

NEWS RELEASE

Euclid Network
1 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1NU
And
Social Innovation Exchange
18 Victoria Park Square, London E2 9PF

Contact: Filippo Addarii, filippo.addarii@euclidnetwork.eu, 020 7280 4979

Results of a new social innovation competition indicate great potential for civil society to address social issues

27th September 2010- Ten projects tackling social problems across Europe were last week revealed as the winners of the first European social innovation competition. 'This is European Social Innovation' is a new initiative coordinated by Euclid Network and Social Innovation Exchange in partnership with the European Commission and the Bilbao Social Innovation Park. It was launched to identify best practice examples of social innovation, and over one hundred applications from twenty-three countries were received.

The ten winning projects, which range from a programme combatting the lack of legal identities in Roma communities, to a French inner city "cargocycle" transportation initiative, will now be showcased in a European Commission publication on social innovation, and used as case studies in the Commission's innovation agenda. The coordinators of each project will also receive an invitation to an innovation workshop at the Social Innovation Park in Bilbao.

The selected projects are:

Aconchego Program, *Porto Social Foundation*, Portugal

Ageing Well, *Siel Bleu*, France

Connected Care, *Turning Point*, UK

Copenhagen Honey Cooperative, *København Byhonning Kooperation*, Denmark

Digital Pioneers Fund and Academy, *Kennisland*, The Netherlands

Dreams Academy, Turkey

ELTERN-AG, Germany

La Petite Reine, France

Roma Legal Rights, *Vrancea County Council*, Romania

Vitaever, *Nethical Innovating Healthcare*, Italy

The jury also gave special mention to two further projects, which do not fulfil the criteria as they have not yet been completed, but showed great potential and innovation:

Hiriko, *DenokInn*, Spain

Social Investment Bond, *Social Finance*, UK

Geoff Mulgan, Director of the Young Foundation, and a member of the 8 person jury that selected the winning projects, said,

"Europe has great traditions of social innovation - but in recent years innovation has often been talked about as if it's only for scientists and technologists. This initiative was designed to showcase a selection of current examples of radical innovation taking place below the

radar across Europe - to help people understand what social innovation is and why it matters so much to a continent facing urgent challenges of ageing, jobs and climate change.”

Rosa Gallego, Chair of Asociación Española de Fundaciones, described why supporting social innovation is so important,

“Innovation is key for development in any sector or activity in life. The world we live in faces a number of challenges too big and important for the current structures to solve them. We need people, institutions and government to innovate, to find new ways of solving today’s social population.”

Simona Paravani, Global Strategy Chief Investment Officer for Wealth at HSBC, said of the competition,

"The breadth, depth and potential of the projects is just unbelievable."

As the response to the initiative has demonstrated, there is no shortage of social innovation in Europe. However there are still huge improvements to be made in supporting, developing and raising awareness of the wide ranging innovative solutions with which we can address society’s problems. Socially focussed initiatives must be highlighted within the wider field of innovation.

Notes to Editors:

Reports of all the projects are available to view here:

<http://www.euclidnetwork.eu/pages/en/this-is-european-social-innovation.html>

The jury was composed of:

Stephen Bubb, Chair, [Social Investment Business](#) and CEO, [ACEVO](#)

Alain Coheur, Director, [Social Economy Europe](#)

Peter Dröll, Head of the [Innovation Policy Development Unit](#), European Commission

Geoff Mulgan, Director, [Young Foundation](#)

Simona Paravani, Global Strategy Chief Investment Officer for Wealth, [HSBC Global Asset Management](#)

Diogo Vasconcelos, Chair, [SIX](#) and Distinguished Fellow, [CISCO](#)

Rosa Gallego, Chair, [Asociación Española de Fundaciones](#) and Chair, [DAFNE](#)

Ewa Konczal, Representative, [Ashoka Poland](#)

[Euclid Network](#) is the European network of civil society leaders. Founded in 2007 it currently has over 300 members across the region.

[Social Innovation Exchange](#) is a global community of over 700 individuals and organisations, committed to promoting social innovation and growing the capacity of the field.

The [European Commission’s](#) Innovation Policy Development Unit is in the Enterprise and Industry Department. Through this Unit, the Commission is dedicated to promoting Europe’s innovativeness, to encourage stronger and more sustainable industries.

The [DenokInn](#) Social Innovation Park in Bilbao is an industrial space for developing social enterprises, which aims to become a ‘social Silicon Valley’.