



Brussels, Friday, 16th October

Dear Commissioner Schmit,

It is with great pleasure that we received your letter dated 25th June replying to our "[Call for specific support measures to be adopted to support inclusive and integrated forms of employment during the Coronavirus crisis](#)". Your attention to the sector is, more than ever, fundamental for its survival.

We closely followed the measures adopted by the EU in recent months and we were glad of the diversity of solutions proposed along with added flexibility to EU funds. We welcomed your letter to the Ministers of Labour to present the social economy actors in all their diversity. However, the crises is far from over for the WISE sector (the different economic actors striving for more inclusive and integrated forms of employment, sheltered workshops, social cooperatives, organizations offering counselling and training in order to make social enterprises more visible) There are a number of difficulties in the context of the current crisis, which are described in ENSIE's last publication '[The impact of COVID-19 on WISEs](#)'. We would like to draw your attention to a few points, which are particularly worrying.

Firstly, while the Commission is open to considering all types of enterprises from the social economy sector, including nonprofits in its measures, the reality is Member States, that are responsible for their implementation, are setting up such criteria that some WISEs are not eligible for this help. This issue was raised by ENSIE members from Romania and RREUSE and ENSIE Greek members in the past months. For example, the Romanian government's financial measures for SMEs to combat COVID do not include NGOs with commercial activities nor do the Greek government's measure include social economy actors in general. As an ally of the social economy, we urge you to once again convince the National Ministers to ensure the social economy sector access the various anti-COVID measures.

We respectfully propose a meeting with you at your earliest convenience or with members of your Cabinet to talk about these issues and present some possible solutions.

Secondly, we are concerned by the manner in which programmatic funds are used across territories, namely Next Generation EU funds. Social economy actors and social enterprises contribute to a sustainable recovery, and so, like any other type of enterprise should have access to such funds. They should also be involved in the elaboration and governance of the relevant programs in accordance with the partnership principle. Yet, some of our members have already denounced the impossibility for them to participate in the redaction of the operational programmes of REACT EU. Social economy actors and representatives should also be included in the elaboration and governance of the National Recovery and Resilience Plans. We underline the need to decrease the administrative burden and to limit gold-plating in the new funds, given these organizations are already in a critical situation. **Finally, we call for more information about access to funding and welcome an opportunity to discuss these issues during the proposed meeting.**

ENSIE's surveys among its members confirm that WISEs and their different forms of inclusive and integrated employment have demonstrated a great capacity to react and adapt to the crisis by developing innovative solutions. Those innovations and the WISEs adaptability will be showcased in the 'WISE manager award' (2020 edition) which was launched in September. The award ceremony will take place on

26th November afternoon from 15:45 to 16:00 in the framework of the Digital Road to Mannheim event (EUSES) and it will be an opportunity to visibly showcase the major contribution that WISEs make to the current recovery efforts at EU level. We would be honoured to have you amongst and beside us in an online capacity during the ceremony.

Yours sincerely,

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SFE-CEFEC President - Felicitas Kresimon



RREUSE President – Matthias Neitsch



SFE-CEFEC Secretary General - Petru Vasile Gafiuc



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