, our network now comprises 32 members in 18 countries across Europe. Representing more than 80,000 social economy organisations and more than 1,200,000 employees, our members are major national federations and national support networks for the social economy, social business and social innovation.

We participated in 28 projects in 2019, covering 9 Sustainable Development Goals. Relentlessly supporting and working on promoting the social economy, we organised 26 meetings across Europe, travelled in 22 countries and 4 continents, dedicated 1,600 hours of work to innovation, and produced 22 videos and 38 publications.

With activities in the Western Balkans and Middle East boosted, our team also expanded, with 4 new staff working full-time for the Diesis Network, bringing experience and new exciting ideas!

So we welcome 2020 and the new decade with the 2030 SDGs as the pole star guiding our sailing. The horizon is looking bright, our motivation and energy are stronger than ever, and we are always looking to go further to promote and support the social economy, social entrepreneurship and social innovation in Europe.



# DIESIS'S IMPACT



28

EU FUNDED  
PROJECTS

9 SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS  
COVERED



104

MEETINGS  
ATTENDED



1.600+  
hours

DEVELOPMENT OF  
NEW PROJECTS



38

PUBLICATIONS



1300+

PAGES

IN 3 LANGUAGES

IT - FR - EN

65 GOOD PRACTICES  
COLLECTED



22 VIDEO  
PRODUCED



MEETINGS  
ORGANISED

26

NUMBER OF  
PARTICIPANTS



1000



IN  
10  
COUNTRIES



32 Member  
Organisations

18 from  
CONTRIES



DIESIS TRAVELLED  
TO 4 CONTINENTS  
AND 22 COUNTRIES

53.830  
PEOPLE REACHED



169.100  
IMPRESSIONS



+7 New  
Members

80.000+  
SOCIAL ECONOMY  
ENTREPRISES

1,2 Million  
JOBS

# DIESIS IN ACTION

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



5 GENDER EQUALITY



# NOMY **SOCIAL** ENTERPRISES AND SOCIAL SOCIAL **ECONOMY** AND SOCIAL INNOVATION LE **ECONOMY** **SOCIAL** ENTERPRISES AND NOMY **SOCIAL** **ENTERPRISES** AND SOCIAL SOCIAL ENTERPRISES **AND** SOCIAL INNOVATION ONOMY **SOCIAL** ENTERPRISES AND SOCIAL MY **SOCIAL** **INNOVATION** ENTERPRISES

The social economy, social enterprises and social innovation are at the core of the Diesis Network's mission and activities. Diesis Network is an organisation created by the social economy to promote the development of the social economy at European level. It is a cooperative with a social aim under Belgian law and acts in accordance with cooperative values and principles.

Diesis Network uses its vast knowledge and experience to support the development of the social economy and social enterprises in and outside Europe. In recent years its action outside Europe has been directed towards Balkan and Mediterranean countries in order to promote an enabling social economy ecosystem.

The social economy and social innovation are closely linked. They both aim to meet unsatisfied social needs and to respond to social challenges. Diesis Network is working to emphasise that the social economy is a vehicle and agent of social innovation (though not the only one), while social innovation very often originates inside the social economy sector.



## **MEDUPI!** **PROMOTING SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION (2018-2022)**

The project aims to increase economic inclusiveness and employment by supporting social enterprises in Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) countries such as Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The four-year project is co-financed by EuropeAid and will advocate appropriate policies on social entrepreneurship, public-private dialogue, exchanges of practices and high-quality services for social enterprises.

DIESIS is in charge of macro-level activities aimed at supporting key actors in the six countries participating in the project, to offer them a unique opportunity to access direct, hands-on learning on key issues regarding the improvement of social entrepreneurship ecosystems. The first peer review of the project on “Social entrepreneurship policy frameworks with an ecosystem approach in a gender perspective” was organised in Tunis in December 2019 and involved high-level representatives from both the public sector and social enterprise support organisations.

## **JOIN UP** **(2018-2022)**

Join Up is a project led by Oxfam which aims to develop social entrepreneurship as a driver for economic and social inclusion in Jordan. Through several actions at macro (institutional support and raising awareness) and meso (support to social entrepreneurship support organisations) levels, Join Up will promote a national ecosystem in which social enterprises can tackle current socioeconomic and environmental challenges more effectively through having access to support services that will help them to grow and scale up.



Investing in people  
European Social Fund

## **EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND** **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (2015-2019)**

DIESIS has been appointed as the expert of the Social Economy Thematic Network, acting in the framework of ESF transnational cooperation activities. The network, composed of ESF Managing Authorities along with national and European stakeholders, operated until 2019 to enable mutual learning among countries and stakeholders and facilitate coordinated ESF calls for proposals.

In 2019 the network organised an event on “Building a Sustainable Social Enterprise Sector” (Edinburgh, March 2018), and its final event entitled “Good practice transfer (2015-2019) and the way forward for the social economy” (Warsaw, June 2019). At the ESF Transnational Platform conference “ESF Transnational Cooperation: including and empowering people throughout life” DIESIS organised a workshop on “Using microcredit and financial instruments” (Brussels, May 2019).

<http://socialeconomy.pl/>

<https://ec.europa.eu/esf/transnationality/forums/social-economy>

## **BSI** **BUYING FOR SOCIAL IMPACT (2018-2019)**

The Buying for Social Impact (BSI) project was commissioned by EASME and DG GROW to promote the use of social considerations in public procurement procedures. It covered 15 EU Member States: Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden.

The BSI team consisted of a network of national public procurement and social economy experts in the above-mentioned countries, coordinated by a consortium led by

AEIDL in partnership with REVES, DIESIS, Social Economy Europe (SEE) and ENSIE.

DIESIS was part of the central content team and coordinated the identification and description of good practices (collected in a publication). DIESIS also organised awareness raising and training events in Poland, Croatia, Czechia and Slovakia.

<https://www.aeidl.eu/docs/bsj/index.php>



**R2G**

**FOSTERING INFORMATION CONSULTATION  
PARTICIPATION RIGHTS TO HELP SOCIAL ENTERPRISES  
GROW (2017-2019)**

The Rights to Growth (R2G) project ran between November 2017 and September 2019 and was carried out with the support of the European Commission (DG EMPL) by a partnership led by DIESIS and including European-level organisations (CECOP, ENSIE, ETUC and SEE) on both the workers' and employers' sides.

A wide range of national organisations participated in the project either as partners (ACT Grupa, AVISE, CGM, COCETA, FISE, Legacoopsociali, RISE, SEUK) or were involved as members of European umbrella organisations.

The project selected a sample of 26 social enterprises from 13 EU countries and examined their practices regarding governance and participation.

The project outputs are:

- Two publications with the same title: "Participation is the key: mapping the governance of social enterprises across Europe – models and good practices". The first one is the final content report and the second focuses

on conclusions and recommendations. They are both available on paper and online;

- Video interviews and posters of the nine most significant case studies;
- Training material on European directives on information and consultation of workers.

Through this project DIESIS contributed to the development of workers' involvement and good governance in Europe and raised awareness of the importance of social entrepreneurship, especially in the Balkan countries.

<http://r2g.diesis.coop>



# MIGRATION

A theme in which Diesis Network is very active is migration from various perspectives, including supporting migrant entrepreneurs, improving the narrative, and testing new paths for the social and economic integration of third country nationals.

Thanks to its involvement in a series of important European projects and initiatives, Diesis Network has been able to bring the voice of social economy/entrepreneurship to bear at the European level and become an active player in this topic, which represents both a challenge and a great opportunity for the future of the European Union. It is a founding member of the UnionMigrantNet network and an active member of the European Migration Forum, the civil society dialogue platform on migration, asylum and migrant integration. Together with the members of its network and in partnership with other important European players, Diesis Network regularly works project initiatives in this field to promote the role of social economy enterprises.



## **MAX** **MAXIMISING MIGRANTS' CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY** **(2019-2022)**

MAX is an AMIF-funded project which aims to change public attitudes towards migrants. The goal is to improve the public image of migrants in Europe by changing the narrative of the discourse on immigration by foregrounding the stories of real people. Storytelling, the creation of positive messages for the media and dialogue encounters between locals and newcomers are the key figures of the project.

The project involves 20 partners, 15 local organisations from 12 EU Member States (BE, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FR, SI, IT, NL, PL and SE) as well as five EU-level partners. It thus draws on a wide variety of local first-hand experiences of migrants and their host communities, from three very contrasting regions of the EU: northern industrial/commercial, southern rural and central-eastern European. In this project, DIESIS participates in spreading the important role that migrants can have in our society.

<https://maxamif.eu/>



## **NEW TALENTS 4 EU** **(2019-2020)**

The NewTalents4EU project proposes to empower all refugees to plan their future, making integration work now and more durably. Market-focused and validated training schemes in coding/programming skills and enterprise networking will be implemented. The objective of the NewTalents4EU project is

to design and pilot an innovative path for labour integration of refugees, based on a specific IT skill development programme and cooperation and mobilisation of public services, employers and social and economic partners, to raise the employment rate quickly and effectively and to ensure long-term employability, across different cities and regions in 4 European countries. Migrants and refugees can and should actively participate in the EU's economic life and development. DIESIS wishes to spread this message and help to empower migrants and refugees through this project providing IT learning programmes.

<https://newtalents4eu.eu/>



## **EMEN** **EUROPEAN MIGRANT ENTREPRENEURSHIP NETWORK** **(2017-2020)**

The EMEN project develops, shares and promotes support schemes for individual migrant entrepreneurs and for social and inclusive enterprises benefitting migrants. To achieve this ambitious objective, the first step it took was to set up three Communities of Practice (CoPs): (1) Coaching and mentoring; (2) Access to Finance (3) Professionalisation of migrant entrepreneurs' associations and diversity management in chambers of commerce.

DIESIS is in charge of the dissemination and networking activities. These two pillars of the project aim to generate awareness among target groups and disseminate the project's activities and results to a wider circle of interested actors, and to open the project to other networks and consortia and create a broader European network that builds bridges and links to different initiatives.

Migrants can have a key role on the EU's economic growth, with this project DIESIS and all the partners try to enhance their entrepreneurial capacities.

<http://emen-project.eu>



## LABOUR-INT 2

### LABOUR MARKET INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS.

#### A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPROACH (2019-2020)

The LABOUR-INT 2 project aims to promote employment as a key part of the integration process of third-country nationals, which is central to the participation of migrants in society. Besides, it aims to promote multi-layered and multi-stakeholder integration paths for recently arrived migrants and refugees across the EU, from arrival up to the workplace, passing through education, training and job placement.

In line with the previous action LABOUR-INT 1 carried out in 2016-2018, the objective of this project is to promote programmes for the inclusion of third-country nationals in the labour market, building on the interest and capacities of employers, chambers of industry and commerce, trade unions and migrant associations. The action includes the follow-up of the 3 national pilot actions that were initiated in the first phase of LABOUR-INT and aims to develop further pilot actions in 2 additional countries, that present a favourable environment for multi-layered integration programmes.

DIESIS is a partner in this project, taking part mainly in dissemination activities.

<http://www.labour-int.eu/>



## UNION MIGRANT NETWORK

UnionMigrantNet is an International network of contact points that provides information and assistance to migrants and would-be migrants. It is promoted and managed by the

European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) with the active support of other European networks and organisations. DIESIS is one of its founder members and since its setting up has been very active in contributing the voice and experience of the social economy. The services provided by UnionMigrantNet contact points aim to promote the collective and individual interests and rights of mobile workers, protect the individual and collective social rights of migrants, increase the visibility and accessibility of services and facilities supporting the integration of migrants, encourage trade union membership among the migrant population, and encourage migrant social entrepreneurship.

<http://www.unionmigrantnet.eu>



## EUROPEAN MIGRATION FORUM

DIESIS has been selected to take part in the European Migration Forum, the platform for dialogue between civil society and the European institutions on issues relating to migration, asylum and the integration of third-country nationals. It brings together representatives of civil society organisations, local and regional authorities, Member States and EU institutions. The aim of the forum is to enhance coordination and cooperation between key players involved in the multilevel European governance of migration. The forum aims to provide more information on the latest policy developments and also to gather information on how European policies are implemented at regional, local and grassroots levels. It should help to better understand the main challenges that civil society organisations and social partners face in the field and to identify ways to better support them in their efforts to address migrants' needs.

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Digitalisation is having a considerable and still growing impact on virtually every aspect of economic and social life in the European Union. This ongoing digital transformation promises to spur innovation, generate efficiencies, and improve governance in many ways and, in so doing, to boost inclusive and sustainable growth. The digital transformation requires, at the same time, that it is accessible and designed for all. The digital inclusion is one of the European Commission's effort "to ensure that everybody can contribute to and benefit from the digital economy and society".

Social economy enterprises can be key actors in fostering the digital transformation and support digital inclusion, and digitalisation may be a lever to increase their social impact across Europe.

Diesis Network is committed to understanding and unlocking the growth potential of social economy enterprises and digitalisation as well as the digital inclusion through the implementation of a number of initiatives such as projects, studies, workshops and events.



## SEEDING

### SOCIAL ECONOMY ENTERPRISES ADDRESSING DIGITALISATION, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS (2019-2021)

The issue of digitalisation is crucial for social economy enterprises, because the changes it implies pose challenges such as job losses due to automation as well as offering opportunities. SEEDING aims to be the first project addressing social economy enterprises and digital transformations, exploring how social economy enterprises and their employers' organisations deal with the impact on employment and working conditions.

As outcome of the activities, the project will deliver:

- a background paper and a case study report, describing 21 case studies;
- 1 launch event, 2 transnational workshops, 7 info events and 1 final dissemination conference;
- 4 video interviews presenting the features of selected case studies;
- policy recommendations on how to prevent and manage effects of different types of digitalisation on employment.

DIESIS is the project coordinator of the activities, meanwhile the main research partner is Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini (Italy). Affiliated and associated partners are COCETA (Spain), Social Economy Slovenia Association (Slovenia), Legacoop Produzione e Servizi (Italy), Gruppo Cooperativo CGM (Italy), FISE (Poland), ETUC (EU) and Innova (Germany); also experts share their knowledge from Ireland.

<https://seedingproject.eu/>



## MEDICI

### MAPPING THE EVOLVING DIGITAL INCLUSION LANDSCAPE TO SUPPORT COHESION AND INTEGRATION (2018-2020)

MEDICI is a two-year European project aiming to develop and disseminate widely the existing best practices for integrating vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the digital society across the 28 EU member states.

The MEDICI project intends to tackle this digital exclusion to better integrate vulnerable communities in Europe by creating three key outputs: an interactive catalogue of best practices in the field of digital inclusion, an online map that helps stakeholders contextualise the best practices and visualise the information in ways that meet their needs, and a knowledge community supporting review, benchmarking, sharing of experience and transfer of best practices.

MEDICI helps different stakeholders to become aware of what already has been developed and implemented to tackle digital exclusion, and to use the experience of the existing tools at local/national and European levels.

DIESIS supports the creation of the community at European level by collecting and disseminating the practices existing at European level with a specific focus on social economy enterprises.

<http://medici-project.eu/>



## **ICT4TCN**

### **FACILITATING ACCESS TO THE ICT LABOUR MARKET OF THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS BY FURTHER DEVELOPING THEIR EXISTING SKILLSET (2019-2021)**

The project aims to use the existing IT skills and competences of third country nationals to meet some of the actual needs of the ICT industry in terms of specialised human resources. It aims to support the social inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable groups (third country nationals) through equal access to employment (as third country nationals enjoy less opportunities for employment compared with EU nationals).

Project results will foster the social inclusion of third country nationals in the participating countries, promoting sustainable inclusive growth and future prosperity in these countries by empowering the employability of this vulnerable group. Moreover, this solution will be expanded to other national contexts, while recommendations will be made for reaching also other sectors, besides ICT.

The project aims to achieve the objective through a customised capacity building programme (different courses will be offered based on the existing level of skills and competences), including training courses (following a blended methodology, combining classroom and e-learning) and IT boot camps.

# CONDITIONSEMPLOYMENTANDGOVERNANCE CONDITION**WORKING**CONDITIONSEM CONDITION**CONDITIONS**SEMPLOYM GCONDITION**EMPLOYMENT**ANDG ISEMPLOYMENT**AND**GOVERNANCE ORKING**AND****GOVERNANCE**CONDITI NGCONDITIONSEMPLOYMENTAND

For many years Diesis Network has been deeply involved in project activities related to social dialogue and industrial relations, employee involvement and employee financial participation.

Being a part of the social economy, Diesis Network is particularly attentive to all aspects of employee participation and corporate governance. Over the years, it has developed a strong experience in collaborating with organisations representing different interests (business, labour, social economy, academia and research, consultancy and advocacy) that share a common idea: economic democracy can make the European free market a more democratic space.



## **IN4BTE INFORMATION, CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION RIGHTS AS A FACTOR OF SUCCESS FOR THE BUSINESS TRANSFER TO EMPLOYEES IN SMES (2019-2021)**

The In4BTE project aims to find and analyse real cases where rights to information, consultation and participation as well as transparency principles have played a significant role in company succession processes and corporate restructuring that have resulted in successful business transfers to employees and improved company level social dialogue.

Since only a few countries have developed tools in this field, the project also aims to disseminate the best practices identified and transfer the know-how to countries which have less experience and are still not familiar with these instruments but could widely benefit from them. The project involves all together 11 partners from Spain, Italy, Germany, Bulgaria, Macedonia, France and the United Kingdom. DIESIS is a co-partner in this project, responsible for communication, co-management of the activities and presenting good cases in France and the United Kingdom.

Main outputs of the In4BTE project:

The collected know-how will be made available in easy-to-access documentation such as two written cases studies per country and a video, also transferred through transnational workshops – in Brussels, Florence, Sofia and Skopje – and dissemination activities. A printed and electronic final report will also be available at the time of the main conference in San Sebastian.

<https://in4bte.eu/>



## **AD-PHS ADVANCING PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD SERVICES (2019-2020)**

The project's main goal is to create a platform of relevant PHS stakeholders at EU level, which could work as a single point of contact to support, guide and provide advice to public authorities in the development of their PHS policies.

The consortium, composed of six EU-level organisations and one university, is:

- conducting research on the state of play on PHS policies in 21 EU Member States;
- developing tailored guidance;
- organising 21 national events with relevant stakeholders in order to gather and disseminate information at national level;
- organising a European conference to create a European platform of PHS stakeholders.

DIESIS is in charge of organising national events in Italy, Slovenia and Bulgaria and the European conference in Brussels.

<https://ad-phs.eu/>

## **BREAK BACK BREAK UP TO GET BACK TOGETHER (BREAKBACK). THE IMPACT OF UNIONISATION THROUGH INNOVATIVE SER- VICE PROVISION ON UNION MEMBERSHIP AND INDUS- TRIAL RELATIONS (2019-2021)**

The aims of the BreakBack project are threefold: to assess how trade unions respond to the processes of individualisation in society, to observe the impact of innovation in service provision as a trade union strategy to increase membership, and to



focus on service provision as an instrument to reach those social groups and individuals who are often excluded from union protection (e.g. non-standard forms of employment, digital workers, partially and totally autonomous workers, l-pros, freelancers, workers with multiple employers, sub-contracted and posted workers, consultants, etc.). The project has a strong research focus. The work package and tasks include desk research, drafting several country reports and an overall comparative report, identifying cases and drafting case studies, carrying out interviews, focus groups, web surveys and issuing policy briefs. DIESIS is a co-partner in the project, responsible for research tasks in Belgium. The project coordinator is CISL (Italy) and partners are research institutes and universities from Lithuania, Spain, Italy and Denmark.



## **ACDC ADULT COGNITIVE DECLINE CONSCIOUSNESS (2017-2020)**

ACDC is an Erasmus+ project that aims to test an innovative approach to extend the offer of transversal competences in a lifelong perspective, in the highly relevant field of health literacy for adults, with a specific focus on preventing cognitive decline. The general purpose of ACDC is to develop a set of innovative training tools addressing the health and digital health literacy issue for the prevention and management of cognitive decline in the elderly population and make these tools available to the widest possible audience. In the ACDC project, the partners aim to promote the practice of skills regarding four cognitive domains: verbal, memory, attention and visuospatial skills through stimulating but funny mental games.

DIESIS aims to disseminate the platform through the network, raising awareness of cognitive decline and how prevent it to social economy enterprises working in health care and education.

<https://www.acdcproject.eu/>



## **PESSIS+ PROMOTING EMPLOYERS' SOCIAL SERVICES IN SOCIAL DIALOGUE (2017- 2019)**

PESSIS+ aims to strengthen the capacity of the Federation of European Social Employers, in view of their participation in European Social Dialogue structures. The project's main activities will include national events in ten EU Member States to engage with relevant national employers, discussions with trade union organisations with a view to setting up the right structures, and research on the state of play of social dialogue structures in social services in the 28 EU Member States. The project is financed by DG EMPL within the budget supporting Social Dialogue. It is coordinated by EASPD with the participation of national and European employers and trade unions. DIESIS's role is to organise meetings in three countries (Italy, Poland and Slovenia) to present and raise interest in European social dialogue and EU policies involving the major national stakeholders.



## **PROEFP NETWORK**

ProEFP is a European network promoting economic democracy in Europe. It enjoys the support of a number of organisations from business, trade unions, advocacy and research, which share a common idea: employee financial participation and employee ownership can make the European free market a more democratic space. ProEFP studies, promotes and encourages all forms of employee financial participation and a broader diffusion of share/equity ownership among employees.

[www.proefp.eu](http://www.proefp.eu)

# VOCATIONAL TRAINING YOUTH EMP CATIONALE **EDUCATION** TRAINING YO CATIONALE **AND** TRAINING YOUTH EN TION AND **VOCATIONAL** TRAINING YO AND **VOCATIONAL** TRAINING YOUTH ATIONAL TRAINING **YOUTH** EMPOW CATIONALE **EMPOWERMENT** TRAININ

Education and training are vital in empowering people, building professionalism and creating employment. Diesis Network is contributing its expertise in social entrepreneurship to several Erasmus+ projects. The development of skills for social entrepreneurship through training and education is an important way to empower people and raise awareness of the benefits and added value of the social economy to the community. Since young people have little opportunity to improve their position in society through conventional employment, entrepreneurship represents an option for overcoming these hurdles and may help them to accomplish a number of goals, such as increased self-worth and satisfaction.

Social entrepreneurship constitutes a flourishing field of work, which not only facilitates entering into the labour market, but also contributes to the community's well-being by solving pressing social issues and generating a positive return to society.

Social entrepreneurship also provides viable and sustainable alternatives to the ever-widening gap between the demand and supply of services, especially for vulnerable groups (children, elderly, disabled people etc.). Diesis Network also promotes as a horizontal priority "open and innovative practices in a digital era", by developing a modern, integrated and holistic methodology based on e-learning and non-formal education, tailor-made to the needs of young prospective social entrepreneurs.



## Y-SHE

### YOUTH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP HUB (2019-2020)

The Youth Social Entrepreneurship Hub is an Erasmus+ project that aims to strengthen the competences for social entrepreneurship of youth workers and young people by developing learning materials and involving them in learning activities. The learning materials are innovative and propose to develop the knowledge and skills of young people to start and manage a social enterprise by involving them in the creation and management of a virtual social enterprise. The project proposes to develop the competences of youth workers to promote social entrepreneurship among young people.



## ZELDA

### TRAINING FOR INTERCULTURALITY (2019-2021)

The project is a response to the increase of migration in Europe. Since the second half of the 20th century, Europe has become a continent of immigration, increasing the population with a migrant background that is highly diverse in terms of countries of origin, ethnic and religious backgrounds, cultural practices and languages. Operators working with these persons are facing challenges in dealing with multicultural environments and misunderstandings generated by cultural diversity. The Margalit Cohen-Emerique (MCE) approach is a way to support these operators in managing these misunderstandings and to foster intercultural awareness among the people/learners

they work with. It is inviting intercultural trainers working in social area to experience cultural shocks as an opportunity to become aware of everyone's cultural point of view, and to share them by using words in order to promote dialogue and mutual understanding. The project proposes to develop a course curriculum, a competence framework and a sensitive zones handbook to provide practical help to intercultural trainers to enhance and disseminate Margalit Cohen-Emerique's intercultural approach and by that to reinforce social cohesion among "old" and "new" European citizens.



## ELASTIC

### EXCHANGE AND LEARNING FOR ADULT SOCIAL WORKERS: TRAINING ICT COMPETENCES (2017-2019)

The ELASTIC project answers the increasing need for digital skills among professionals working in the education and social inclusion of extremely vulnerable adults. The project planned an exchange of experiences and practices among Italy, Poland, Czechia, Belgium and Spain. Through meetings, study visits and training, the partner organisations and their employees were able to identify new ways to integrate ICT in social-educational services and solutions to improve their efficiency at work. The project is led by Open Group Soc. Coop. and DIESIS is supporting the partnership by evaluating and monitoring its activities.

## SELC

### SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES (2019-2021)

The project aims to increase motivation and to improve the guidance of adults with entrepreneurial initiatives for starting social businesses and enhance social cohesion in local

communities. The objectives of the project are: 1) to develop an integrated innovative social incubation business model for entrepreneurs; 2) to provide guidance and training for 60 adults and 10 partners' employees who will improve their skills by learning all steps and tools of the social incubation business models matching the community realities; 3) to create an innovative, alternative funding instrument for social entrepreneurs and businesses; 4) to increase the visibility of social entrepreneurship as an innovative solution to community well-being and generating new jobs. DIESIS believes that social entrepreneurship can widely contribute to economic development in local communities, and through this project it wishes to contribute to this important goal.



## **PROMYSE** **PROMOTING YOUTH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP (2017-2019)**

The PromYse project promotes social entrepreneurship in the health and social care sectors as an alternative pathway to youth self-sustainability, by developing the social entrepreneurship and business skills of unemployed youth with relevant educational or professional backgrounds, and raising awareness of the benefits and added value of social enterprises to the community as a whole. Led by the IARS International Institute, the partnership developed a specific user-led training course based on 10 modules. It will increase the capacity of young prospective social entrepreneurs to successfully engage in social entrepreneurship with an emphasis on those with fewer opportunities. DIESIS supports the definition of the values of social enterprises as well as the specific educational needs at European level.

[www.promyse.eu](http://www.promyse.eu)



## **C2E** **CARE 2 ENTREPRENEURSHIP (2018-2020)**

The project aims to develop, test and implement innovative practices in a much neglected area in the field of youth, targeting young carers aged 18-30 with a particular focus on women from low-income families. Through a youth-led methodology, the objective is to construct an evidence-based, well-tested and replicable educational and training curriculum to develop young carers' practical, creative and entrepreneurial skills to enable them to become confident and successful young entrepreneurs. These materials are implemented in the UK, Greece, Italy, Romania and Belgium, and use the comparative learning to inform EU-wide practices and policies. The project is led by IARS International Institute and DIESIS is responsible for the development and testing of the training curricula for young carers and professionals working in the care sector.

<https://www.c2eproject.org/>



## **EU3LEADER (2016-2019)**

EU3Leader is an Erasmus+ project aiming to strengthen leadership and entrepreneurial capacities so that third sector organisations are better able to drive positive change in tomorrow's Europe. Based on the EntreComp framework, the partnership has developed and tested a set of 13 competences as a global picture of key entrepreneurial competences for third sector leaders. DIESIS is expert in European tools in education and training to support the development of the set of competences and the training course related to the ECVET system. DIESIS also brings the social entrepreneurship model.

# TSEQUALITYANDRIGHTTSEQUALITY RIGHTTSEQUALITYNDRIGHTTSEQUAL DRIGHT**EQUALITY**ANDRIGHTTSEQ ALITYRIGHT**AND**QUALITYANDRI EQUALITYAND**RIGHT**TSEQUALITYAN EQUALITYANDRIGHTTSEQUALITYAN TYANDRIGHTTSEQUALITYANDRIGHT

Over the past 25 years, there has been progress in reforming laws towards improving gender equality, yet discriminatory laws and gaps in legal protection remain in many countries. While women represented 39% of world employment, only 27% of managerial positions in the world were occupied by women in 2018, up only marginally from 26% in 2015. According to recent data from some 90 countries, women devote on average roughly three times more hours a day to unpaid care and domestic work than men, limiting the time available for paid work, education and leisure and further reinforcing gender-based socioeconomic disadvantages.

Social economy and social enterprises represent a positive environment for improving, decentralising and creating services facilitating the access of women and men to the labour market. Collaborative work, social economy and social entrepreneurship could be promoted both as models for tackling inequality and as models for greater social inclusion and cohesion. In recent decades, women's presence in the social economy has increased continuously. Indeed, the democratic cooperative structure, the possibility to have flexible working arrangements (reduced working hours, flexible working hours and flexibility in place of work) and access to specific services (such as childcare), enables them to work and allows them to be very present at work.

The promotion of gender equality and equal opportunities has been an important topic for the Diesis Network since the beginning, guaranteeing a gender balance both at organisational level and within the activities promoted.



## **CEASE COMPANIES IN EUROPE ASSOCIATED TO END GENDER BASED VIOLENCE. (2017-2019)**

In Europe, 1 in 3 women and girls between the ages of 15-49 have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner within a 12-month period, and 49 countries in the world currently have no laws protecting women from domestic violence. Domestic violence against women is a violation of human rights, which remains underestimated and under-tackled.

The CEASE project aims to create an additional front line in the battle against violence, by integrating a new actor in this fight: companies. Every employer/co-worker has been, is or will be in contact with an employee facing violence, whether it happens at work or in private. An action kit including training curricula for companies and information and sensitisation materials has been produced as well as a European Corporate Network (ECN). DIESIS supports the creation of the ECN by involving social economy enterprises and disseminating the materials elaborated among its members.

*[www.cease-project.eu](http://www.cease-project.eu)*

# LEDEVELOPMENTANDRESPONSIBLE TAND**SUSTAINABLE**RESPONSIBLELET EAND**DEVELOPMENT**RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT**AND**RESPONSIBLELET EVELOPMENT**RESPONSIBLE**ANDTO EVELOPMENT**TOURISM**ANDRESPO LEDEVELOPMENTANDRESPONSIBLE

The Diesis Network's commitment is to promote development-oriented policies that support decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of micro, small and medium social enterprises. The social dimension is one pillar of sustainable development. Social economy enterprises can be fundamental actors in this development process. Diesis Network is conducting studies on the contribution of the social economy and social economy enterprises to the achievement of the sustainable development goals. In 2019 its investigations focused on digital innovation, cooperative platforms, blockchain solutions, responsible tourism, green transition, alternative food systems and creative cultural industries.



## **T4FOOD TRAINING FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT (2017-2019)**

T4Food is an Erasmus+ project aiming to develop a professional training course based on the development of “green skills” requalifying professionals in the food sector, from cooking to hotel management, to more “green thinking”.

Several materials are now available: a toolbox made up of a methodological and assessment guide, which explains how to use T4Food training. The methodological manual gives the keys to teach and/or follow the training and will guide the learner through a fast understanding of the project and its contents. The assessment tool is based on two principles: a pre-assessment that will indicate which unit is interesting for the attendee according to his/her interests, and an assessment that will indicate to the user the level of knowledge acquired through the training. The training manual is composed of 8 units. Each learning unit mixes theory and practice.

DIESIS has been involved in supporting the definition of the framework of competences including social entrepreneurship as pillar of a more sustainable development. It will also guarantee a dissemination of the project results at European level through its network.

[www.trainingforfood.eu](http://www.trainingforfood.eu)



## **EARTH/OITS-ISTO**

DIESIS is a member and co-founder of the European Alliance for Responsible Tourism and Hospitality (EARTH), the first European network created by experts in responsible tourism. The non-profit association is composed of private organisations based in nine European countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Slovenia, Spain and the UK). EARTH has one main goal: to transform and unite Europe into “One Europe for Responsible Tourism”. The network brings to life the principles of sustainability, fairness and solidarity in tourism, by promoting the exchange of good practices, experience and knowledge among its members.

In the autumn of 2016 EARTH merged with OITS-ISTO, the international organisation supporting social and now also responsible tourism. The biggest change is to turn OITS-ISTO into the common home of social tourism stakeholders active in social tourism and other forms of tourism, including responsible tourism, solidarity tourism, fair tourism, community tourism – in other words all those forms of tourism that share a vision of the industry that benefits individuals, communities and local areas, contributes to development, promotes respect for cultures and the environment, and serves the public good.

DIESIS is a member of the Coordination Committee of OITS-ISTO Europe.



# PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

## HOW SOCIAL ENTERPRISES CONTRIBUTE TO ALTERNATIVE FOOD SYSTEMS

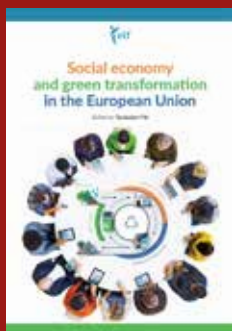
*Research published in the CIRIEC series of working papers as number 2019/14.*



What does it mean for a social economy enterprise to take food into account? The paper contributes to this branch of studies with the aim of understanding how social enterprises are able to generate alternative food systems to promote food sovereignty and sustainability. Firstly, a review of the relevant literature is presented, giving an overview of the relationship between social economy enterprises and sustainable development with a specific focus on sustainable food. After a description of the methodology employed, the paper details the experiences of a number of social enterprises in the food sector in Europe that have implemented innovative projects involving sustainability and counteracting the desertification of rural areas, women's employment, migrant integration, decent job conditions and work integration. This leads to a discussion of the results, the interpretation of the new roles of social enterprises, and the identification of the main implications. The main thing that links all these cases is five key elements, which are present in all the experiences we analysed: inclusion, equity, respect, responsibility and opportunity. These elements can be seen as keywords and important aspects for a transition towards more sustainable food systems through social economy enterprises. <http://www.ciriec.uliege.be/en/publications/wp/>

## THE POTENTIAL OF THE SOCIAL ECONOMY IN ADVANCING THE GREEN TRANSFORMATION

*This article is part of the "Social economy and green transformation in the European Union" publication edited by ELF.*



This DIESIS article explains in more depth some important facts about the social economy and social enterprises in the European Union and its member states. It covers recent developments and efforts in the field and later connects with the circular economy approach, while presenting several examples of social enterprises already working in the green transformation model. <http://bit.ly/2G4rhwx>

## IMPROVING WORK-LIFE BALANCE IN EUROPE THROUGH ENABLING SOCIAL SERVICES: FROM SERVICE PROVISION TO DECENT POLICIES

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*Research contracted by Social Services Europe.*



The research analysed the correlation between social service provision and work-life balance, including the employment consequences for informal and family carers – who are mainly (migrant) women. It also includes an analysis of ten practices that show how investing in high-quality, accessible and affordable services improves the work-life balance of families and informal carers. The study includes a set of recommendations addressed to EU and national policy-makers, as well as to care service providers. The research study is framed within the European Commission’s call for a work-life balance directive and showcases how social service providers are key to implementing and ensuring the right to suitable leave, flexible working arrangements and access to care services for parents and people with caring responsibilities (principle 9 of the European Pillar of Social Rights). <http://bit.ly/3aXYwzV>

## PARTICIPATION IS THE KEY: MAPPING THE GOVERNANCE OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES ACROSS EUROPE – MODELS AND GOOD PRACTICES – FINAL CONTENT REPORT

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*R2G project final publication.*



Introduced by a theoretical framework of worker participation and good governance models, the publication analyses the results of the survey of a sample of 26 enterprises. It presents some good examples and draws conclusions on how to foster participation within social enterprises.

<http://r2g.diesis.coop/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/R2G-Final-Content-Report.pdf>

## PARTICIPATION IS THE KEY: MAPPING THE GOVERNANCE OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES ACROSS EUROPE – MODELS AND GOOD PRACTICES – CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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*R2G project final publication.*



The publication brings out and discusses a number of important and interesting issues regarding the way that participation in governance can improve outcomes for the various stakeholders in businesses. This leads to a number of recommendations for different actors at European, national and local levels.

<http://r2g.diesis.coop/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/R2G-Reccomendations.pdf>

# HIGHLIGHTS 2019

## FEBRUARY

07/02

### **BLOCKCHAIN, DIGITAL SOCIAL INNOVATION AND SOCIAL ECONOMY. THE FUTURE IS HERE!**

*The workshop, organised by DIESIS, took place in Brussels, in the framework of the EU Industry Days.*

*Experts and representatives from the social economy, EU institutions and companies participated in our workshop, also presenting solutions based on blockchain or distributed ledger technologies for social goals.*

*The aim was not only to develop scalable, efficient and high-impact decentralised solutions to social innovation challenges but also to bring social economy enterprises and related stakeholders closer to blockchain technologies as possible tools for their developments.*



20/02

*Presentation of the research study by Social Services Europe **IMPROVING WORK-LIFE BALANCE IN EUROPE THROUGH ENABLING SOCIAL SERVICES: FROM SERVICE PROVISION TO DECENT POLICIES** at the European Parliament.*

## MARCH

05-06/03

### **BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SECTOR**

*The event took place in Edinburgh in the framework of the ESF Social Economy Transnational Network.*

*Organised by DIESIS, thematic expert of the network, the meeting looked at the challenge of building a sustainable social enterprise sector based on a number of Scottish examples of strategies, innovations and impact measurement tools. It included an intervention from Ms Aileen Campbell, Minister in the Scottish Government (MSP and Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government) and two study visits.*

## MARCH

14/03

### **THE BUYING FOR SOCIAL IMPACT NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN WARSAW**

*The aim of the conference was the promotion and dissemination of the use of socially responsible public procurement based on the provisions of Directive 2014/24/EU in Poland.*

*It targeted representatives of public administrations at the central, regional and local levels, public buyers, social economy enterprises, representatives of non-governmental organisations, representatives of control bodies, advisory bodies and regional support platforms.*



## MARCH

26/03

### EXPLOITING THE FULL POTENTIAL OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES - AGORADA 2019

*This international conference, organised by EURADA, brought together development practitioners, experts and policy-makers to take up the following challenge: how policies, programmes and structures can make a difference to support social enterprises.*

*Dorotea Daniele attended the event for Diesis and spoke during the panel entitled "Managing diversity in social enterprises". During this panel, Dorotea talked about how the social economy and social enterprises can help the faster and better inclusion of migrants in society. Following this, she presented the EMEN project and its activities.*



## APRIL

01/04

### GLOBAL PROBLEM SOLVING PLATFORM ON THE FUTURE OF CULTURE HERITAGE

*DIESIS was invited to the Platform on the Future of Culture Heritage, organised in Dublin by Directorate-General for Education and Culture of the European Commission.*

*The purpose of the platforms was to create a moment of exchange among a wide variety of people from diverse backgrounds, bearing unique visions, skills, and experience, to engage in an exercise of collective intelligence to develop problem-solving oriented proposals on specific, key fields where heritage will possibly make a difference in the future even more than it has so far. One important area on which the project focuses is social innovation. The relationship between heritage and social innovation has, somewhat unexpectedly, not been the object of intense attention so far. But heritage is clearly a potentially powerful source of innovation in a variety of respects.*



03/04

### 5<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN MIGRATION FORUM

*Diesis attended the European Migration Forum focusing on governance on Migration and the role of Civil Society. The main outcome was a set of 10 recommendations from five different workshops.*



## APRIL

11-13/04

### DEMOCRACY ALIVE- THE EUROPEAN FESTIVAL

*The Festival organised by European Movement in partnership with the European Parliament, brought together the main European actors (representatives from the European Parliament, the European Women's Lobby, AER and CEEP), the private sector and citizens, with the aim of encouraging civic engagement and increasing interest in European democracy.*

*The EMEN project, and others DIESIS projects on migration, were presented during the session entitled "Stories – No borders: storytelling on the inclusion of migrants through work and entrepreneurship" organised by DIESIS and hosted by the EMEN partner European Trade Union Confederation at the ETUC Pavilion in collaboration with AEIDL and the Hague University Applied Sciences.*



## MAY

21-22/05

### ESF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION: INCLUDING AND EMPOWERING PEOPLE THROUGHOUT LIFE

*In the framework of the ESF Transnational Platform conference DIESIS organised a workshop on "Using microcredit and financial instruments" to showcase ESF financing options other than grants, such as microcredits and financial instruments, for social entrepreneurs and self-employed people.*

28/05

*DIESIS attended a policy co-creation workshop on "NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND DIGITALISATION: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE SOCIAL ECONOMY AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISES" organised by EASME.*

*The purpose was to discuss how digital platforms and disruptive technologies contribute to the evolution of the social economy, what enablers foster the take-up of digital technologies by the social economy, and what the barriers and opportunities are.*

29/05

### BLOCKCHAIN: TECHNOLOGY FOR THE SOCIAL ECONOMY 4.0

*In the framework of its own initiative opinion on "Blockchain and distributed ledger technology as an ideal infrastructure for Social Economy", the EESC held a public hearing on "Blockchain: technology for the social economy 4.0".*

*The objective of the hearing was to give the floor to experts in the field, but also to present case studies showing how the social economy can benefit from this new technology.*

*DIESIS was invited as expert to present the results of its work and activities.*



03-09/06

**TRAINING 4 FOOD PROJECT TRAINING WEEK**

A group of 12 students from ESHOB (the Escola Superior d'Hostaleria de Barcelona), FOR.E.T (Formation Emploi Tremplin, Brussels) and IPSSEOA (the Istituto Professionale Statale per i Servizi Alberghieri e della Ristorazione "F. De Gennaro", Italy) were hosted in Sorrento by the Università della Cucina Mediterranea for a week-long training course. A part of the training programme developed in the framework of the T4Food project was tested through practical activities and study visits to local social enterprises engaged in the challenge of creating a more sustainable food sector.



06/06

**THE BUYING FOR SOCIAL IMPACT NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN PRAGUE**

The conference on socially responsible public procurement attracted 90 participants, mainly public authority and social economy representatives.

The conference explored the current conditions of socially responsible public procurement in Czechia, presented national and foreign good practices and showed how social enterprises can be supported through public procurement.

(cooperatives, mutuals, associations, foundations), it was an opportunity for West to meet East and to contribute with the results of studies to a transformational vision for a world meeting its sustainable development goals.

Two research papers submitted by DIESIS were accepted and presented during the conference:

- How social enterprises contribute to alternative food systems.
- Social economy enterprises in Eastern and Southern Europe: a wave of innovation.



07-09/06

**SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY: MOVING TOWARDS A NEW ECONOMIC SYSTEM**

CIRIEC's 7th international conference was an occasion for shared reflection on the role of the social and solidarity economy in facing current challenges and in realising a 'transformational vision' such as that set by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

By bringing together the global CIRIEC network of senior and early-stage researchers interested in the whole range of the social economy components

13-14/06

**GOOD PRACTICE TRANSFER (2015-2019) AND THE WAY FORWARD FOR THE SOCIAL ECONOMY**

The ESF Social Economy Transnational Network's closing event was held in Warsaw. It was organised by DIESIS in close collaboration with the Polish network members. It analysed the support of the social economy ecosystem in different Member States (Czechia, Poland, Portugal) from the perspective of the ESF beneficiaries, intermediate bodies and social enterprises and innovative ways to finance social activities using the ESF.

*institutions, associations, foundations, EU institutions, students and citizens.*

*All these persons met and had the chance to exchange about how migrant entrepreneurs living in the EU can access finance and the problems related to it that still exist.*

*Owing to their background, it is a big challenge for migrant entrepreneurs to gain access to finance: in fact, they cannot always count on traditional financing tools.*

*The event showcased which tools migrants can use to finance their business; we heard best practices and stories from both associations and migrant entrepreneurs themselves.*

26/06

**HOW DOES PARTICIPATION WORK BEST IN SOCIAL ENTERPRISES**

The main event of the R2G project was organised by DIESIS in Brussels. It was attended by 62 people from 14 countries. Nine good examples of social enterprises were presented and commented on by representatives of EU institutions, stakeholders and EU umbrella organisations.



20/06

**ACCESS TO FINANCE FOR MIGRANT ENTREPRENEURS? CROSS YOUR OWN BORDERS**

The second EMEN project annual event was hosted and organised by the Hague University of Applied Sciences, which is also the partner in charge of Community of Practice (CoP 2) on Access to finance.

The event was a great opportunity to learn from and interact with a wide range of actors, from mi-grant entrepreneurs, diaspora representatives and NGOs to professors, microfinance



27/06

**EUROPEAN SOCIAL DIALOGUE FOR THE SOCIAL SERVICES SECTOR – STATE OF PLAY AND WAYS FORWARD**

We participated in the PESSIS+ project final conference in Brussels.

DIESIS contributed as partner in the PESSIS+ project, which aimed to strengthen the capacity of the Federation of European Social Employers in view of their participation in European Social Dialogue structures.

## JUNE

The final conference brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives of employers and trade unions, European institutions and civil society organisations.



## JULY

**12-13/07**

### **LUCI SUL LAVORO**

DIESIS was actively involved in the organisation of *Luci sul Lavoro*, the Italian festival focused on employment and work integration that takes place each year in Montepulciano. *Luci sul Lavoro* is a festival that brings together public and private Italian, European and international institutions, associations, trades unions and citizens.

## JULY

DIESIS hosted the session called “*Storie in cammino*” (Walking stories) which showcased first-hand experiences of migrant integration through work and employment. Representatives of Consorzio Meuccio Ruini, Cisl Latina, UIL, PICUM, EKA, Cooperativa Tangram, Cooperativa Insieme, ALDA and the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies spoke on stage. It was also the opportunity to share some of DIESIS projects focused on migration: MAX and New Talents 4 EU. Moreover, in the framework of the IN4BTE project, Diesis hosted a workshop entitled “*Workers buy-outs: experiences and secrets*”. Representatives of several stakeholders – social economy players, trade unions, government – gave valuable insights into workers’ buyout processes. Finally, DIESIS was also invited to present the EMEN project during the session “*Work and legality: examples of integration and democratic mobilisation*”.



## JULY

**17/07**

### **EUROPEAN YOUTH LEADING THE WAY FOR EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION**

The PromYse international closing conference took place in London as part of the 7th annual IARS international conference.

The conference featured keynote speakers from the UK Parliament, SALTO Youth, other decision-makers, scholars and young entrepreneurs who discussed and identified best practices concerning disadvantaged youth in Europe.

In addition, the international panel of the PromYse project presented the results, findings and tasks completed by all partners in the five countries participating in the project. PromYse’s basic aim was to promote social entrepreneurship in the health/social care sectors as an alternative pathway to youth self-sustainability.





26/07

In the Framework of the 2019 partnership agreement under the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI), CECOP organised together with Coop Finland a **MUTUAL LEARNING SESSION AMONG CECOP MEMBERS** on a cooperative response to non-standard workers' needs.

The programme foresaw a presentation of the state of play regarding non-standard employment in each country, followed by an exchange/debate on the problems faced by non-standard workers, the answers that cooperatives can provide, and the actions policy-makers can take at national and international levels.



12/09

**THE BUYING FOR SOCIAL IMPACT NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN ZAGREB**

In the conference on socially responsible public procurement, more than 70 participants – social enterprises, public procurement practitioners and public authorities – discussed the key issues in Croatia, the legal background and framework, practical examples and potential criteria to be used.

16-17/09

**SOCIAL IMPACT ECONOMY – GOVERNANCE MODELS AND PATHS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN EUROPE AND THE WESTERN BALKANS**

The workshop took place in Budva, Montenegro in the framework of the R2G project.

For two days, 55 participants from 14 European countries (including all the Balkan countries) discussed the relevance of the social economy and how to develop an enabling ecosystem in the Balkan area.

Good practices from several EU member states were presented by members of the DIESIS network.

Mr Lazar Nenezić, Ministry of Economy of Montenegro, made an opening speech, followed by various speakers who presented the latest progress of the social economy and social enterprises in their respective countries.

The first day of the seminar focused on social and community economy in the Western Balkans. On the second day a first session on the relevance of the social economy and how to become an actor in community and economic development in different countries was followed by a second session presenting inspiring and successful models in networking and social economy cooperation. A third session illustrated the importance of ICP rights, the legal form and the governance model in successful social enterprises with examples from the R2G Project.

Finally, workshops concluded the seminar.



## SEPTEMBER

25/09

### TRAINING 4 FOOD PROJECT FINAL CONFERENCE

*The final conference co-organised by Pour la Solidarité and DIESIS, took place in Brussels.*

*Starting with an introduction addressing the challenges of sustainable food training and the presentation of the T4Food tools and achievements, the conference mainly aimed to co-create, together with present stakeholders, the policy recommendations to be addressed at local, national at European key policy-makers. The topic discussed were:*

*“Sustainable food: how and why should we be trained in the Horeca sector?”*

*“Green skills and food: gain knowledge to develop your structure in a sustainable way!”*

*“Sustainable food for all: what are the communication and awareness-raising challenges?”*



## OCTOBER

15/10

### DIGITAL INCLUSION AND HOMELESSNESS

*FEANTSA invited practitioners, developers and ICT experts to participate in this kick-off event to share some of the best current ICT good practices in the homeless sector and to discuss future opportunities to work towards an inclusive agenda for digital inclusion for the most vulnerable. DIESIS presented the MEDICI project as a platform where stakeholders can share and discuss successful practices of digital inclusion.*

15-16 /10

### ISTO-OITS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*We attended the International Social Tourism Organisation ISTO-OITS 2019 General Assembly in Paris, as a member of ISTO and its European Coordination Committee.*

*We gathered with participants from all over Europe and the world for workshops where we shared exercises about aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and social tourism according to ISTO principles.*

26-30 /10

*DIESIS took part in two events in Yerevan, Armenia on the social economy and women's empowerment in the region.*

*Meetings with representatives of the Ministries of Economy and Territorial Development, the National Association of Social Enterprises, the Union of Employers and other stakeholders showed that there is a clear vision about the development of the ecosystem in the country. The first event, organised by the OSCE – Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe – was a national workshop entitled “SOCIAL WORK, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE: MEANING AND IMPACT”. Gianluca Pastorelli, our Executive President, had the opportunity to give interactive working sessions on social entrepreneurship and on social enterprise dos and don'ts, challenges and opportunities and a final session on the Women's Resource Centres' (WRCs) ideas for network building.*



## OCTOBER

*The second event was co-organised by the OSCE and the Republican Union of Employers of Armenia (RUEA) as part of the project “ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN SYUNIK REGION AND OTHER REGIONS OF ARMENIA”. Gianluca Pastorelli participated in the panel discussion on “Social economy: unlocking the potential of social economy for inclusive development”.*



**29- 31/10**

### **SHARING THE FUTURE: CGM ANNUAL CONVENTION**

*In the framework of the annual convention of the Gruppo cooperativo Gino Mattarelli (CGM) DIESIS was invited to speak at the workshop “Towards the new programming of European funds: best practice 2014/2020 to look to 2021/2027”.*

*DIESIS presented an overview of projects co-funded by the European Union that in recent years have made a difference in terms of results and management models. It was a useful learning tool to face the new fund programming period which is now imminent.*



## NOVEMBER

**6-7/11**

### **REGIONAL CO-DESIGN WORKSHOP “SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS A DRIVER OF CHANGE”**

*The aim of the workshop was to create a team of selected and reliable actors based in Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia for the definition of a joint intervention strategy in the Balkan region based on 3 specific sectors: environment and sustainable tourism, social inclusion of vulnerable groups and a social enterprise ecosystem. The strategy’s cross-cutting approach is based on social economy enterprises as a means of social justice.*



7-9 /11

### THE STATE OF PLATFORM COOPERATIVISM

*DIESIS attended an important event on “The State of Platform Cooperativism”, which took place at the New School in New York.*

*This event brought together many of the most active players in this movement worldwide to share updates and insights, instigate initiatives, make new friends, lift each other up, plan next steps, and find new business partners as well as funders.*

*The following topics, among others, were explored:*

- *platform co-ops: formation, capital conundrum, and operation;*
- *green platform co-ops fighting climate change;*
- *against misogyny and racism in co-operatives;*
- *advancing youth employment through platform co-ops;*
- *data co-ops and governance.*



18 /11

### BSI - BUYING FOR SOCIAL IMPACT FINAL CONFERENCE

*The final conference of the BSI project took place in Brussels to present the actions and tools developed as well as the results achieved.*

*The conference brought together social economy enterprises, contracting authorities, policy-makers and other stakeholders with a role in making socially responsible public procurement work.*

*DIESIS moderated the session on mainstreaming social considerations in public procurement processes.*



20 /11

### CEASE PROJECT FINAL EVENT

*In line with the encouraging news, including the ILO’s recent adoption of a ground-breaking Convention and Recommendation to combat violence and harassment in the workplace, the final conference was the occasion to present how the CEASE project helped to make positive and secure workplaces for victims of domestic violence. But it was also an incredible opportunity to meet the project partners, to exchange knowledge and experiences with peers from the network and to learn more about the CEASE project, its outcomes and its next steps for the future.*



## NOVEMBER

20-22/11

### MEDAWEEK BARCELONA 2019

*DIESIS had the opportunity to participate to MedaWeek Barcelona 2019. This event endorsed the key economic sectors and the cultural values of this region through a wide variety of forums. MedaWeek Barcelona serves as the main meeting point for voicing the interests of the private sector in the socio-economic development of the Mediterranean countries. On this occasion, DIESIS's work in the Mediterranean region and our activities developing social enterprise ecosystems in the Balkans and in the MENA region, including the MedUp! project, were presented.*



## DECEMBER

2-4/12

### MEDUP! FIRST PEER-REVIEW MEETING IN TUNIS

*The first macro-level peer review meeting of the MedUp! project took place in Tunis (Tunisia).*

*Organised by DIESIS and Oxfam Italia, this event provided an opportunity to develop a shared understanding between policy-makers and social economy stakeholders from the EU and the MENA regions on good practice strengths and weaknesses.*

*During this three-day event, participants had the opportunity to discuss and share two specific cases:*

- *European Commission Task Force on Social Economy and Social Enterprises;*
- *Scottish Social Enterprise Strategy;*

*The event brought together over 40 participants including policy-makers, NGOs, representatives from governments, researchers and UN officials, who were all committed to the global objective of the MedUp! project: to promote an enabling environment in the Southern Mediterranean partner countries (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Tunisia) for the development of the social entrepreneurship sector as a driver for inclusive growth and job creation.*



# WE ARE DIESIS

80000

ORGANISATIONS

1,2 MILLION JOBS

Founded in 1997 as a cooperative with social aim, Diesis Network is one of the most extensive EU organisations specialising in supporting the social economy, social entrepreneurship and social innovation development. In 2019, It comprised 32 member organisations covering 18 European countries, representing 80,000+ organisations and 1.2 million workers through major national federations and national support networks.

Diesis Network also works in close partnership with European thematic networks and platforms such as ETUC, REVES and Social Economy Europe.

Moreover, it is a proud member of:

- CECOP/CICOPA Europe
- EARTH (European Alliance for Responsible Tourism and Hosting)
- OITS-ISTO (International Social Tourism Organisation)
- ALDA Europe
- The IARS International Institute
- PCC (Platform Cooperativism Consortium)

Diesis Network was also part of GECES, the European Commission's expert group on social entrepreneurship that assists the European Commission in the implementation of the Social Business Initiative.

# THE NETWORK

Consortia and federations of social economy enterprises, training, advisory and support organisations for the social economy, social business, social innovation.

Diesis Network is one of the widest EU networks specialised in supporting social economy and social enterprise development. In 2019 Diesis covered 18 countries through major national federations and national support networks.





# THE BOARD

**GIANLUCA PASTORELLI**

**President**

*Director of  
the Diesis Network*



**SABINA BELLIONE**

**Vice President**

*Manager  
International Area  
Consorzio CGM,  
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**PALOMA ARROYO**

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Spain*



**DENIS STOKKINK**

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# EXTERNAL EXPERTS

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