

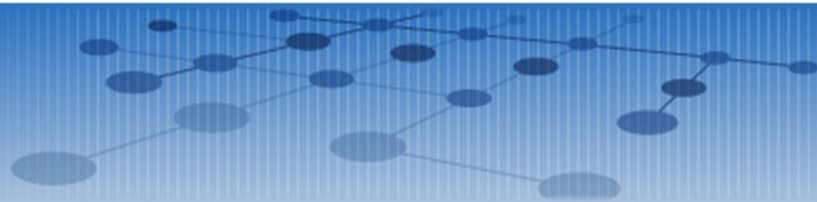
THE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

“A network of people actively involved in opening up entrepreneurship to all parts of society”



COPIE'S ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLANS – THE COPIE TOOLKIT

Stephanie Koenen, COPIE EU Expert
Berlin, April 16, 2012

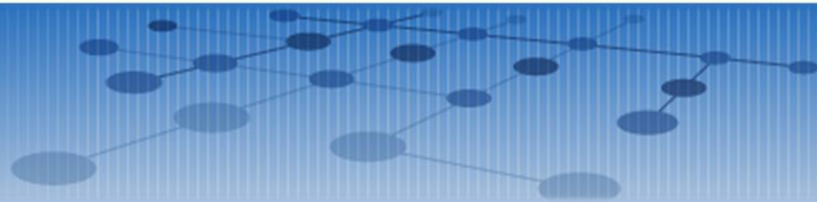


The policy context

'Self-employment is 'an important driver of entrepreneurship and job creation and thus contributes to the European Union's goals of more growth and better jobs' (European Employment Observatory 2010).

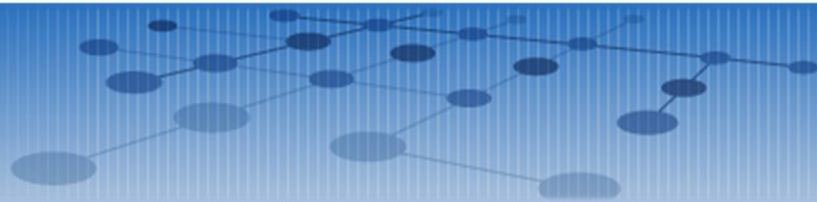
Inclusive entrepreneurship policy as a means to

- promote employment and supporting labour mobility (EU CSF Thematic Objective 8);
- promote social inclusion and combat poverty (EU CSF Thematic Objective 9).



Key facts about COPIE

- ESF Learning Network; approved by DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion in April 2009
- Common goal: **Transformation of the policy environment so that entrepreneurship becomes a natural choice for people from all walks of life**
- Builds upon experience of the EU Community Initiative EQUAL and the results of a COPIE pilot initiative from 2006 – 2008
- 10 national and regional partners across Europe



The COPIE partners

Lead partner: **Germany**, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Core partners: **Asturias** (Spain) Regional Ministry of Industry and Employment,
since May 2011: Regional Ministry of Economy and Employment

Czech Republic Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Flanders (Belgium) ESF Agency of Flanders

Spain Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

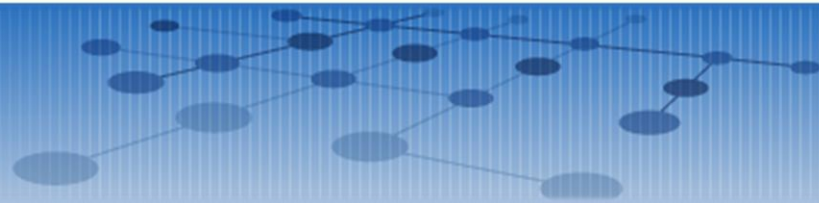
Partners: **Andalucía** (Spain) Regional Ministry of Employment

Extremadura (Spain) Regional Ministry of Equality and Employment

Galicia (Spain), Regional Ministry of Economy and Industry (BIC Galicia),
Regional Ministry of Labour, Regional Ministry of Treasure

Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour

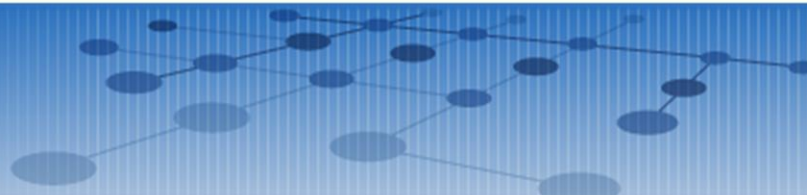
Wallonia (Belgium), ESF Agency French-Speaking Belgium



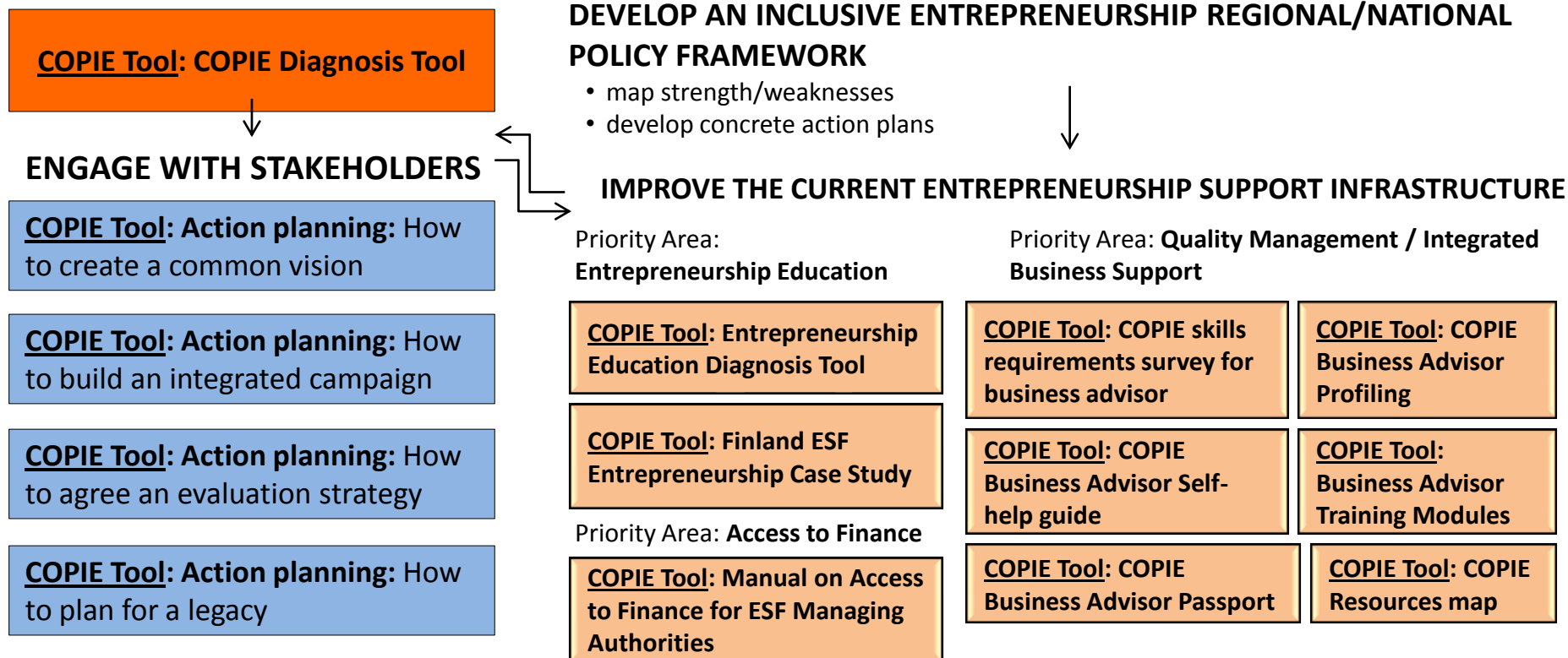
The result:

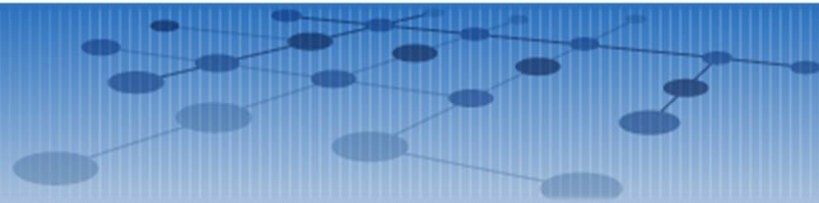
A COPIE Toolkit for Inclusive Entrepreneurship

- Stage 1: Application of **diagnostic tool** to map the strengths and weaknesses of existing regional or national entrepreneurship structures.
- Stage 2: Design of inclusive entrepreneurship policies by using a **joint action planning methodology** which promotes active stakeholder engagement.
- Step 3: Implementation of effective **support interventions** in key priority areas of entrepreneurship support. These include:
- entrepreneurship education;
 - quality management for start-up and business advice;
 - integrated business support;
 - access to finance.



The COPIE Toolkit in detail





Areas of implementation / further interest

COPIE European Tool

18 geographic locations across Europe since 2007

Action Planning

Flanders, Wallonia, Asturias and the Czech Republic; *additional member: Germany*

Quality Management

Germany, Galicia, Extremadura, Andalusia, Spain; *additional partners: Rhineland-Palatinate, Region of Brandenburg*

Access to Finance

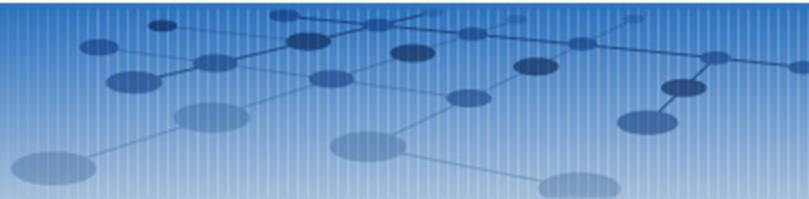
Czech Republic, Germany, Flanders, Lithuania and Spain; *additional partners: European Microfinance Network (EMN), Calabria, Latvia, Lombardy, Sardinia, Greece, Basilicata*

Enterprise Education

Spain and Flanders; *additional partners: Finland, Lower Saxony*

Integrated Business Support

Asturias, Galicia, Czech Republic ; *additional partners: Kaunas region*



The benefits



Filip Kučera,
Ministry of Labour and
Social Affairs of the
Czech Republic

"COPIE provides a great opportunity to share knowledge and experience within the crucial area of inclusive entrepreneurship, thus facilitating efforts to ensure efficiency and a sustainable impact of the ESF."



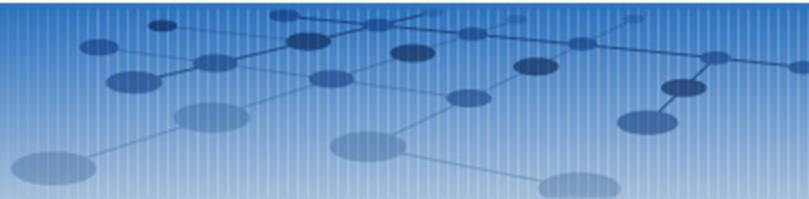
Joeri Colson,
ESF Agency Flanders

"Being member of COPIE provides you extra knowhow on how to tackle social exclusion."



Noemi Iglesias Rodriguez,
Business Innovation Centre Galicia

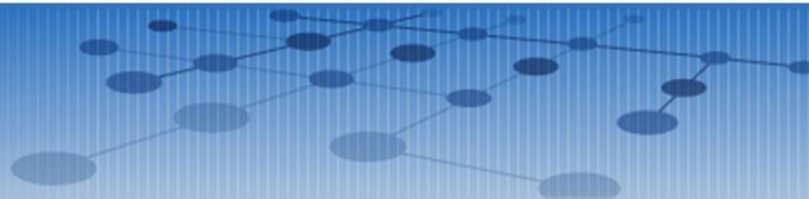
"The exchange of best practices between European regions opens the opportunity of facing the socio-economic downturn in a new way, leading to innovative solutions, especially for those who are on the most vulnerable side of the crisis."



In summary..

The COPIE Toolkit is of specific relevance for member states and regions when addressing **entrepreneurship, business creation and self-employment as policy options** to promote employment and social inclusion in their National Reform Plans, and the ESF and ERDF OPs.

This is with the perspective of making better use of ESF/ERDF in the current OPs, and of using the dedicated investment priorities in the new Structural Funds programmes.



More details on the individual tools will now be provided by the COPIE partners and experts in the different breakout sessions.

**For more information on COPIE,
please visit www.cop-ie.eu**