

# Social Economy Europe

The voice of Europe's 4.3 million social economy enterprises and organisations

Sarah De Heusch, Direttrice Social Economy Europe

Sé que soy horrible, con esto vamos a levantar todos las manos y.



# Overview



## 1. What is the Social Economy?

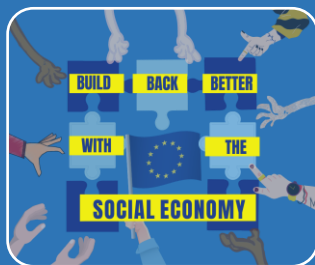
1.1. Some Figures at European Level



## 2. What is Social Economy Europe (SEE)?

2.1. Members of SEE

2.2. The Executive Committee



## 3. What do we do?

3.1. Projects

3.2. Policy

3.3. Other Activities

# 1. What is the Social Economy?

- Set of private law entities providing goods and services to their members or to society
- Organisational forms such as **cooperatives, mutual societies, associations (including charities), foundations, social enterprises, and other legal forms**
- **Key principles and features:**
  - i. Purpose over profit; Pursuit of 'collective interests' that benefit society at large
  - ii. Reinvestment of all or most of the profits and surpluses;
  - iii. Democratic and/or participatory governance



# 1.1. Some figures at European Level

## SOCIAL ECONOMY: AN ESSENTIAL PLAYER IN THE EU

- 4.3 million enterprises and organisations active in all economic sectors
- Employs 11.5 million people (6.3% of the employed population)
- Has a turnover of €912.9 billion
- 95 million members of cooperatives and 135 million members of associations
- Recognised by the OECD, ILO, UN & EC
- Provides innovative solutions to the main challenges of our time

*\*Check more  
figures [here](#)*

- ✓ Green transition
- ✓ Quality jobs for all
- ✓ Inclusion
- ✓ Social protection and universal access to quality social services
- ✓ Local, regional and rural development
- ✓ Social and technological innovation
- ✓ And much more!

Source: European Commission: European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency, Euricse, CIRIEC and Spatial Foresight, *Benchmarking the socio-economic performance of the EU social economy – Improving the socio-economic knowledge of the proximity and social economy ecosystem*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2024, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2826/880860>

# 2. What is Social Economy Europe?

**Representative**  
organisation of **Social  
Economy at European  
level**

Enablers of policy  
frameworks that  
**foster Social  
Economy** within  
European Institutions

## MISSION:

- 1) Liaising with **EU institutions** to develop SE strategies and policies
- 2) **Federating** SE diversity around common policy goals
- 3) Promoting **dialogue** and cooperation between **members**
- 4) Disseminating **information** about **SE and its contributions**



# 2.1. Members of SEE

SEE currently has **25 members**

3 categories

## European groupings



## European SE networks



## National SE umbrella organisations



+ New 'Associate Member' category

# 2.2. The Executive Committee



Juan Antonio Pedreño  
President of Social Economy Europe



Alain Coheur



Sarah Goddard



Mathieu de Poorter



Lourdes Marquez



Diana Dovgan



Luca Pastorelli



Patrizia Bussi



Daniel Sorrosal



Giuseppe Guerini



Pascale Zoetaert



Antoine Détourné

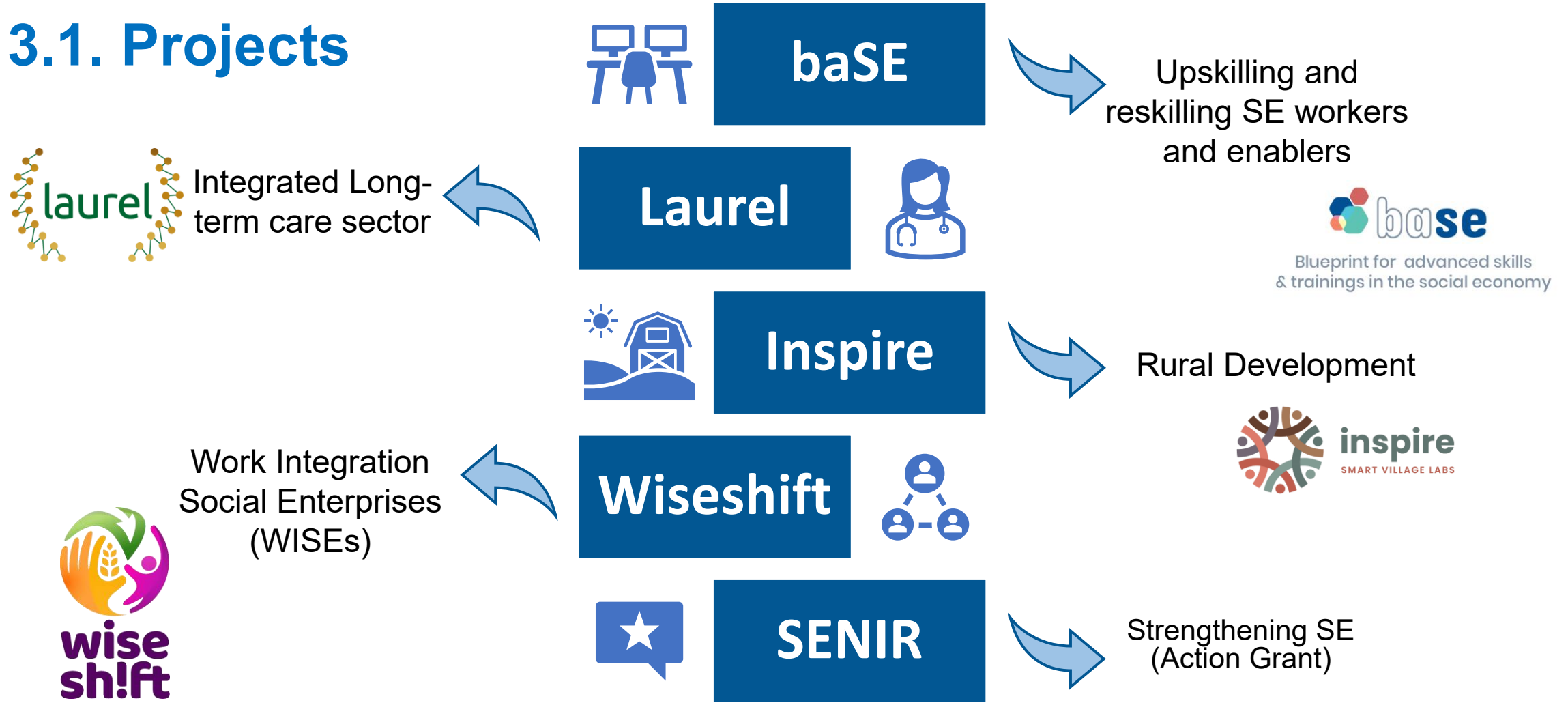


Paul O'Sullivan



# 3. What do we do?

## 3.1. Projects



## 3.2 Policy

There are **two main pillars** regarding the work on **Policy**:



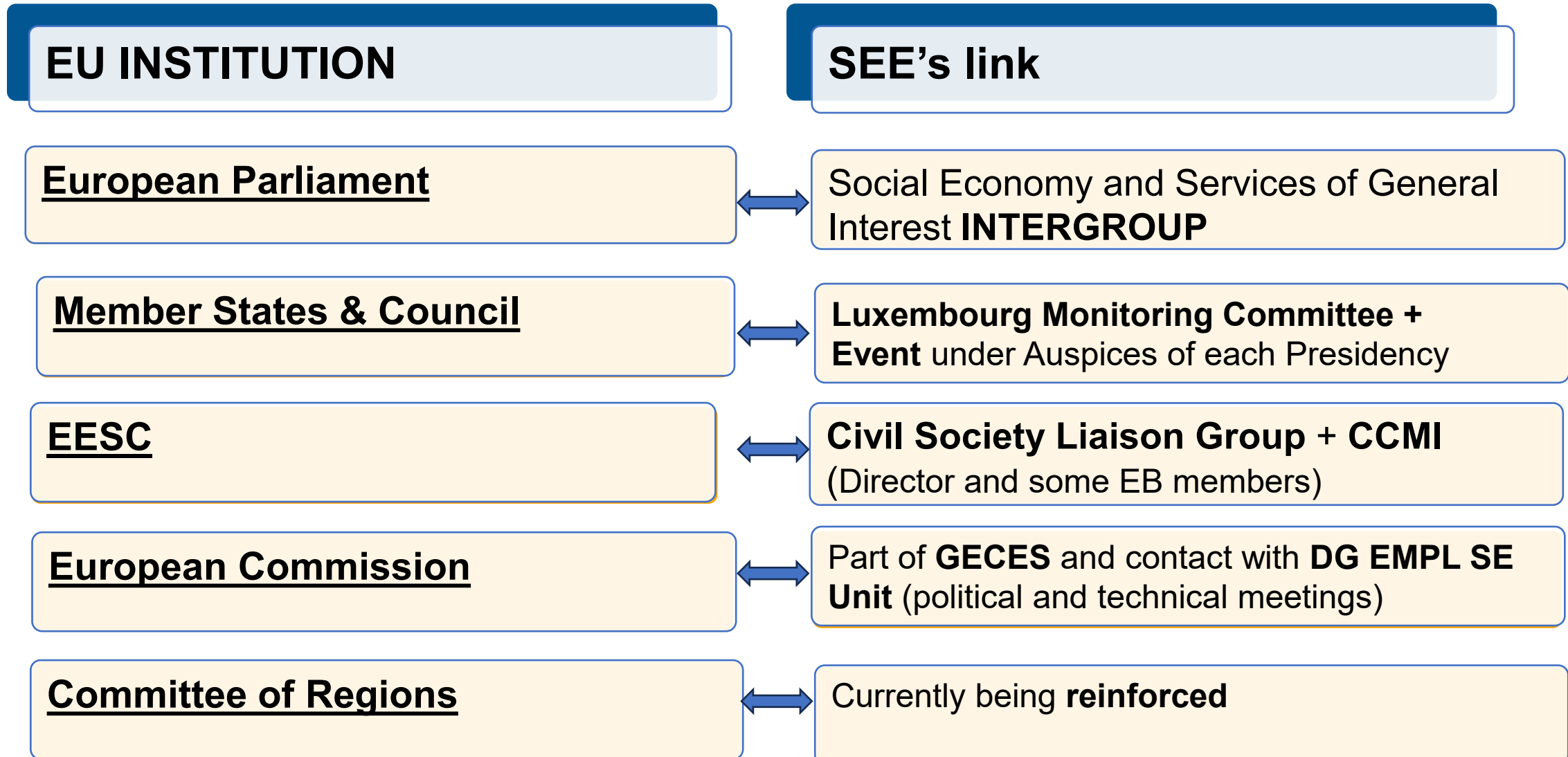
### 1. Relations with EU Institutions

### 2. Policy work

- Thematic campaigns
- Consultations
- Influencing policy files



## 3.2.1 Institutional relations



# Social Economy and Services of General Interest INTERGROUP



SEE holds the **co-secretariat** with **SGIE**

Events:

- SEAP
- Public Procurement
- Housing
- Mutuels
- June – MFF
- EU Competitiveness way
- ...

Yearly Bureau meeting to work on programme



**Maravillas ABADÍA JOVER**

Co-Chair  
PPE  
Spain



**Ignazio Roberto MARINO**

Co-Chair  
Verts/ALE  
Italy



**Irene TINAGLI**

Co-Chair  
S&D  
Italy



**Li ANDERSSON**

Vice-Chair  
The Left  
Finland



**Camilla LAURETI**

Vice-Chair  
S&D  
Italy



**Alexandra MEHNERT**

Vice-Chair  
PPE  
Germany



**Idoia MENDIA**

Vice-Chair  
S&D  
Spain



**Benedetta SCUDERI**

Vice-Chair  
Verts/ALE  
Italy

# GECES & DG EMPL SE Unit



European Commission



**Contact with Commissioner Mînzatu, her cabinet, DG EMPL SE Unit, through technical and political meetings.**

## **SEE is part of GECES**

- Advises the European Commission on policies related to SE.
- Composed of 27 experts from the private sector, 27 from the MS, and observers from organisations like the OECD and the UN.
- Works on implementaiton of the SEAP.



# Luxembourg Monitoring Committee

**SEE holds the Secretariat since 2025**

Recent developments:

- Technical session on ECBA Directive 12<sup>th</sup> February
- Ministerial level meeting 13<sup>th</sup> April
- Technical Session in June



## 3.2.2 Policy work

SEE builds a common voice **of the ecosystem at European level** through different **mechanisms** such as **contributions to public consultations** of the Commission, **coalitions** (Ambition Coalition for the MFF), **campaigns on specific topics** (ECBA Directive and DG Grow SE Unit), and **working groups** (Policy, Finance & Disability).

Key political files SEE is currently working on:

- **MFF**
- **Public Procurement**
- **GBER (State Aid)**
- **Mid-term review of the SEAP**

More info: <https://www.socialeconomy.eu.org/eu-policies/>

## 3.2.2 Policy work

### Key achievements of SEE:

- **2024 – EU elections**
  - ✓ Made sure a commissioner oversaw SE (Mînzatu)
  - ✓ Renewal of the SE intergroup in the European Parliament
- **2025 – Luxembourg Declaration Monitoring Committee (MS)**
  - ✓ SEE became secretariat, organising high-level meetings with members
- **2026 – Relaunch the ECBA in EC Workplan (MS)**
  - ✓ The ECBA was at risk of being abandoned, negotiations are relaunched

### Key challenges for the Social Economy:

- Ensure **SEAP is fully implemented** – SE stays a key EU priority
- **Attacks on NGOs & civil society** – weakened democracy
- **New EC priorities = defense & competitiveness** instead of social & environmental topics

# 4. Other Activities

## The European Social Economy Awards



Every 2 years

Last edition: September 2025  
(next in 2027)

Categories:

- ❖ Clean Energy
- ❖ SE Training
- ❖ Housing
- ❖ Local Government

# HOW CAN SEE HELP YOU?

- \_ By raising awareness and enabling frameworks for SE @ EU level
- \_ Be aware of EU hot topics -> important to develop Projects that link Grass roots to EU concerns
- \_ know what networks can support you & help you connect with partners for your project

# QUESTIONS?

## Contact:

[director@socialeconomy.eu.org](mailto:director@socialeconomy.eu.org)

[contact@socialeconomy.eu.org](mailto:contact@socialeconomy.eu.org)



## Website:

[www.socialeconomy.eu.org](http://www.socialeconomy.eu.org)

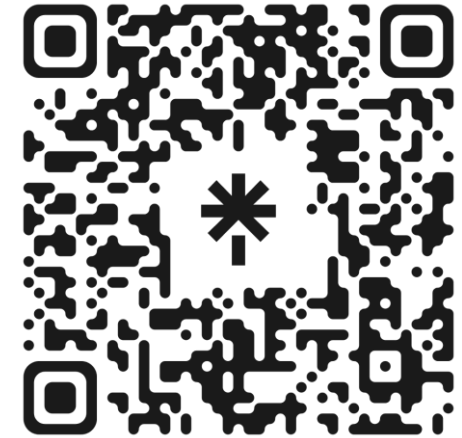


# THANK YOU



Do not hesitate  
to **follow us on**  
**Social Media!**

Sign up for our  
**newsletter**



Scan me 😊