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NETWORK
POWER TO DRIVE POSITIVE CHANGE

The Euclid Network Annual Report 2020-2021

Euclid Network Annual Report 2020-2021

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team@euclidnetwork.eu
www.euclidnetwork.eu

Authors: Veerle Klijn
Editing support: Gerlinde Schmidt
Design and typesetting: www.studiomishfit.com

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Foreword

This year, Euclid Network (EN) has shown its true strength as a network.

The challenges of 2020 fused us together, with collaborative social enterprise support organisations engaged like never before. It is difficult to easily summarise the past 12 months but there are some important themes as we emerge from 2020 – and even more importantly as we look to the future. In our annual report, we highlight the important work of social enterprises, their support organisations, partners and the network in an extraordinary year.

Social Enterprises and their support organisations play a key part in the current crisis. Social entrepreneurs are passionate entrepreneurs who bring innovative solutions and business models to the market with the main aim of driving positive social and environmental change. Our Network spent close to 15 years empowering positive change by connecting and enhancing social entrepreneurs and their support organisations. During this crisis, social enterprises and their support organisations once again demonstrated their key role in our economy providing a wide range of social services, especially for the most vulnerable in society. At the same time they have been and continue to be under immense pressure.

Networks play a crucial role in building a strong global social enterprise ecosystem. One that supports all impact driven organisations that are currently juggling with the challenges COVID poses. Networks are some of the most important players in this space, providing crucial functions such as: stimulating innovation; thought leadership; facilitating access to funding and markets; and enabling the sharing of best practice. This year we learned that, more than ever, collaboration and sharing knowledge is key in achieving true impact. The global community of entrepreneurs, impact-driven leaders and their support organizations who are all addressing the SDGs is growing and so too are networks. No social enterprise operates in a vacuum. Many interdependent systems, institutions and networks enable social enterprises to flourish. That is why ecosystems and networks matter.

Euclid Network accelerated its activities and impact this year. Our network has shown remarkable underlying strengths: our deep connection amongst members; a truly resilient, talented and increasingly diverse team; commitment to social enterprise and social innovation; and a shared mission that inspires others to join us.

EN continued being engaged in a very constructive dialogue with the European Commission to provide feedback on the EU social enterprise support instruments and discuss the current obstacles to sector development as well as the sector future.

EN represents its members at the international level through establishing partnerships and high-level committees.

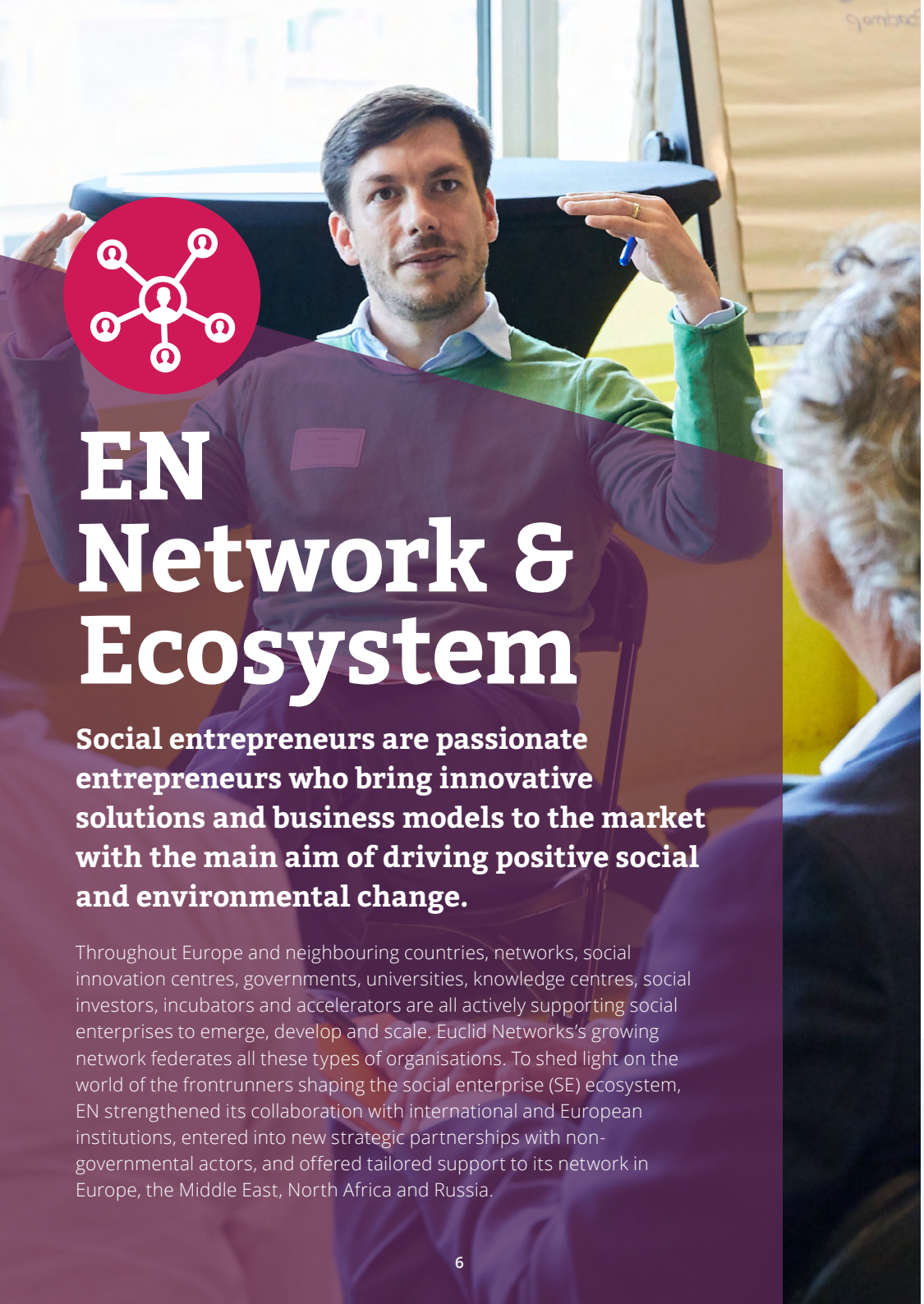
The Network is establishing its position on the world stage through memberships in global organisations such as The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSSE) and the World Economic Forum COVID Response Alliance for Social Entrepreneurs. Moreover, EN continued supporting its members and shaping the Social Economy ecosystem, working on access to EU funding; collecting data and coordinating research; creating meaningful connections; and capacity building.

These activities combined with bolstering initiaitives and projects such as the **European Social Enterprise Monitor,** the **Top 100 Women in Social Enterprise** and our growing portfolio of training programmes, were the key to growing our community this year by 25% to a total of more than 40 members. A positive financial result for the year was achieved. We welcomed new changemakers, with the team in the Hague expanding from 6 to 12 FTE.

It is clear that the year 2020-21 was unpreceded. Building strong partnerships and sharing resources is key to getting stronger together. EN will continue its mission to support social entrepreneurs and together, we will work towards building a sustainable, more equitable economy for all in the years to come.

Neven Marinovic -
President of Euclid Network
Suzanne Wisse-Husike -
Chief Executive Director of Euclid Network

This year we learned that, more than ever, collaboration and sharing knowledge is key in achieving true impact.



EN Network & Ecosystem

Social entrepreneurs are passionate entrepreneurs who bring innovative solutions and business models to the market with the main aim of driving positive social and environmental change.

Throughout Europe and neighbouring countries, networks, social innovation centres, governments, universities, knowledge centres, social investors, incubators and accelerators are all actively supporting social enterprises to emerge, develop and scale. Euclid Networks's growing network federates all these types of organisations. To shed light on the world of the frontrunners shaping the social enterprise (SE) ecosystem, EN strengthened its collaboration with international and European institutions, entered into new strategic partnerships with non-governmental actors, and offered tailored support to its network in Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and Russia.

Our Members

EN's growing network connects the frontrunners who are supporting social entrepreneurs and impact-driven leaders in Europe and beyond, empowering them to drive positive change.

EN members rate their satisfation with EN as 8.8 out of 10.

Growth

Over the last year, EN gained 9 new members in 9 different countries - meaning a **25 % growth** this year and an expansion to **3 new countries**. EN's members are now based in **21 countries** and members are active in **45 countries**.

Member Types

EN's member consultation[1] 2020-2021 showed that the largest group of EN members are (inter)national networks for social enterprises and civil society leaders, followed by incubators, accelerators and training centres.

Most Relevant Activities

Members indicated that the most relevant EN activities for their work are:

- **International networking opportunities;**
- **Updates on relevant European Union (EU) policy and funding opportunities and events ;**
- **International peer exchanges ;**
- **Knowledge sharing ;**
- **Access to relevant opportunities that can be offered to our members and beneficiaries.**

Most Important Needs

To continue offering tailored support, EN's member consultation also serves to identify the most important needs of members and the SE ecosystem, the four most expressed needs are:

- **Dedicated support programmes;**
- **Tailored funding;**
- **An enabling policy and legislative environment;**
- **Visibility.**

76% of EN members actively pursue the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) as part of their impact-driven mission.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1. https://euclidnetwork.eu/2021/07/en-presents-the-annual-consultation-2020-2021/

Our Partners

EN strengthened its role as an ecosystem builder despite a challenging year.

EN has continued its collaboration with international institutions, as well as entered into new strategic partnerships with non-governmental actors.

EN has renewed its partnership with the **European Commission's DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion** for the promotion of social enterprise finance, continued its role as expert in the **Commission Expert Group on the Social Economy and Social enterprises (GECES)** and as observer to the **United Taskforce on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSSE).**

This year, EN has joined **Pact for Impact** and the **World Economic Forum (WEF) COVID-19 Response Alliance for Social Entrepreneurs**.

EN has committed to add to the Alliance Roadmap by collaborating intensively on multiple topics, mostly on:

- **Policy Change;**
- **Data and Infrastructure;**
- **Corporate Access.**

We reached out to and collaborated with other market building organisations including :

Key Projects & Achievements

EN members provide various types of support, most notably capacity building, education and training and networking opportunities, providing dedicated support that SEs require in every growth stage.

Where starting SEs may benefit most from mentoring and capacity-building programmes, scale-ups are mostly in need of funding opportunities. While some EN members have specific expertise on supporting SEs in the idea or start-up phase, others support SEs in the scale-up or growth phase. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, EN continued supporting its members and shaping the SE ecosystem, through: influencing EU policy; working on access to EU funding; collecting data and coordinating research; creating meaningful connections; capacity building; holding numerous events and reaching thousands of people via their communication channels.

Influencing EU Policy

EN is internationally recognised as a key sectoral representative of social enterprises.

EN has a policy presence at EU level, being a member of various advisory groups such as the GECES and the Structural Dialogue Group, and at international level, being a member of the UNTFSSE and WEF COVID Response Alliance for Social Entrepreneurs.

Through a policy roundtable, policy sessions at international events and position papers EN facilitated conversations on key policy topics and voiced the concerns and expectations of our network to policy makers.

From April 2020 to April 2021, EN participated in 5 meetings of the Commission expert group on social economy and social enterprise, in 58 meetings with EN partners, in 20 meetings at the **European Parliament** and **European Commission**, 20 meetings with businesses (networks), 6 meetings with social finance providers, 4 meetings with the **OECD** and 8 meetings with the **UNTFSSE**.

On the 18th of September 2020, EN organized a high-level expert group meeting with our members and representatives from the European Commission, OECD, UN and COVID Response Alliance to support Social Entrepreneurs with the objective of raising awareness on the impact of COVID-19 on the SE sector. This meeting was attended by **35 participants.**

EN hosted online workshops and panel discussions on policy measures to support social enterprises at various international events:

September 2020
Panel discussion on "Why & How governments should invest in SE now" at Social Value Matters 2020.

October 2020
Panel discussion on 'In the mix, accelerating innovations for the new economy' at ImpactFest 2020.

November 2020
Panel discussion on "Build Back Better" at Roadmap to Mannheim event.

EN collected members' views on key policy topics and new instruments through surveys, a webinar and interviews.

Based on this information EN took the following actions:

April 2020
Published a call for specific measures to support social enterprises during the COVID-19 crisis.

May 2020
Published an article on opportunities for social enterprises post COVID-19.

June 2020
Published EN's contribution to the GECES meeting on the impact of COVID-19 on the social enterprise sector.

September 2020
Published a framework of successful and unsuccessful policy measures by EU member states to support social enterprises through the COVID-19 crisis.

October 2020
Contributed to the publication of the COVID Action Agenda of the World Economic Forum COVID Response Alliance for Social Entrepreneurs.

November 2020
Published the EN Manifesto.

January 2021
Published an open letter to the participants of the WEF and Heads of State to support social enterprise.

February 2021
Published an article on 'how to speed up positive impact so we can reach the SDGs'.

Accessing EU Funding

EN supports its members in accessing EU Funding through finding and sharing new opportunities on the website and newsletters, hosting webinars on open call for proposals, organising an annual project-building workshop and regularly updating the EU Funding Toolkit.

In 2020-2021 EN hosted 7 webinars called "Financing your Social Impact" on EU and non-EU funding opportunities for EN members and partners:

April 2020
Online Members' Meeting on Call for Proposals VP/2019/017 (15 participants).

June 2020
Webinar Financing your Social Impact - OECD Global Action for SE: Call for Expression of Interest (17 participants).

July 2020
Webinar Driving Positive Change on EU Policy & EU Funding (18 participants).

July 2020
Webinar Driving Positive Change on EU Policy & EU Funding (18 participants).

September 2020
Webinar Financing your Social Impact - Follow-up - EC call for national competence centres on social innovation (12 participants).

October 2020
Webinar Financing your Social Impact - OECD Global Action for SE: Call for tender (27 participants).

January 2021
Webinar on Financing your Social Impact on Erasmus+ (32 participants).

EN hosted the Project-Building Workshop from a studio in The Hague on the 18th of February with 50 participants (sold out!), of which 20 EN members and 30 paying participants.

EN expanded its EU Funding Toolkit to include chapters on corporate and philanthropic fundraising for Social Enterprise Support Organisation. As a result EN members have successfully applied for or are interested in a wide range of EU funding programmes, including EaSI, Horizon, AMIF, EuropeAid, Erasmus+, ESF and ERDF. An increase of successful joint EU funding applications by EN members was observed.

Collecting Data & Coordinating Research

The Knowledge Centre[2]

Over the last year, EN added **83 knowledge resources** and **212 researchers** to its Knowledge Centre, moving the total knowledge resources respectively **from 152 to 235** and from **75 to 287**. To further develop the Knowledge Centre new sorting and filtering options were added, as well as an overview grid with recommendations from academic research and knowledge resources of EU-projects.

Over the last year, the Knowledge Centre site reached:

- **11,737 page views;**
- **7,598 unique page views;**
- **2,539 visitors;**
- **1,189 downloads.**

The European Social Enterprise Monitor (ESEM)[3]

The ESEM piloted with **35 participants** and **19 partners** across **8 countries** with mostly national networks for social entrepreneurs as partners, together with a leading university and/ or research centre in charge.

The ESEM survey successfully launched, translated in eight different languages, during the Social Enterprise World Forum in 2020. It was further promoted in a large-scale multilingual promotion campaign and at ImpactFest, Social Enterprise Day by Social Enterprise UK and at the WEF COVID Response Alliance for Social Entrepreneurs, Ashoka, Impact Hub, Ecopreneurs and 60+ other partners.

The survey collected a total of **1.990 responses** from entrepreneurs across **8 countries**. The European Social Enterprise Monitor Report was officially launched at the European Social Economy Summit on 26 May 2021 during a plenary session and break-outs hosted by each of the countries involved this year.

The WEF COVID Response Alliance for Social Entrepreneurs selected the ESEM project as a highly relevant and important systemic change member-led project and mentioned the project in an Alliance article for Davos 2021. 71% of 930 social entrepreneurs who finished the ESEM survey signed up to participate again in the next edition.

2. https://knowledgecentre.euclidnetwork.eu/

3. https://euclidnetwork.eu/portfolio-posts/european-social-enterprise-monitor-esem/

Creating Meaningful Connections Across Europe

EN fosters the international ecosystem for social impact by creating meaningful connections between policy makers, academia, social enterprise support organisations, SE leaders and social start-ups across Europe and beyond.

Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions the exchanges and events did not take place in-person. Despite the challenging circumstances EN has facilitated numerous online exchanges across its projects.

Representatives from **9 regional authorities** engaged in an exchange to share best policy practices on social entrepreneurship and social economy as part of the **P.R.E.S.I.** and **R.E.S.E.T.** project.

12 EN members collaborated in pairs on joint projects as part of a members' edition **Peer Exchange**.

24 EN members and leaders of social enterprise support organisations across Europe, the Middle East and North Africa enjoyed an online exchange as part of the **MedUP!** programme.

EN led a consortium which initiated **129 exchanges** between starting social entrepreneurs and more experienced entrepreneurs as part of the **Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs** programme.

Moreover, the EN team participated in 43 (inter)national events to network and present EN. Some highlights:

November 2020
Launched EN Manifesto in a panel discussion with EN members at the online Roadmap to Mannheim event with 70+ participants.

November 2020
Launch of Buy Social Corporate and Government Social Procurement Community of Practice. Launch was scheduled for EaSI year 2021-2022. It was brought forward at the request of EN members.

The EN team had speaker slots at 32 (inter)national events to network and present EN. Some key conferences and events:

- **SENTINEL**
  19-5-2020; keynote by EN;
- **European Cluster Alliance**
  12-6-2020; presentation;
- **WEF - COVID Response Alliance for Social Entrepreneurs**
  25-6-2020; presentation;
- **SEWF Policy Forum**
  26-8-2020;
- **SEWF Digital**
  22-9-2020; 3 sessions a.o. Reaching the SDGs and Transforming towards a Social Economy);
- **Social Innovation Forum**
  28-9-2020; opening panel;
- **Social Value Matters**
  30-9-2020; Why and how governments should invest in SE now;
- **Social Enterprise Day 2020**
  19-11-2020; SE ecosystem panel;
- **ImpactFest**
  28/29-22-2020; 2 keynotes and 1 sessions;
- **EUSES**
  3 roadmap event sessions, 4 sessions hosted at EUSES Mannheim, plus 1 more session participation, plus 2x virtual booths at expo market;
- **Impact Summit**
  19-3-2020; 1 session on social procurement / BuySocial.

Capacity Building

EN builds the capacity of its members by providing training, hosting webinars and collaborating in projects.

To cover for the loss of in person meetings and to support and build capacity among EN members amidst the COVID-19 period, EN set up 7 virtual Driving Positive Change webinars which attracted a total of 156 participants.

The webinars focused on different topics:

To continue building the capacity of EN Members and SEs, three new projects were launched involving EN and 6 members as full partners:

The European Social Innovation Competition[4]

The European Social Innovation Academy 2021 Launched in memory of social innovation pioneer Diogo Vasconcelos, the European Social Innovation Competition is a Competition run by the European Commission, with the support from the EIC across all EU Member States and Horizon Europe associated countries. Each year, three €50,000 prizes are awarded by the European Commission for the best socially innovative projects designed to change the world for the better. The European Social Innovation Competition is supported by a consortium of organisations from across Europe. The consortium is led by Nesta Challenges and includes Euclid Network, GOPA Com. and Ashoka Spain.

EU3Digital[5]

EU3Digital is a new Erasmus+ funded project with consortium partners across Europe that launched in November 2020. To ensure the success and sustainability of social enterprises by boosting digital skills and competences, EU3Digital will develop over the coming years learning resources for social enterprises to develop individuals' and organisations' digital competences, advance their digital strategies, help them to engage with existing digital support and software, and thereby build capacity.

ESESII[6]

ESESII (Enabling Social Entrepreneurs to Scale their Impact Internationally) is a new Erasmus+ funded project with consortium partners across Europe that launched in September 2020. ESESII addresses the lacking awareness of many social entrepreneurs on what impact their business could have in a different location. Besides this, many social entrepreneurs often miss the needed soft skills and specialised knowhow to successfully introduce their business to a different country. ESESII seeks to address these challenges by developing a framework of skills and competences and in a second step a curriculum to train social entrepreneurs. Moreover, ESESII also engages with social enterprise support organisations and develops policy tools destined to social enterprise support organisations and national interest groups for national use.

4. https://eusic.challenges.org/ **5.** https://euclidnetwork.eu/portfolio-posts/eu3digital/

6. https://euclidnetwork.eu/portfolio-posts/enabling-social-entrepreneurs-scale-their-impact-internationally/

Communication

As a European network of social enterprises, EN is in a unique position to connect a wide-range of impact leaders, provide them with a unified voice and promote social entrepreneurship as the gold standard.

During the COVID-19 crisis, EN supported the fast-growing member-base by organising members-only **Driving Positive Change webinar series** to facilitate capacity-building and create a space for open collaboration. Moreover, EN promotes the activities of its members, the network activities as well as the happenings in the sector via its increasingly popular channels.

The EN website saw a steady rise in engagement:

52,784 unique page views, an average of 4,399 unique page views per month.

EN produced 11 general newsletters, with 24% opens that generated 1,237 content click-throughs, and 8 newsletters specifically curated to our members with 35% opens and 8,7% click-through rate.

New strategy implemented for EN social media channels led to a steady rise in number of posts, engagement and impressions.

EN produced 1,384 posts and reached 833,090 impressions, amounting to four times the projected value.

EN social media following rose to 10,050.

The majority of content on EN channels relates to updates from the major players in the sector, EN members and promotion of ongoing EN projects.

EN leads the communication activities in consortia for the following projects:

- Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs[7],
- European Social Enterprise Monitor[8],
- ESESII[9],
- Top 100 Women in Social Enterprise[10].

The growing portfolio of projects and popularity of EN channels led to growth of CRM database contact list to 4,591. It also enabled establishment of outreach and media partnerships, notably with Pioneers Post[11]. Moreover, EN reached over 20 press mentions in additional publications.

Highlight

Top 100 Women in Social Enterprise

The most popular communication initiative was the Top 100 Women in Social Enterprise. Through this initiative EN celebrates women in the SE sector, spotlighting their impact journey and achievements, connecting them to learn from and inspire each other. The pilot year of the project included an open call for nomination with almost 500 responses. Selected 100 candidates were featured in the EN Top 100 Women in Social Enterprise List, which was released on International Women's Day, 8thMarch 2021. This followed a campaign, producing 8 interviews and reaching 196,622 impressions and almost 2000 engagements across all channels.

7. https://euclidnetwork.eu/portfolio-posts/erasmus-young-entrepreneurs/

8. https://euclidnetwork.eu/portfolio-posts/european-social-enterprise-monitor-esem/

9. https://euclidnetwork.eu/portfolio-posts/enabling-social-entrepreneurs-scale-their-impact-internationally/

10. https://euclidnetwork.eu/portfolio-posts/euclid-network-top-100-women-in-social-enterprise/

11. https://www.pioneerspost.com/

EN Team

Suzanne Wisse-Husike
Chief Executive

Christian Vietz
International Programme & Social Innovation Manager

Veerle Klijn
Head of Policy & EU Relations

Wieteke Dupain
Head of Knowledge, Research & Development

Monica Pascanu
Communications & Event Manager

Daria Loktionova
EYE Programme Officer

Eva Oravcová
Communication Consultant

Oriana Pilia
Knowledge Management Research Analyst

Elena Mertel
Project Officer

Enrico Sabatini
Project Officer

Ambra Cortese
Communications & EU Policy Trainee

Toby Gazeley
Communications & EU Policy Trainee

Gerlinde Schmidt
Project Officer

EN Board

João Baracho
CEO of CDI Portugal, Managing Director of Apps for Good, Portugal

Primož Šporar
CEO of the Fund 05 - Foundation for Social & Impact Investment, Slovenia

Stefan Panhuijsen
Director at Social Enteprise NL, The Netherlands

Pat Armstrong
CEO of Association of Chief Officers of Scottish Voluntary Organisations (ACOSVO), United Kingdom

Neven Marinovic
President of Euclid Network & Executive Director of Smart Kolektiv, Serbia

Michael Meyer
Academic Director, Competence Centre for Nonprofit Organizations & Social Entrepreneurship, Vienna University of Business & Economics (WU), Austria

Angels Guiteras Mestre
CEO of Association for Wellbeing & Development (ABD) / Former President of the Third Sector Platform of Catalonia, Spain

Gorgi Krlev
Researcher at Centre for Social Investment, University of Heidelberg, Germany

Eva Varga
Vice-President of Euclid Network - Independent Consultant in Social Entrepreneurship, Hungary

Riccardo Re
CEO & Representative of Adelante Dolmen, Italy

Truls Neubeck
Executive Director at IDEELL ARENA, Sweden

EN Community Members

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Provincie Noord-Brabant
because
CAF Charities Aid Foundation
CAF Russia
CSI
KUSIF
cress
empowher
eslider
FORWARD. INCUBATOR
SENSSuisse Social Entrepreneurship
The Open University
FORUM FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION SWEDEN
Reach for Change
avise
pulse
Sociale Entreprenører Danmark
istasyon
IMPACT FRANCE
IDEELL ARENA
IRISH SOCIAL ENTERPRISE NETWORK
social enterprise
TÜRKİYE SOSYAL GİRİŞİMCİLİK AĞI
Newcastle University
SERI SOCIAL ENTERPRISE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
SIS sistema imprese sociali
SKUP skupnost privatnih zavodov
WU VIENNA
smart KOLEKTIV
SYNTHESIS CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
SEND Social Entrepreneurship Netzwerk Deutschland
SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD
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Social Entrepreneurship Network Austria
ADELANTE DOLMEN

EN Partners

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OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES
CATALYST 2030
Collaborating to achieve the SDGs
WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM
European Commission
The Hague ImpactCity
GECES
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE WORLD FORUM
UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy

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