



European Network of Social Integration Enterprises

EPP - IO4

National recommendations – Belgium

The results of the different case studies and analyses held in the framework of this project show similarities between Austria, Belgium and Italy, countries where the WISEⁱ are more institutionalized, which, varying substantially in the models of integration through work, have greater historical tradition and stronger corporate organization. The models vary considerably between countries with some specificities of the Belgium model:

- Long social economy tradition. WISE bottom up in the 1980's. Militancy for social economy and work integration. High degree of organisation and recognition.
- 'Strong' Welfare State. Active Employment Policies/experimentation with organisations of social economy
- State tends to finance mainly wages of people in the integration process and coaches

Belgium is characterized by a framework where the WISE subsector is well established and the targets stakeholders for life-long learning activities are more the structure, development and acknowledge HR qualification and certification needs in the WISE subsector.

Considering the state of play of the work integration social enterprises (WISEs) in Belgium, where this type of enterprises is well supported by the public sector and a strong national framework, there is a need to:

1. **Improve the quality of the existing trainings, especially in communication and considering the specificities of the target group**
2. **Certify in a systematic way, the informal competencies acquired within WISEs according to the national quality framework** to facilitate the transition of workers from WISEs to traditional enterprises.

The results of the EPP project, especially, the state of the art of the WISEs sector in each country and the training packages on job coaching and social marketing are relevant tools to support both of these recommendations in Belgium.

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ⁱ Work Integration Social Enterprises (WISEs) are enterprises of which identifying principles are:

- *The social and professional integration of individuals who due to their exclusion and their relegation to a marginal role in society have fallen victim to increasing social and professional handicaps.*
- *Enterprises at the core of the economic system, frequently one of the major factors in the phenomenon of exclusion.*
- *Enterprises with a strong pedagogical dimension. The Work Integration Social Enterprises initiate training and educational programs designed on the basis of existing potential of the target group and develop this individual potential (at professional level and in its participation in society) within the enterprise*