

# SOCIAL ECONOMY, AN ENTERPRISE MODEL FOR THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

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# Social Economy Europe

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**SEE is the voice of social economy enterprises and organisations in Europe.**

**Created in 2000 as the European Permanent Conference of Cooperatives, Mutuels, Associations and Foundations (CEP-CMAF), SEE represents the interest of the 2 million European social economy enterprises and organisations.**



**SEE Board of Directors 2016, Bratislava**



# Members of Social Economy Europe

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|    | <b>AEIP:</b> European Association of Paritarian Institutions <a href="http://www.aeip.net">www.aeip.net</a>  |
|    | <b>AIM:</b> International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies <a href="http://www.aim-mutual.org">www.aim-mutual.org</a>   |
|    | <b>AMICE:</b> Association of Mutual Insurers and Insurance Cooperatives in Europe <a href="http://www.amice-eu.org">www.amice-eu.org</a>                                 |
|    | <b>CASES:</b> Cooperativa António Sérgio para a Economia Social (Portugal) <a href="http://www.cases.pt">www.cases.pt</a>  |
|    | <b>CEDAG:</b> European Council of Associations of General Interest <a href="http://www.cedag.eu">www.cedag.eu</a>  |
|    | <b>CEPES:</b> Spanish Confederation of Social Economy Enterprises <a href="http://www.cep.es">www.cep.es</a>   |
|    | <b>CONCERTES:</b> Platform of Social Economy Representative Organisations (francophone regions of Belgium) <a href="http://www.concertes.be">http://www.concertes.be</a> |
|    | <b>EFC:</b> European Foundation Centre <a href="http://www.efc.be">www.efc.be</a>  |
|  | <b>ENSIE:</b> European Network of Social Integration Enterprises <a href="http://www.ensie.org">www.ensie.org</a>  |
|  | <b>ESS-France:</b> French Chamber of Social and Solidarity Economy <a href="http://www.ess-france.org">www.ess-france.org</a>  |
|  | <b>FEBEA:</b> European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks and Financiers <a href="http://www.febea.org">www.febea.org</a>                                       |
|  | <b>FTS:</b> National Third Sector Forum (Italy) <a href="http://www.forumterzosettore.it">www.forumterzosettore.it</a>   |
|  | <b>REVES:</b> European Network of Cities and Regions for the Social Economy <a href="http://www.revesnetwork.eu">www.revesnetwork.eu</a>                                 |

SEE members are the European organisations of:

- **Mutual Insurers and Insurance Cooperatives (AMICE)**
- **Healthcare Mutuals (AIM)**
- **Foundations (EFC)**
- **Paritarian Institutions of Social Protection (AEIP)**
- **Associations of General Interest (CEDAG)**
- **Work Integration Social Enterprises (ENSIE)**
- **Ethical and Alternative Banks and Financiers (FEBEA)**
- **Cities and Regions for the Social Economy (REVES)**

# Members of Social Economy Europe

At Member State level, SEE members are the social economy umbrella organisations of:

- **Belgium: CONCERTES**
- **Spain: CEPES**
- **France: ESS-France**
- **Italy: National Third Sector Forum**
- **Portugal: CASES**



SEE General Assembly 2016, Paris

# What we do:

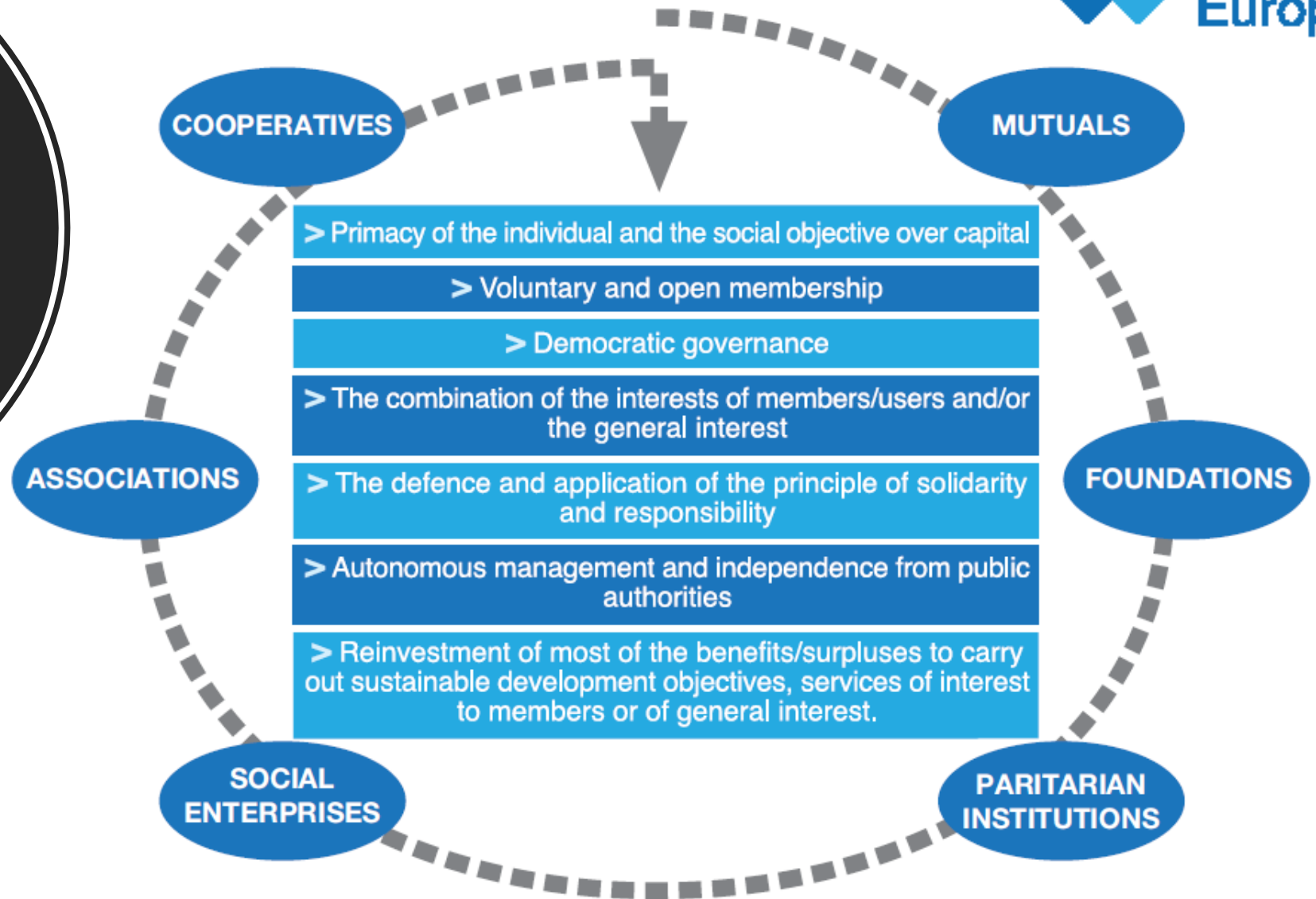


- SEE's mission is to:
- Defend the interests of its members
- Promote all social economy enterprises and organisations in Europe seeking to contribute to economic and social development
- Have a permanent dialogue with EU Institutions to make sure that the social economy is taken into account in the design and implementation of the main EU socio-economic policies
- Boost the visibility of the social economy actors, of its economic and social impact and of the values that define its virtuous business-model
- Support social economy organisations and public authorities aiming to promote the development of the social economy





**Social Economy,  
united in diversity,  
united around  
values**

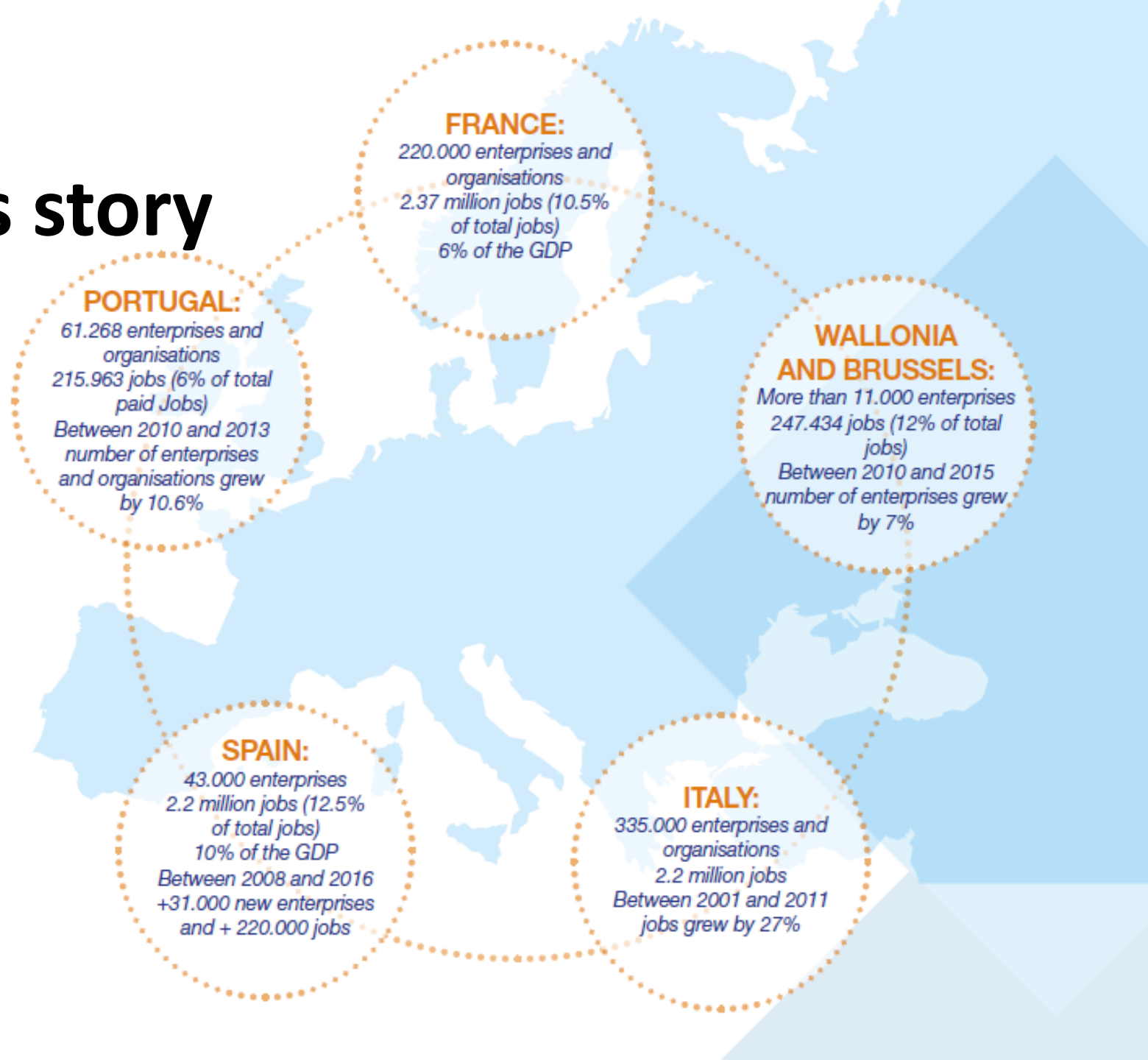


Social Economy Charter, 2002 (CEP-CMAF)

# Social Economy a European success story

- 2 million social economy enterprises and organisations in Europe
- 14.5 million employees
- 8% of Europe's GDP

*In contrast with the overall trend of growing unemployment, the social economy has experienced a significant employment growth: from 11 million jobs in 2002-2003 to 14.5 million in 2009-2010*



# Council Conclusions on Social Economy, 2015



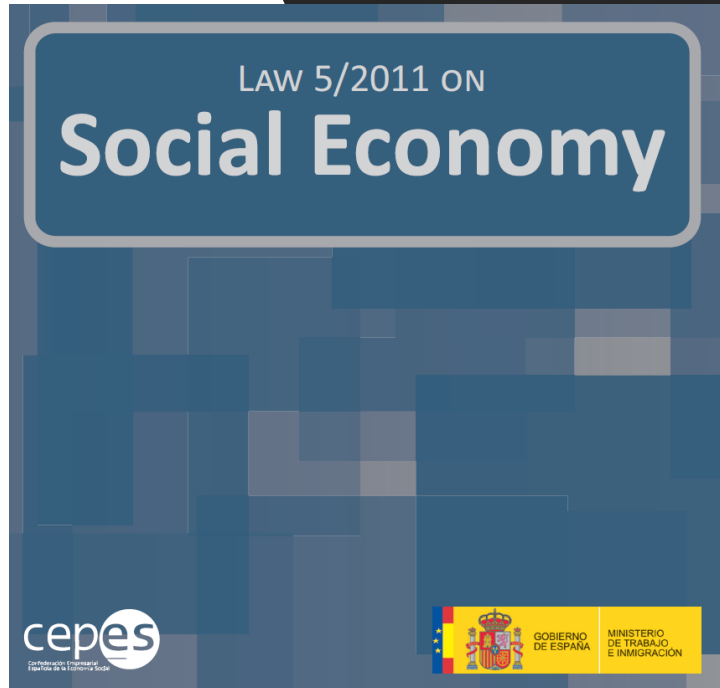
- *Social economy enterprises refer to a universe of organizations based on the primacy of people over capital and include organisational forms such as cooperatives, mutual, foundations and associations as well as newer forms of social enterprises and may be regarded as vehicles for social and economic cohesion across Europe as they help build a pluralistic and resilient social market economy.*
- *The social economy further contributes to several key EU objectives, including the achievement of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, high-quality employment, social cohesion, social innovation, local and regional development and environmental protection. It is also an important tool which contributes to ensuring people's well-being. Even more important, the social economy is a sector which has weathered the economic crisis much better than others and is gaining increasing recognition at European level*





## Spanish Law 5/2011 on Social Economy

# Purpose of the law and definition of the social econom



*The purpose of this Law is to establish a common legal framework for the set of entities that make up the Social Economy, while fully observing the specific rules applicable to each of them, as well as to determine the measures that can be taken to promote such entities, considering the purposes and principles inherent to the same.*

*Social Economy is the term used to designate the set of economic and business activities that are carried out in the private sphere by entities that pursue the collective interest of their members, whether the general economic or social interest or both, in accordance with the principles set forth in article 4.*

# Social Economy principles (Spanish law)

The entities in the Social Economy operate on the basis of the following guiding principles:

- a) Primacy of the individual and of the social purpose over capital. this materializes in an autonomous and transparent, democratic and participative management, which prioritises a decision-making process based more on individuals and the contribution they make to the organisation with their work and services or on the social purpose, than on their contributions to the capital
- b) Distribution of the profits obtained from the economic activity mainly according to the work contributed or the service or activity performed by members and, if applicable, according to the entity's social purpose.
- c) Promotion of solidarity internally and with society that favours commitment to local development, equal opportunities between men and women, social cohesion, the insertion of persons with the risk of social exclusion, the generation of stable and quality jobs, the conciliation of private, family and work life and sustainability.
- d) Independence with regard to the public authorities.



# Organisation in the Social Economy (Spanish Law)

1. Cooperatives, mutual societies, foundations and associations engaged in an economic activity, worker-owned societies, insertion companies, special employment centres, fishermen's associations, agricultural processing companies and special organisations created by specific rules that are governed by the principles set forth in the previous article are part of the Social Economy.
2. any entities that carry out economic and business activities and whose operating rules respond to the principles set out in the previous article, and included in the catalogue of entities established in article 6 of this Law may also be part of the Social Economy.
3. in any case, Social Economy entities will be regulated by their specific substantive rules.

***Our challenge is to make of  
the social economy the  
business model for the  
Future of Europe.***

***Alone we are  
invisible,  
together we  
are invincible***

