

MEDITERRANEAN SOCIAL ECONOMY FORUM

The Social Economy's Companies: Trends and Challenges

Social Economy is an entrepreneurial model which addresses key challenges in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

As Social Economy is based heavily on values such as solidarity responsible business participation and action in the benefit of people's general interest, makes this entrepreneurial model appropriate and ideal to promote the sustainable development in the region. This is made clear by the conclusions of the 2014 Euro-Mediterranean Summit of European Economic Social Committee and like-minded institutions, which jointly emphasised the role Social Economy plays in "promoting the economic growth, eradicating poverty, strengthening local sustainable development, improving the access to the labour market and decent working conditions, especially to women and young people as well as to the different categories of disadvantaged workers".

Moreover, Social Economy is present in all the countries of the Union for the Mediterranean. These are companies and entities of all sizes – from micro-companies to larger businesses – working across all economic sectors. In the nine member countries of the Social Economy Euro-Mediterranean Network (ESMED) (Algeria, Egypt, Spain, France, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Tunisia and Turkey) there are more than 900,000 companies and organisations representing over 8 million jobs and more than 100 million associate people.

Our MedaWeek's 1st **Mediterranean Social Economy Forum** will explore and unveil the situation of social economy in the Mediterranean, including its different entrepreneurial models as well as its contribution to the socio-economic development in the Euro-Mediterranean region. It will also provide an overview of the successful public policies which are enhancing and supporting this socio-economic fabric, while underlining the programs and initiatives that address the priorities for the development of the sector.

08:30 – 09:00 **Enregistrement**



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09:00h – 11:00h: **Welcome Addresses**

Fátima Báñez, Minister for Employment and Social Security, Spain (*t.b.c*)

Fatema Marouan, Minister for Handicraft and Social & Solidarity Economy, Kingdom of Morocco (*t.b.c*)

Mohamed Choucair, President, Association of Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce (ASCAME)

Juan Antonio Pedreño, President of the Spanish Confederation of Social Economy Enterprises (CEPES), coordinating body of the Euro-Mediterranean Network of Social Economy (ESMED)

Miquel Valls, President, Chamber of Commerce of Barcelona

Delphine Borione, Deputy Secretary General, Social and Civil Affairs, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) (*t.b.c*)

Isabel Romero, President of Halal Institut

Mohammed Thunayan Al-Ghanim, President of the Federation of Chambers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (*t.b.c*)

El Hassane Hzaïne, **Directeur Général**, Islamic Center (*t.b.c*)

11h00-11h30: Coffee-break

General moderator of the Forum

11h30 – 12h00 : **Public development policies of the Social Economy in the Mediterranean**

The Social Economy shapes a top level socio-economic reality that must be taken into account by the international states and organisations in their Euro-Mediterranean policies. Some governments in the region stand for the Social Economy as a key actor for the socio-economic development in their countries. This is the case of Morocco and Spain which rely on public policies and governmental departments that are designing and implementing development policies of social economy, which is a reference for a development strategy in support of the Social Economy in the Mediterranean.

Speakers:

Fátima Báñez, Minister for Employment and Social Security, Spain (*t.b.c*)

Fatema Marouan, Minister for Handicraft and Social & Solidarity Economy, Kingdom of Morocco (*t.b.c*)



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12h00 – 13h15: Round Table: Which elements are to be considered in the development agenda of the Social Economy in the Mediterranean?

The Social Economy is present in all the economic sectors and acts under various business forms, from micro-companies to large business groups. All these entities share a set of principles and values that make their activities having a positive impact on jobs' creation, social cohesion and local development.

The objective of this session is to expose and discuss, through business experiences of different organisations, the main elements to take into consideration to ensure the sustainable development of the Social Economy in the region.

Speakers:

Ali Riadh Boussoffara, President of the network of Social Economy Associations (RADES) (Tunisia)

Emili Villaescusa, President, Confederation of Cooperatives of the Valencian Region (Spain)

Abdelkrim Azenfar, Directeur, Bureau of Cooperative Development (Morocco)

Rachid Braa, Secretary General, National Union of Mutual Societies (UNAM) (Tunisia) (*t.b.c*)

Omar Piazza, Italian Cooperative Alliance

13h15 – 14h15: Round Table: Which solutions could be brought by the international organizations to contribute to the development of the Social Economy?

The public and private institutions involved in the development of the Mediterranean increasingly include the Social Economy in the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation strategies, in particular in the economic and business development programs.

This session will address how the international organisations and the same Social Economy are launching initiatives and programs to strengthen the management capacity and the access of these companies to the funding while enhancing its institutional development.

Speakers:

Sudqi Al-Omouh, Deputy Secretary General, business development, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

Ingrid Schwaiger, Deputy Head of Unit.Regional Programmes Neighbourhood South. DG NEAR — Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations. European Commission.



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Emmanuel Verny, Member of the coordinating council of the ESMED network & French Chamber of the Social and Solidarity Economy

Giancarlo Ferrari, Italian Cooperative Alliance and Director General of LEGACOOP

14h15 – 14h30: **Closing remarks**

Speakers:

Abdelkader Harmat, Member of the coordinating council of the ESMED network, Mutual Societies Coordination Committee (Algeria) (*t.b.c*)

Juan Antonio Pedreño, President of the Spanish Confederation of Social Economy Enterprises (CEPES), coordinating body of the Euro-Mediterranean Network of Social Economy (ESMED)



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