



BULLETIN ON EU SOCIAL AFFAIRS

BIANNUAL BULLETIN ON EU-RELATED
SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LEGISLATIVE MONITORING



IN THIS ISSUE

03

CECOP policy work

03 Worker and social cooperatives reinforce social Europe through democratic quality work and social inclusion

03 CECOP flagship conference and campaign on cooperative responses to non-standard and platform work

04 Polish NAUWC and CECOP reiterate the role of education in the European Action Plan for the Social Economy

04 CECOP set to host a session at European Social Economy Summit in Mannheim

05 CECOP reacts to President von der Leyen's State of the European Union address

05 CECOP congratulates the EMEN consortium on their successful project on migrant entrepreneurship

06 Cooperatives in Europe call for a green and sustainable future

06 CECOP President welcomes the European Commission's proposal for a European minimum wage directive

07

Update from EU Institutions and partners

07 Call to reinforce the social dimension of the European semester, the RRF and the NRRP

07 The Social Economy Intergroup discussed their vision of a Green and Fair transition

08 Social Economy Europe features CECOP members in their guide on social economy on the full inclusion of people with disabilities

08 CECOP supports the call for an adequate and accessible minimum income

09

Worth reading

09 Worker cooperatives are shaping the digital transition of the social economy

09 European Commission brochure on social innovation initiatives features cooperatives

CECOP POLICY WORK

WORKER AND SOCIAL COOPERATIVES REINFORCE SOCIAL EUROPE THROUGH DEMOCRATIC QUALITY WORK AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

CECOP reacts to a European Commission consultation on the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, highlighting the crucial role worker and social cooperatives take to ensure the protection of social rights of their members by providing quality work and social inclusion.

In its 2021 work plan, the European Commission announced an action plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights. In light of the green and digital transitions, but also the demographic challenges across Europe, the European Pillar of Social Rights is a key building block to ensure socially fair and inclusive economies and societies.

Read more about the role of worker cooperatives in implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights [here](#).

CECOP FLAGSHIP CONFERENCE AND CAMPAIGN ON COOPERATIVE RESPONSES TO NON-STANDARD AND PLATFORM WORK

Worker-owned cooperatives have developed effective strategies to react to the challenges of non-standard work, a CECOP [report](#) found in 2019. To disseminate and discuss the findings of this report, CECOP launched a [communication campaign](#) that finished with an online conference on 3rd December.

To promote the responses of worker-owned cooperatives to non-standard work, CECOP published a series of videos, featuring the Lillith Cooperative in Finland, an interview with Francesca Martinelli of Doc Servizi Foundation, and a statement by CECOP president Giuseppe Guerini.

The conference featured different perspectives and speakers, from practitioners, researchers and policy makers. "Organizing in cooperatives gives greater strength to workers, it helps to mutualize needs and risks, and provides mutual aid and solidarity. But above all, it allows to redefine the identity of workers and give meaning and dignity in their work", CECOP President Giuseppe Guerini highlighted.

Find out more about the event [here](#).

CECOP thanks all the speakers and participants for their insightful remarks.

This activity was funded by the EaSI programme 2014-2020 of the European Union



Guest speakers in the CECOP conference



POLISH NAUWC AND CECOP REITERATE THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN THE EUROPEAN ACTION PLAN FOR THE SOCIAL ECONOMY

Together with our Polish member NAUWC, the National Auditing Union of Worker Cooperatives, CECOP co-hosted a national workshop on the role of education in the European Action Plan for the Social Economy.

Sharing practices from Poland, Spain and France, experienced cooperators highlighted good practices, discussed ways to learn from each other and develop new strategies for cooperatives in education and cooperativism in mainstream education curricula.

Thanks to the participation of Ms Ulla Engelmann, Head of Advanced Technologies, Clusters and Social Economy Unit at the European Commission, participants had a chance to learn about the European Action Plan for Social Economy and express what they hope this new European initiative can to support their daily work.

Cooperatives and the larger social economy should play a bigger role in education and their potential in entrepreneurial education of young people should be enhanced.

Find out more about the event [here](#).

This activity was funded by the EaSI programme 2014-2020 of the European Union.

CECOP SET TO HOST A SESSION AT EUROPEAN SOCIAL ECONOMY SUMMIT IN MANNHEIM

CECOP is proud to announce that we were selected to host a session at the European Social Economy Summit taking place in Mannheim in on 26 -27 May 2021.

The session will focus on "Green, Good and Democratic Jobs! The employment perspective for industrial cooperatives in the green transition". The panel will bring together practitioners and policy makers from various fields:

- Ibon Antero Intxausti (Coordinator of Social Transformation of Mondragon, Spain)
- Gianmaria Balducci (President of Legacoop Produzione e Servizi, Italy)
- Giuseppe Guerini (President of CECOP)
- Diana Dovgan (Secretary General of CECOP)
- Bela Galgoczi (Senior Researcher at the European Trade Union Institute)
- Sven Giegold, Member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA).

We are looking forward to an insightful discussion, either online or in person, if the health situation will allow for it in May. In the meanwhile, you can take the [Digital Road to Mannheim](#) to make sure that you can further explore the social economy landscapes of Europe.

CECOP REACTS TO PRESIDENT VON DER LEYEN'S STATE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ADDRESS

On September 16th, 2020 Commission President von der Leyen gave her first state of the European Union address in the European Parliament. CECOP welcomes the ambitions of the Commission to tackle the dual green and digital transitions but urges the EU to better promote the diversity of European enterprise models.

CECOP's Secretary General, Diana Dovgan, welcomed the focus on the green and digital transitions in Europe: "The efforts to support businesses to transforming to climate-compatible business models and to harnessing the benefits of digitalization are both needed and timely, especially during this unprecedented crisis. However, both crisis support measures and transition programmes must not overlook the importance and needs of cooperatives in industry and services, as well as the broader social economy."

Read the whole comment on the State of the Union address [here](#).



CECOP CONGRATULATES THE EMEN CONSORTIUM ON THEIR SUCCESSFUL PROJECT ON MIGRANT ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Last September marked the conclusion of the EMEN (European Migrant Entrepreneurship Network) project, which started in 2017. Over the course of three years, the network brought together 12 partners and over 150 organizations working on migrant entrepreneurship. CECOP congratulates its partners on the successful conclusion of this important project and is looking forward to the exciting work of the project partners in the future.

During the [final conference](#) of the Project, CECOP President Giuseppe Guerini highlighted the importance of worker and social cooperatives and the social economy in the inclusion of vulnerable groups in our societies. Cooperatives and social economy enterprises, based on active and democratic participation, facilitate equal access to services and work opportunities for disadvantaged groups, such as migrants and refugees. By providing work and ensuring access to social services, they not only allow successful inclusion but foster a life in dignity.

CECOP, [Diesis Network](#), and [REVES](#) contributed to the final report "Inclusive Ecosystems: towards a comprehensive support scheme for migrant entrepreneurs in Europe" with a chapter on "Social Economy and Social Entrepreneurship: the role of social economy enterprises in supporting migrant entrepreneurs", which analyses the support that social economy gives to migrant entrepreneurship.

Read the all about it [here](#).



COOPERATIVES IN EUROPE CALL FOR A GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

CECOP together with Cooperatives Europe and its sectorial organisations (cooperatives in retail, banking, housing, farming, energy) have released a common statement on cooperatives' contribution to sustainability on the occasion of the European Green Week 2020.

Scientists say that the next 10 years are critical to minimise the existential threat that climate change and environmental degradation pose to the world.

Striving to be the first climate-neutral continent, the European Green Deal is the European Union's commitment to work towards systemic change, rethinking our ways, striving for innovation and discovering opportunities through sustainability, including jobs and growth in the post-pandemic world.

Read the whole statement of the European cooperative movement [here](#).

CECOP PRESIDENT WELCOMES THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN MINIMUM WAGE DIRECTIVE

CECOP President Giuseppe Guerini welcomes the European Minimum wage Directive proposed by the European Commission.

On the 28th of October 2020, an important proposal of the European Commission was published: the European Minimum Wage Directive.

Setting a framework for minimum wages within the Member States, this act aims to contribute to a more equitable and balanced system of remuneration for workers across the European Union.

Read his opinion [here](#).



UPDATES FROM EU INSTITUTIONS AND PARTNERS

CALL TO REINFORCE THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF THE EUROPEAN SEMESTER, THE RRF AND THE NRRP

The Social Platform, a network of civil society organizations based in Brussels of which CECOP is a member, published an open letter to the European Commission, calling to reinforce the social dimension in key funding and budgeting measures for Europe's recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

The European Semester, the Recovery and Resilience Fund and the National Recovery and Resilience Plans need to include meaningful support social policies.

Read the full letter [here](#).

THE SOCIAL ECONOMY INTERGROUP DISCUSSED THEIR VISION OF A GREEN AND FAIR TRANSITION

On 10th November, the Social Economy Intergroup, the parliamentary forum where Members of the European Parliament interact with external stakeholders on the issues of Social Economy, held a public hearing on the "Social Economy's vision for a Green & Fair Transition".

The Intergroup discussed how the social economy contributes to the various fields that a Green and Fair transition needs to address. From the transition to renewable energy, sustainable housing, a circular economy that creates decent work to sustainable finance, a broad range of topics was covered during this meeting.

Read the whole background briefing [here](#).





SOCIAL ECONOMY EUROPE FEATURES CECOP MEMBERS IN THEIR GUIDE “SOCIAL ECONOMY AND THE FULL INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES”

Social Economy Europe just published its guide [“Social Economy on the full inclusion of people with disabilities”](#). Since 2018, CECOP is an active member of SEE’s working group on Social Economy & Disability. Over the last year, the working group collected best practices for the social inclusion of people with disabilities across Europe. Among these best practices, two cooperatives that are affiliated with CECOP members are highlighted: [Adelante Dolmen](#) in Italy, and [TPK Mara Dencheva](#) in Bulgaria.

CECOP congratulates Social Economy Europe on the publication and both cooperatives for being featured as best practices. Supporting the integration and full inclusion of people with disabilities through work or by providing services is one of our core missions.

CECOP SUPPORTS THE CALL FOR AN ADEQUATE AND ACCESSIBLE MINIMUM INCOME

CECOP [joined the call](#) of the European Trade Union Confederation, Eurodiaconia, Caritas Europe, the Social Platform and the European Anti-Poverty Network in their call for an EU Framework Directive enabling an adequate and accessible Minimum Income.

One in five Europeans is at risk of poverty and social exclusion. Almost 110 million people across Europe struggle to make ends meet and live a life in dignity, with the recent pandemic likely to increase this number. It is therefore high time to take action and ensure an adequate minimum income across Europe.



WORTH READING

WORKER COOPERATIVES ARE SHAPING THE DIGITAL TRANSITION OF THE SOCIAL ECONOMY

A new study by the European Commission provides an in-depth analysis on the opportunities and challenges digital technologies provide for the Social Economy. Highlighting several case studies of CECOP members' cooperatives, the report reiterates the enormous potential of cooperatives in the digital economy.

Read CECOPs comment on the publications [here](#).



EUROPEAN COMMISSION BROCHURE ON SOCIAL INNOVATION INITIATIVES FEATURES COOPERATIVES

In a recent brochure titled 'Social innovation: inspirational practices supporting people throughout their lives' the European Commission highlighted several social innovation initiatives throughout Europe.

Among others, the brochure features the [Koperattiva Kummerç](#) from Malta, the [WASCO Cooperative](#) in Slovakia, Le Mat Coop in Sweden and [Create Responsible](#) in Slovenia. The document is a testimony to the potential of cooperatives to improve people's livelihoods.

Read the full brochure [here](#).

For more information, please contact Mila Shamku, Advocacy Coordinator at mila.shamku@cecop.coop



This bulletin has received financial support from the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation EaSI (2014-2020). For further information please consult their [website](#).