

Session 1: Making social entrepreneurship work with social innovation

What is social innovation

- *“ Social innovations are innovations that are social in both their ends and their means. Specifically, we define social innovations as new ideas (products, services and models) that simultaneously meet social needs (more effectively than alternatives) and create new social relationships or collaborations.”* BEPA report to President Barroso
- Social innovations can originate in the private, public and civic society sector.
- Social innovations require new thinking, new ways of acting, new ways to (e)valuate results

Ideas for discussion

- Can social entrepreneurship offer - in particular for young people – a role model that demonstrates the social usefulness of doing business and rehabilitate entrepreneurship?
- How can governments stimulate the involvement of entrepreneurs in initiatives developing social innovations?
- What principles should guide the Commission’s action plan to promote social entrepreneurship as a driver for social innovation initiatives

Session 2: Facilitating the access to funding for social businesses

4 Key actions in the SBI

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

Ideas for discussion

- What factors would contribute most to the success of a European brand for social investment funds?
- What are the key financing forms that funds targeting social enterprises might need to use?
- Considering the diversity of the microcredit business models and practices as well as of legal and institutional environment across the European Union, is there a need for further action at European level?
- How can the new financial instrument facilitate access to funding for start-ups, development and expansion of social enterprises? How can it stimulate the setting up of social investment funds and mobilise private investors?

Session 3: Promoting visibility, capacity-building, education and silver economy

4 Key actions in the SBI

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. Access to EU education-training programs

Ideas for discussion

- Awareness raising and visibility of the role of sector; means of measuring social impact; need for statistical data;
- Competences of national administrations; support infrastructures; new opportunities in education and training.
- How will the rising "silver economy" affect the demand for services of social entrepreneurs, and contribute to capacity-building and development of social enterprises?

Session 4: Developing an adequate regulatory and economic framework

3 Key actions in the SBI

9. Development of appropriate European legal forms; simplification of the European Cooperative Regulation; proposal for a European Foundation; 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.

Ideas for discussion

- Creation of new aid categories for social enterprises during the review of the General Block Exemption Regulation.
- A European Statute for other forms of social enterprise and/or a common European Statute for social enterprises.
- Generation of profit through volunteers and receipt of donations without a negative tax impact.