

European level support structures for social enterprises

At a European level, there are many organisations promoting and supporting the development of social enterprises. A non-exhaustive list taken from “A map of social enterprises and their eco-systems in Europe’ published by the European Commission in 2015 (<https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=12987&langId=en>) is presented below.

Type	Organization
Policy makers and shapers	European Commission
	European Parliament
	European Economic and Social Committee
	The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Providers of finance	European Investment Fund (EIF): Part of the European Investment Bank (EIB) Group, the EIF is a specialist provide of finance to small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) and more recently, social enterprises across Europe. http://www.eif.org/
	European Venture Philanthropy Association (EVPA): A network of more than 160 members from venture philanthropy funds, grant-make foundations, private equity firms and professional service firms, philanthropy advisors and business schools from 22 countries committed to practicing and promoting high-engagement grant making and social investment in Europe. http://evpa.eu.com/
	Toniic: A global network of impact investors, both individuals and institutions with members in over 20 countries. http://www.toniic.com/
	Global Impact Investment Network: A global network of impact investment community (asset owners and asset managers) and service providers engaged in impact investing. http://www.thegiin.org/cgi-bin/iowa/home/index.html
Specialist support networks and umbrella organisations	Ashoka is an international non-profit organisation which supports leading social entrepreneurs through Business development support and facilitate access to finance (via the Ashoka Support network), and assist in scaling their impact globally. Ashoka currently operates in over 70 countries Worldwide. https://www.ashoka.org/
	NESst support the development of social enterprise Across Central & Eastern Europe and Latin America through the provision of specialist professional services and support including financial and investment readiness support. http://www.nesst.org/
	Impact Hub: A global community of “individuals, organisations, and businesses” wishing to create social impact. There are 61 impact hubs around the world, including 8 EU Member States. Impact Hubs provide physical and virtual work spaces, organise events and Workshops to foster collaborative learning and run The Impact Hub Fellowship which is a topic focused entrepreneurial award and one-year incubation programme. http://www.impacthub.net/
	Oksigen is composed of independent organisations, aiming to stimulate social entrepreneurship / social enterprise through the provision of finance, specialist support, research and consultancy. http://oksigen.eu/

	<p>Social Impact Labs are a platform for social entrepreneurs, freelancers and social enterprises. The Labs offer an ecosystem for social entrepreneurs: physical space for working, networking and exchange, business advice and start-up support. There are currently four labs operating in Germany. http://socialimpact.eu/lab</p>
	<p>The Social Entrepreneurship Network SEN: A Learning Network promoted by Managing Authorities of the European Social Fund from nine EU Member States and regions, which exchanges knowledge and experience and shares good practice in order to Develop a comprehensive support environment for Social enterprises through ESF funding. http://www.socialeconomy.pl/</p>
Research Networks	<p>EMES European Research Network: This leading research network on social enterprise gathering 13 established university research centres and over 100 individual researchers from 30 countries around the world aims to gradually build up a corpus of theoretical and empirical knowledge, pluralistic in disciplines and methodology, around 'Third Sector' issues with a specific focus on the European context. www.emes.net</p>
	<p>European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (EURICSE): Research centre designed to promote knowledge development and innovation for the field of cooperatives, social enterprises, commons and nonprofit organisations with a focus on all forms of private organisations and enterprises that pursue purposes other than profit, are characterised by participatory management models, and adopt a development approach that blends social and economic well being. Its main activities are research; training for young researchers managers of social enterprises and cooperatives; consulting services, and dissemination of research findings http://www.euricse.eu/en</p>
	<p>International Centre of Research and Information on the Public, Social and Cooperative Economy (CIRIEC): A non-governmental international scientific organisation comprising of both individual and collective members from countries undertaking and promoting research, in the fields of public services, social enterprises, and the social economy. http://www.ciriec.ulg.ac.be/</p>
Advocacy and sector networks	<p>EUCLID: A network of civil society actors dedicated to Help build an enabling environment for civil society to operate effectively. It also provides a platform for advocacy by bringing together the expertise of its members and contacts on specific overarching issues and using this to develop useable recommendations for policy-makers at national and EU levels http://www.euclidnetwork.eu/</p>
	<p>The European Network for Social Integration Enterprises (ENSIE): The European platform for representation, cooperation, development and advocacy of 26 national</p>

	and regional networks and federations of Social Integration Enterprises, representing 20 countries of the European Union. http://www.ensie.org/
	DIESIS supports the development of the social economy and in particular cooperatives, social enterprises and worker-owned enterprises in Europe through training, project design, consulting and advisory services, technical assistance and research. http://www.diesis.coop/