From a project-based EU thematic network
to a worldwide leading
EMES International Research Network

Jacques Defourny
MAJOR STEPS IN EMES HISTORY

1996-2000 (Prehistory): EMES as a EUROPEAN THEMATIC NETWORK

- EMES Project 1996-99 (DG Research - 4th Framework Programme)
- 15 researchers from the 15 member states (JD as coordinator)
- Meetings in various EU cities every 6 months, with field visits
- E. Pezzini (CECOP) as an administrative and organizational assistant
- Publication of the book « The Emergence of Social Enterprise » (2001), Limited audience as the book was not available in paperback before 2004
- International Colloquium around the book in Trento (2001)
- High level of mutual trust, strong team spirit and willingness to continue
MAJOR STEPS (2)

2001-2004 (Formalization): the EMES EUROPEAN RESEARCH NETWORK

- **PERSE Project** (DG Research – 5th FP) as a key driver
- 12 researchers and M. Nyssens as a coordinator (2001-2004)
- Preparation of a 2d EMES major book: *Social Enterprise (2006)* on WISEs

- Other EU Projects: Elexies, Child Care, Third System and Employment

- **April 20, 2002**: EMES set up as a not-for-profit organization under Belgian law: « EMES European Network- Réseau Européen EMES asbl » located at CES, University of Liege (JD as president)

- Cera Foundation and Fondazione Cariplo as first sponsors

- 2004: **Rocio Nogales** hired as a part-time coordination assistant

- Increasing interest at Social Economy European Conferences (Prague 2002, Opening lecture in Krakow 2004)
MAJOR STEPS (3)

2005-2009 (Consolidation): How to live without major research projects

- No new major EU Project in spite of several attempts
- Fast increasing international interest in both EMES seminal books
- **Major financial support** from the French-speaking Community of Belgium: 50 000 euro/year over the period 2005-2009
- **Coordination Unit**: Rocio hired as a full-time coordinator (moved to Madrid in 2007), Sophie Adam as a part-time editorial assistant

NEW MAJOR ACTIVITIES

- **EMES-ISTR European Conferences** in Paris (2005) and Barcelona (2008)
- Members’ Seminar in Barcelona (2006) → joint paper most quoted in SEJ
- Minor research projects involving a few EMES members only (ex. with UNDP)

Two strategic decisions:
- **1st EMES PhD Summer School** in Corte, Corsica (2008)
- **1st EMES International Research Conference on Social Enterprise** (Trento, 2009)
Training programs in more than 12 European universities

Two EMES International PhD Summer Schools (Corsica 2008, Roskilde 2010, Trento 2012)

EMES PhD Student Network (economics and management) with a student-led blog

Participants of the 1st EMES International PhD Summer School (Corsica, France, 3-7 July 2008)
EMES MEMBERSHIP

CENTER MEMBERS (11):

(BE) CES - Centre d’Economie Sociale, HEC-Université de Liège
(BE) CERISIS - Centre de Recherches Interdisciplinaires pour la Solidarité et l’Innovation Sociale, UCL
(DK) CSE - Centre for Social Entrepreneurship, Roskilde University
(ES) CIES - Centro de Investigación de Economía y Sociedad, Barcelona
(FR) CRIDA - Centre de Recherche et d’Information sur la Démocratie et l’Autonomie, Paris
(GB) CRU - Co-operatives Research Unit, The Open University, Milton Keynes
(IE) Centre for Co-operative Studies, University College Cork
(IT) EURICSE – European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises, Trento University
(NO) Social Research Institute, Oslo
(PT) CESIS - Centro de Estudos para a Intervenção Social, Lisbon
(SE) Södertörns högskola, Huddinge

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS (10) :

(DE) Karl BIRKHÖLZER, Tech-Net Berlin
(DE) Adalbert EVERS, Universität Justus Liebig, Giessen
(FI) Pekka PÄTTINIEMI, KSL Civic Association for Adult Learning
(FR) Laurent GARDIN, Université de Valenciennes/LISE
(FR) Jean-Louis LAVILLE, CNAM/LISE, Paris
(FR) Vincent LHUILLIER, Ecole de Santé Publique, Université Henri Poincaré
(NL) Taco BRANDSEN, Radboud University Nijmegen
(PT) Ewa LEŚ, Polish Academy of Sciences
(SE) Victor PESTOFF, Institute for Civil Society Studies, Ersta-Sköndal University College
Coordination of international projects:

- The Childcare Project, on childcare services in Europe (2001-2004).
- The ELEXIES Project, on social integration enterprises in Europe (2002-2003).
- Study on Promoting the Role of Social Enterprises in the CEE and CIS (2006-2008).
- WISEs as tools for promoting inclusion (2007-2009).
- Emergence of social enterprise in Eastern Asia (2008-2011).
- Local welfare systems favoring social cohesion, WILCO (2010-2012).
- RECOSET (2010-2012).
MAJOR STEPS (4)

2010- 2015 (Globalization): From Europe to the World

- **Lars Hulgard as president** (Summer School and Conference in Roskilde)
- Significant financial support from a **Danish Foundation**

- Various collaborations and partnerships in Latin America (RILESS), Eastern Asia (joint conferences in Taiwan, 2010 and South Korea 2014) and Eastern Europe (including through EURICSE). Joint events with Polanyi Institute.

- 4th EMES Conference in Liege (2013): registration fees left to EMES
- **ICSEM Project** launched in July 2013 (more than 200 research partners)

- **New members from all regions, new name and new bylaws** in 2015: **EMES International Research Network**

- **Coordination Unit: Rocío** as a **managing director**, with assistance from
  - **Sabine** Spada (accounting and financial matters)
  - **Jenny** Eschweiler as **service provider** to EMES-related EU research projects: valorization-dissemination activities (ex: for WILCO Project led by Taco 2010-2014, and the Third Sector Impact Project 2014-2017)
  - **Sophie** Adam hired as an ICSEM coordination assistant
ICSEM Meeting, 2014
MAJOR STEPS (5)

2016 - 2018 (Stabilisation): EMES as a GLOBAL SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

- **Marthe Nyssens as president** (and organizer of the 6th EMES Conference)
- Fees of the EMES Conference left to EMES (around 100 000 euro)

- **ICSEM Project**: towards 3 major books to be published by Routledge
  (Sophie as an 2/3 time editorial assistant, supported by one Belgian
  and two French foundations until 2020)

- **COST Action EMPOWER-SE**: "Empowering the next generation of SE scholars" 2017-2021. Significant financial support from the Bernheim Foundation for the coordination.

- Overall annual budget: from 170 000 euro to 240 000 euro
  to be compared to an annual budget of 90 000-130 000 euro until 2010

- **In search of a new, more stable, economic model**: structural support to be combined with research projects, membership fees, conference fees and other resources.