

"Together to create new growth"

"Social entrepreneurship & social economy: Developing a European ecosystem to unlock social innovation, growth and jobs"

Conference on 18 November 2011 - Brussels

Speaker: László ANDOR



CURRICULUM VITAE

László ANDOR has been the **EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion** since February 2010. Between 2005 and 2010 he represented Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Croatia in the Board of Directors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London. Previously he was an associate professor at Corvinus University of Budapest and King Sigismund College, editor of journals, and advisor to the Hungarian Prime Minister.

Hungarian national, Mr Andor graduated from the University of Economic Sciences in Budapest in 1989, studied at George Washington University, Washington, D.C., and earned a Master's degree in Development Economics at the University of Manchester in 1993 as a British Council Fellow. He holds a Ph.D in Economics from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

BUILDING A SOCIAL MARKET ECONOMY

As Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Mr Andor has been a strong promoter of policy, legislation and financial instruments aimed at strengthening social entrepreneurship, helping the development of social economy and fostering social innovation.

The **European Progress Microfinance Facility** was launched in 2010 in order to increase the availability of microcredit for setting up or developing small businesses. Development of microfinance, including capacity-building for intermediaries will continue to be supported in 2014-2020 under the EU Programme for Social Change and Innovation, which newly foresees also a dedicated instrument to facilitate access to finance for development and expansion of **social enterprises**. The Commission implements these actions in cooperation with the EIB Group.

Support from the **European Social Fund** for microfinance and social entrepreneurship as ways of delivering employment and social inclusion objectives will be further intensified in the 2014-2020 period, with dedicated investment priorities being proposed for *promoting the social economy and social enterprises* and *self-employment, entrepreneurship and business creation*. Social innovation will be encouraged in all actions supported by the ESF.

The 2014-2020 Programme for Social Change and Innovation will also put emphasis on **social innovation and experimentation**. Social entrepreneurs often act as pioneers of social innovation by venturing into new markets that open as a result of evolving societal challenges and they help improve business standards for more inclusive and sustainable development. Testing of new approaches, awareness raising, evaluation and sharing at EU level of best practice in social innovation will contribute to tackling social disparities in the EU and to strengthening the European social model.