

MESMER+
Mapping European Social Economy:
Employment, Social Dialogue and the European Pillar of Social Rights
Project nr. 101052222

Policy lab – Belgium
22 June 2023
From 9.30 to 16.00
Leuven, SW 122-01 -Faculteit Sociale Wetenschappen
Parkstraat 45, 3000 Leuven, Lokaal 00.113 - Ruth Benedictzaal

Agenda

Interpretation: French/Dutch
Language of the event: French/Dutch

Registration

The [MESMER +](#) aims to establish an up-to-date in-depth mapping on activity and representation of social economy players – both from the employers’ and employees’ side – within social dialogue institutions and various industrial relations settings in nine countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Italy, Ireland, North Macedonia, Poland, Spain and Sweden. This mapping encapsulates several dimensions, including institutions, actors, practices and processes.

The national policy labs in each country serve to collect input and feedback from national level stakeholders such as representatives of policy makers, social economy organizations, trade unions, employer’s organizations and experts. It also serves to disseminate project results.

Furthermore, the policy lab in Belgium focuses on exploring the specificities of the social economy in relation to the Belgian social dialogue model. The involvement of social economy representative organisations in the regional policy-making processes will also be discussed.

Please note that there is an online option available to attend this meeting.

9.30 – 10.00 *Registration and coffee + networking*

10.00 – 10.15 **Welcome speech and about the MESMER+ project**

- *Gianluca Pastorelli, Director, Diesis Network (tbc)*
- *Anne Guisset, Researcher, HIVA KU Leuven*

10.15 – 11.15 Session 1: A social dialogue specific to the social economy? Navigating the historical Belgian model of industrial relations to integrate the specificities of the social economy

During this first session, participants will be invited to discuss and share their practical experiences of social dialogue by addressing more specifically the following questions:

- Sectoral representation of the social economy/social profit sector between the various joint committees: an adequate organisation for the needs of the field?
- Are there rules and norms related to the organisation of social dialogue (e.g., bipartite or tripartite structure of representative bodies, collective labour agreements) that are difficult to apply in social economy organisations?
- What are the specific features of the social economy that it would be useful to distinguish in social dialogue so that it corresponds to the realities of this economic model?
- Should special mechanisms for social dialogue be set up in the social economy (enterprise and/or sectoral level)? If so, what would these mechanisms look like and why?

Moderated by Anne Guisset, researcher, HIVA-KU Leuven

11.15 – 11.30 *Coffee break + networking*

11.30 – 12.15 Formulation of recommendations: session 1

12.15 – 13.15 *Lunch + Networking*

13.15-14.30 Session 2: Participation of social economy actors in regional policy-making

The second session of the policy lab focuses on the advocacy and participation of representative organizations of the social economy in the development of regional policies. These policies not only encompass the regulation of the sector but also various aspects of regional territorial development in a broader sense, including economic, social, and environmental issues addressed, for instance, in post-Covid recovery plans.

- How can the social economy effectively express its views in existing regional policy-making processes and contribute to the formulation of territorial development policies?
- What channels of consultation and influence are available to organizations representing the social economy?
- What are the obstacles and opportunities encountered in this process?
- How does the organization of social economy representation among different representative organizations impact their advocacy efforts towards policy makers?

These questions will be discussed among participants from the Brussels-Capital Region, Flanders, and the Walloon Region.

Finally, as Belgium prepares to assume the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in January 2024, the discussion can conclude with the following question: Do the distinct regional

situations allow for the identification of specific characteristics that define the Belgian social economy?

Moderated by Anne Guisset, researcher, HIVA-KU Leuven

15.00 – 15.15 *Coffee break*

15.15 – 15.45 **Formulation of recommendations: session 2**

15.45 – 16.00 **Final conclusions**