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## Comparative Analysis – State of Development of the Social Economy in the EU and in Romania

Florina Oana Virlanuta <sup>a\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>The Bucharest University of Economic Studies, 6 Piata Romana, 1st district, Bucharest, 010374 Romania

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### Abstract

The global economy has entered a new era, changing components of competitiveness and generating new sources of growth. Development of social economy involving all three key factors: smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Social economy enterprises are present in almost every sector of the economy, such as banking, insurance, agriculture, craft, various commercial services, and health and social services. Given the importance of this sector, we intend to achieve in this paper a blueprint for development of the social economy in the European Union and in Romania. Research methodology. Based on bibliographic documents social economy, we analyzed the social economy development stage, we identified characteristics and importance of this sector and we draw conclusions on the proposed research topic. Strategy research on this topic includes the following steps: Search and collect data using methods, techniques and tools for observation and investigation of reality; Preliminary analysis involving methods, techniques and tools for handling data, logical analysis and interpretation; Formulate hypotheses using construction methods statements and proposed solutions, provisionally, to be checked

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### 1. Introduction

Legislative concerns regarding the organization and development of social economy at the european level, existed, but only a few years ago, the social economy has emerged as part of the national economy as a whole

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\* Florina Oana Virlanuta. Tel.: +40 744 123 154  
E-mail address: [florinaoana27@yahoo.com](mailto:florinaoana27@yahoo.com)

In December 1989 the Commission adopted a Communication on "business in social economy sector". For several years up to 1998 various projects and activities were financed to promote the sector.

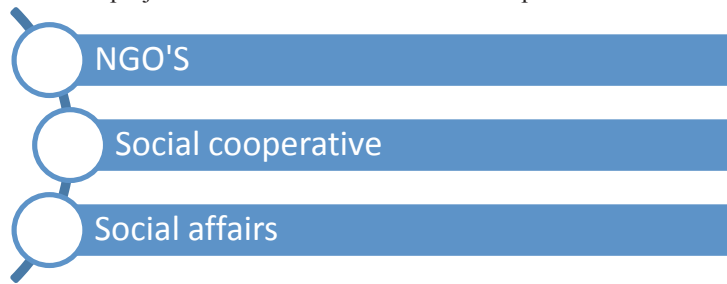


Figure 1 The most popular forms of organization of social economy Source:Made by the author

In 2000, the autonomous European Standing Conference (Conférence Européenne Permanente - CEP) of Co-operatives, Mutual societies, Associations and Foundations (CEP-CMAF) was created. Two representatives of the sector also have a seat on the Enterprise Policy Group. In 2008, the CEP-CMAF changed its name to Social Economy Europe. The European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of Regions have on several occasions pointed to the need for Community actions to take full account of the Social Economy's potential for economic growth, employment and citizen participation, Social economy enterprises benefit from Community programmes aimed at helping SMEs, such as the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme.

As SMEs, they also benefit from specially targeted regional development funds and research programmes. In order to promote this special form of entrepreneurship, the Commission finances various projects in areas such as examining and reviewing legislation, identifying and sharing good practices, and collecting statistical data.

In 1992 the Commission submitted three proposals to the Council:

- ◆ Proposal for a Council Regulation on the Statute for a European Cooperative Society
- ◆ Proposal for a Council Regulation on the Statute for a European Mutual (insurance society)
- ◆ Proposal for a Council Regulation on the Statute for a European Association

These three Regulations were accompanied by three similar Directives imposing the employees involvement in the decision making process of their European businesses.

In 2003 the Statute for a European Co-operative was adopted. The other two draft Regulations (and annexed Directives) were withdrawn in 2006 by the Commission due to lack of progress in the legislative process.

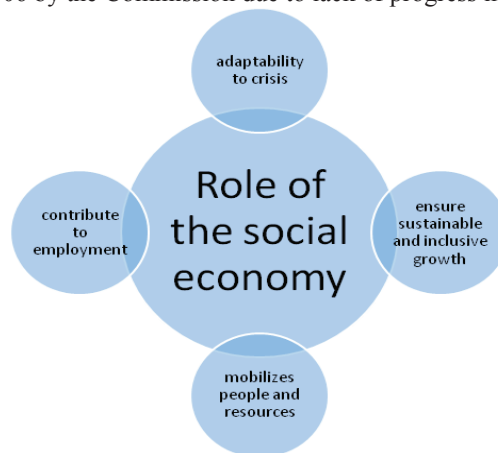


Figure 2 Role of the social economy Source:Made by the author

Social economy now enjoys for a special attention at the European level, there are multiple programs for funding and support the development of this sector.

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