

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION  
ON SOCIAL ECONOMY MATTERS ENTERED  
INTO BY AND BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF LABOUR, SOLIDARITY  
AND SOCIAL SECURITY OF THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC AND THE SECOND  
VICE-PRESIDENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND MINISTRY OF LABOUR  
AND SOCIAL ECONOMY OF THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN.**

The Government of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security of the Portuguese Republic and the Second Vice-Presidency of the Government and Ministry of Labour and Social Economy of the Kingdom of Spain, hereinafter referred to as "Signatories";

Whereas the relevance, for the strengthening of the social economy at regional, national and European level, of cooperation and sharing of experiences between different countries, namely those which, like Portugal and Spain, for geographical and historical reasons, share a common root and similar visions of the social economy sector;

Taking into account the Declaration of Intent for Cooperation signed on 16 December 2020 in Lisbon between the Minister of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security of the Portuguese Republic and the Minister of Labour and Social Economy of the Kingdom of Spain;

Bearing in mind the 2021-2022 Cooperation Activity Plan, between the services and agencies of the Governmental Area of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security of the Portuguese Republic, and their counterparts under the Ministry of Labour and Social Economy of the Kingdom of Spain;

Whereas the exchange of best practices and coordinated actions has proven to be of paramount importance for both countries, as evidenced in the long set of previous activity plans;

Whereas the 2021-2022 Activities Plan provides for five actions in the field of the social economy (Activities 20 to 24), namely:

- Promotion of cooperation between the governments of the two countries, involving the National Councils of Social Economy (*“Conselhos Nacionais de Economia Social”* - CNES);

- Exchange of information on the formulation of satellite accounts of the Social Economy in the two countries;
- Analysis and definition of common positions regarding the European Action Plan for the Social Economy;
- Promote, within the framework of the Ibero-American Summits, the development of joint proposals to promote the presence of the Social Economy;
- Hold an Iberian colloquium as part of the Network of Portuguese Cities - European Capital of Social Economy 2021.

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This Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation in the field of the Social Economy is hereby entered into, which shall be effective until 31 December 2022, with the aim of establishing guidelines for action in the field of the actions set out in the Activity Plan 2021-2022, without prejudice to others that may prove appropriate:

#### **First**

Within the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation, the lines of action to be developed shall be coordinated and promoted by the António Sérgio Cooperative for the Social Economy (*“Cooperativa António Sérgio para a Economia Social”* - CASES), a cooperative of public interest with limited liability, incorporated by the Portuguese State, with rights, obligations and public authority powers, which pursues the purposes and attributions of public service in the field of social economy and by the Directorate General for Autonomous Work, Social Economy and Corporate Social Responsibility (*“Direção Geral de Trabalho Autónomo, Economia Social e Responsabilidade Social das Empresas”* - DGTAESRSE), the management centre of the Ministry of Labour and Social Economy of the Kingdom of Spain.

#### **Second**

The following lines of action are established:

1. Promotion of cooperation between the governments of the two countries, involving the National Councils of Social Economy (*“Conselhos Nacionais de Economia Social”* - CNES)

Given the relevance of these advisory bodies of the Governments of both countries in the field of Social Economy and once Royal Decree 219/2001, of 2 March, has been updated on 24 March 2021, which enables the reactivation of the Council for the Promotion of the Social Economy of Spain, the signatories consider that this action should take place during 2022, as soon as the conditions are met.

This action should, in particular, enable the exchange of experiences regarding legislation with an impact on the Social Economy sector adopted in both countries; the measures aimed at the Social Economy under the recovery and resilience plans (RRP) of both countries and the European Action Plan for the Social Economy - expected to be presented by the European Commission in the fourth quarter of 2021 and the consequent debates aimed at taking convergent or common policy positions on Social Economy issues.

In this context, a professional exchange programme between Portugal and Spain shall be created, promoted by the CNES of both countries and managed in partnership by CASES and DGTAESRSE, aimed at Social Economy organisations involved in the development of the RRP and the European Action Plan for the Social Economy, as well as an annual Iberian award that distinguishes Social Economy organisations that stand out in the implementation of innovative measures and good execution of RRP funds.

## 2. Exchange of information on the formulation of Social Economy satellite accounts in the two countries

Meetings and exchange of information shall be promoted, inviting also the National Statistical Institutes, regarding, among other issues, the legal framework, construction/definition of universes, methodology, manuals used and sources of information, thus enhancing mutual learning and the possible realisation of a comparative study between the satellite accounts of the two countries.

## 3. Analysis and definition of common positions regarding the implementation of the European Action Plan for the Social Economy

Portugal and Spain have been concerting positions regarding the proposals and debates on the future European Action Plan for the Social Economy. In the context of the Portuguese Presidency of the Monitoring Committee of the Luxembourg Declaration throughout 2021 and the consequent nomination of the European Capital of the Social Economy 2021 under

the Portuguese Cities Network, which coincided in the first half of the year with the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, events were organised by the Government of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security, CASES and the Municipalities of the Network, which addressed and enabled the deepening of a common strategic vision regarding the future European Action Plan for the Social Economy.

This action shall, in 2022, after the launch of the Plan, be of a character of mutual support and exchange of experiences in order to best use and implement at national level the resources and activities foreseen in the future European Action Plan for the Social Economy. In this context, as referred in point 1, professional exchanges, promoted by the CNES and managed in partnership by CASES and DGTAESRSE, between entities from both countries involved in the implementation of the European Action Plan for the Social Economy are also foreseen.

4. Promote, within the framework of the Ibero-American Summits, the development of joint proposals to promote the presence of the Social Economy.
5. Hold an Iberian colloquium as part of the Network of Portuguese Cities - European Capital of Social Economy 2021

This action, which culminates with the signing of this Memorandum and which took the form of an Iberian Social Economy Summit, continues and deepens the cooperation relationship between the two countries in the field of Social Economy.

Other Iberian meetings in the field of the Social Economy, on themes relevant to the time, should be held whenever the two parties deem it relevant, establishing on a permanent basis the holding of the biannual Iberian Social Economy Summit, to be held in odd years, preferably in cross-border territories and converging with the Common Strategy for Cross-Border Development.

### **Third**

The monitoring of actions shall take place through two annual meetings, in person or remotely, preferably in January and July, to take stock of the situation and set the schedule for activities not yet carried out.

#### **Fourth**

This Memorandum may be extended at the end of its term for a period of two years, continuing some of the lines of action contemplated in the second section or including new activities, subject to the express agreement of the signatories.

This Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation is not legally binding and is not subject to international law.

Signed at Coimbra, on 8 September 2021, in Portuguese and Spanish, both versions being equally valid.