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# **Networks as support structures for social enterprises**

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## **DIESIS: EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE FOR THE SOCIAL ECONOMY AND THE CO- OPERATIVES**

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### **Its mission**

To support the development of the social economy and, in particular, of cooperatives and social enterprises in Europe through the implementation of knowledge-based activities, such as training, project design, consulting and advisory services, technical assistance and research.

### **Its services**

- Project related services
- Networking
- Information and communication
- Training
- Research

# **The Changing Boundaries of Social Enterprises**

*Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) - OECD*  
Publishing

## **Chapter 3 - Networks as Support Structures for Social Enterprises**

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To be ordered:  
OECD on-line bookshop ([www.oecdbookshop.org](http://www.oecdbookshop.org))  
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## **SOCIAL ENTERPRISES' SUPPORT STRUCTURES**

- a key element for the development of SEs
- an endogenous factor
- closely related to the legal-organisational form of SEs
- a significant "specific weight" in terms of number of existing networks and tasks they cover

## **A CLASSIFICATION OF SUPPORT STRUCTURES**

Cluster 1: Identity / culture / representation / quality

- The UK Social Enterprise Strategy
- Social cooperatives consortia in Italy

Cluster 2: business support

- Business and Employment Co-operatives
- Barka Foundation (Poland)

Cluster 3: trade sectoral development

- Social franchising
- Rreuse and recycling social enterprises

Cluster 4: local development

- Coompanion (Sweden)
- Regional development cooperatives (Quebec)

## **GUIDELINES TO ASSIST SOCIAL ENTERPRISES SUPPORT STRUCTURES**

- A bottom-up approach and a strategic vision
- A braided support system
- Make use of peer support among business
- Support access to larger markets
- Support structures as motors of SEs development
- Light and flexible structures
- Specialised structures within an integrated strategy

**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

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