

diesis  
network



**THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2020**



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**1**

**WHAT'S NEW IN THE  
DIESIS NETWORK**

## 1. WHAT'S NEW IN THE DIESIS NETWORK

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2020 was a remarkably challenging year. Still, the [#DiesisNetwork](#) kept on growing, gaining new members and staff and pursuing exciting ideas and projects.

We now cover 20 European countries and have 41 members representing around 90,000 organisations which employ over 1.2 million people!

We have adjusted our modus operandi by enhancing online communication and interactions. Paradoxically, the pandemic has made it easier to meet each other more frequently: thus, the network is progressively becoming a community and our team more and more cohesive and connected to the community.

As always, we are looking to the future: at the beginning of 2020, along with all the members, we co-created a 2030 strategy and all our activities are now tagged and linked to the Sustainable Development Goals.

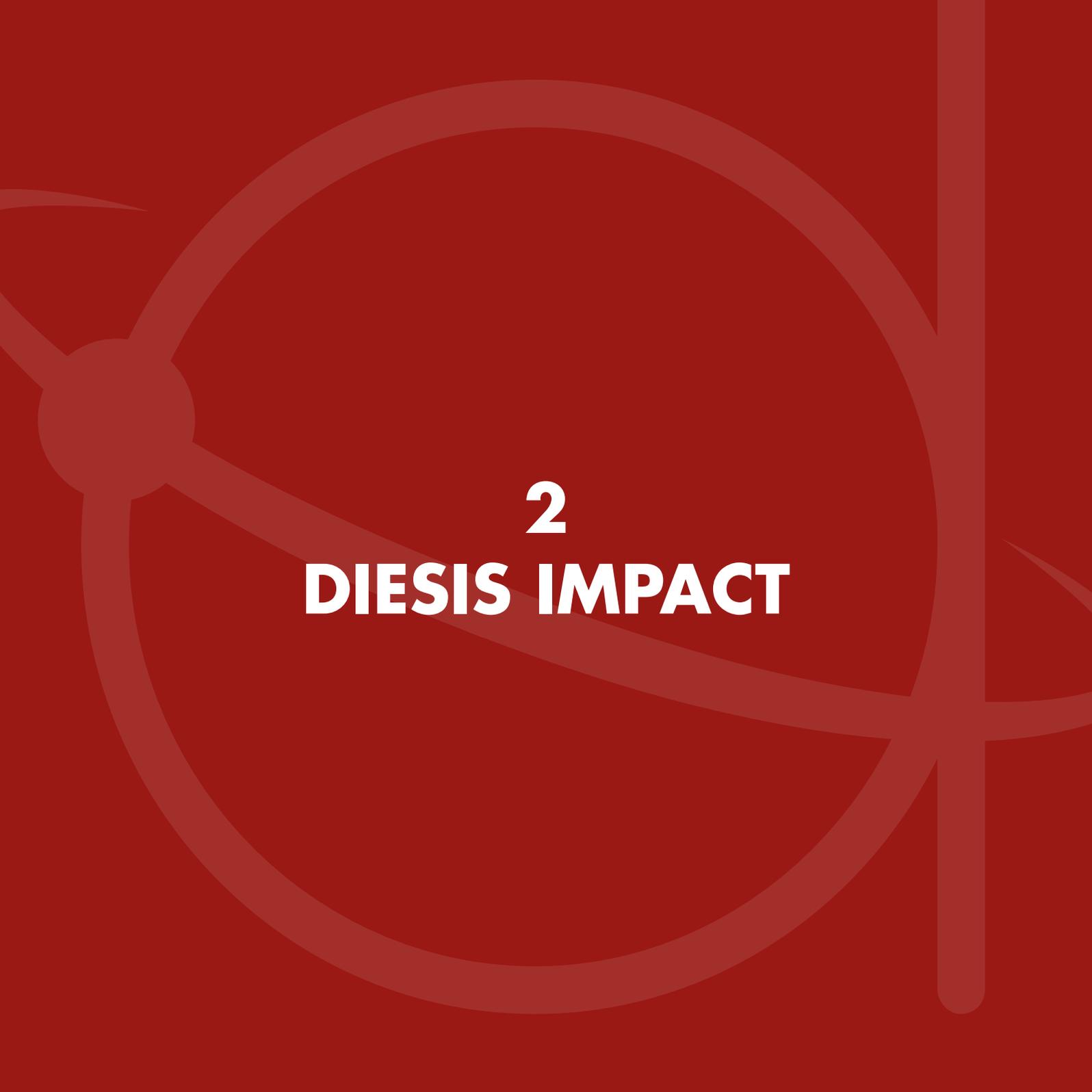
For some years we have been observing the intensification of international connections between social economy actors from different continents. One effect of the pandemic has been to accelerate this process, and Diesis is becoming more and more international and gaining visibility and a place, its place, at world level. Our support to social economy ecosystems in the Southern Neighbourhood is increasing and activities in South East Europe and the Western Balkans are steadily growing. Connections are active with international organisations and networks.



We are actively pursuing projects, research and knowledge-related activities on all the key social economy topics: the digital transition, the green transformation, migration, gender and antidiscrimination, cultural and creative industries, supporting youth and young social entrepreneurs, rural and shrinking areas, fair working conditions, worker involvement and financial participation. You will find evidence of all this work in the following pages.

So, what are we building for 2021? Let's keep the rudder firmly in the direction of our values and our culture. Many geographical and psychological barriers will fall and we will discover ourselves for what we already are: an international community that believes in an economy that works both for the planet and for the people.

The EU is preparing to launch the Social Economy Action Plan in late 2021: we feel that the time has come for the social economy to be recognised as one of the pillars for the development of the future of Europe and a structural element of the European economic-social model!



**2**

**DIESIS IMPACT**

# DIESIS'S IMPACT



**71**

PUBLICATIONS



**1472**

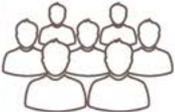
PAGES

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**+100 VIDEO PRODUCED**

DIESIS TEAM  
come from  
7 countries



**+ 4 NEW staff**

**+100% FOLLOWER'S GROWTH**



**+110.000 PEOPLE REACHED**



**+100.669 IMPRESSIONS**



**+2.104 hours**

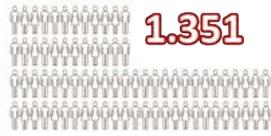
DEVELOPMENT OF  
NEW IDEAS

**INITIATIVES LED**  
by Diesis Network

**41**

NUMBER OF  
PARTICIPANTS

**1.351**



**EU FUNDED PROJECTS**

**9 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS COVERED**

**188**

Participants in  
Members' meeting



**211**

**MEETINGS ATTENDED**



**41 Member Organisations**

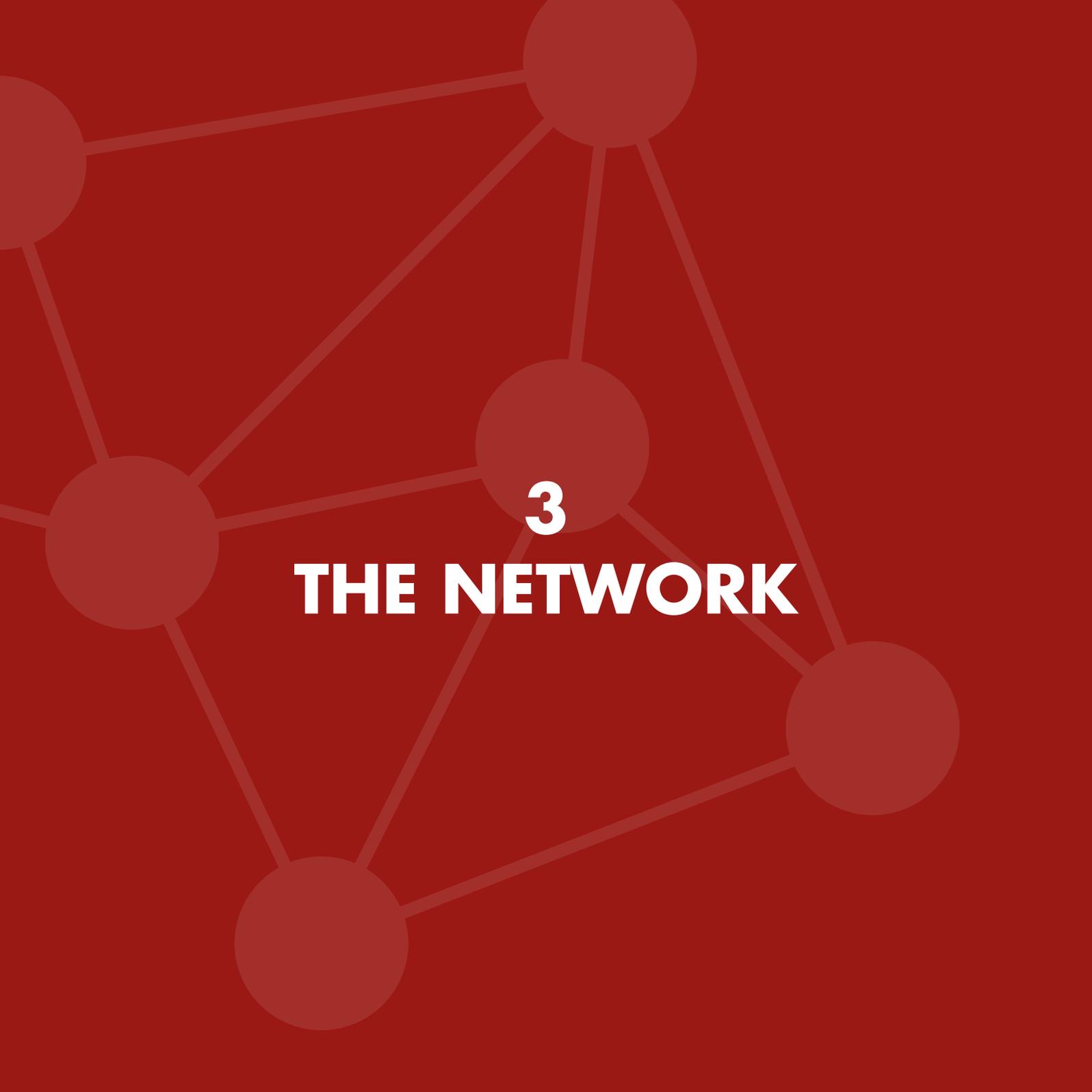
**20 COUNTRIES**

**14 EU 6** Neighbouring countries of the EU

**+8 New Members**

**90.000 SOCIAL ECONOMY ORGANISATIONS**

**1,2 Million EMPLOYEES**



3

# THE NETWORK

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# THE NETWORK

The Diesis Network is one of the widest networks in Europe specialising in supporting social economy and social enterprises.

Our network is made up of diverse actors who are building a stronger social economy by creating a sustainable community of social economy ecosystems. Together we are building know-how, learning from each other and supporting each other to achieve a more inclusive economy with greater social impact. 2020 has been a crucial year for the growth of our community. We aimed not only to widen our network (to cover 20 countries) but also to consolidate and celebrate our achievements (retaining our members) and most importantly to strengthen the collective as whole.

Community building is a continuous process (a learning cycle) that starts with **(1)** understanding the members' needs and challenges, and **(2)** experimenting with what works or not and learning from this to achieve the desired change.

## Understanding

In order to understand the context of the work of our members and what the network's support should look like, we collectively revisited our mission. By putting forward the idea of Diesis Network Manifesto (a document to illustrate our mission, vision and strategic goals) we asked our members to collectively indicate their needs and the types of support they are keen to receive. It was an important exercise, through which we have identified most pressing challenges and needs within the network. This co-creation process resulted in the Diesis Network Manifesto, a *white paper* of the Diesis Community Engagement Strategy, and paved the way for the network's future activities.

## Experimentation and learning

Our aim is to create a favourable learning environment for our community of members, where they can collaborate and participate in a continuous dialogue. We have designed a set of network activities, whereby we aim to create a learning culture by learning from each other.

### 3. THE NETWORK

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The activities are divided into:

- Network General Meetings (three meetings held in February, June and December) Within the Members' Academy;
- Masterclasses: participatory trainings within 4 strands; People have the Power, Ecosystem of Ecosystems, Growth & Impact and Operational Excellence
- Diesis Policy Labs, focused on policies and its realisation in diverse European ecosystems
- Diesis Lunchbreak Talks: a space for members to share their core activities and create better connections across the network

The above initiatives are implemented systematically in order to ensure a continuous learning process through *intended learning* (Masterclasses by an expert) or emergent learning (sharing good practices during the Lunchbreak Talks). This approach ensures the steady building of a learning culture, which removes competition and instead creates a space to collaborate within the community. Additionally, our Network General Meetings are designed not only to inform and update the members' community about upcoming initiatives but also to reflect on them and verify whether different forms of collaboration work or not.

Our community engagement strategy is based on the human-centric approach, which recognises the importance of trust, openness, the celebration of our achievements and reflection on the failures, and will steadily contribute to its maturity, to form a collective force to drive positive change and deliver the desired impact.



4

# MANIFESTO

## 4. MANIFESTO

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The Diesis Manifesto was created collectively with our members. This co-creation process was driven by some key steps – the building blocks of the strategic goals of our network. It was crucial at first to look at the roots of the network and identify its needs and challenges. These were derived from a collective "inventory": (1) discussions (face-to-face network meetings) and (2) reflection on the achievements of the network to date; coupled with (3) identifying the trends in the social and solidarity economy; and finally (4) identifying what support the members seek. These exercises paved the way to revisit the mission and vision of the network, but most importantly they facilitated a clear exposition of its strategic goals. The collaboration process comprised: (1) ideas generation at the first meeting in February 2020; (2) the drafting of the first version of the manifesto; (3) integrating written feedback from the members; (4) a collective feedback session at the second meeting in June 2020 (group work on the concrete strategic goals included in the Manifesto). This resulted in the second draft of the Manifesto – the final document which can be found on the Diesis website.

The Diesis Manifesto paved the way for the design of a sound community engagement strategy and identified not only the strengths of our network but also the priorities that resulted from the collective feedback by the members. This bottom-up approach ensures that the network's future direction is determined by its community and that it delivers support that is specifically tailored to the community's needs.

# DIESIS NETWORK STRATEGY 2020 2030

We are the widest European network specialised in supporting **social and solidarity economy and social enterprises** covering **20 countries** through major national federations and support networks associating over **90,000 organisations** and **1.2 million workers**.

## GOAL MISSION VALUES VISION GOAL VALUES MISSION VISION

**Diesis Network** aims at contributing to the growth of social economy in Europe and worldwide. Together with our members, we support the development of social economy, social entrepreneurship and social innovation by sharing knowledge through peer learning, capacity building, cross-sectorial and cross-country exchanges of good practices and research. Through our initiatives we influence national and European policies.

Sustainability and innovation are at the core of **Diesis Network** human centred approach. We believe in an inclusive economy based on social and economic impact, in the primacy of individual and the social objective over capital in democratic governance.

## GOAL VISION VALUES MISSION GOAL VALUES MISSION

We see our community as an ecosystem of ecosystems supporting and empowering people worldwide and an economy that works for the People and the Planet.

Through our initiatives, we foster cooperation between ecosystems and raise awareness for social economy, partnering with European and international networks.



# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND INITIATIVES

## ECOSYSTEM OF ECOSYSTEMS

Creating and fostering favourable conditions for the development of other ecosystems, networks, support organisations at regional and national level.

- Build a community of knowledge and practice
- Collect knowhow about and for the ecosystems
- Raising visibility of social economy in Europe and beyond

## GROWTH & IMPACT

Driving new initiatives to fuel sustainable growth and deliver on continuous innovation to make impact.

- Develop capacity building activities
- Analyse emerging economic trends and their impact on social economy enterprises
- Promote employee participation and enhance democratic governance
- Foster responsible production and buying

## OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

An organisation continuously improving to serve our network efficiently and effectively.

- Shared decision-making process
- Continuous professional developments of staff
- Collaborative online tools and platforms

## PEOPLE HAVE THE POWER

We embrace a human-centred approach to create opportunities, share and multiply knowledge.

- Facilitate peers' connections across borders in Europe and beyond
- Build bridges to collaborate across sectors
- Strengthen and establish partnerships & collaborations within our network

# 5

# THE ROAD TO MANNHEIM

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# THE ROAD TO MANNHEIM

The European Commission continues to be dedicated to the ongoing development of the social economy and social economy enterprises as drivers of innovation, growth, and inclusion in Europe.

In order to reaffirm its commitment, the Commission had planned to involve Europe's experts and stakeholders in organising the European Social Economy Summit in Mannheim, giving them the opportunity to take an active role in the construction of the agenda. Due to Covid-19, the Summit has been postponed until May 2021, and meanwhile a series of connected online events have been held.

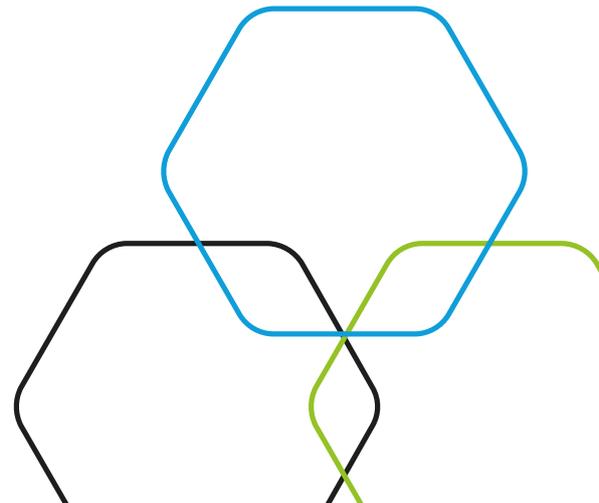
The 'Digital Road to Mannheim' consists of 8 online events from September 2020 to April 2021. Each roadmap event focuses on a specific topic and connects different social economy actors in Europe in a highly interactive format, presents best practices and cases, and provides first-hand insights in interactive sessions from changemakers all around Europe.

The Diesis Network organised two workshops on Social Economy Enterprises in the Digital Transition. The first took place in October and focused on online digital platforms. It presented platform co-operatives which involve self-employed workers, consumers of services, and/or citizens. The second took place in November and presented how social economy enterprises and their support or employers' organisations deal with digital transformations and

the impact on employment and working conditions in various countries.

In November Diesis took part in the workshop on *Successful policies for social entrepreneurship* to present how the MedUP! project promotes policy environments that sustain social economy as an innovative solution to ensure economic inclusiveness and employment, which is proving to be an increasingly challenging theme on both sides of the Mediterranean.

Lastly, Diesis will conduct the workshop dedicated to Social Economy in South East Europe, which will focus on perspectives for cooperation and development from meso-level organisations in the region. It will cover the strategic areas emphasised in the Diesis Manifesto, at the same time referring to the relevant SDGs and #EUSES themes.



## 6

**INTERNATIONALISATION**

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# INTERNATIONALISATION

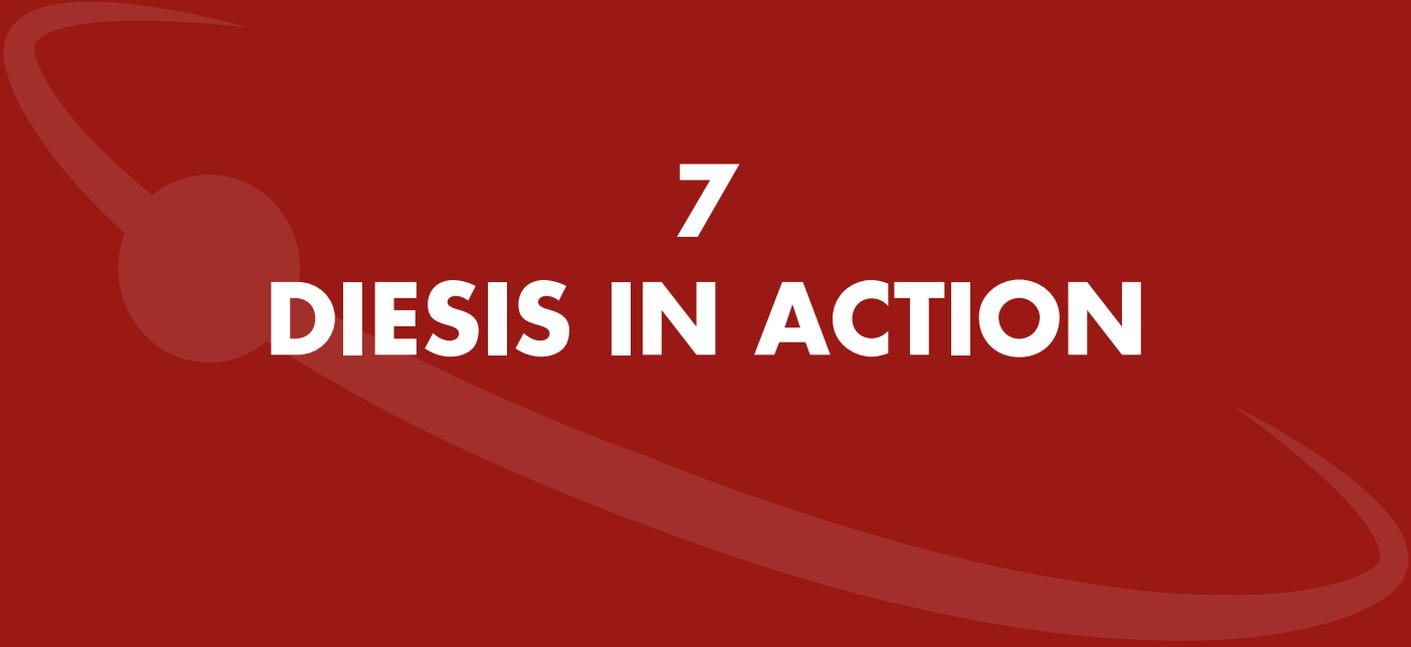
The current challenges make it increasingly evident that solutions have to be crafted at international level. For a born global actor such as the Diesis Network, the reality of a border-less and interdependent world has guided a broad vision of our strategic goals. This has led to more decisively embracing the agenda of "internationalisation". At Diesis, we believe that international collaboration fuels learning, which leads to innovation, and we sense the responsibility of assuming further commitments beyond the EU, our traditional area of intervention. By connecting with like-minded organisations and diverse stakeholders globally, we have the opportunity to find and further solve the sectorial challenges not only much faster but also in the most innovative way. Also, by assuming a more assertive role at international level we fulfil our duties both to our members and to the social and solidarity economy (SSE) in general. This leads to strengthening the SEE sector, by equipping its actors with tools to respond and adapt more quickly to the constantly changing reality. Cross-border collaboration lies at heart of our values, and, as a social economy organisation ourselves, our existence is based on cooperating to transform our communities in Europe and also in other parts of the world.

### **The Mediterranean (Southern Neighbourhood)**

We believe that our fates are linked with our Mediterranean neighbours and for this we have traditionally engaged in activities not only on its northern shore but also on its southern one. This engagement has exponentially evolved in the last two years with our participation as key partners in two flagship EU initiatives: a regional project (MedUP!) and national one in Jordan (JoinUP!). The first includes partners from six non-EU countries – Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon – and aims to promote social entrepreneurship at both regional and national levels. The second consists of a pilot project to promote social enterprises and the social economy in this key country in the Middle East. Besides those two projects we are also collaborating with one DIESIS member (COSV from Italy) in another important project in Lebanon (SEE Change) aimed at fostering the social economy in this battered country.

### **South East Europe**

Last year we also had the opportunity through our flagship projects to engage and collaborate with organisations from the Western Balkans region and Central Europe, which play an important role in building their local social economy ecosystems. The successful implementation of the common projects spurred a willingness for further collaboration. As a result, our partners have become active members of DIESIS Network and contributed greatly to our future strategic goals. The enlargement of our community in the Western Balkans region marks an important milestone in the life of our network. This is shown by advances in regional cooperation (Diesis Policy Lab co-organised with members and DG Near in November 2020) and our contribution to the development of the social economy across diverse European regions. We are connecting the diverse social economy ecosystems so they can learn from each other and create a bigger impact as whole (SEE regional cluster of Diesis Network members). Our network is the platform that enables interconnectedness within and across the regions, which, we believe, will in the long run contribute to socio-economic growth across Europe and beyond.



**7**

**DIESIS IN ACTION**

# DIESIS IN ACTION

## Diesis Network and the Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 169 targets, and shapes the national and international development plans of all countries to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. The SDGs are vital for a recovery that leads to greener, more inclusive economies and stronger, more resilient societies. More important than ever, the goals provide a critical framework for Covid-19 recovery. Their core principle of leaving no one behind can be realised thanks to a holistic approach and corrected at multiple levels of governance through looking at alternative strategies and economic models based on inclusiveness – like the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE).

The Social and Solidarity Economy, guided by principles of cooperation, solidarity and democratic management, is able to generate sustainable solutions to issues affecting people's lives, and to guarantee decent and inclusive jobs, especially where there are unmet needs. Social economy enterprises are actors that are capable of understanding their territories and finding solutions through an integrated approach, in a cooperative manner between the community and social economy organisations. The SSE can therefore play a crucial role in the realisation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Last year, the Diesis Network worked on the interconnection between the SSE and the SDGs, covering 10 SDGs in its projects, studies and workshops. The Diesis Network and its members are also involved in several activities to show the potential of the SSE in achieving the SDGs at the local and global level. This involves numerous initiatives foreseen in 2021, which will complement the programme of the general network activities.



## 7. DIESIS IN ACTION

### **SOCIAL ECONOMY SOCIAL ENTERPRISES SOCIAL INNOVATION**

The social economy, social enterprises and social innovation are at the core of Diesis's mission and activities.

The Diesis Network is an organisation created by the social economy to promote the development of the social economy at European level. It is a cooperative with a social aim under Belgian law and acts in accordance with cooperative values and principles.

The Diesis Network uses its vast knowledge and experience to support the development of the social economy and social enterprises in and outside Europe. In recent years Diesis's action outside Europe has been directed towards Balkan and Mediterranean countries in order to promote an enabling social economy ecosystem.

The social economy and social innovation are closely linked. They both aim to meet unsatisfied social needs and to respond to social challenges.

The Diesis Network is working to emphasise that the social economy is a vehicle and agent of social innovation (though not the only one), while social innovation very often originates inside the social economy sector.





Promoting social entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean Region

## MedUP! - Promoting social entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean region (2018-2022)

The project aims to increase economic inclusiveness and employment by supporting social enterprises in Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) countries such as Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The four-year project is co-financed by EuropeAid and will advocate appropriate policies on social entrepreneurship, public-private dialogue, exchanges of practices and high-quality services for social enterprises.

Diesis is in charge of macro-level activities aimed at supporting key actors in the six countries participating in the project, to offer them a unique opportunity to access direct, hands-on learning on key issues regarding the improvement of social

entrepreneurship ecosystems. In 2020 all the activities were to be reorganised online. The first study visit, which was to take place in Madrid in March, was organised online in June and July. Several online meetings gave high-level representatives from both the public sector and social enterprise support organisations from MENA countries the opportunity to virtually meet and exchange with Spanish government officials, experts and social economy practitioners. A webinar was also organised in collaboration with the OECD and EU to present the Better Entrepreneurship Policy Tool and its potential in MedUP! countries.

[www.oxfamitalia.org/medup](http://www.oxfamitalia.org/medup)



Inclusive socioeconomic growth

## JOinUP! - Creating an inclusive, more connected and better resourced social entrepreneurship eco-system in Jordan (2019-2021)

JoinUp! is a project led by Oxfam which aims to develop social entrepreneurship as a driver for economic and social inclusion in Jordan. Through several actions at macro (institutional support and raising awareness) and meso (support to social entrepreneurship support

organisations) levels, JoinUp! will promote a national ecosystem in which social enterprises can tackle current socioeconomic and environmental challenges more effectively through having access to support services that will help them to grow and scale up.

## 7. DIESIS IN ACTION

### MIGRATION

The Diesis Network is very active in the theme of migration from various perspectives, including supporting migrant entrepreneurs, improving the narrative, and testing new paths for the social and economic integration of third country nationals.

Thanks to its involvement in a series of important European projects and initiatives, Diesis has been able to bring the voice of social economy/ entrepreneurship to bear at the European level and become an active player in this topic, which represents both a challenge and a great opportunity for the future of the European Union. Diesis is a founding member of the UnionMigrantNet network and an active member of the European Migration Forum, the civil society dialogue platform on migration, asylum and migrant integration. Together with the members of its network and in partnership with other important European players, Diesis regularly promotes project initiatives in this field to promote the role of social economy enterprises.





## MAX - Maximising Migrants' Contribution to Society (2019-2022)

MAX is an AMIF-funded project which aims to change public attitudes towards migrants. The goal is to improve the public image of migrants in Europe by changing the narrative of the discourse on immigration by foregrounding the stories of real people. Storytelling, the creation of positive messages for the media and dialogue encounters between locals and newcomers are the key features

of the project.

The project involves 20 partners, 15 local organisations from 12 EU Member States (BE, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FR, SI, IT, NL, PL and SE) as well as five EU-level partners.

[maxamif.eu](http://maxamif.eu)



## EMEN - European Migrant Entrepreneurship Network (2017-2020)

The EMEN project developed, shared and promoted support schemes for individual migrant entrepreneurs and for social and inclusive enterprises benefiting migrants. To achieve this ambitious objective, the first step it took was to set up three Communities of Practice (CoPs): (1) Coaching and mentoring; (2) Access to Finance (3) Professionalisation of migrant entrepreneurs'

associations and diversity management in chambers of commerce.

Migrants can play a key role in the EU's economic growth, and in this project Diesis and all its partners have tried to enhance their entrepreneurial capacities.

[emen-project.eu](http://emen-project.eu)

## 7. DIESIS IN ACTION



### NewTalents4EU – New Talents for Europe (2019-2020)

The NewTalents4EU project proposed to empower all refugees to plan their future, making integration work now and more durably. It implemented market-focused and validated training schemes in coding/programming skills and enterprise networking. The project designed and piloted an innovative path for the labour integration of refugees, based on a specific IT skill development programme and the

cooperation and mobilisation of public services, employers and social and economic partners, to raise the employment rate quickly and effectively and to ensure long-term employability, across cities and regions in 4 European countries.

[newtalents4eu.eu](http://newtalents4eu.eu)



### ICT4TCN - Facilitating access to the ICT labour market by third-country nationals by further developing their existing skillsets (2019-2021)

The ICT4TCN project aims to use the existing IT skills and competences of third-country nationals (TCNs) to meet some of the actual needs of the ICT industry. It aims to support the social inclusion and empowerment of TCNs through equal access to employment. Recommendation will also be made for reaching sectors other than ICT.

The project aims to achieve this objective through a customised capacity building programme (different courses based on the existing level of skills and competences), including training courses (combining classroom and e-learning) and IT boot camps.

<http://www.diesis.coop/project/ict4tcn/>



## LABOUR-INT 2 - Labour Market Integration of Migrants. A Multi-Stakeholder Approach (2019-2021)

The Labour-INT 2 project aims to promote employment as a key part of the integration process of third-country nationals, which is central to the participation of migrants in society. Besides, it aims to promote multi-layered and multi-stakeholder integration paths for recently arrived migrants and refugees across the EU, from arrival up to the workplace, passing through education, training and job placement.

In line with the previous action Labour-INT 1 carried out in 2016-2018, the objective of this project is to promote programmes for the inclusion of third-country nationals in the labour market, building on

the interest and capacities of employers, chambers of industry and commerce, trade unions and migrant associations. The action includes the follow-up of the 3 national pilot actions that were initiated in the first phase of Labour-INT and aims to develop further pilot actions in 2 additional countries which present a favourable environment for multi-layered integration programmes.

Diesis is a partner in this project, taking part mainly in dissemination activities.

[www.labour-int.eu](http://www.labour-int.eu)



## Union Migrant Network

UnionMigrantNet is an International network of contact points that provides information and assistance to migrants and would-be migrants. It is promoted and managed by the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) with the active support of other European networks and organisations. Diesis

is one of its founder members and since its setting up has been very active in contributing the voice and experience of the social economy.

[unionmigrantnet.eu](http://unionmigrantnet.eu)

## 7. DIESIS IN ACTION



### European Migration Forum

The Diesis Network has been selected to take part in the European Migration Forum, the platform for dialogue between civil society and the European institutions on issues relating to migration, asylum and the integration of third-country nationals. It brings together representatives of civil society

organisations, local and regional authorities, Member States and EU institutions. The aim of the forum is to enhance coordination and cooperation between key players involved in the multilevel European governance of migration.

## WORKING CONDITIONS, EMPLOYMENT AND GOVERNANCE

For many years Diesis has been deeply involved in project activities related to social dialogue and industrial relations, employee involvement and employee financial participation.

Being a part of the social economy, Diesis is particularly attentive to all aspects of employee participation and corporate governance. Over the years, Diesis has developed a strong experience in collaborating with organisations representing different interests (business, labour, social economy, academia and research, consultancy and advocacy) that share a common idea: economic democracy can make the European free market a more democratic space.



## 7. DIESIS IN ACTION



### WINS – Promoting Workers' INvolvement in Social Economy Enterprises (2020-2022)

The WINS project aims at promoting Workers' Involvement in Social Economy Enterprises (SEEs) in Europe. It also strengthens transnational co-operation between workers' and employers' representatives, as well as between social economy enterprises and trade unions in respect of employee involvement.

Moreover, WINS encourage employees to know their Information, Consultation and Participation rights (ICP) when they work for a (social economy) enterprise, and also their rights and obligations which allow them to have sufficient information when they become an employee or owner of a worker-owned company.



BREAKBACK - Break up to get back together.

The impact of unionisation through innovative service provision on union membership and industrial relations (2019-2021)

The aims of the BreakBack project are threefold: to assess how trade unions respond to the processes of individualisation in society, to observe the impact of innovation in service provision as a trade union strategy to increase membership, and to focus on service provision as an instrument to reach those social groups and individuals who are often excluded from union protection (e.g. those with non-standard forms of employment, digital workers, partially and totally autonomous workers, I-pros, freelancers, workers with multiple employers, sub-contracted and posted workers, consultants, etc.).

The project has a strong research focus. The work

package and tasks include desk research, drafting several country reports and an overall comparative report, identifying cases and drafting case studies, carrying out interviews, focus groups, web surveys and issuing policy briefs.

Diesis is a partner in the project, responsible for research tasks in Belgium. The project coordinator is CISL (Italy) and partners are research institutes and universities from Lithuania, Spain, Italy and Denmark.

[breakback.cisl.it](http://breakback.cisl.it)



### IN4BTE - Information, consultation and participation rights as a factor of success for the business transfer to employees in SMEs (2019-2021)

The In4BTE project aims to find and analyse real cases where ICP rights as well as transparency principles have played a significant role in successful workers' buyout processes.

The project also aims to disseminate the best practices identified and transfer the know-how to countries which have less experience. The project involves all together 11 partners from Spain, Italy,

Germany, Bulgaria, Macedonia, France and the United Kingdom. Diesis Network is responsible for communication, co-management of the activities and presenting good cases in France and the United Kingdom.

[in4bte.eu](http://in4bte.eu)



### Ad-PHS - Advancing Personal and Household Services (2018-2020)

The Advancing Personal and Household Services project main goal is to create a platform of relevant PHS stakeholders at EU level, which could work as a single point of contact to support, guide and provide advice to public authorities in the development of their PHS policies.

The consortium, composed of six EU-level organisations and one university, has:

- conducted research on PHS policies in 21 EU

Member States;

- developed tailored guidance;
- organised 21 national events and a EU conference with relevant stakeholders to gather and disseminate information.

Diesis Network organised national events in IT, SL and BU and the European conference.

[ad-phs.eu](http://ad-phs.eu)

## 7. DIESIS IN ACTION



### ACDC – Adult Cognitive Decline Consciousness (2017-2020)

ACDC is an Erasmus+ project that aims to extend the offer of transversal competences in a lifelong perspective, in the field of health literacy for adults, with a specific focus on preventing cognitive decline. ACDC develops a set of innovative training tools addressing the health and digital health literacy issue for the prevention of cognitive decline in the elderly

population.

Diesis aims to raise awareness of cognitive decline among social economy enterprises working in health care and education.

[www.acdcproject.eu](http://www.acdcproject.eu)



### PROEFP Network - European network for promoting economic democracy in Europe

ProEFP is a European network promoting economic democracy in Europe. It enjoys the support of a number of organisations from business, trade unions, advocacy and research, which share a common idea: employee financial participation and employee ownership can make the European free market a more democratic space. ProEFP studies, promotes and encourages all forms of employee financial participation and a broader diffusion of share/equity ownership among employees. ProEFP started in 2010 on the initiative of a number of organisations that led to the Information and Communication Project: Promoting Employee Financial Participation in the EU27, co-financed by the European Commission.

Today ProEFP is a Europe-wide network whose aims are:

To promote economic democracy and in particular employee involvement, financial participation and employee share/equity ownership;

To encourage partnerships and common projects among its members;

To spread the work and activities of its members to a larger public;

To share experiences and promote best practices of employee financial participation and employee share/equity ownership.

The Diesis Network is one of the founding members and is active in promoting the network and its activities.

[www.proefp.eu](http://www.proefp.eu)

## DIGITALISATION AND DIGITAL INCLUSION

In the first two decades of the new century digital technologies have started to reshape work, leisure, behaviour, health, education, money, governance, and other aspects of human life, especially in the last year due to the circumstances of the Covid pandemic. As people and businesses start using digital appliances for all kinds of interaction, an increasing amount of communication and value exchange shifts to the digital realm not only at global but also at local level.

This means that the digital transformation requires to be accessible and designed for all. Digital inclusion is one of the European Commission's effort "to ensure that everybody can contribute to and benefit from the digital economy and society".

Social economy enterprises can be key actors in fostering the digital transformation and supporting digital inclusion, and digitalisation may be a lever to increase their social impact across Europe. "The potential of the Digital Social Economy will depend mainly on one single point: how many people decide to actively engage in developing and participating in the digital social economy."

The Diesis Network is committed to understanding and unlocking the growth potential of social economy enterprises in the digital realm as well as digital inclusion through the implementation of a number of initiatives such as research studies, projects, workshops and events.



## 7. DIESIS IN ACTION



### SEEDING - Social Economy Enterprises addressing Digitalisation, Industrial Relations and the European Pillar of Social Rights (2019-2021)

The issue of digitalisation is crucial for social economy enterprises, because the changes it implies pose challenges such as job losses due to automation, as well as offering opportunities. SEEDING aims to be the first project addressing social economy enterprises and digital transformations, exploring how social economy enterprises and their employers' organisations deal with the impact on employment and working conditions.

As outcomes of the activities, the project will deliver: a background paper and a case study report, describing 21 case studies; 1 launch event, 2 transnational workshops, 7 info events and 1 final dissemination conference; 4 video interviews presenting the features of

selected case studies; policy recommendations on how to prevent and manage the effects of different types of digitalisation on employment.

Diesis is the project coordinator of the activities, meanwhile the main research partner is Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini (Italy). Affiliated and associated partners are COCETA (Spain), Social Economy Slovenia Association (Slovenia), Legacoop Produzione e Servizi (Italy), Gruppo Cooperativo CGM (Italy), FISE (Poland), ETUC (EU) and Innova (Germany); also, experts share their knowledge from Ireland.

[seedingproject.eu](http://seedingproject.eu)



## MEDICI - Mapping the Evolving Digital Inclusion landscape to support Cohesion and Integration (2018-2021)

MEDICI is a two-year European project aiming to tackle digital exclusion to better integrate vulnerable communities in Europe by creating three key outputs: an interactive catalogue of best practices in the field of digital inclusion, an online map that helps stakeholders contextualise the best practices and visualise the information in ways that meet their needs, and a knowledge community supporting review, benchmarking, sharing of experience and transfer of best practices.

The MEDICI project addresses these challenges and displays emerging good practices in the field of digital inclusion for integrating vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the digital society across the 27 EU member states and the UK. Current gaps in policy interventions at EU and local level will also be

highlighted, with the aim of enhancing sustainable and transferable digital inclusion initiatives in a future-oriented perspective.

The Covid-19 pandemic has in turn amplified the 'dual exclusion' of vulnerable people. People with limited access to digital technologies, or without the skills to use them, have been hit harder by the effects of the pandemic, leading to what might now be called a situation of 'triple exclusion'.

The Diesis Network supports the creation of the community at European level by collecting and disseminating the practices existing at European level with a specific focus on social economy enterprises.

[medici-project.eu](https://medici-project.eu)

### EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING, YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Youth unemployment remains on an upwards trajectory across Europe. Young people find it very difficult to get a decent and stable job, despite being one of the best-educated generations ever. They are still suffering the effects of the economic crisis, and youth unemployment remains stubbornly high in parts of the region years after the peak of the crisis. Furthermore, in Europe there is an asymmetry in levels of development of strategies and opportunities for transforming youthful energy into entrepreneurship, new ideas, organisations and a future vision for societies.

Young people have shown in recent years that they are innovative and are strongly motivated to create new markets and jobs. Self-employment and social entrepreneurship are important means of speeding up labour market recovery.

Social entrepreneurship constitutes a flourishing field of work, which not only facilitates entering into the labour market, but also contributes to the community's well-being by solving pressing social issues and generating a positive return to society.

The Diesis Network is contributing its expertise in social entrepreneurship to several Erasmus+ projects. The development of skills for social entrepreneurship through training and education is an important way to empower people and raise awareness of the benefits and added value of the social economy to the community.

Diesis also promotes as a horizontal priority "open and innovative practices in a digital era", by developing a modern, integrated and holistic methodology based on e-learning and non-formal education, tailor-made to the needs of young prospective social entrepreneurs.



### C2E – Care2Entrepreneurship (2018-2020)

Care to Entrepreneurship (C2E) aims to develop, test and implement innovative practices in a much-neglected area in the field of youth, targeting young carers aged 18-30 with a particular focus on women from low-income families.

Through a youth-led methodology, it will construct an evidence-based, well-tested and replicable educational and training curriculum to develop young carers' practical, creative and entrepreneurial skills to enable them to become confident and

successful young entrepreneurs. These materials will be implemented in the UK, Greece, Italy, Romania and Belgium, and use the comparative learning to inform EU-wide practices and policies.

The project is led by IARS International Institute and DIESIS is responsible for the development and testing of the training curricula for young carers and professionals working in the care sector.

[www.c2eproject.org](http://www.c2eproject.org)



### ZELDA - Zones of integration for the Cohen-Emerique's intercultural approach Leading to Developments in Adult education (2019-2022)

The main objectives of the ZELDA project are to foster intercultural competences in different target groups by disseminating the Margalit Cohen-Emerique innovative intercultural approach.

In the last forty years, Europe has become a multicultural, multilingual and multireligious society. To cope with these changes, there is a need to develop intercultural attitudes to be able to manage

the cultural differences that increasingly characterise schools, jobs, social services and public spaces.

The Cohen Emerique intercultural approach invites trainers, educators and volunteers to live these cultural differences and shocks as an opportunity to become aware of everyone's cultural points of view, as well as to promote dialogue and mutual understanding.

## 7. DIESIS IN ACTION



### SELIC- Social Entrepreneurship in Local Communities (2019-2021)

The project aims to increase motivation and to improve the guidance of adults with entrepreneurial initiatives for starting social businesses and enhancing social cohesion in local communities. Indeed, social entrepreneurship is one of the most efficient ways to contribute to job creation, economic

growth, social cohesion and the well-being of local communities.

The Diesis Network believes that social entrepreneurship can contribute widely to economic development in local communities, and through this project it wishes to contribute to this important goal.



### Y-SHE – Youth Social Entrepreneurship Hub (2019-2020)

The Youth Social Entrepreneurship Hub is an Erasmus+ project that aims to strengthen the competences for social entrepreneurship of youth workers and young people by developing learning materials and involving them in learning activities. The learning materials are innovative and propose to develop the knowledge and skills of young people

to start and manage a social enterprise by involving them in the creation and management of a virtual social enterprise.

The project proposes to develop the competences of youth workers to promote social entrepreneurship among young people.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

The social dimension is one pillar of sustainable development. Social economy enterprises can be fundamental actors in this development process. The Diesis Network's commitment is to promote development-oriented policies to supporting decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and to encourage the formalisation and growth of micro, small and medium social enterprises through a more transformative, innovative and inclusive approach in order to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs.

In 2020 its investigations focused on digital innovation, cooperative platforms, and also youth empowerment through social entrepreneurship and creative cultural industries as well as the empowerment of rural areas through social economy enterprises.



## 7. DIESIS IN ACTION



### CASYE - Cultural & Social Youth Entrepreneurship (2020-2022)

The CASYE project aims to develop innovative Continuing Professional Development accredited tools to support marginalised young people in becoming entrepreneurs in the social and cultural sectors. The goal is to support youth entrepreneurship in the creative sector through the development and piloting a social economy model, with an emphasis on empowering young

people with fewer opportunities. Through the CASYE programme, the development of a sustainable ecosystem in supporting youth entrepreneurs in the creative European cultural and social sectors will be guaranteed. The project aims to produce a CASYE Mentoring Model Programme and an implementation Handbook for youth workers.



### COST Action CA18213: Rural NEET Youth Network: Modelling the risks underlying rural NEETs' social exclusion (2019-2023)

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding organisation for research and innovation networks. In this framework, the Rural NEETs' Youth Network (RNYN) aims to develop a model of comprehension for rural NEETs' social exclusion risk and protective factors based on the bioecological model. It focuses on three specific goals:

(1) upholding future research capability, with an emphasis on Early Career Investigators (ECI) and Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC);(2) creating a rural NEETs online observatory;(3) fostering knowledge use by policy- makers and practitioners. The Diesis Network has been nominated with the role of the Management Committee (MC) national representative of Belgium.

[rnyobservatory.eu/web](http://rnyobservatory.eu/web)



## Earth/OITS-ISTO - European Alliance of Responsible Tourism and Hospitality

The Diesis Network is a member and co-founder of the European Alliance for Responsible Tourism and Hospitality (EARTH), the first European network created by experts in responsible tourism. The non-profit association is composed of private organisations based in nine European countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Slovenia, Spain and the UK). EARTH has one main goal: to transform and unite Europe into "One Europe for Responsible Tourism". The network brings to life the principles of sustainability, fairness and solidarity in tourism, by promoting the exchange of good practices, experience and knowledge among its members. In the autumn of 2016 EARTH merged with

ISTO-OITS, the international organisation supporting social and now also responsible tourism. The biggest change is to turn ISTO-OITS into the common home of social tourism stakeholders active in social tourism and other forms of tourism, including responsible tourism, solidarity tourism, fair tourism, community tourism – in other words all those forms of tourism that share a vision of the industry that benefits individuals, communities and local areas, contributes to development, promotes respect for cultures and the environment, and serves the public good. Diesis is a member of the Coordination Committee of ISTO-OITS Europe.

### EQUALITY AND RIGHTS

Discrimination against women at work continues to be pervasive around the world. For example, the labour force participation of women aged 25–54 is 63% – compared to 94% for men. Also, while women represented 39% of world employment in 2018, only 27% of managerial positions in the world were occupied by women, up only marginally from 26% in 2015.

Additionally, according to recent data from some 90 countries, women devote on average roughly three times more hours a day to unpaid care and domestic work than men, limiting the time available for paid work, education and leisure and further reinforcing gender-based socioeconomic disadvantages.

The Covid-19 crisis has especially hit service sectors with frequent social interactions, in which women are over-represented. Sectors such as healthcare, food production and distribution, and protective services have been defined as critical to the Covid-19 response. However, as the participation of men and women is different across sectors, the labour market impact of Covid-19 may differ across genders.

Social economy and social enterprises represent a positive environment for improving, decentralising and creating services facilitating the access of women and men to the labour market.

Collaborative work, social economy and social entrepreneurship could be promoted both as models for tackling inequality and as models for greater social inclusion and cohesion. In recent decades, women's presence in the social economy has increased continuously. Indeed, the democratic cooperative structure, the possibility to have flexible working arrangements (reduced working hours, flexible working hours and flexibility in the place of work) and access to specific services (such as childcare), enables them to work and allows them to be very present at work.

The promotion of gender equality and equal opportunities has been an important topic for Diesis since the beginning, guaranteeing a gender balance both at organisational level and within the activities promoted.



## Set the tone

GENDER SAFETY AT WORK

### SET THE TONE – Social Economy Tackling the unfair Treatment of Women in Enterprises (2020-2022)

Violence and harassment in the workplace deprive people of their dignity and represent a threat to equal opportunities and safe, healthy, and productive working environments. Workers affected by it feel insecure about their work, are more frequently absent, and may even be unable to work, with consequent impacts on productivity and corporate and public costs.

The SET THE TONE project aims to impact employers' and employees' mind-sets and daily behaviours at the workplace towards gender stereotypes and sexual harassment, by engaging them actively as positive key players in preventing

and reporting sexual harassment cases.

The project's actions involve employers and employees with a specific role in assuring health and safety at the workplace, as well as other employees, both men and women, potential victims and perpetrators. Among the employees, it pays particular attention to new hires and interns, who are thought to be more vulnerable.



**8**

**HIGHLIGHTS 2020**

# HIGHLIGHTS 2020

## JANUARY

**23/01**

### THE TRANSNATIONAL WORKSHOP OF THE #IN4BTE PROJECT (BULGARIA)

The third IN4BTE Steering Committee and Transnational Workshop event was held on 23 January 2020 in Sofia on the premises of the host organisation, CITUB.

In addition to the representatives of main project partners – ASLE (Spain), CITUB (Bulgaria), CISL (Italy), Diesis (Belgium) and PUBLIC (North Macedonia) – local guests Vice President Chavdar Christov (CITUB) and Deputy Minister Sultanka Petrova (Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Bulgaria) also joined the event.

This workshop mainly focused on the situation of the social economy, the cooperative movement and cooperatives' links to the trade unions in Bulgaria. Also, Italian, Spanish and North Macedonian examples were presented.

**11/02**

### DIESIS NETWORK MEETING

On 11 February, the Diesis Network's members and staff gathered in Brussels for a rich and inspiring co-creation workshop. A warm thank you for your precious contribution!

The event gave the network the opportunity to meet and to get to know the new members. Successful stories of collaboration within the Diesis Network and collectively thinking about Diesis's 2020-2030 action plan were the core of the event. The SDGs and its future goals (including social innovation, digitalisation of the social economy and cross-country and cross-sectoral collaboration) were central in the discussion. Moreover, the future of the social economy was discussed thanks to the valuable presence of representatives from the EU Commission: Patrick Klein from DG GROW and Risto Raivio from DG EMPL.

**FEBRUARY**

**18-20/02**

**COOP SKILLS – TRAINING FOR SOCIAL ECONOMY MANAGERS**

The Diesis Network, in collaboration with Irecoop Emilia-Romagna, hosted 12 managers for a study visit, part of the Coop Skills mobility programme which has been organised since August 2019. Irecoop Emilia Romagna outlined the goals of the experience and deepened the contents to be addressed. The main aim of the project was to strengthen training and education methods regarding social entrepreneurship (the start-up of social enterprises/ cooperatives), by improving the training skills of the staff and the quality and accessibility of their training proposals, increasing the inclusiveness of their support to business start-ups, and promoting social innovation and continuous development with increased capacity to work at an international level. The job shadowing started with the mutual sharing of knowledge between the participants and several Brussels-based organisations which form part of the social economy ecosystem at European or local level.

**20/02**

**1ST MEDICI WEBINAR: EU PRIORITIES AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MEDICI PROJECT**

The aim of this webinar was to introduce the MEDICI project and what it can offer to local networks of actors who contribute to digital inclusion in Europe. The meeting focused on a state-of-the-art analysis of the digital inclusion of socially vulnerable groups, as well as on EU priorities and the significance of the MEDICI project for mapping the evolving digital inclusion landscape to support the cohesion and integration of socially vulnerable groups.

**MARCH****10/03****AD-PHS WORKSHOP IN SLOVENIA**

On 10 March the Association Social Economy Slovenia, a Diesis member, organised the Slovenian workshop of the Ad-PHS project in Ljubljana. Diesis gave a presentation of the project and the guidelines on social vouchers and workers cooperatives developed in the project. The first panel focused on care services (personal services, social care, long-term care etc.), while in the second panel participants discussed commercial and informal non-care services (household services), and in panel 3 on topics related to legislation, labour law and vouchers.

**13/03****RURAL YOUTH NETWORK – COST ACTION. METHODOLOGICAL RESEARCH TOOLS AND INTERVENTION BEST PRACTICES**

The workshop, organised in the framework of COST action 18213 Rural NEET Youth Observatory, brought together academic researchers, development practitioners and experts to better understand what is meant by best practice interventions, what the areas of intervention are in the case of young people living in rural area and what criteria we could consider when classifying interventions.

Anastasia Costantini attended the event for Diesis and gave a presentation entitled The Role of social economy organisations in the inclusion of vulnerable or socially excluded rural youths – best practices around the EU. During the speech she talked about how the social economy and social enterprises can help vulnerable or socially excluded rural youths through their activities.

**APRIL**

**02/04**

**2ND MEDICI WEBINAR: USING THEORY OF CHANGE TO DESIGN AND EVALUATE INTERVENTIONS FOR DIGITAL INCLUSION**

The Tavistock Institute presented how the Theory of Change can help to improve the design, planning and evaluation of interventions to support the digital of vulnerable groups. The speakers outlined:

- What is the Theory of Change and how does it work?
- How the Theory of Change is used in MEDICI to define 'presenting the problem', the desired impacts (change) MEDICI hopes to make on the problem, the activities implemented to make this change possible, and their outputs and outcomes
- The Theory of Change methodology
- How to apply it to design, plan and evaluate interventions

**MAY**

**07/05**

**3RD MEDICI WEBINAR – DIGITAL INCLUSION FOR HOMELESS AND OLDER PEOPLE: HOW GETTING ONLINE CAN BE LIFE-CHANGING!**

This webinar presented two good practices (from France and the UK) which are featured in the MEDICI Catalogue and Map. The first practice focused on the digital inclusion of older people, access to technology and learning how to use internet in a way that is beneficial and not harmful. The second good practice looked at the services that are delivered to homeless people to ease their lives and allow them to access social services and improve their social participation.

**27/05****SEEDING PROJECT'S FIRST TRANSNATIONAL ONLINE WORKSHOP**

The Diesis Network and Association Social Economy Slovenia jointly organised the first online workshop of the Seeding project. The aim was to discuss the preliminary research findings among stakeholders at European and national levels. The first event focused on Slovenia and Poland. The main features of the Seeding background study were also presented. About 60 people from all around Europe registered for the event.

**JUNE****10/06****NT4EU EU WORKSHOP: HOW ICT SKILLS CAN IMPROVE MIGRANTS' AND REFUGEES' LABOUR INTEGRATION – CHANGING LIVES THROUGH CODING**

The first EU awareness-raising workshop of the NewTalents4EU project took place on 10 June. The goal of this first EU-level virtual workshop was to explore the training schemes that were implemented by our partners and the results they had obtained. It was the opportunity to get first-hand stories of both trainers and participants. Due to the social distancing restrictions in force during the Covid-19 pandemic, the workshop took place online: over 65 persons registered and more than 40 connected to the webinar.

**11/06**

**DIESIS NETWORK WORKSHOP**

This second Diesis Network meeting aimed to gather collective feedback from our members on the Diesis Manifesto. The first draft of the manifesto was presented and the strategic goals were discussed in groups and amended according to their feedback. The meeting resulted in the final document of the Diesis Manifesto.

**24/06**

**SEEDING PROJECT'S SECOND TRANSNATIONAL ONLINE WORKSHOP**

The second online event of the Seeding project focused on France, Ireland and Germany. Three very different but equally exciting cases were presented. France Barter is a truly innovative company where members exchange goods and services between each other – without using money. From Ireland, after a country insight, Speedpak Group was introduced. The company is more of a commercial business but with a significant social impact, and shows how to use digitalisation tools for the better. 4freelance recruitment eG is a German platform cooperative that aims to provide a fair alternative for freelancers.

**25/06**

**MEDUP! WEBINAR – INTRODUCTORY WEBINAR TO THE SPANISH SOCIAL ECONOMY ECOSYSTEM**

The webinar was the first one event in a virtual mutual learning programme which had to replace the study visits in Madrid because of the pandemic. The first webinar offered a general introductory overview of the Spanish social economy ecosystem so as to provide tools to better understand the best cases and presentations to be addressed in subsequent webinars. It presented the first best case: the Spanish Social Economy Observatory (CIRIEC-Spain).

**JULY****2-3/07****YOUTH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP HUB (Y-SEH) – JOINT STAFF TRAINING**

Part of the Diesis staff took part in the joint staff training organised by the Youth Social Entrepreneurship Hub Erasmus project. Together with Centrul Roman de Politici Europene – CRPE, Consorzio Meuccio Ruini and Centrul pentru Legislatie Nonprofit we exchanged knowledge, insights and best practices on social entrepreneurship at EU level and in Italy, Belgium and Romania, and the role of youth in them.

**6/07****MEDUP! WEBINAR: THE BETTER ENTREPRENEURSHIP POLICY TOOL (OECD/EU)**

This webinar presented the Better Entrepreneurship Policy Tool, an instrument developed to help key actors explore how public policies at national, regional and local levels can support youth, women, the unemployed and migrants in business creation and support the development of social enterprises. Besides it, OECD and European Commission officials presented the work done and the different collaboration projects between them, as well as a general view of the EU policies towards social entrepreneurship.

**10/07**

**MEDICI LOCAL WEBINAR – EMPOWERING WOMEN IN DIGITAL TECH: THE CASE OF WOMEN IN TECH, A EUROPEAN ECOSYSTEM SUPPORTED BY THE BRUSSELS REGION (BELGIUM)**

The event aimed to learn about Women in Tech, the first European Female Ecosystem, supported by the Brussels Region, to empower women in technology and innovation. Its objective was to explore the relations between women and the digital sector, analyse new gender policies of the institutional and governmental authorities with the contribution of our partners' expertise and also to empower women by sharing other women entrepreneurs' experiences and presenting them as role models.

**15/07**

**4TH MEDICI WEBINAR – ICT IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES: CHANGING THE LIFE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

The webinar presented the biggest national programme of IT competences for public libraries in Romania: Biblionet. It covered a presentation of the programme and most importantly its impact on local communities in Romania and the role of libraries in the e-inclusion process.

**16/07****MEDUP! WEBINAR: SPANISH NATIONAL AND LOCAL SOCIAL ECONOMY ECOSYSTEM: MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SE, CEPES AND BARCELONA CITY COUNCIL**

This seminar aimed to provide an opportunity to learn first-hand some of the key elements of the successful Spanish social economy ecosystem. High-level institutional representatives of the Ministry of Employment and Social Economy and Barcelona City Council presented their policies to promote SEEs at national and local level. CEPES, the main Spanish umbrella organisation, presented its activity and how it interacts with institutions to promote favourable policies.

**29/07****SEEDING PROJECT'S THIRD TRANSNATIONAL ONLINE WORKSHOP**

Around 15 people attended the third and last workshop of the first series of online events in the Seeding project. This workshop focused on case studies from Italy and Spain.

DocServizi is an Italian platform cooperative working to answer the challenges posed by the gig economy. The interesting feature of DocServizi is that it gives some independence to workers and members but also provides security of employment status. In Spain Som Mobilitat is a mobility platform cooperative to share cars, which has interesting environmental and financial aspects. Suara is a Spanish cooperative that provides social services and focuses on innovation.

**30/07**

**MEDUP! WEBINAR: SPANISH SOCIAL ECONOMY: GOOD PRACTICES OF EMPLOYMENT CREATION FOR WOMEN AND DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE THROUGH SOCIAL COOPERATIVES AND WORK INTEGRATION SOCIAL ENTERPRISES**

The final webinar of this cycle provided the opportunity to learn first-hand and to exchange with representatives from four key organisations: two umbrella organisations (Diesis member COCETA and AMECOOP) and two social economy enterprises (Servicios Sociales Integrados, a cooperative group active in the sector of social services, and ILUNION, a social enterprise holding company in the area of disabilities).

**SEPTEMBER**

**3, 10, 17 AND 24/09**

**GROWING EUROPE. BOOSTING MIGRANT ENTREPRENEURSHIP NETWORKS**

Growing Europe. Boosting migrant entrepreneurship networks was a series of online events on every Thursday in September 2020 dedicated to current issues and future challenges in migrant entrepreneurship in Europe.

Growing Europe was the final conference of the EMEN project, organised jointly with two other COSME-funded projects, M-UP and MAGNET. On behalf of EMEN, with the support of the other partners, Diesis co-organised the whole conference and many of the workshops.

Topics of discussion included the importance of migrant entrepreneurship, its development in recent years, new trends, support tools for migrant entrepreneurs, integration processes, best practices and lessons learned, the point of view of EU institutions and actors working in the field, and the impact of Covid-19 on migrant businesses. You can find more here: <https://www.growing-europe.eu/>

**17/09****5TH MEDICI WEBINAR – CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN A DIGITAL WORLD: WHAT'S THE EVIDENCE AND WHY IS IT HARD TO APPLY?**

The webinar looked at the issue of protecting children from online violence and abuse. Two good practices from the UK and France and the latest research results on child abuse on the internet were presented to stimulate reflection on children's rights and their protection in a digital environment.

**21-24/09****SWEF DIGITAL – DISCUSSION: EXPLORING COOPERATIVE AND COMMUNITY-LED APPROACHES**

One of the most relevant international events on social entrepreneurship was this year held fully online, because of the pandemic. Its week-long programme of online events and activities featured keynote speeches and plenaries from around the world with live Q&As, online networking and partner-organised sessions. Speakers included leading social entrepreneurs and changemakers from across the world, and the event attracted over 5,000 participants (during and post-event) from 100 countries. Samuel Barco took part as a speaker in one participatory workshop under the title: Discussion: Exploring cooperative and community-led approaches.

**23/09****ISTO GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The ISTO General Assembly was held exceptionally – due to the coronavirus crisis – by videoconference on 23 September 2020. Dysis attended, and the new Strategic and Operational Plan proposed by the Executive Committee for the next two years was proposed.

**OCTOBER**

**14/10**

**GENDER EQUALITY IN THE EU LABOUR MARKET – ROUND TABLE**

In the framework of the European Week of Regions and Cities, the Diesis Network was invited to take part in the round table Gender Equality in EU labour market.

Discussion covered an overview of the main actions implemented by trade unions at national level, and the important issue of the school environment and education, including from the point of teachers' skills and professionalism. Diesis then underlined the importance of the private sector and the active involvement of enterprises, in particular social economy enterprises, also presenting specific actions such as the new SET THE TONE project on sexual harassment at work.

**20-22-26/10 AND 03-05-10/11**

**Y-SEH TRAINING FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS**

In the framework of the Y-SEH project, the Diesis Network co-organised an online training session on social entrepreneurship for young aspiring entrepreneurs.

The programme helped young participants who had an innovative idea to bring it to maturity and potentially turn it into a successful social enterprise business, using the knowledge and tools provided. The training programme was a combination of theoretical and interactive sessions, conducted in 6 online meetings.

**29/10****THE DIGITAL ROAD TO MANNHEIM – SOCIAL ECONOMY ENTERPRISES IN THE DIGITAL TRANSITION: DIGITAL PLATFORMS**

This workshop was organised in the framework of Digital Road to Mannheim, the European Social Economy Exchange Events. The workshop discussed online digital platforms and proposed that they should be imagined from a democratised and decentralised angle in order to scale up building a participatory and competitive social economy sector. Experts and representatives from the social economy at international level, EU institutions and companies participated in our workshop, also presenting digital platforms for social goals. The overview analysis and the three different cases revealed the evidence that social enterprises in Europe are working on different levels, with many diverse performers and in various forms, to reshape the economy and the centralised model.

**NOVEMBER****05/11****1ST LUNCH BREAK TALK WITH ISEN**

ISEN (the Irish Social Economy Network) presented its initiatives during the Covid crisis and some of the challenges social enterprises have faced in this unprecedented period. ISEN also outlined the National Social Enterprise Policy and its work to implement it.

**12/11**

**DIESIS NETWORK POLICY LAB: SOUTH EAST EUROPE (#1 WESTERN BALKANS) – KNOWLEDGE SHARING POLICY LAB ON THE SOCIAL ECONOMY'S ROLE IN THE INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC PLAN FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS**

This policy lab discussed the impact of the social economy on socio-economic development during the pandemic and the role of the social economy in the post Covid-19 recovery plan including:

- latest developments in the social economy ecosystem in North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina
- EU instruments for socio-economic recovery in the Western Balkans, with the emphasis on the social economy's role.

The policy lab was conducted by the Diesis Network with the participation of Diesis members from the above-mentioned countries and a representative of DG NEAR.

**17/11**

**AD-PHS WORKSHOP IN BULGARIA**

The AD-PHS Bulgarian seminar took part on Zoom on 17 November. Diesis presented the project with all changes that have occurred because of the pandemic challenges, including the study and survey on the consequences of Covid-19 in the PHS sector.

The workshop studied promising practices in Bulgaria, such as Karin Dom and the social services centres for children and families in the cities of Plovdiv, Shumen, Ruse and Varna. The concluding round table discussion showed a willingness for closer cooperation at European level through networking and the exchange of experiences.

**26/11****THE DIGITAL ROAD TO MANNHEIM – SOCIAL ECONOMY ENTERPRISES IN THE DIGITAL TRANSITION: DIGITAL SOCIAL ECONOMY AT WORK**

Digitalisation, automation and platform work have impacts on the social economy as a whole and on social economy enterprises individually, but to what extent? What influencing factors are key to success or failure in facing these challenges? These are very interesting questions – about which we do not yet know very much. Therefore, the second workshop organised by the Diesis Network as part of the Digital Road to Mannheim (the European Social Economy Exchange Events) was dedicated to discussing these impacts. It also looked at three examples taken from real life, to show the diversity of the answers and reactions that can be given to these challenges.

**DECEMBER****02/12****MAX DIVERSITY DIALOGUE FORUM BELGIUM**

In the framework of the MAX project, Diesis supported the organisation of the Belgian Diversity Dialogue Forum, entitled How to maximise the potential of a diverse society? Challenges and opportunities in Belgium.

The Belgian online DDF was composed of two online events:

- How to maximise the potential of a diverse society? Challenges and opportunities in Belgium. A panel discussion about the challenges and opportunities of migrant integration in Belgium.
- Maximising integration in Belgium. A counselling session addressed to migrants in Belgium. Participants were able to ask practical questions about their integration in the country and get counselling.

**10/12**

**Ad-PHS FINAL CONFERENCE**

26 speakers and more than 130 participants took part in the Ad-PHS final conference on Zoom. The conference analysed the results of the project and underlined the importance and the challenges of personal and household services. Two simultaneous interactive round tables were devoted to The fight against undeclared work in the PHS sector and Social rights for PHS workers. In the final panel discussion, representatives of EU institutions (EP, EC and EESC) discussed with stakeholders proposals for the future and political responses.

**14/12**

**SOCIAL ECONOMY: AN ENTERPRISE MODEL FOR THE FUTURE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN**

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the Spanish Confederation of Social Economy Enterprises (CEPES) organised the online event Social Economy: an enterprise model for the future of the Mediterranean together with the Spanish Ministry of Labour and Social Economy and with the support of the ESMED Network and Social Economy Europe in the framework of the European Social Economy Capital – Toledo 2020. This event focused on the role of the social economy in building a Mediterranean area of shared prosperity in accordance with the values that govern that enterprise model: participation, the primacy of people over capital, and solidarity. Gianluca Pastorelli was invited as a key speaker highlighting Diesis's presence in the area and our expertise in building favourable ecosystems for the social economy in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

**15/12****UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES IN JORDAN**

This webinar was organised in the framework of the project Mubaderoon for social change: Strengthening social enterprise initiatives to combat poverty and exclusion in Jordan. It aimed to create a fruitful discussion forum involving representatives of international institutions, researchers and organisations that have a longstanding experience in supporting the development of social enterprises and similar organisations (more broadly, the social economy and the social and solidarity economy) worldwide.

Diesis was represented by Gianluca Pastorelli who chaired Session 1 Supporting and enabling environment for the social economy and social enterprises and Samuel Barco as discussant in Session 2 Social enterprises and social economy organisations: legal trends and challenges from an international perspective.

**16/12****NT4EU FINAL CONFERENCE – THE POWER OF DIGITALISATION: MIGRANTS' AND REFUGEES' LABOUR MARKET INTEGRATION**

The final conference of the NT4EU project took place on 16 December and was attended by more than 40 participants. The event showcased the results of the project and direct testimonies about the impact that digitalisation and ICT skills have on migrants' labour market integration. A first panel on Digitalisation: an opportunity for migrants and refugees was followed by two parallel workshops:

Workshop 1: How to cope with Covid-19? The impact of the pandemic on migrants' and refugees' labour market integration and the NT4EU experience  
Workshop 2: How to replicate the NT4EU training scheme in other fields?

## 17/12

### ISTO EUROPE MEETING

On 17 December the European members of ISTO met for the first time since the establishment of the new Coordination Committee of ISTO Europe. The committee, composed of 16 member organisations, is chaired by Muriel Antoniotti (Auvergne Rhône-Alpes Tourisme) who is supported by two vice-presidents, Gianluca Pastorelli (DIESIS Network) and Benoît César (KALEO) and a secretary, Anabela Correia (Fundação INATEL).

The main purpose of this meeting was to present to the members of the European section the issues, priorities and objectives of the section for the next two years and to present the action plan proposed for approval by the members. This action plan, which was established in connection with the ISTO International action plan, is based on three working groups on the following topics:

- advocacy and network development
- mobility and tourism for young people
- social policies of tourism and domestic tourism

Gianluca Pastorelli, on behalf of Diesis, was elected as vice-president of ISTO's Europe Section and coordinator of the working group Advocacy and network development.



# 9 PUBLICATIONS

## 9. PUBLICATIONS

# PUBLICATIONS

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### **The Digital Social Economy – Managing and Leveraging Platforms and Blockchain for a People-Centred Digital Transformation**

Research published in the CIRIEC series of working papers as number 2019/14.

Digitalisation has become one of the most powerful changes of our time. What can we do to ensure a people-centred digital transformation? This paper sheds light on why and how the #SocialEconomy can sustainably and inclusively manage and leverage digital technologies. The digital social economy innovations discussed in this paper aim to realise this vision in the four areas undergoing digital transformation. The study finds a vivid variety of digital social economy enterprises, and important potential for further applications of social economy principles in the digital realm. Yet the realisation of this potential depends on whether these enterprises manage the critical challenge to achieve sustainable and user-centred growth. The study therefore concludes with a discussion of this challenge and some recommendations for policy, organisation and entrepreneurship.



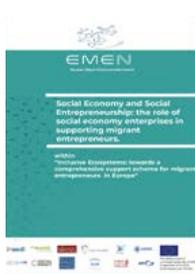
### **Background Report of SEEDING project**

The background report of the Seeding project is edited by Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini and the Diesis Network and is a result of a joint effort of project partners in seven countries – Italy, Ireland, Germany, France, Poland, Slovenia and Spain. It addresses the following aspects:

- Digitalisation and key EU policies;
- Digitalisation: trends and debates with a focus on (i) automation of work, (ii) rise of platform-based work, and (iii) technologies adopted;
- Definition of social economy enterprises in the seven countries covered and their specificity in terms of social aims and governance models as per legislation and practice;
- Industrial relations structure in the seven countries and how it

- addresses the social economy;
- Pace and features of digitalisation in private businesses and the related impact on employment and working conditions;
  - National-level public policies addressing digitalisation and the impact of digitalisation on employment and working conditions;
  - Concerns of social partners and NGOs and measures adopted by these organisations to address digitalisation.

It should be noted that the background report was mainly written before and during the Covid-19 outbreak when it was still too early to discern its long-term impact. The report is available online on the Seeding website (in English only).



### **Social Economy and Social Entrepreneurship: The role of social economy enterprises in supporting migrant entrepreneurs**

The document Social Economy and Social Entrepreneurship: The role of social economy enterprises in supporting migrant entrepreneurs was written by the Diesis Network, REVES and CECOP as a chapter in the EMEN project's final publication Inclusive Ecosystems: towards a comprehensive support scheme for migrant entrepreneurs in Europe. It focuses on the support that the social economy gives to migrant entrepreneurship and displays many best practices.

Indeed, the support that the social economy can give to migrant entrepreneurs is extremely relevant and diversified. This chapter analyses how actors from the social economy sector support migrants before, during and after the creation of a social enterprise. Social economy enterprises can encourage and support not just the creation of new jobs, but also entrepreneurship and access to economic activities for migrants and refugees.



### **Buying for social impact – Good practice from around the EU**

Buying for social impact – Good practice from around the EU was published as a European Commission publication in January 2020. It is the final publication of the Buying for Social Impact (BSI) project commissioned by the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) and the European Commission Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW) to promote the use of social considerations in public procurement procedures. The project was led by the European Association for Information on Local Development (AEIDL), working in partnership with the European Network of Cities and Regions for the Social Economy (REVES), the Diosis Network, Social Economy Europe (SEE), and the European Network of Social Integration Enterprises (ENSIE). The publication, which includes 22 good practices from 12 countries, is a meaningful collection of good practices that can not only inspire procurers, but also operators in the social economy, so as to stimulate replication across Europe.

**10**  
**WE ARE DIESIS**

# WE ARE DIESIS

As our world is facing unprecedented challenges, our range of actions must aim for an equal and sustainable future.

To this end, we at the Diesis Network strongly believe in supporting a new economy based on social and economic impact.

Founded in 1997, the Diesis Network is now one of the widest European networks specialising in supporting the development of the social economy, social entrepreneurship and social innovation.

In view of the high social, economic and ecological stakes, we are deeply convinced that a global commitment from all stakeholders is the only response to a global crisis. For this reason, we put great value on our 41 member organisations, which cover 14 EU countries and 6 EU neighbouring countries, allowing us to function as a "network of networks". Functioning as a unique ecosystem, we collaborate in close contact with our members, which represent over 90,000 organisations and 1.2 million workers through major national federations and national support networks.

With a variety of profiles, background and origins, our team is actively engaged in implementing knowledge-based activities such as training, project design, consultancy and advisory services, technical assistance and research. Historically running as a cooperative working at the European level, we are now looking further than the European borders, as we are finding new partners in the Western Balkans, Central Europe and the MENA region.

Moreover, we work in partnership with European thematic networks and platforms such as ETUC, REVES and Social Economy Europe. In leading and developing social economy projects together with advancing on the SDGs, the Diesis Network proudly operates as well as a member of CECOP CICOPA, EARTH (European Alliance for Responsible Tourism and Hosting), ISTO-OITS (International Social Tourism Organisation), PCC Platform Cooperative Consortium, ALDA Europe, The IARS International Institute, The European Alliance for Innovation, and The UnionMigrantNet network.

As a European international organisation, the Diesis Network was also part of GECES, the European Commission's expert group on social entrepreneurship that assists the European Commission in the implementation of the Social Business Initiative.

## The team

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**Gianluca Pastorelli**

Executive President

**Alessia Sebillo**

Executive Director  
Education and Training, Anti-  
discrimination and SDGs

**Dorotea Daniele**

Managing Director and Senior Expert  
Social Economy and Social  
Entrepreneurship

**Eleonora Lamio**

Project Manager and Policy Officer

**Vesa Latifi**

Project Assistant

**Paul Hammoud**

Communications Manager

**Helena Cano**

Communications Assistant

**Anastasia Costantini**

Senior Expert  
SDGs and Green Transition

**Marta Bruschi**

Senior Expert  
Network and Community Engagement

**Melinda Kelemen**

Senior Expert  
Labour Market

**Samuel Barco**

Senior Expert  
International dimension of Social  
Economy and Social Economy  
Ecosystems

External Experts

**Apostolos Ioakimidis**

Social economy expert

**Toby Johnson**

Social economy expert

**Monica Tobaldin**

Linguistic expert

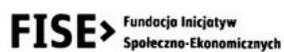
**Alessio Pisanó**

Journalist, Video maker

# The network

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Analysing  
NBS - protection  
managing growth  
- finding amount of investment  
- counting  
light  
regio

How do you deal with this topic in your country?

EXT

- support
- develop
- change
- get support
- Director's

CROSS-COUNTRY 2  
CROSS-SECTORIAL  
COLLABORATION

WHAT ARE THE MAIN  
CHALLENGES TO HAVE SUCCESS?

WHAT ARE THE MAIN  
CHALLENGES TO HAVE SUCCESS?

- have advantages of connecting
- expand network geographically
- new strategy
- monitor links with the EU
- learn more on EU fund about ED
- networking at inter
- develop support
- some
- research
- 



**Diesis Coop srl-fs**

Boulevard Charlemagne 74, 1000 Bruxelles – Belgique

TVA: BE 0460304689

Tel: +32.2.543.10.43

[diesis@diesis.coop](mailto:diesis@diesis.coop)

diesis  
network

