



WISE

Work Integration Social Enterprises as a tool for promoting inclusion

austria
belgium
finland
italy
malta
poland
romania
spain

The current and potential role of Work Integration Social Enterprises (WISEs) in promoting social inclusion and employment is the focus of the WISE project.

Project Objectives:

- To promote **exchanges and mutual learning** on policies, good practices and innovative approaches to WISEs as a tool for inclusion
- To foster the role and recognition of WISEs in **National Action Plans for inclusion and employment** and in **structural funds**
- To help governments and relevant stakeholders to **improve coordination and coherence between different policies and funding mechanisms.**

The project partnership was composed by a mixture of social economy organisation in the partners' countries and European organisations interested in promoting social economy (CECOP, DIESIS, EAPN, EMES, OECD Leed Programme). It was coordinated by CGM (the main Italian network of social cooperatives) and DIESIS (European support structure for the social economy).

The project run from 2008 to 2009 and was financed by PROGRESS (the European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity).

The first part of the project analysed the different forms of WISEs and the support they receive in 8 countries (AT, BE, ES, FI, IT, MT, PL, RO). 8 national reports were produced. Then, the analysis of the policies (at European, national and regional level) and in particular

NAPs for inclusion, NRPs and structural funds OPs in all the partners' countries, underlined good practices, gaps and potentials for WISEs support and development. Four peer reviews were organised to facilitate exchange of information and experiences and mutual learning at different levels – between different categories of stake-holders (policy makers, practitioners, lobbyists) and between countries.

The final project publication includes:

- Eight cross-cutting reports to set out how WISEs could make a better contribution to policies in the country concerned and to identify policy guidelines for national and local policy-makers.
- A set of ten European strategic guidelines addressed to European policy-makers.

The ten European Guidelines for policy-making are one of the most important outcomes of the project and have been very well received by the European Commission and by other stakeholders. They cover a set of ten different policies, for which WISEs can play an important role in achieving policy objectives. These policies include employment, social inclusion, anti-discrimination, enterprise and competition, public procurement, services of general interest, local development and social cohesion, Structural Funds, and good governance.

Each chapter is aimed at demonstrating the added value of social economy, and of WISEs in particular, in each particular field. This is supported by concrete examples identified on the ground in the course of the project, and complemented by specific policy recommendations, directed at the European level. In parallel, national recommendations have also been drafted by partners for their Governments.

Please refer to the full text of the brochure for more details on the concrete recommendations to policy-making which resulted from the project. They demonstrate the clear added-value of social economy, and in particular WISEs, as a very useful tool for social inclusion and combating poverty, as well as for a number of other policy priorities identified at the EU level.

For more information, please visit the project website (www.wiseproject.eu) or contact Dorotea Daniele at DIESIS (Dorotea.Daniele@diesis.coop).