

SOCIAL INNOVATION

OBSTACLES AND SOLUTIONS FOR BETTER SOCIAL OUTCOMES

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Eurodiaconia 

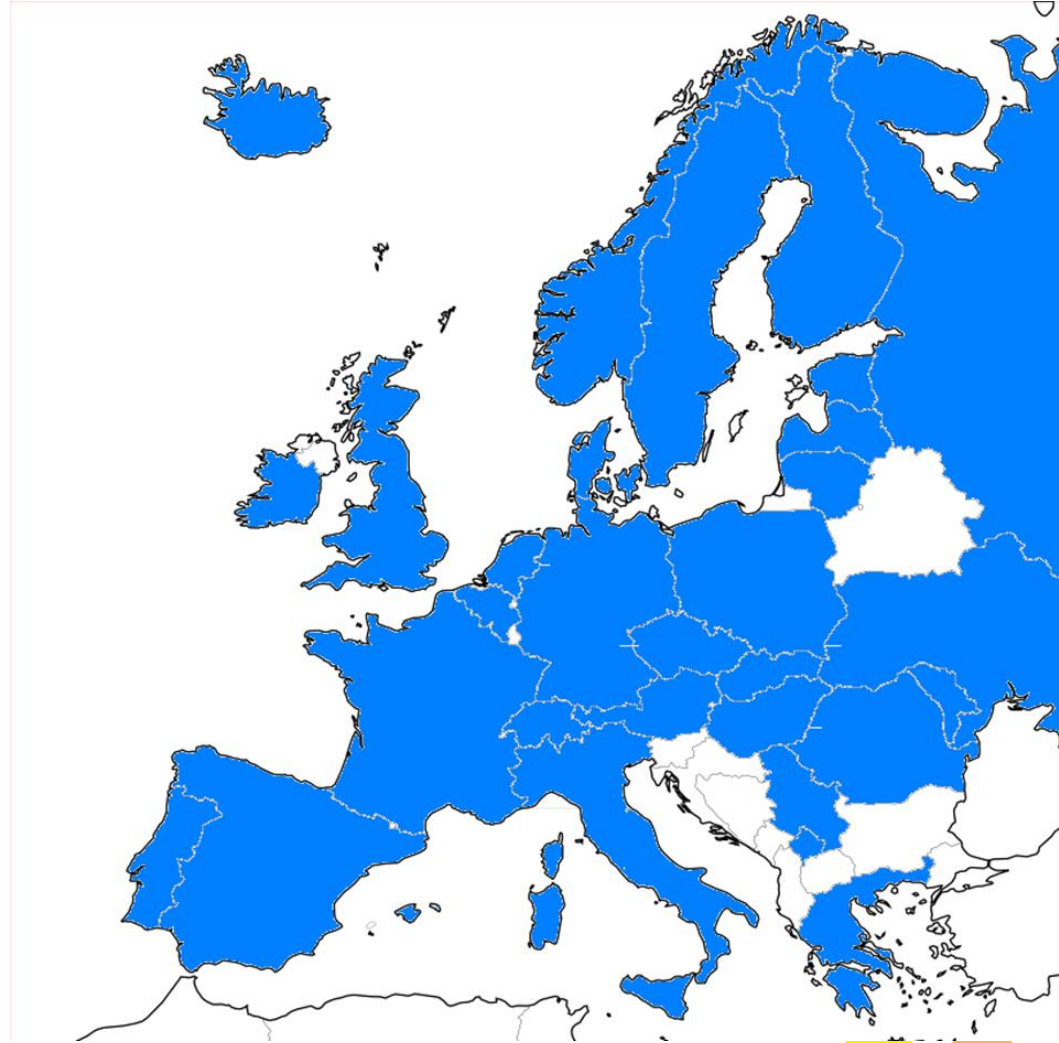
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Eurodiaconia is a federation of organisations, institutions and churches providing social and health services and education on a Christian value base throughout Europe. Eurodiaconia is registered as an AISBL in Belgium.

- Network of Christian-based social service providers and social justice actors
- 47 Members in 32 countries
- Member of EAPN



1 Defining social innovation

- Development of new responses to emerging or existing social needs
- Products, services, working methods..
- Boosting social inclusion, not cost-effectiveness
- Generating sustainable change
- Connecting stakeholders → including NGOs and service providers



2 Challenges

General external barriers (social inclusion)	Specific external barriers (social innovation)	Internal organisational barriers
Austerity measures	Lack of data on positive impact of social innovation	Limited staff capacity
Lack of (longer term) public funding	Fragmentation of stakeholders	Limited financial resources
Demographic pressure	Limited awareness of NGO/service provider potential	Rigid structures/bureaucracy



3 Responses

Key action	Example(s)
Evidence-based advocacy	<i>REDI Network, bridging gap between research and practice</i>
Improved funding opportunities	<i>Dedicated funding Longer term funding (esp. for evaluation and upscaling phase)</i>
Recognise potential of NGOs/service providers	<i>Connection of stakeholders Best practice exchange PR/media visibility</i>
Mainstream SI into organisational activities	<i>Dedicated innovation structures (Diakonie DU) Dedicated budget allocation (Kerk in Actie) Informal platforms for input & exchange</i>
Cross-sectoral approach	<i>Broad horizontal and vertical involvement Bottom-up approach: involvement of volunteers and users</i>



Thank you for your attention

