



Presentation of the International Comparative Social Enterprise Models (ICSEM) Project

The ICSEM Project was launched in July 2013 under the auspices of the EMES International Research Network, at the end of the 4th EMES International Research Conference on Social Enterprise, which gathered 320 researchers from 40 countries at the University of Liege, Belgium. The main specific feature of the ICSEM Project is its geographic coverage: it aims to compare social enterprise models and their respective institutionalisation processes across the world. Therefore, it relies on the **participation of a large number of researchers from all regions**, who contribute country-specific or field-specific analysis of social enterprise models.

The ICSEM Project is jointly coordinated by Jacques Defourny (CES - University of Liege) and Marthe Nyssens (CIRTES – Catholic University of Louvain). It relies on strong conceptual and theoretical backgrounds as well as on methodological tools which are described in the full presentation of the Project, available on the Project's website: www.iap-socent.be/icsem-project.

1ST PHASE: IDENTIFICATION OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISE MODELS

A work plan (also available on-line) has been provided to all partners in order to prepare a first working paper (or several working papers) about social enterprises in their country. This first contribution is expected to deal with three major topics:

A. Understanding concepts and context

This first part deals with historical, contextual and conceptual issues about the emergence of social enterprise in the country.

B. Mapping social enterprise models

In each country, the objective is to provide detailed descriptions and to build typologies of social enterprise models as they have emerged and developed in different fields of activities and with various social missions.

C. Institutionalization processes of social enterprise models

The aim here is to capture both the ways in which social enterprises are influenced and constrained by institutional tone-givers, and the way in which they may be able themselves to impact institutional arrangements.

2ND PHASE: A WORLDWIDE TYPOLOGY OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISE MODELS

On the basis of a common questionnaire to be used in all countries, this second phase will result in a database on the social enterprise models identified by all partners of the ICSEM Project, in order to highlight SE models in an international perspective, to conduct comparative analysis across fields and regions and to build a strong and reliable worldwide typology of SE models.

INVOLVEMENT OF RESEARCH PARTNERS

Participation of interested researchers from all countries is welcome. So far (June 2014), **more than 220 researchers representing 50 countries from all world regions** have confirmed their commitment to act as **ICSEM Project Partners** and to make scientific contributions.

As to means to sustain such participation, the project relies mainly on participants' own resources and, if needed, on their own efforts to secure financial support, possibly with the coordinators' support to submit applications to local, national or international funding institutions.

Becoming a partner researcher of the ICSEM Project does not necessarily mean covering all social enterprise models in a country. A partner may focus on one or several geographical parts of the country, on some specific fields of activity and only on one of the two major parts of the Project. In such cases, collaboration among partners of a same country or at least discussions to make contributions as complementary as possible to each other will be encouraged.

ICSEM MEETINGS

All accepted working papers of the first wave will be presented and discussed at the "Eastern" ICSEM Symposium, to be held jointly with the 3th International Conference on Social Enterprise in Asia (ICSEA) at Yonsei University in Wonju (South Korea), July 4-6, 2014, and at the "Western" ICSEM Symposium, to be held in La Roche-en-Ardenne, October 9-10, 2014.

Other meetings are being planned in Latin America in May 2015 as well as in Helsinki, Finland, in early July 2015 (jointly with the 5th EMES International Conference on Social Enterprise).

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