

Social Economy Europe sets up a working group on Social Economy & Disability



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In the framework of Social Economy Europe 10th General Assembly, held in Sofia on 16th April, Social Economy Europe (SEE) has decided to set up a **Working Group on Social Economy & Disability**. The objective is to further promote and to highlight the key role played by social economy enterprises and organisations to create social and labour integration opportunities for people with disabilities. The announcement was made coinciding with the European High-Level Conference on “**Social Economy, for Economically Sustainable and Socially Inclusive EU**”, organised by the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU. The expected actions of the working group, which will bring together social economy organisations from different countries and sectors, include communication activities to raise awareness, exchange of best-practice and advocacy to create a favourable regulatory environment.

Juan Antonio Pedreño, President of Social Economy Europe, said after the Assembly: *“This decision shows the strong commitment of the European social economy to people with disabilities and to the creation of a more inclusive Europe. A true social Europe will only be possible if people with disabilities, which represent 15% of the EU population, are fully integrated in society and in the labour market”*. *“Many of our members have a strong track record in this area and we want to promote a permanent exchange of best-practice and peer learning. Furthermore, we believe that new EU legislation, such as the European Accessibility Act, will generate opportunities for social economy enterprises and organisations”*, he added.

SEE is the voice of social economy enterprises and organisations in Europe. Its members are the European organisations of mutual insurers and insurance cooperatives, health mutuals, foundations, paritarian institutions, associations of general interest, work integration social enterprises, ethical and alternative banks and financiers and cities and regions for the social economy. At national level, SEE members are the social economy umbrella organisations of Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

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