

ENSIE, together with its members prepared a position to participate in the elaboration of the European Action Plan for the Social Economy, which is under discussion at the European Commission and will be adopted at the end of the year.

ENSIE's proposal is articulated in six chapters, covering all the aspects of EU legislation that impact WISEs. Here are our requests to the European Commissions:

I. WISEs and legislative challenges

- Introduce a EU recommendation on the definition of social economy enterprises, and in particular, a specific definition for WISEs.
- Revise the General Block Exemption Regulation, first to simplify it and then regarding the definition of disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged workers and of the aids for their employment and training.
- Add another exception in the article 1 of the de minimis Regulation to facilitate WISEs to benefit from this Regulation.
- Calls the Commission to encourage Member States to use the Temporary Framework of State aid instead of the de minimis to help WISEs during the current crisis.
- ENSIE encourages the Commission to raise awareness on WISEs and the services they provide in Member States and increase the de minimis State aid provided for services of general economic interest.
- Revise the SMEs definition, integrating WISEs and non-profit social economy enterprises as autonomous even if the 25% threshold is reached or exceeded by partner enterprises.
- Reduce value-added tax (VAT) for products and services provided by WISEs as they contribute to social welfare.

II. WISEs and access to market

- Ensure a better implementation by Member States of the Directive 2014/24/EU on public procurement which encourage reserved contracts and social clauses.
- Develop further the socially responsible public procurement approach in the future renewed directive.
- Develop coherent support policies by the European Union, based on the ones already developed by some Member States, which are, for the moment, too different. arrangements.

III. WISEs and access to finance

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- Monitor the real involvement of WISEs national/regional representatives in the monitoring committees of the European Structural and Investment Cohesion Funds.
- Encourage and monitor the involvement of WISEs representatives in the implementation of Operational Programmes of ESF +.
- Earmark a percentage of ESF+ funding lines to WISEs, social enterprises and other social economy actors for after 2027.
- Monitor that WISEs are not left behind when trying to access EU funding because of a different legal status.
- Earmark 10% of relevant EU funding lines to WISEs, social enterprises and other social economy actors.
- Create an EU online platform to offer tailored support for social economy enterprises, public authorities and support organisations to seize and access EU opportunities.
- Support the implementation of active labour market measures towards work integration social enterprises among Member States
- Recognise and increase visibility of the positive socio-economic impact of WISEs by the European Union and Member States.

IV. WISEs mainstreamed in the European Semester

- Increase the visibility of the Social economy actors in the whole European Semester process.
- Improve monitoring and communication between national and European stakeholders in the framework of the European Semester.
- Ensure vigilant and efficient monitoring of the Member States' consultations with the civil society actors (CSOs) on the ground while analysing the compliance of the submitted national recovery and resilience facility (RRF) plans with the EU objectives and requirements.

V. WISEs mainstreamed in other EU policies

- Ensure effective coordination and dialogue between representatives of national public authorities, civil society organisations and representatives of the EU, so that the Commission recommendation regarding the EPSR and EASE can lead to a real positive impact for citizens and particularly those with support needs.
- WISEs role should be better acknowledged by the European Commission in the Action Plan for the Social Pillar.
- Ensure the participation of WISEs and NGOs providing social services to young people at risk of poverty in the process of implementation and policy development.
- Raise awareness about the social economy in the reinforced Youth Guarantee.
- Use the European Semester process to promote and monitor the implementation of the YG measures by Member States.
- Consider setting social and employment objectives within the circular economy related policies and to create a clear link among the social economy action plan and the circular economy initiatives.

- Develop of safeguards to ensure that product-as-service models favour the use of durable goods that, if broken or damaged, will eventually be repaired, including by independent repairers.
- Give a place to WISEs in the the EU textile strategy.
- Acknowledge WISEs role in the Continuing Vocational Education and Training (CVET)
- Boost capacity-building opportunities for WISEs, in particular linked to digital education and skills.
- Make upskilling and reskilling plans more methodical to reach vulnerable people and include marginalised groups (the elderly, migrants, young adults and low-skilled in general).
- Take into account the involvement of WISEs in the definition of the European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability.

VI. WISEs and the external dimension.

- Promote a common definition of WISEs and their target groups at the international level, which should appear in trade agreements and in financial programmes with these non-EU actors.
- Promote WISEs and the social economy by EU delegations by integrating them into policy dialogues and development programmes with third countries or regional organisations, with a continental or even better regional focus.
- Boost the promotion of good practices of WISEs between the EU Member States and non-EU countries, with specific exchange actions and projects.