

EUROPEAN PRIZE



«For youth employment in the Social Economy»



PRESS RELEASE

Applications for the European Prize "For youth employment in the Social Economy" are invited from 15 March 2013!

Brussels, March 15, 2013. Within the framework of the European Year of Citizens 2013, the European Network of Foundations for Social Economy (PEFONDES) is launching the second edition of its European Prize "For youth employment in the Social Economy". Its purpose is to encourage innovative solutions at a Euro-Mediterranean-wide level aimed at combating the problem of youth unemployment. Therefore, this €5,000 Prize seeks to reward a young social economy enterprise, which was set up by young people and has created employment for young people in the European Union or in Morocco.

In the current context of economic crisis, youth unemployment continues to rise everywhere in Europe. This worrying trend had encouraged the European Network of Foundations for Social Economy to launch, in 2011, a European Prize throughout the European Union entitled "For youth employment in the Social Economy". Its goal is to identify and encourage exemplary entrepreneurial initiatives which can be deployed in other European countries as well. Today, PEFONDES gives a Euro-Mediterranean dimension to its action by launching the second edition of the European Prize, which seeks to reward a young social economy enterprise, which was set up by young people and has created employment for young people in the European Union or in Morocco.

The social economy: free association, democracy, solidarity, sharing and quality

The principles of the social economy are free association (the willingness to satisfy a need and to serve a useful purpose), the democratic sharing of power (enterprises in the social economy are comprised of joint members with equal rights and duties), solidarity within the group in

which each participant is involved, the individual non-aggregation of profit, the quality of the products and services and self-fulfilment for individuals (social economy enterprises clearly state that their end purpose is to serve the interests of man).

A €5,000 Prize to be awarded to a young social economy enterprise

This second edition of the European Prize is aimed at existing social economy enterprises initiated by young people and having generated jobs for young people. The application form can be downloaded from the www.pefondes.eu website from 15 March 2013 onwards, and must be returned by 15 May 2013 at the latest.

Comprised of international experts, the jury will be meeting in December 2013 to select a winning enterprise, which will receive a prize of €5,000.

The assessment criteria for the selection of the winning enterprise are as follows:

- The scope for the multiplication of the entrepreneurial initiative in other countries of the European Union and in Morocco
- The number, quality and longevity of the jobs created for young people
- The degree of social and/or technological innovation
- The level of compliance with the principles of the social economy
- The incorporation of environmental best practices within the enterprise
- The operational and financial capacity of the enterprise

About the European Network of Foundations for Social Economy

Founded in 1999, the European Network of Foundations for Social Economy (PEFONDES) brings together numerous foundations keen to bring about a process of social transformation within the European Union. Today, PEFONDES is developing new, cross-border synergy opportunities and encouraging social innovation, active citizenship and social entrepreneurship for young people. In 13 years, PEFONDES has carried out a number of projects supported by the European Commission covering the fields of intercultural dialogue and that of the economic and social integration of young people.

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