

ACTIVITY REPORT

2025



Elisabeth Diaz
President



Isabelle Van de Gejuchte
Director

2025 was a year of consolidation and renewed ambition for CEC. During the year, the network strengthened cooperation among its members, participated in EU-funded projects, and reinforced its presence in European policy discussions on social inclusion and employment.

This report presents the main activities carried out throughout the year, including projects, advocacy actions, member meetings, and communication initiatives that contributed to strengthening the CEC network. We have strengthened our internal cooperation, deepened dialogue among members, and enhanced our presence at European level, while remaining firmly rooted in the realities of the communities we serve. The richness and diversity of our network remain our greatest strength, reflecting a broad range of experiences, expertise, and locally grounded action across Europe.

We would like to sincerely thank all our members for their dedication, professionalism, and ongoing contribution to our shared mission. The progress we have achieved is the result of this collective effort. As we look ahead, we would very much value continuing to build our strategy together, drawing on the vision, experience, and engagement of all members. By further nurturing collaboration, mutual trust, and shared responsibility within our network, we are confident that we will continue to strengthen our voice and expand our impact in building a more inclusive and cohesive Europe.

CEC'S PRESENTATION AND OBJECTIVES	....	04
OUR METHODOLOGY	.....	05
CEC'S GOVERNANCE	.....	06
OUR BOARD	.....	06
OUR SECRETARIAT	.....	07
OUR AREAS OF WORK	.....	08
MEMBERS	.....	09
CEC ACTIVITIES	.....	13
PROJECTS	.....	13
EU ADVOCACY	.....	15
SEMINARS	.....	16
MEETINGS AMONG CEC MEMBERS	.....	18
STUDY VISITS	.....	20
COMMUNICATION	.....	21
NEW MEMBER	.....	22
CEC PERSPECTIVES IN 2026	.....	23

CEC PRESENTATION AND OBJECTIVES



CEC – Acting for Social Inclusion is a Brussels-based European network of national and regional organisations working to support the social and professional integration of people facing barriers to employment.

OUR NETWORK

- 1,600 local organisations across Europe
- Including integration services, schools, training centres, social enterprises, and residential services
- Supporting over 100,000 young people and adults

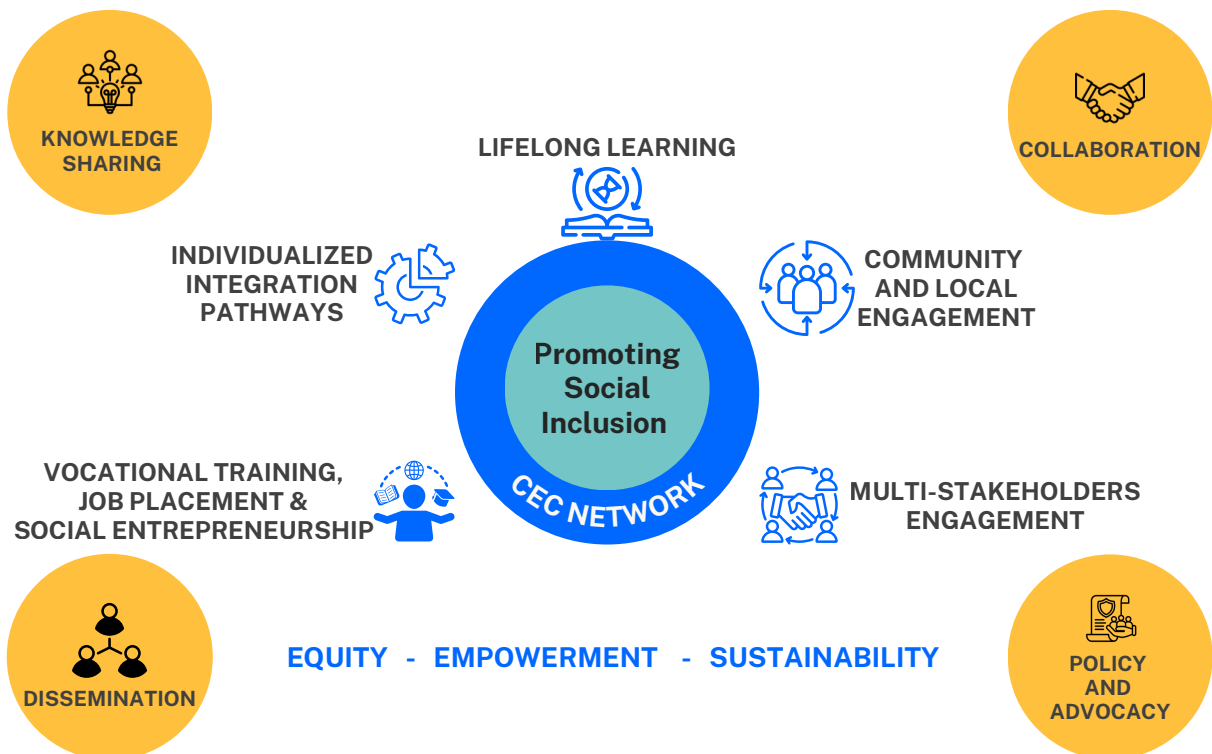
WHAT WE DO

- Help people develop the skills needed to access and remain in the labour market
- Provide pathways to employment through training, workplace experience, rehabilitation, and long-term support
- Promote cooperation, knowledge exchange, and European projects among members
- Contribute to European policy discussions and advocate for inclusive employment and stronger social cohesion



OUR METHODOLOGY

CEC fosters partnerships with European institutions, public authorities, companies, and civil society, supporting innovation and disseminating successful approaches. Its methodology is based on equity, empowerment, and sustainability, encouraging collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and participatory dialogue through events and strategic partnerships to advance social inclusion across Europe.



CEC'S GOVERNANCE

OUR BOARD

CEC governance is ensured by a Board composed of representatives from member organisations, supported by a permanent secretariat based in Brussels.



Elisabeth Diaz

President
Fundació Trinijove



William Ameri

Board member
AGFE



Rita Festi

Board member
Scuola Centrale
Formazione



Spyros Amoranitis

Board member
IRFAM



Lucie Durocher

Board member
UNESSA



Benjamin Pierson

Board member
AID

OUR BOARD



Paolo Cesana
Board member
Fondazione Luigi Clerici



Maria-Anna Paraskeva
Board member
Retired EU senior official



Patrick Torre
Board member
Sud Concept

OUR SECRETARIAT



Isabelle Van de Gejuchte
Director



Tanya Matheus
Administrative and Communication Assistant

OUR AREAS OF WORK

CEC activities are structured around several core areas of work that support the network's mission to promote social inclusion and employment integration across Europe.



Facilitation of
member
exchanges



Promotion of
members'
initiatives



Monitoring EU
policies and
funding
opportunities



Representation
and liaison with
European
Commission
departments



European-level
advocacy



Build
partnerships for
EU projects



Contribution to
public debate

MEMBERS

Members of the CEC network are actively engaged in a wide range of social inclusion initiatives. Some focus on specific marginalised groups, including immigrants, refugees, homeless individuals, and unemployed or unqualified youth.



AGFE (Association for the Management of European Funds)

AGFE acts as an Intermediate Body for the ESF+ on behalf of the Ministry of Labour and local authorities, co-financing Local Plans for Integration and Employment in several French territories.

AID (Integrated Development Actions)

AID Integrated Development Actions is a network of 27 associations in Wallonia and Brussels delivering locally rooted socio-professional integration projects.



BARKA

Barka Foundation supports the reintegration of excluded groups through mutual help, education, and entrepreneurship across several countries.

MEMBERS

EPI CENTAR

EPI CENTAR has 20+ years of experience in development work in North Macedonia and the Western Balkans supporting economic growth and rural communities.



FONDAZIONE LUIGI CLERICI

Luigi Clerici Foundation operates around 30 branches across several Italian regions, providing education, vocational training, and employment support services.

IRFAM (Institute for Research, Training and Action on Migration)

IRFAM is a training and research institute linking practice and research on integration and anti-discrimination.



MÉDIALYS

Médialys is a social integration enterprise employing people far from the labour market within Lyon's public transport network.

MEMBERS

MEK (MESOGEIAKO)

MEK is a licensed lifelong learning and vocational training provider active since 2002 in Greece.



SCF (Scuola Centrale Formazione)

Scuola Centrale Formazione is a national non-profit training network in Italy uniting 51 members across 13 regions.

SUD CONCEPT

Sud Concept Cooperative is a consultancy based in Corsica specialising in employment, training, and integration.



MEMBERS



FUNDACIÓ TRINIJOVE

Based in Barcelona, Fundació Trinijove promotes social and economic inclusion through integrated training and employment programmes for vulnerable groups.

TTB (TECHNICAL TRAINING BULGARIA)

Technical Training Bulgaria provides vocational training and consultancy services in EU project development from Sofia since 2009.



UNESSA FEDERATION

UNESSA represents 547 non-profit organisations active in care, health, and social support across Wallonia and Brussels.



In April 2025, the EU-funded REWIND project (Relaunching Enterprises through Workers' Innovation and New Dynamics) concluded. The initiative supported business transfers to employees under cooperative models by developing innovative educational tools, interactive resources, and a dedicated training platform.

The REWIND Platform provides training modules, multimedia materials and collaborative spaces to enhance users' capacity to manage and support worker-led business transfers.

The project's final seminar, held in Brussels on 8 April 2025 and organised by CEC in collaboration with the European Economic and Social Committee, gathered experts and policymakers to present results and discuss Worker Buyouts (WBOs) as a resilient and inclusive economic model.

A key conclusion was that **legal barriers, limited financing, and low awareness still hinder the wider adoption of WBOs in the EU**. However, Italy's strong track record shows that WBOs can ensure high business survival rates and protect jobs. In the face of ageing populations and increasing business succession challenges, Worker Buyouts represent a sustainable solution—if workers receive proper training, empowerment, and institutional support.

CEC ACTIVITIES

PROJECTS



In November 2025, the CEC joined a European consortium led by AGFE and began participating in the Erasmus+-funded Gest'UP project. The project aims to improve the employability of people distant from the labour market by recognising and valuing practical skills acquired in real work situations.

Gest'UP is based on an innovative approach that combines professional gestures, modular micro-training, and micro-certifications, helping to overcome barriers to access to training and offering more flexible and inclusive pathways to labour-market integration.

Gest'UP is implemented by a European consortium composed of AGFE (France, coordinator), UNESSA (Belgium), CEC (Belgium), ALIE (France – La Réunion), and Academia Postal 3 Vigo (Spain).

The CEC is responsible for developing and coordinating the project's strategic dissemination plan, leading the drafting of policy recommendations to support an enabling ecosystem for social enterprises, and organising the final conference in Brussels in 2028.

In 2025, the CEC joined the EUFunds4Social Coalition to help ensure that the EU budget aligns with the EU's social objectives. Together with other European networks, it contributed to several joint statements advocating for a strong and effective ESF+, including calls to preserve its key success factors and to ensure adequate social spending in future EU budgets.

The CEC also supported a campaign for an inclusive Quality Jobs Roadmap, highlighting persistent labour market inequalities, particularly for workers with support needs. All joint statements were formally addressed to Members of the European Parliament and EU Ministers responsible for budgetary and social affairs.

In December 2025, Elisabeth Diaz and Isabelle Van de Gejuchte met with representatives of the European Parliament and DG EMPL to present the work of CEC members and explore how the network could contribute to the EU social agenda.

CEC'S participation in the ALForum JUNE 2025



The Anna Lindh Forum in Tirana brought together nearly 900 participants from across the Mediterranean, including civil society organisations, academic institutions, artists, youth leaders, media, and policymakers.

The CEC's director, Isabelle Van de Gejuchte took part in a panel discussion focused on the power of bottom-up initiatives to foster regional cooperation. It was a powerful reminder of the role that culture and civic engagement play in building trust and understanding across borders.

CEC'S participation in the EZA SEMINAR 24-26 NOVEMBER 2025



The CEC contributed to the EZA seminar “Health and Safety at Work: Changes in the Digital Age,” organised by Fondazione Luigi Clerici in Milan.

CEC members Fundació Trinijove and Technical Training Bulgaria participated in a panel discussion on the role of vocational training institutions in occupational health and safety in the digital age, where they shared good practices and innovative experiences from across Europe.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY & MEMBERS' MEETING (Hybrid) 14-15 MAY

In May 2025, the CEC held its Annual General Assembly in Sofia, hosted by its member Technical Training Bulgaria. The event provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen ties among members, exchange ideas, and define next steps for the CEC network.



MEMBERS' MEETING (Hybrid) 24 NOVEMBER

On 24 November, the CEC organised its second members' meeting of the year, hosted by Fondazione Luigi Clerici. The interactive discussion focused on the CEC's future strategic orientation and highlighted the importance of strengthening advocacy at EU level, particularly in support of investment in skills, social inclusion, and human capital.

WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

In 2025, the CEC Working Group on EU European Projects continued its activities, offering members a structured platform for exchanging ideas and developing partnerships. The group convenes online once a month to progress project proposals and to share updates.

STUDY VISITS



In June 2025, Isabelle Van de Gejuchte, Director of the CEC, participated in a study visit to Poznań organised by the Barka Foundation, alongside UK organisations providing support services to people experiencing homelessness. The programme included visits to Barka's community centres, which deliver reintegration programmes for people experiencing homelessness. It also featured testimonies from community members, who shared their personal journeys towards reintegration and recovery.

In October 2025, Elisabeth Diaz, President of the CEC, visited Ankara, Türkiye, to promote the CEC internationally and explore new strategic partnerships. She met with the National Center for the Sea and Maritime Law (DEHUKAM), which is active in marine sustainability and innovation, and reached preliminary agreements to explore collaboration, especially for future Horizon Europe calls.

In 2025, the CEC website was completely redesigned, featuring a dynamic layout, a new visual identity, and updated colours, making the network's message clearer and more accessible. The site is now regularly updated with articles on the activities of the CEC and its members, as well as European news, in order to continuously reflect the network's dynamism.

The CEC strengthened its communication strategy by expanding its presence on Facebook and LinkedIn and publishing four newsletter editions. These efforts promoted its projects, reinforced member engagement, and increased the visibility of social inclusion at the European level.



momentum

[educate + innovate]

Starting on 1 January 2026, CEC is pleased to welcome Momentum as a new member of the network. Momentum is an Irish organisation with over 20 years of experience in social inclusion and community development. Based in rural north-west Ireland, Momentum works with disadvantaged groups, developing programmes in inclusive education, citizen participation, social innovation, and accessible communication, in collaboration with migrants, women, young people distant from the labour market, and rural communities.

For 2026, the CEC will focus on active participation in EU projects, including the delivery of Gest'UP and EU project and involvement in new project consortia.

Engagement in EU projects will remain central to advocacy, visibility, and cross-border collaboration.

Strengthening EU advocacy will continue through collaboration with the EU Funds for Social Coalition, securing sustained support for social projects during the 2028–2034 EU budget negotiations, and engaging with policymakers to promote best practice exchanges and institutional collaboration.

Visibility will be further enhanced through the CEC's website, newsletters, social media channels, and a new digital strategy.

Finally, the CEC will seek to expand its network in countries where its representation remains limited, in order to provide members with new opportunities for project participation, partnerships, and advocacy for social inclusion.



CEEC

ACTING FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION

Chaussée de Boondael, 6
1050 Brussels
Belgium

cecasbl.org
info@cecasbl.org

