

## Social Economy, the future of Europe

### European statute for cross-border associations and foundations: what are the opportunities?

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2022, (6 to 7.30 pm)

In-person: room Madrid 2

Online: [ZOOM Link](#)

### Agenda

**Keynote speaker: Herlinde Vanhooydonck**, advisor for the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee. Herlinde has a longstanding experience working with and for civil society organisations, including through her previous position as advisor for the Employment and Social Affairs Committee, as well as when she was working for Social Platform before joining Greens/EFA in the European Parliament.

**Moderator: Mathias Maucher** - Policy & Project Coordinator for Social Services Europe

#### Panel discussants:

- **Philea** : Hanna Surmatz, Legal Counsel for foundation law & Hanna Hanses, Junior Manager
- **CEDAG**: Mathieu de Poorter, President
- **Le Mouvement Associatif**: Martin Bobel, Advisor for Economic Social and Environmental Council (CESE, France)
- **Civil Society Europe**: Carlotta Besozzi, Coordinator

### About the workshop

Co-organized by [Philea](#), the European council of association of general interest ([CEDAG](#)), [Le Mouvement Associatif](#) and Social Service Europe ([SSE](#)), as part of the [Social Economy, the future of Europe](#) French EU Presidency event, this workshop provides space for discussion, reflection, and meaning-making of existing opportunities and barriers to the strengthening of non-profit organizations (NPOs) within the EU. This workshop is especially open to national organisations.

Given that, the [EP resolution of 17 February 2022](#):

- recognizes existing legal, social, and economic disparities between the Member States which make cross-border activities challenging and costly;
- emphasizes the contributions of NPOs to the strategic goals of the EU: climate change, social inclusion, digital transformation, as well as NPO's vital role in participatory democracy, civil dialogue and policy-making;

This panel strongly supports the EU-level recognition of the role of NPOs and acknowledges the current legislative gaps and their consequences on the transnational activities of associations. Through discussions and debates, this workshop will explore the practical and legal perspectives standing in this EP resolution for associations, as well as for philanthropic and other NPOs to:

- explore opportunities arising from this resolution;
- map out existing needs and barriers; and to,
- analyze different tools and approaches that would enable effective cross-border cooperation.