



Brussels, 22.02.2012

**COMMISSION EXPERT GROUP ON SOCIAL BUSINESS
"GROUPE D'EXPERTS DE LA COMMISSION
SUR L'ENTREPRENEURIAT SOCIAL" (GECES)**

Call for applications for the selection of experts

1. Background

In its last paragraph, the Communication on Social Business Initiative (SBI¹) states that "*The Commission ... shall ... set up a consultative multi-stakeholder group on social business to examine the progress of the measures envisaged in this Communication ... **this group could be made up of representatives of the Member States, local authorities, social entrepreneurs' organisations, the banking and finance sector and the academic and university sector.***"

The group, called "Groupe d'experts de la Commission sur l'entrepreneuriat social" (GECES), will be set up for **6 years** (2012 – 2017), and will:

- 1) "*Examine the **progress of the measures envisaged in***" the SBI
- 2) Be consulted by the Commission, on the development, setting up and implementation of the **11 key actions listed in the SBI** (cf. annex).
- 3) Be consulted by the Commission on the opportunity, development, setting up and implementation of some or all **other actions mentioned in the SBI** (cf. annex).

The Commission is therefore calling for applications with a view to selecting members of the GECES.

2. Features of the GECES

2.1 Composition

The GECES shall consist of a maximum of 70 members. Half the group shall be made up of members selected from public authorities, i.e. 27 representatives from Member States² and 8 members from regional and local authorities. The other half shall consist of members selected from non public bodies: up to 16 members from organisations representing social entrepreneurs, up to 8 members from organisations delivering pertinent business development and support services, up to 8 members from the banking and finance sector and up to 8 members from the academic and research sector.

¹ COM(2011)682: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0682:FIN:EN:PDF>

² A Member State can decide to be represented at the regional level.

In addition to the members, there will be 16 observers: Croatia, Iceland, Macedonia, Montenegro, Turkey, Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Serbia, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland shall be entitled to send 1 observer each. Furthermore, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions, the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund may send 1 observer each.

Member States and observers may also appoint a substitute for each member they propose.

Members shall be:

- representatives of Member States and regional and local authorities;
- organisations and companies representing social entrepreneurs or delivering pertinent business development and support services to them, and representatives of organisations and companies from the banking and finance sector and;
- individuals appointed in their personal capacity from the academic and research sector.

2.2 Confidentiality

The obligation of professional secrecy which, by virtue of the Treaties and the rules implementing them, applies to all members of the institutions and their staff is also relevant for expert groups advising the Commission. In the same manner, the provisions of the Commission's rules on security regarding the protection of EU classified information, laid down in the Annex to Commission Decision 2001/844/EC, ECSC, Euratom, shall be applicable to expert groups. Members of expert groups and their representatives, as well as invited experts and observers, are bound by those obligations. Should they fail to comply with those obligations, the Commission may take all appropriate measures.

2.3 Transparency

The member's name will be collected, processed and published in accordance with Regulation (EC) 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data.

The list of members of the GECES shall be published in the Register of expert groups³.

Personal data will be collected, processed and published in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001⁴.

2.4 Attendance at meetings

Applicants should be prepared to attend meetings systematically, to contribute actively to discussions in the group, to examine and provide comments on documents under discussion, and to act, as appropriate, as "rapporteur" on ad hoc basis.

³ Members who do not wish to have their names disclosed may apply for derogation from this rule. The request not to disclose the name of a member of an expert group shall be considered justified whenever publication could endanger his or her security or integrity or unduly prejudice his or her privacy.

⁴ Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 8 of 12.1.2001, p. 1).

The group shall normally meet on Commission premises in accordance with expert meeting procedures.

Applicants should take into account that meetings generally involve preparatory work.

3. Selection criteria for the members of the group and their representatives

The Commission will take the following criteria into account when assessing applications:

- members must show a proven competence and experience in relation to one or more (groups of) actions listed in the annex, be it at local, national, European or international level, and they must explicitly refer to this/those action(s) in their application ;
- participants (members and observers) must understand written English⁵;
- members must be nationals of one of the 27 Member States of the European Union, or of an acceding⁶/ candidate⁷/ potential candidate⁸/ European Economic Area⁹ country, or Switzerland.

When assessing applications, the Commission will seek to achieve gender and geographical balance within the GECES, as well as a balanced representation of relevant stakeholders.

4. Application procedure

The duly signed applications must be sent by **9 April 2012** at the latest, in the format requested by the Commission services. Only applications sent to the below addresses will be taken into account. The date of sending will be established as follows:

- Where applications are sent by e-mail to the following address: MARKT-SOCIAL-BUSINESS@ec.europa.eu, the date of the e-mail will be the date of sending.
- Where applications are sent by post to the following address: European Commission, Directorate-General Internal Market and Services, SPA2 8/35 B – 1049, Bruxelles (Belgique), the postmark will be considered the date of sending.
- Where applications are hand-delivered to the following address: European Commission, Directorate-General Internal Market and Services, Unit 01 Secretariat, Pièce 8/35, Rue de Spa 2, B – 1000, Bruxelles (Belgique), the date on the receipt given upon delivery will be considered the date of sending.

Applications must be completed in English or French and must clearly indicate whether the application is made for individuals appointed in their personal capacity, for an organisation or

⁵ Official plenary meetings of the GECES will be interpreted in at least 6 languages (English, French, German, Polish, Spanish and Italian), plus up to 6 other official languages of the European Union, upon requirements of members. The Commission will provide all documents in English. Members and observers are able to provide documents / statements in another official language of the European Union, but in this case the Commission will not translate them and thus in order to be able to be read by all participants of the GECES, a courtesy translation in English could be conveniently provided, together with the original copy.

⁶ Croatia

⁷ Iceland, Macedonia, Montenegro and Turkey

⁸ Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina and Serbia

⁹ Liechtenstein and Norway

company, or a regional or local authority. Applicants have to provide evidence that they meet the criteria listed above (in section 3).

All applicants must document their professional experience and expertise in full by means of a curriculum vitae and a letter (maximum 2 pages) in support of their application. Only CVs following the European format (Europass¹⁰) shall be examined. The following information should also be included (this list is not exhaustive):

- The organisation/company/authority for which the applicant has been working and the length of time he/she has worked there.
- Other organisations/companies/authorities, for which he/she has worked in the past.
- His/her specific competences in relation to the actions mentioned in the annex.
- The specific projects and or tasks he/she has been involved in.
- Any works that he/she has published on social entrepreneurship and related matters.
- Any experience he/she has acquired at EU and international level.
- His/her major professional challenges foreseen in the near future.
- Any interests that he/she has, which may prejudice his or her independence.

Applications from organisations/companies also have to include information on:

- The role which social enterprise development plays in their organisation/company; the type and quality of their relations with social enterprises;
- The scale and scope of their activities related to social enterprise;
- Their mission and their mandate (where applying organisations/companies represent several social enterprises)

5. Terms of the appointment

The Commission shall select members from regional and local authorities, organisations representing social entrepreneurs, social business support organisations, banking and finance companies/organisations, and individuals from the academic and research sector for a 3 year renewable mandate. Representatives (member + substitute) from Member States and observers (+ substitute) shall be appointed for the whole duration of the mandate of 6 years.

Members shall give the Commission an independent opinion free from outside influence and shall respect the conditions of confidentiality laid down by the Treaties and their implementing rules, as well as with the Commission's rules on security regarding the protection of EU classified information, laid down in the Annex to Commission decision 2001/844/EC, ECSC, Euratom¹¹. They shall commit to act independently and in the public interest. Should they fail to respect these obligations, the Commission may take all appropriate measures.

Travel and subsistence expenses incurred in the activities of the group by participants¹² coming from outside Brussels shall be reimbursed by the Commission in accordance with the

¹⁰ <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/europass/home/vernav/Europass+Documents/Europass+CV.csp>

¹¹ Commission Decision of 29 November 2001 amending its internal Rules of Procedure (OJ L 317, 3.12.2001, p.1)

¹² Members and observers

provisions in force at the Commission¹³ within the limits of the available budgetary appropriations. Members will receive no remuneration for their duties.

For any further information please contact:

Mr Emmanuel Vallens, Telephone: +3222992267, emmanuel.vallens@ec.europa.eu

Mr Jean-Claude Mizzi, Telephone: +3222958080, jean-claude.mizzi@ec.europa.eu

Information on the results of the call for applications will be published on the Internet site of the Directorate-General Internal Market and Services.

Annex: List of actions in the SBI

11 KEY ACTIONS

ACTIONS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO FUNDING

1. A European regulatory framework for social investment funds
2. The development of Microcredit/Microfinance
3. European financial instrument of c. 90 M €
4. Investment priority for social enterprises in the Structural funds (ESF and ERDF)

ACTIONS TO INCREASE THE VISIBILITY OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

5. Mapping of social enterprises' sector; business models, economic weight, tax regimes, identification of best practices
6. Data base of labels and certifications
7. National and Regional Administrations: promotion of mutual learning and their capacity building
8. Electronic data exchange platform for social investors and entrepreneurs and Access to EU education-training programs (Lifelong Learning Programme - LLP, Youth in Action - YiA)

ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

9. Simplification of the European Cooperative Regulation, Proposal for a European Foundation and study on the situation of mutual societies and their cross-border activities
10. Enhancement of the element of quality in awarding contracts in the context of the reform of public procurement
11. Simplification of the implementation of rules concerning State aid to social and local services

¹³ Rule 16 of C(2010)7649

OTHER ACTIONS

ACTIONS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO FUNDING

- EIF Impact investing Pilot scheme
- Dormant funds
- Access to venture capital
- Best-practice sharing between Member States regarding the use of capital accumulated in social enterprises and, in particular "asset locks" (indivisible reserve / actifs impartageables)
- Development & networking of trading platforms (Social stock exchanges)

ACTIONS TO INCREASE THE VISIBILITY OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Promoting social entrepreneurship among older people (Silver economy)
- Promoting research, in particular on satellite accounts
- Promoting dialogue between social enterprises and financial institutions

ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

- Increasing and including new aid categories
- Best-practice sharing between Member States concerning the adaptation of national tax regimes
- Establish a Europe-wide intellectual property promotion tool
- Researching the extent to which social enterprises could access dormant patents to assist their development
- Make use of volunteers and receive donations without a negative tax impact
- European statute for other forms of social enterprise such as non profit-making enterprises