

**International Conference on**

**THE SOCIAL ECONOMY  
IN CENTRAL, EAST AND SOUTH-EAST EUROPE:**

**EMERGING TRENDS OF SOCIAL INNOVATION  
AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT**

**22-24 September 2005**

**Boscolo Grand Hotel  
Trento, Italy**

**Draft Programme**

**OECD LEED Centre for Local Development  
Trento, Italy**

## Rationale

The social economy, often associated with concepts such as ‘third sector’ and ‘non-profit sector’, refers to a wide range of organisations between the state and the market, fulfilling both economic and social missions, whose final objective is not the redistribution of profit but its reinvestment in the organisation, in order to expand and consolidate its activities and its overall mission. The organisational forms which social economy entities adopt depend on national legal frameworks and can include associations, traditional co-operatives, social co-operatives, charities, foundations and other types of organisations.

Regardless of the different definitions and organisational forms, however, what brings this diverse set of actors together is their role in fostering social cohesion in areas where traditional private or public schemes often have limited capacity for success. Social economy organisations mainly operate at local level, as they are rooted in local communities, relying on and contributing to the development of formal and informal networks of people, knowledge and resources.

Experience from the Baltic States, Central, East and South-East Europe, shows that transition policies towards market economies overlooked the role and potential of the social economy in key areas of social inclusion such as employment, social services and healthcare. While democratisation policies have encouraged civil society development through the creation of charities, foundations and voluntary sector organisations, a number of countries in the region are now looking to embed the further potential of such organisations by developing legal and governance frameworks which build on local experience in order to promote the sector’s capacity and know-how in the delivery of goods and services towards social cohesion and labour market integration at local level. The need to develop policy tools and frameworks for a stronger involvement of the social economy in policy development and implementation is further supported by the trends towards effective decentralisation over the past 15 years, coupled with the opportunities offered by EU integration and/or accession. A number of tools and policies have emerged throughout OECD countries to promote active social and labour policies which can leverage the unique expertise and know-how of social economy organisations.

In the light of international experience, the conference is a unique opportunity to discuss the progress achieved by social economy organisations in Central, East and South-East European countries based on their own historical, political and institutional background.

The debate will focus on two principal themes:

Theme 1:

*Rationale and Legal Frameworks for the Social Economy*

What is the economic rationale of social economy organisations? How can policy initiatives effectively leverage the role of social economy organisations in promoting new forms of social service delivery and labour integration towards effective social inclusion? What is the role of legal frameworks? How can best practices inform policy processes at national and sub-national level?

Theme 2:

*Social Economy tools and practices*

What are the key tools and strategies that social economy organisations employ to foster labour market integration and social inclusion? What are the key factors that define good practices? What is the role of partnerships in building sustainable communities? How do networking strategies contribute to developing social innovation?

*DAY ONE 22 September 2005*

**08.30 – 09.00** *Registration*

**OPENING SESSION**

**09.00 – 09.30** **Welcome and opening remarks**

**09.30 – 11.00** **Opening roundtable:**

*Social innovation in the knowledge based economy*

*Rapporteur\*:* **Antonella Noya**, Administrator, LEED Programme, Centre for Entrepreneurship, OECD

**11.00 – 11.30** *Coffee*

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\* Rapporteurs have no speaking role, but report the main messages and conclusions of the session to the Chair

**THEME 1**

**RATIONALE AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR THE SOCIAL ECONOMY**

**11.30 – 13.00 The role of the social economy in Western Europe and Canada**

The Social Economy in Western Europe and Canada: outlook and trends. *Marguerite Mendell, Concordia University, Canada*

A comparative review of legal frameworks for the social economy. *Hans-H. Münkner, University of Marburg, Germany (tbc)*

Social economy organisations: economic perspective and rationale. *Carlo Borzaga, University of Trento, Italy*

*Discussant tbc*

*Issues for debate:* What defines social economy organisations? What is the role and economic rationale for social economy organisations in advanced economies? What defines different social economy models? What are the policy implications deriving from the role that social economy organisations play at the local level?

*Rapporteur\*:* *Antonella Noya, Administrator, LEED Programme, Centre for Entrepreneurship, OECD*

**12.45 – 14.00 Lunch**

**14.00 – 16.00 Emerging trends in Central East and South East Europe**

A supportive financing framework for Social Economy Organisations, *Katerina Hadzi-Miceva, European Centre for Not-for-Profit Law, Hungary*

The social economy and its institutional context – the case of Poland, *Tomasz Kaźmierczak, Institute of Public Affairs, Poland*

The Social Economy in the Czech Republic – Waiting for Emergence. *Jaroslava Stastna, Open Society Fund Prague and Charles University, Czech Republic*

Existing situation and potential development to networking and partnership of actors related to social economy: a case model for Slovenia to be compared with the region of Veneto, Italy. *Davide Branco and Zdenka Kovač, GEA College of Entrepreneurship, Slovenia*

*Issues for debate:* Why should governments promote legal frameworks for social economy organisations? What legislative/financial models are emerging in Central East and South East Europe? How do they compare to other existing OECD models? How can policy address key barriers and opportunities for social economy development? How can best practices at the local/regional level feed and inform the policymaking cycle?

*Rapporteur: tbc*

**16.00 – 16.30 Coffee**

**16.30 – 18.30 Round table of high level policy makers**

*Current policy challenges and initiatives in Central East and South East Europe*

Keynote speech: The social economy in the new political context. **Peter Lloyd**, *Peter Lloyd Associates, U.K.*

This session seeks to present policy initiatives in support of the social economy in a number of Central East and South East European countries. It will address the following questions:

What is the role for social economy involvement in public provision of social services? Why is decentralisation a new opportunity for social economy development? How can national and sub-national governments promote partnerships with the social economy to increase effectiveness in service delivery? How do best practices at the local level feed and inform the policymaking cycle? What are the key barriers for increased social economy involvement in Central East and South East Europe?

*Rapporteur\*:* **Antonella Noya**, *Administrator, LEED Programme, Centre for Entrepreneurship, OECD*

**SOCIAL ECONOMY TOOLS AND STRATEGIES:**  
**IDENTIFYING AND DEVELOPING BEST PRACTICES**

**PARALLEL WORKSHOPS**

**9.15 – 10.45**

**Parallel session 1: Social innovation in service delivery at local level**

*Moderator: tbc*

Communities of Children - Non-Government Organisations as facilitating partners? *Evan Lewis, Early Childhood and Communities Branch, Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services, Australia*

Introduction of innovative management tools in social assistance and social service delivery in Russia: practical lessons learned. *Kirill Chagin, Social Policy Division, Institute for Urban Economics, Russia*

The Social Innovation Fund in Serbia: a model for social welfare reform. *Danilo Vukovic and/or Branka Andjelkovic, Serbia*

NGOs in Bulgaria as key actors in the development of “inclusive” social policy, *Andriana Petrova, Bulgarian Centre for Not-for-Profit Law, Bulgaria*

*Rapporteur\*: tbc*

**Parallel session 2: Developing social entrepreneurship**

*Moderator: tbc*

Social Enterprises in Bulgaria – fuelling social innovation and social inclusion. *Maria Ilcheva, Social Enterprise Foundation, Bulgaria*

Social economy in Poland – new perspectives in overcoming social exclusion. *Barbara Sadowska and Jaroslaw Poludnikiewicz, Barka Foundation for Mutual Help, Poland*

Social Enterprise: some tentative reflections on awareness and utility of the model in Ukraine. *Olga Sandakova, DFID, Ukraine*

The Social Economy Network in the region of Skaraborg, Sweden. *Ulla Landenmark, SENS, Sweden*

*Rapporteur\*: tbc*

**Parallel session 3: Social economy finance**

*Moderator: tbc*

Opportunities for and barriers against development of social Economy in Poland. *Pawel Grzesik, National Association of Co-operative Savings and Credit Unions, Poland*

Economic and Social Mission of Microcredit Institutions in Montenegro. *Sasa Popovic, University of Montenegro, Montenegro*

The Integra Experience in developing social capital and market access among women at risk through microenterprise development in Slovakia, Romania, Russia, Bulgaria and Serbia. *Allan Bussard, The Integra Foundation, Republic of Slovakia*

Microfinance for social inclusion in Central Eastern Europe, *UNIDEA Foundation, Italy*

*Rapporteur\*: tbc*

**10.45 – 11.15**      **Coffee Break**

**SOCIAL ECONOMY TOOLS AND STRATEGIES:**  
**IDENTIFYING AND DEVELOPING BEST PRACTICES**

**PARALLEL WORKSHOPS**

**11.15 – 12.45**

**Parallel session 1: Building sustainable rural communities**

*Moderator: tbc*

A difficult way from social passivity to participation: a case study of the Middle Odra River Valley Partnership, Poland. **Marek Furmankiewicz**, Agriculture University of Wroclaw, Poland

Social Co-operative Development: the Olsztyn case study. **Premyslaw Rosinski**, WAMACOOOP, Poland

Rural Romanian Social Inclusion and Local Development. **Claudia Novac**, Centre for Rural Assistance, Romania

The importance of capacity building in social economy projects and local development – in Hungary, **Ferenc Albert Szigeti**, Operational Program for Regional Development (OPRD) Managing Authority, Hungary

*Rapporteur\*: tbc*

**Parallel session 2: Building sustainable urban communities**

*Moderator: tbc*

Another economy for local development. **Luca Lo Bianco and Alessandro Messina**, Rome Municipality, Italy

Transformation Sites. **Gianluca Sala**, Milano Metropoli, Italy

Berlin Development Agency for Social Enterprises and Neighborhood Economy (BEST). **Heike Birkhoelzer**, BEST, Germany

Social enterprises – a model supporting social economy development in Bulgaria. **Tania Kapoor**, Counterpart International, Bulgaria

*Rapporteur\*: tbc*

**Parallel session 3: Developing social economy potential in post-conflict societies**

*Moderator: tbc*

Social Capital in Croatia: can bridging/linking civil society organisations contribute to an increase in social capital? **Libby Cooper and Barry Knight**, Centris, U.K.

The role of the non-profit sector in the local development framework in the Balkans, **Risto Karajkov**, University of Bologna, Italy

Social Economy potential in youth policy development in Bosnia and Herzegovina. **Ernest Djonko**, LAB, Bosnia and Herzegovina

*Rapporteur\*: tbc*

**12.45 – 14.00      Lunch**

**14.00 – 15.30 Reports from the workshops**

*Identifying key factors that define best practices in social economy tools and strategies*

Moderators will report back from the parallel sessions. They will present the key factors that underlie good practices in social economy tools. A debate will follow, analysing the effectiveness of a number of key tools and strategies employed by the social economy.

*Rapporteur\*: Antonella Noya, Centre for Entrepreneurship, OECD*

**15.30 – 16.00 Coffee Break**

**16.00 – 17.30 Closing Round Table**

*Social Economy self development initiatives in Central East and South East Europe*

Key social economy leaders from Central East and South East Europe will present and debate the self-development strategies and initiatives that social economy platforms are developing in different countries across the region.

*Rapporteur\*: Antonella Noya, Centre for Entrepreneurship, OECD*

**CONCLUSIONS**

**17.30 – 18.00 Conclusions by the two chairs**

**Closing remarks**

**STUDY VISIT (Optional Programme):**

**A MODEL SOCIAL ECONOMY CASE STUDY – THE TRENTINO EXPERIENCE**

*Hosted by the Trentino Federation of Co-operatives*

**9.30– 12.30    Presentation of the Federation of Co-operatives**

This session will present the history, experience, and best practices developed in the Autonomous Province of Trento by the Trentino Federation of Co-operatives. It will highlight the role of Trentino best practices in developing a case model law for social co-operatives. It will also present market tools and strategies adopted by the Federation to foster the competitiveness of agricultural and credit co-operatives and thus contribute to local economic development.

The session will seek to establish contacts with a view to developing international co-operation activities for social economy development.