REPORT ON SCOPE 2 PARTNERS' MEETING IN PRAG 16TH – 19TH OCTOBER 2003
A few words about the project, the main components of the project, and the role of EFES

1. A FEW WORDS ABOUT SCOPE 2

Scope 2 is a project designed and promoted by CECOP, the European Confederation of Worker's Co-operatives, Social Co-operatives and Participative Enterprises[1], within the framework of a PHARE business support programme (BSP). It is due to last 24 months and costs 1,532,140 euros, 78% of which being dedicated to EU acquis transposition and promotion.

The main objectives of the project revolve around the four hereunder actions :

- Improving the general situation of cooperative and participative enterprises in the 10 acceding and candidate countries of Central and Eastern Europe within the framework of European integration
- Creating favourable conditions in the 10 countries for the establishment and development of cooperatives and participative enterprises within the framework of European integration, in four sectors of activity ; 1 manufacturing, 2 social services, 3 construction and public works, 4 tourism and culture
- Creating models of partnership and co-programming between the social economy and local authorities in the 10 countries
- Providing a stronger institutional presence of cooperative and participative enterprises from the 10 countries within tomorrow's EU

Accordingly, the implementation task lies with different managing groups.

Group 1.1 focuses on national legislation and policies

Group 1.2/1.3 covers enterprise development & standardisation

Group 1.4 on local development

Group 2/1.B ELDU[2] network and institution-building

Group 1.B on computerised communication and tuition (ICT group)

2. THE MAIN COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT

NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

Dealing with the identification, translation and dissemination of Community acquis[3] in the fields concerning the cooperative societies and the participative enterprises, this objective makes up the major input of the project.

NETWORK AND INSTITUTION BUILDING

This component seeks to encourage a better cooperation between organisations representing cooperative societies and participative enterprises both nationally and at European level but also to improve recognition of those organisations by the national authorities.

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

This strand will cover EU norms and standards on quality and certification with a view to strengthening the market position of cooperative and participative businesses in the EU internal market. Such classification systems as NACE and CPA will thereby be dealt with.
After defining the target groups in the concerned economic sectors, the programme will aim at enterprise start-up, enterprise development and enterprise transfer.
It will particularly provide help with e-commerce, sub-contracting, inter-EU cooperation, and EU procurement rules.
Assistance in enterprise development will materialize through actions such as:

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[1] www.cecop.org
[2] European Liaison and Development Units
[3] Set of standards, norms, and legislation produced by the EU bodies

- Training and analysis
- On-line training
- On the field training/advice
- Set-up of a virtual community with experts
- Best practice examples from Finland and Sweden

QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

There are several existing quality management systems according to the activity sector , for instance, BS80000 certifies Ethical Management Systems
The International Standard Organisation was set-up in 1947 and covers 147 countries.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

This strand focuses on identifying local authorities ready to commit themselves to the development of the social economy in the 10 beneficiary countries, and select a small number of pilot areas for a first experiment in co-programming between local government and social economy organisations, and partnership with a EU district.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

Designed by the technical partner Inforcoop, the web-based communication plat-form will consist of discussion forums built upon a differentiated access level protocol. Thus, some forums will be fully open whilst other remain restricted to a selected number of co-ordinators.

In addition, the web-site will comprise a multilingual on-line library that hosts Community acquis (Scope2 shared docs), and whose documents will be downloadable.

Co-ordinators will be able to upload documents.

As regards the communication system whose quality depends on connectivity, hardware (PC) and peripherals (webcam or speakers), it will constitute the main tool for the set-up of a virtual classroom.

3. THE ROLE OF EFES IN SCOPE 2

EFES together with its member CONFESAL (Spain) participates as a partner organisation to Work Package (WP) 1.1 on national legislation and policies, whereas some other members such as HEA (Hungary) and DEZAP (Slovenia) belong to WP 2/1.B on institution building.

In conjugation with EFES' particular responsibility as representative of the participative enterprise sector, we have submitted a dedicated project.

The project will be revolving around the 3 following strands :

1. **Identification of the main stakeholders in the field of participative enterprise**

   - Mobilisation of EFES members or contact persons

2. **Stock-taking and translation of Community acquis**

   - Inventory of the existing Community acquis in the field of employee financial participation
   - Inventory of the transposed Community acquis in the field of employee financial participation in the acceding and candidate countries
   - Dissemination of the acquis
   - Tutoring on access to EU funding

3. **National and local coalition building**

   - Identification of likely national partners for participative enterprises
   - Dialogue and partnership building between organisations of participative enterprises and other national organisations.
   - In the concerned countries, political lobbying geared towards candidates to EP election and the appointment of a national Commissioner
   - Contact details collection and elaboration of an electronic database
   - Exchange of experiences between western and eastern European partners in the project, on the application of Community acquis in participative enterprises (e.g. the labour limited companies (SAL) from Spain).