



# INAISE

International Association of  
Investors in the Social Economy

## INAISE CHARTER

### Preamble

Economic activity remains one of the fundamental aspects of all human societies, alongside political and cultural activity. Ideally the Economy should serve the needs of all parts of society.

Human needs, rather than wants, do not exist only when they can be a business opportunity for the market. The general short termism of the market has to be subordinated to a longer term perspective where the impact of economic activities on the environment, society and cultural life is taken into consideration. The economy has to contribute to the development of society as a whole.

Growth does not automatically produce development. While enterprise is generally considered to be positive, it can also bring social, environmental and cultural issues in its wake. We can have an economic activity that generates growth in financial terms but when it also means destruction of the environment or human heritage or when it favours a minority to the detriment of a majority, this growth cannot be called development. The negatives outweigh the positives.

We absolutely need to work to allow people, communities, populations and future generations to benefit from development. But, we need to run our business activity in a more ethical and socially responsible way. We need to make our economic activities more socially sustainable. Accordingly, finance must stop being the speculation, domination and personal wealth accumulation lever that it has become. We need to re introduce exchange, cooperation, and reciprocity links in the use of money so that it benefits all people not just the few.

This is what lies at the heart of our organisations. This awareness of common values and shared views; the will to reinforce our capacity to intervene with pertinence and efficiency in our communities and the urgent need to act at a global level, motivate us to regroup within INAISE to create a global social and solidarity finance network.

### INAISE – its principles

- ▶ To make sense with money and accordingly to give value to the respect of the person and the environment, while being inspired by the social and solidarity ethic.

- ▶ To believe that access to credit is an essential means to development which many do not have access to. This consideration and sensitivity must be the unifying thread of ethical and social finance organisations.
- ▶ Social, cultural and ecological entrepreneurs need finance organisations who understand them and who respond adequately to their needs.
- ▶ Social and solidarity finance is not based on the maximisation of economic profit but on societal return.
- ▶ This kind of finance is often linked to the locality in which it works and therefore it is a privileged partner of local development projects to create jobs and improve the living conditions in that area.
- ▶ Social finance supports the movement of transforming the dominant economic model currently centred on self interest and over materialization of life and the belief in the absolute effectiveness of the markets.

Members of INAISE are finance organisations which invest in undertakings of an ethical, ecological, cultural, collective and self-managing nature, across cultures and genders, including fair access to finance, sustainable support of the developing world, and in favour of the social economy generally. In the conduct of their own affairs and their approach to money they also organise themselves in such a way as to develop working practices which are supportive of the promotion of social investments

## **INAISE – its values**

The following values underpin the work of INAISE and its members:

### **Transparency**

We act as a lens through which our depositors and investors can see clearly into the work of our borrowers, investees and other customers or portfolio members, knowing where their money is working.

### **Trust**

We seek to build trust both among members of the network and in every facet of our work and to be responsible in the way we work.

### **Justice**

All of our work is directed toward a commitment to fair and equal access to finance, to opportunity and responsibility for social, economic, cultural, ethical and ecological life.

### **Excellence**

We have a commitment to excellence in all we do. We recognise that the people and customers we work with have a right to expect excellence and that we have a responsibility to deliver it.

### **Sustainability**

We wish to develop financial and operational resilience both within the network and our members and amongst those people and communities that we work with to ensure that those who wish to access our services can be certain of doing so.

### **Cooperation**

Although we work in the competitive environment of finance, we seek to work in a cooperative, rather than a competitive manner with our partners and stakeholders, seeking the primary good of the final beneficiary as a first business priority.

### **Democracy**

Confident in collective action, we believe in the contribution and the efficiency of social and collective entrepreneurship in reaching the goals we share.

We consider the world, our societies, communities, and organisations as projects that we need to build together starting from the right of each individual to be the actor of his personal and collective future.

### **Locally grounded**

We are in many cases closely linked to communities and local initiatives and contribute to their development.

### **INAISE – its mission**

INAISE's mission is to lead the development of a thriving and sustainable global social banking and finance sector through capacity, policy, and capital formation development and outreach by aligning capital with social, economic, cultural, and ecological uses often in marginalised or underserved communities throughout the world

#### **To fulfill this mission, INAISE objectives are:**

- ▶ to encourage and support international (including North-South and East-West) co-operation between investors in the social economy;
- ▶ to serve as an information desk for organisations and individuals interested in the field of social economy financing;
- ▶ to disseminate information on its members, new publications, conferences and training courses;
- ▶ to organise and facilitate international conferences;
- ▶ to contribute to and to stimulate research projects in the field of social economy financing, in partnership with its members;
- ▶ to facilitate and co-ordinate joint projects and working groups by its members.

### **INAISE – its vision**

INAISE's vision is of a world with a higher level of long term societal responsibility in the handling of capital, and where greater access to capital and supporting services enables people, communities and organisations within the social economy to develop and transform their impact and activities in the knowledge that finance is available from social investors who wish to use their money for wider benefit than just personal profit

INAISE brings together organisations from all parts of the world, at a crossroad of commitment and innovation. With its members, INAISE contributes to the recognition of the distinctive richness of social finance and its capacity to support a development respectful of people and planet.

Together with its members, INAISE want to help reinforcing the global capacity to support progressive, innovative and responsible initiatives, enterprises, communities and associations for a more open, fair, sustainable and more social economy.

## CONCLUSION

Through this charter, members of INAISE want to make known and recognized the values defining their common identity and which guide their action. Being part of a network, the signatories of this charter want to contribute to a global movement of transformation of the way the economy serves the human being and to reinforce their individual action while keeping their own identity which makes their richness. The signatories of the charter engage with the network to enhance its development and respect and apply the terms of the charter.

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