



Social and Solidarity Economy The new lever for EU action in the Mediterranean?

Auditorium Groupe Macif
17-21 Place Etienne Pernet, 75015, Paris

15 November 2017 (6pm - 8pm)

Context

*MedESS*¹ and the think tank *Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute* jointly organise a conference entitled "Social and solidarity economy: a new lever of the EU action in the Mediterranean".

In the face of the many crises in the Euro-Mediterranean area (migratory crisis, economic and social crisis) and political transition, the development of the social and solidarity economy (SSE) is one of the avenues for action to promote inclusive and sustainable development. It's economic added value benefits people of both shores of the Mediterranean and Africa.

SSE acts in favour of economic, social and societal development. It is a sector that has historically corrected economic and social inequalities between individuals and territories, putting people at the center of activities. In France, it is a booming sector (10% of GDP and more than 2 million employees) with a law that specifically governs it since July 2014, and institutions and networks dedicated to the national level and recognised at European level. In Europe, 160,000 cooperatives, divided between SMEs and large companies, are active in several sectors of the economy: agriculture, services, financial intermediation, etc.

In South Mediterranean countries, SSE takes various forms and realities. It brings together a many institutions whose purpose is to reconcile social utility, solidarity, economic performance and democratic governance, with the aim of creating jobs and developing greater social cohesion. SSE, in its modern form, is the subject of considerable attention by national public authorities, in particular on the part of the European countries and the countries of the Southern neighbourhood of Europe which have taken stock of its potential in terms Job creation and territorial development. Some of them have embraced a process of recognition of SSE which involves the implementation of local policies and the definition of legislative and regulatory frameworks and ownership by local elected representatives. A new approach is needed to strengthen the partnership between the EU and the Southern neighbourhood countries: it must be defined on the basis of mutual accountability. From now on, the new neighbourhood policy must promote the sustainable establishment of democracy, while supporting the creation of jobs in the countries concerned. SSE can do much to help in this direction.

¹ MedESS is a non-profit NGO created by two SSE major groups in France: Macif and Crédit Coopératif. Its main objective is to promote SSE values and activities in the countries boarding the Mediterranean Sea (Europe and Maghreb + Lebanon & Egypt). Members of MedESS are convinced that SSE could complement solutions of mainstream economy through job creation and establishment of a common SSE legal framework. MedESS has strong ties with SSE networks and actors in both shores of the Mediterranean region.

Objective

The aim of the conference is to shed light on SSE in EU and Mediterranean countries and to how it could become a new lever of EU action in the Mediterranean

Audience

100 representatives of cooperative organisations, Health mutual, SMEs, companies, Foundations, in France, Europe and Southern Mediterranean countries.

Registration is compulsory, [please fill out the form](#)

PROGRAMME

(6pm - 8pm)

Welcome introduction

Alain Montarant, President of Groupe MACIF

Introductory remarks

Eneko Landaburu, Special Advisor to the President of the Jacques Delors Institute, and former DG for External Relations, European Commission

Debate

Christian Danielsson, Director General Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission

Jamila El Moussali, Secretary of State of Handcraft and SSE (Morocco) (tbc)

Zied Lahdhari, Minister of Development, Investment & International Cooperation (Tunisia) (tbc)

Christophe Itier, Haut Commissaire of SSE (France) (tbc)

Moderator

Amal Chevreau, MedESS

Discussion with audience

Conclusion

Philippe Da Costa, Deputy General Director, in charge of External Relations (MACIF)