

## EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2019

# STRENGTHEN SOCIAL ECONOMY ENTERPRISES AND SOCIAL INNOVATION

Every day in Europe, 2.8 million social economy enterprises employing some 19.1 million people and accounting for 6.3% of the total paid workforce in Europe are running their businesses sustainably while helping create a better world. They are working towards an inclusive and circular economy and a more cohesive society.

With the right policy framework and financial support, Europe could transition towards a more sustainable, inclusive economy. This change is urgently needed, and would help fight poverty and progress towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. European decision-makers and national governments have an opportunity to be trailblazers and to pave the way to an inclusive society.

To further contribute to a favourable social enterprise ecosystem, our networks call upon the European Institutions to:

1. Set the **European Pillar of Social Rights** as a priority in the future EU agenda, and encourage Member States to implement it.
2. **Seek consistent legal frameworks** for social enterprises and microfinance institutions in order to make better use of the single market.
3. **Improve the ease of access** to EU (financial) support for social enterprises and microfinance institutions, and continue to improve the combination of centralised and decentralised budget instruments to support the social enterprise sector.
4. **Leverage private investments** to extend the impact of public funds for social enterprises and microfinance institutions.
5. **Take account of the social impact of social enterprises** to better demonstrate their positive effect on the economy.
6. Encourage public authorities to **increase the number of public procurement contracts** awarded to social enterprises.
7. Incentivise Member States to **reduce value-added tax for activities contributing to social welfare**.
8. Further develop the **European Semester as a participative decision process** in which also social enterprises and their representatives can take part.
9. **Maintain the Social Economy Intergroup** in the European Parliament during the next parliamentary cycle.
10. **Push for greater awareness** of social enterprises by universities, youth, consumers, businesses, and public authorities at different levels of government.

