

London, 27 September 2018

Euclid Network's role as member of the European Commission Expert group on Social Economy and Social Enterprises

Euclid Network is glad to announce its appointment to the European Commission Expert group on Social Economy and Social Enterprises (also known as GECES 2). In coordination with our 25 members based in 14 countries, Euclid Network commits to use this key platform to:

- Provide feedback on existing EU initiatives for the sector
- Actively participate in the development of new and effective policies and instruments for the sector
- Increase the visibility of the Expert Group's work and recommendations at Member State level
- Act as an interpreter between social enterprises and the various public and private stakeholders represented in the Expert Group

Euclid Network: a supporter of coordinated European action

In 2015, Euclid Network together with three national networks of social enterprises (United-Kingdom, Netherlands and France) published an open-memo to the Commission's first Expert Group on Social Entrepreneurship (also known as GECES). We were then calling for the EU to [regain momentum](#) for social entrepreneurship.

In January 2017, [we gathered our members](#) and 30 European social entrepreneurs in Lisbon to build our input on the [European Action Plan for the Social Economy and Social Enterprises](#), that had been proposed by GECES. [Our members identified](#) that amongst the 12 recommendations formulated in the report, the following were of outmost importance:

- more social enterprises winning more private investment (recommendation #5)
- more social enterprises winning more combined public-private financing (recommendation #6)
- public authorities better informed on how to apply state aid to social enterprises providing social services (recommendation #9)
- social enterprises more connected around the world (recommendation #11)

Following this gathering, Euclid Network and Mouves (France) coordinated a [Policy Round-table](#) hosted by Guillaume Balas, MEP, in March 2017. It aimed to discuss the feedback received by our members and push for continued EU support for social entrepreneurship.

Attended by social entrepreneurs, support organisations, social investors, and policy-makers from around the EU, we looked in more details at which recommendations from the GECES report could be immediately implemented and which institution of the EU had a role to play in pushing for continued EU support for the sector.

Euclid's vision of the social enterprise sector in 2021

In view of the new discussions that will be initiated by the Expert group members, Euclid would like to reaffirm its vision for the SE market in 2021, thereby laying down what our members have identified as priorities for the coming years.

By 2021, Euclid Network would like to see that:

- I. There are more social enterprises generating a greater social impact and more able to demonstrate that impact
- II. There are more social entrepreneurs from disadvantaged and underrepresented backgrounds
- III. There is an increased volume of social investments into social enterprises and a higher social and financial return on social investments
- IV. There is at least one respected and high-capacity network of social enterprises in every EU Member State - which is working to build its members' capacity and represents them
- V. Social investors are more willing to invest in social enterprises at the growth stage of their lifecycle
- VI. There is greater openness and a greater capacity among NGOs to take on social finance investments
- VII. European consumers are more aware of social enterprises and are spending more disposable income on their products
- VIII. European businesses are more aware of social enterprises and are buying more products and services from them
- IX. Public authorities are more aware of social enterprises and are buying more products and services from them
- X. Social enterprises and social investors are more active across borders and successfully engage with EU policy and funding

Euclid's role within the Expert Group: looking further

Euclid Network believes that to formulate relevant policy recommendations and implement them, collective action and honest representation of interests are required.

In this context, Euclid Network fully embraces its role as an intermediary between social enterprises, public authorities at European level and key private social investors. Our work as an interpreter of social enterprises' needs and challenges materializes in activities such as:

- the [Euclid Summit](#)
- our [series of workshop](#) on access to EU funding
- our [EaSI workplan](#) for 2018-2021
- our [policy initiatives](#)

As the voice of our 25 members, we are confident to carry their best practices to the Expert Group workings and advocate for successful methods to be converted into efficient public policies.