



## ENSIE contribution to the Call for Contributions for the High-Level Conference on the European Social Charter, Chisinau 2026

12<sup>th</sup> of June 2025

### 1. What is ENSIE?

ENSIE, the [European Network for Social Integration Enterprises](#), represents the interests of national and regional networks of 'Work Integration Social Enterprises' (WISEs) striving for more inclusive and integrated forms of employment at European level. Currently, ENSIE represents 33 national and regional networks across 21 EU countries<sup>1</sup>, as well as Azerbaijan, Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine. Together with its members, ENSIE plays a key role in raising awareness on the Social Charter's rights and strives to ensure their effective implementation on the ground when it comes to socio-professional inclusion of disadvantaged groups (migrants, Roma, women, young people, disabled people etc.).

There are approximately 2.8 million social economy entities in Europe which offer sustainable solutions to key socio-economic challenges we are facing<sup>2</sup>. The Social Economy Action Plan recognizes their contribution to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) principles and its 2030 headline targets as well as of the Sustainable development goals at EU and global level.

### 2. What are WISEs?

WISEs are social enterprises whose fundamental and initial objective is the social and professional integration of individuals who, through their exclusion and their relegation to a marginal role in society, have fallen victim to increasing social and professional handicaps.

The work integration social enterprises continue to play an ongoing role in the social and professional requalification training that restores to individuals at risk, individuals that are vulnerable and have become marginal, the status of gainfully employed workers. They offer such individuals the opportunity to prepare themselves for their integration into the labour force and to gain access to employment and the training to acquire needed skills.

In this framework, WISEs are deeply concerned by, among others, the article 1, of the [revised European Social Charter](#) fully believing that everybody must have the right to work. Also article 9, 10, 14, 15, 17, 19 §1 §3 §11, 22, 20 and 30 are crucial for WISEs which contribute to their implementation through their daily activities. Concretely, a job contract is an important step to access social protection and security. It allows these people to be fully active citizens of the society. Besides, WISEs often promote participatory democracy

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<sup>1</sup> AT, BE, CZ, DE, DK, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, IE, IT, LT, LV, NL, PL, RO, SE, SI, SK and LU.

<sup>2</sup> "Building an economy that works for people: an action plan for the social economy", European Commission, 2021

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practices within their organisations. These practices reinforce the feeling of justice, citizenship but also the empowerment of workers.

During the conference, ENSIE could highlight how WISEs contribute to the right to work (Art. 1), vocational guidance and training (Art. 9 and 10), and protection against poverty and social exclusion (Art. 30). ENSIE would emphasise the alignment between WISEs' activities and the Charter's goals as equality, inclusion, and access to employment for vulnerable groups (e.g., long-term unemployed, young people, persons with disabilities, migrants etc).

### 3. ENSIE contribution to the Call

Title: "Realising Social Rights through Work Integration Social Enterprises: WISEs as Pillars of Inclusive Labour Markets"

Content of the contribution:

ENSIE would focus on showcasing the link and the added value of the social economy entities/enterprises, especially focusing on WISEs, with and towards the implementation of the Social Charter's principles 1, 9, 10 and 30. In addition, from the policy perspective, ENSIE will highlight current developments (revision of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, mid-term review of the Social Economy Action Plan, Union of Skills, Quality Jobs Roadmap, etc.) emphasising the importance to maintain and defend the social dimension despite the current policy shifts of the EU towards, among others, competitiveness and security matters.

Concretely, ENSIE would focus on:

- Barriers to full realisation of social rights for disadvantaged groups and how WISEs help overcome them.
- WISEs contribution to the implementation of the above mentioned Social Charter articles (1, 9, 10, 30) with concrete best practices from different Member States (e.g., tailored integration paths, skills development, inclusion of various target groups etc).
- Data showing WISEs' impact on social inclusion and job creation ([Impact-WISEs](#) study).
- Presenting the current policy landscape relevant to social economy, its position and policy recommendations to embed WISEs in labour and social inclusion strategies in line with the Charter. Discussions will tackle, through good practices and policy dimension, the future of work, human dignity in the workplace, youth inclusion and environmental protection through the circular economy in which WISEs also operate.

Potential format: plenary session, workshop, round table, side-event.

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