

Save the date

Creating value together: towards joint business opportunities with social economy and traditional enterprises

Social enterprises and traditional, for-profit enterprises collaborate in many ways. Together, they can co-create value for both partners and become a real source of jobs and social impact in Europe. The Social Business Initiative adopted by the European Commission in 2011 aims at the promotion of social economy enterprises as a key driver of economic and social development in Europe by supporting collaborations between social economy and traditional enterprises. However, the potential of value creation by collaborations between these two types of enterprises is not fully exploited yet. More knowledge is required in order to **unlock the high potential of business collaborations**.

Therefore, a two-day conference **Creating value together: towards joint business opportunities with social economy and traditional enterprises** will be organised in

Brussels on Tuesday, July 3, and Wednesday, July 4, 2018.

We invite representatives of social economy enterprises, traditional enterprises that collaborate or plan to collaborate with social economy enterprises, policy makers, stakeholders and representatives of networks and umbrella organisations to join us in Brussels in July. This conference wants to gather partners who already cooperate, potential partners and any other party of interest. The conference is free of charge and will provide numerous opportunities to learn, to network and to interact:

- Social economy enterprises will experience how to overcome obstacles to collaborate
- Traditional enterprises will discover how they can benefit from a collaboration with a social economy enterprise
- Social economy enterprises and traditional enterprises will be provided a matchmaking forum
- Stakeholders and policy makers will identify new opportunities how to promote collaborations within their country or region

The conference will showcase good practices of successful collaborations and will include both high-level panel discussions and interactive workshops. Last but not least, there will be plenty of room for interactions between participants to exchange ideas and discover opportunities for the future.

With this save-the-date message we invite you to put the date into your diary. We will disseminate more information on the conference and the registration process soon.

We look forward, meeting you on this exciting forthcoming conference in Brussels in July.

This conference is organized by a consortium of Technopolis Group, Austrian Institute of Technology, i-propeller, Lama Development and Cooperation Agency, Technology Partners, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, Institutul de Prospectiva, Q4I Consulting in the context of the study "Cooperation between social economy enterprises and traditional enterprises", commissioned by the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) of the European Commission.

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