

# Workshop CSR

## Ius Commune Conference 2015

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Friday, 27 November (09.00 – 12.00)

Building: Poortgebouw

Room: Kleine Vergaderzaal (DV7 00.46)

### Participants

**Theme**            **Tailor-made Legal Frameworks for Social Enterprises**

Social enterprises are new business organisations whose main objective is to have a social impact rather than to make a profit for the shareholders. As entrepreneurial entities they operate in commercial markets and showcase innovativeness in achieving social objectives in a profitable way. Simultaneously, they employ open, responsible and participatory practices to involve employees, consumers and stakeholders in decision-making activities.

European institutions and national governments of EU member states progressively accept that social enterprises are important economic operators that provide sustainable and innovative solutions to social and environmental challenges, e.g. to alleviate the problem of unemployment and/or to provide alternative types of production and consumption. The European Commission acknowledged in its *“Social Business Initiative Communication”* the urgency to support social enterprises in Europe. The Communication also addressed the necessity to develop appropriate European legal forms which could be used by social enterprises in Europe.

On a national level, various EU member states have institutionalised and regulated the concept of social entrepreneurship in national legislation. Among the various EU member states there are countries which have successfully introduced tailor-made legal forms for social enterprises, e.g. in the UK, the *“Community Interest Company”*; in Belgium, the *“Vennootschap met Sociaal Oogmerk”*; and in Greece, the *“Social Cooperative Enterprise”*.

The purpose of this CSR workshop is to build awareness and a comprehensive understanding of tailor-made legal models for social enterprises in Europe. The presenters will provide legal, academic and practical insights into the concept of social enterprises as well as in regard of the implementation of tailor-made legislation on a national level. The discussion will generate a forum for legal researchers to exchange ideas and knowledge on the topic of legislation applicable to social enterprises, and will conclude with formulating new research questions.

*Please note:* The indicated timeframes below include 10 minutes discussion per subject. Presenters should prepare a presentation of maximum 15 minutes. This does not apply to the key note speaker.

- Chairs:** **Prof.Dr. Tineke Lambooy LL.M.** (Utrecht University and Nyenrode Business University) and **Dr. Robert Helder LL.M.** (Utrecht University)
- 09.00 – 09.10 *Introduction by the Chairs*
- 09.10 – 09.50 **Stijn De Jonge** (Belgian Social Entrepreneur - Managing Director of CORE CVBA-SO)
- 09.50 – 10.15 **Aikaterini Argyrou LL.M.** (PhD student, Utrecht and Nyenrode Business University) and **G. Nieuwenhuijzen Kruseman** (Research Assistant, master student Utrecht University)  
*Legal framework for the Vennootschap met Sociaal Oogmerk (VSO) [Company with Social Purpose] (Belgium). The implementation of the Belgium VSO legislation in the organizational model of social enterprises in three different sectors, i.e. the energy sector, the finance sector, and the social housing sector (on the basis of 3 case studies)*
- 10.15 – 10.40 **David Cabrelli LL.B.** (Senior Lecturer in Commercial and Corporate Law, Edinburgh Faculty of Law)  
*The legal framework of the Community Interest Company (United Kingdom)*
- 10.40 – 11.00 Coffee Break
- 11.00 – 11.25 **Prof.Dr. Tineke Lambooy LL.M.** (Utrecht University and Nyenrode Business University)  
*Case study re legal form and governance aspects of the social enterprise 'Dopper' (Netherlands)*
- 11.25 – 11.50 **Dr. Robert Helder LL.M.** (Utrecht University)  
*Recent EU Commission Studies on Domestic Legislation for Social Enterprises*
- 11.50 – 12.00 Closing remarks and plenary discussion