



MEDITERRANEAN **SOCIAL ECONOMY** FORUM
The need of working together for a Sustainable
Mediterranean region

22 November 2019
Casa Llotja de Mar
Passeig d'Isabel II 1, Barcelona

II Mediterranean Social Economy Forum

“Working together for a sustainable Mediterranean region”

November 22nd, 2019 – Casa Llotja de Mar, Barcelona

The 2nd Mediterranean Social Economy Forum will provide the audience with an overview of the Social Economy in the Mediterranean and will present the contribution of these enterprises and organisations in terms of entrepreneurship, job creation and maintenance of employment, social cohesion, inclusive economic growth and sustainable development for the Mediterranean region.

Social economy is a relevant part of the private sector in the Euromed region, with more than 3.2 million enterprises that represent 15 million jobs. Social Economy is a private stakeholder able to enliven the EU economy, where it represents 8% of GDP, and the economies of several European member States where it represents 10% of GDP, as in the case of Spain or France

Social economy is on the socio-economic agenda of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The Ministers for Employment and Labour of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) have recognised the relevance of social economy at the Ministerial Conference held in Cascais (Portugal) on 2nd and 3rd April 2019. The conclusions of this Conference states that Social Economy “is not only an alternative way of delivering economic, social and environmental value, but also a smart way of unlocking resources creating sustainable employment, and generating inclusive economic growth in the region”.

The Euro-Mediterranean Social Economy Network (ESMED) is the institutional reference platform for social economy in the Mediterranean. It brings together the 14 main social economy organisations of Algeria, Egypt, France, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey, representing more than 900,000 social economy enterprises and organisations, 8 million jobs and 100 million associated members. The ESMED Network co-organises this Forum with ASCAME.

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I. Towards a Social Economy Agenda in the Mediterranean Region

Keys to create a favourable ecosystem to support social economy enterprises and organisations

The conclusions of the first Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Workshop on Social Economy in the MENA Region and the Balkans (Barcelona, 5th July 2019)¹ call for a coherent Euro-Mediterranean strategy for the promotion and development of social economy, with the following objectives:

- ✓ To establish a financial eco-system that favours the social economy, including by strengthening already-existing initiatives.
- ✓ To improve the digital competences of the social economy, and increase development in emerging and innovative sectors, in accordance with new challenges arising from the future of work and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.
- ✓ To strengthen the management capabilities of social economy enterprises and organisations and their productive processes through training programmes, improvements to their working conditions and their levels of social protection.
- ✓ To increase and strengthen support and advice services for social economy entrepreneurs, also through north-south and south-south exchange and cooperation programmes.
- ✓ To promote increased technical and financial business cooperation between the social economy from both shores of the Mediterranean.

The **2nd edition of this forum** will count on the support of experts and organizations that will analyze main trends of this sector and present successful experiences to address the challenges faced by social economy.

- ✓ Join us at the **Meda Social Economy Forum** to learn and share the importance of the sector and future outlook in regional and global markets.

¹ <https://ufmsecretariat.org/potential-social-economy/>

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II. The Event



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Social economy offers an enterprise model based on democratic governance and participation, characterised by reinvesting its profits to generate more employment, ensuring sustainable development and offering social services serving the common interest of the communities.

On the basis of necessary efficiency and competitiveness, social economy enterprises give rise to fairer labour markets, fostering inclusive growth that places people at the centre of economic activity and social purpose over capital, which ensures a more equitable distribution of wealth. These are key aspects for the future development of the Mediterranean, where great inequalities exist.

These enterprises and organisation are rooted in the territories where they carry out their activities and never delocalise. This makes the social economy as a hub for endogenous local development. Besides settling population in rural areas, the social economy values the local natural, cultural and tourism resources in a sustainable way, also providing solutions to environmental challenges.

All of this makes the social economy a key agent of the 2030 Agenda towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in the Euromed region and its socio-economic common objectives. The data confirms that social economy provides solutions to the Mediterranean challenges:

- **The number of enterprises and jobs in social economy has grown both in the north and south.**
 - o In Morocco, the number of cooperatives has multiplied by 4 between 2005 and 2018, from less than 5,000 to 20,000 enterprises. In Portugal, social economy enterprises have grown exponentially in the period 2010 – 2016, going from 55,000 to 71,800 institutions.
 - o The number of jobs in social economy enterprises and organisations in the European Union increased from 11 million to 13.6 million between 2003 and 2015.
- **Social economy creates quality employment.**
 - o In Spain, 80% of jobs in the social economy are full-time and long-term contracts.
 - o Social economy is generating job opportunities for young people. For instance, the Egyptian Cooperative Union estimates that 75% of the 7 million workers in the sector are under the age of 40.

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- **Social economy contributes to gender equality**, increasing the rate of female employment.
 - o In Morocco, women represent 29% of all cooperative members, 7 percentage points more than the female general employment rate.
 - o In Italy, women represent half of the work force in cooperatives, the same as the social economy overall in Spain.
- **Social economy fosters solidarity with people who undergo greater difficulties.**
 - o Social economy contributes to the employment of people at the risk of exclusion, as in the case of Spain, where the associative fabric represented by CEPES (Spanish Confederation of Social Economy Enterprises) provides 200,000 jobs to people who face great difficulty to access the job market.

The **2nd Social Economy Forum** has the following **objectives**:

- Raise awareness and draw attention to the economic reality and diversity of the social economy in the north and south Mediterranean.
- Showcase innovative enterprise projects that contribute to meeting the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean.
- Present international and EU programmes that benefit social economy in the Mediterranean.

Working languages: English, French and Spanish.

Free inscription: <http://www.medaeconomicweek.org/register/>

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III. The Program

11:00 – 11:30 Opening: The social economy in the Euromed region.

Presentation of the book published by CAJAMAR about the social economy in the Mediterranean.

- **Eduardo Baamonde**, President of the Cooperative Bank CAJAMAR
- **María Antonia Pérez León**, acting Director General for Self-employment, Social Economy and CSR. Ministry of Labour, Migrations & Social Security (Spain)
- **Juan Antonio Pedreño**, President of CEPES & SEE. General Coordinator of the ESMED Network

11:30 – 12:30 Round table: state of the social economy enterprises and organisations in the Euromed countries.

The leaders and directors of the main national social economy organisations will address in this session the reality of these enterprises and organisations in the northern and southern Mediterranean countries and debate on the main priorities to develop social economy in the region.

Moderator: Carlos Lozano, Coordinator of International Affairs of CEPES (Spanish Confederation of Social Economy Enterprises) and Secretariat of the ESMED Network.

- **Dr. Carla Ventura**, Vice-President of CASES (Cooperativa Antonio Sergio de Economía Social) (Portugal).
- **Kamel Boussafi**, Professor of economics. Higher School of Business
- **Lucie Gras**, CEO of ESS France (Chambre Française de l'Économie Sociale et Solidaire) (France)
- **Giancarlo Ferrari**, Italian Cooperative Alliance
- **Mounir Elghazoui**, Member of the Board and Treasurer. Moroccan Network of Social and Solidarity Economy (REMESS) (Morocco) (tbc)

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12:30 – 13:30 Round-table. Social economy enterprises: innovation and sustainable development stakeholders in the Mediterranean.

This round table aims at showing benchmark social economy enterprises from both shores of the Mediterranean that make a significant contribution to sustainable development, job creation and the maintenance of employment as well to the promotion of social innovation.

Moderator: Carmen Comos, Director General of CEPES (Spanish Confederation of Social Economy Enterprises)

- **Amandine Albizzati**, President. ENERCOOP Cooperative (France)
- **Abdelkader Harmat**, President of the Hydroelectric Mutuality and President of the Mutuality of families; Vice-president of the Consultative National Council of social mutualities (Algeria)
- **Elisenda Xifre Camps**, Director of project « New working models». SUARA Cooperative (Spain)
- **Amina Ben Fadhl**, Director of the ProgRESS Programme. Iesmed (Tunisia) (*t.b.c*)
- **Faris Alami**, Founder and CEO of International Strategic Management (USA) (*t.b.c*)

13:30 – 14:00 Initiatives and programmes that foster social economy business development

This session focuses on the initiatives and programmes launched by the EU Institutions, the International Organisations as well as private associations in favour of the euro-Mediterranean cooperation in the social economy.

- **Mohammed Elrazzaz**, Business Development and Employment Department. Union for the Mediterranean
- **Roser Hernández**, Deputy Director for Social Economy, Third Sector and Cooperatives. Regional Government of Catalonia
- **Samira Labidi**, President of Entreprendre au Maghreb association (France)
- **Gianluca Pastorelli**, President/Executive director at DIESIS

14:00 Final Comments

- **Chakir El Homrani Lesfar**, Regional Minister for Labour, Social Affairs and Families. Regional Government of Catalonia
- **Juan Antonio Pedreño**, President of CEPES & SEE. ESMED General Coordinator

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IV. Your Engagement

- Participate at the Meda Social Economy and highlight your success to become an example to follow.
- Support the importance to adapt to the region's current and future demands and strengthen cooperation in building partnerships for future developments.
- Join our list of Meda Social Economy Sponsors & Partners.
- Encourage and register team members who are interested in social economy to attend the Forum.

V. News & Contact

CONTACT US : secretariat@ascame.org

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