



Cities for Active Inclusion

Social Economy in Cities: Lille-Roubaix

**EUROCITIES NETWORK
OF LOCAL AUTHORITY
OBSERVATORIES ON
ACTIVE INCLUSION**

EUROCITIES-NLAO

The EUROCIITIES Network of Local Authority Observatories on Active Inclusion (EUROCITIES-NLAO) is a dynamic network of ten European cities - Barcelona, Birmingham, Bologna, Brno, Copenhagen, Cracow, Lille Métropole - Roubaix, Rotterdam, Sofia and Stockholm - each with a Local Authority Observatory (LAO) within its administration. Their aim is to share information, promote mutual learning and carry out research on the implementation of the active inclusion strategies at the local level.

The ten observatories are coordinated by EUROCIITIES, the network of major cities in Europe, and supported through Inclusive Cities for Europe, a partnership between the European Commission (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion) and EUROCIITIES.

EUROCITIES-NLAO website: www.eurocities-nlao.eu

1. Introduction: social inclusion policy at city level

1.1 Lille Urban Community and Roubaix Town

The Lille Urban Community (LMCU) in northern France is the country's fourth largest urban community in terms of population, after Paris, Lyon and Marseille. With some 1.09 million inhabitants, Lille Urban Community consists of its capital city, Lille, as well as 85 towns and villages. It is part of the Nord Department of France, and part of the Nord Pas de Calais region, which has a population of 4.02 million people. Lille Urban Community shares 84 kilometres of border with Belgium and forms part of a cross-border Euroregion of 1.8 million inhabitants.

The Lille Urban Community deals with a variety of tasks including public transport, maintenance of roads, management of waste, economic development, cultural and sports facilities and providing support for major events.

The overall socio-economic situation of the Lille Urban Community is close to the average for France, and is somewhat better than the overall average situation for the Nord Pas de Calais region. However, this hides great disparities between the numerous towns and villages within the Lille Urban Community. For example, in the area to the north of the city of Lille, the towns of Roubaix, Tourcoing and Wattrelos, as well as the Valley de la Lys, are experiencing significantly worse socio-economic conditions than the average.

This study therefore focuses on Roubaix, one of the towns in the Lille Urban Community experiencing major problems of social exclusion.

Roubaix Town has some 98,000 inhabitants. Comparisons between the demographics of Roubaix and the average demographics for the whole of the Lille Urban Community indicate some of the reasons why active inclusion is a major challenge in the town (see Annex 2).

Figures from the French national institute of statistics and economic studies (INSEE) show that Roubaix has a very high rate of unemployment: almost 30% are unemployed and 30% of households live on social security benefits. The average per capita income is also very low in Roubaix, at only €9,257 compared with an average of €20,150 for the whole of the Lille Urban Community (2008 figures).

Roubaix has a particularly high youth unemployment rate: 45% of the town's 15 to 25 year olds are unemployed. Also, a quarter of families are single-parent families. The level of qualifications is significantly lower than the national average. In addition, there is a high level of social housing, with many people living in private rented accommodation that is poorly maintained. In 2009 alone, Roubaix's social services had to take action some 3,000 times to address the issue of the poor standards in private rented housing. A large proportion of the people living in Roubaix therefore have a high risk of social exclusion.

1.2 Organisation of social inclusion policies

Social inclusion policy in France is based on three pillars:

- Social security policy;
- Employment policy; and
- Social cohesion policy.

These three pillars are the responsibility of three levels of governance:

- **Social security policy: Department level:** Social security policy is the responsibility of the 100 Departments in France and includes policies for health care, family help, the elderly and the guaranteed minimum welfare payment (RMI). (Roubaix is in the Nord Department);
- **Employment policies: State level:** Employment policy is the responsibility of the state, specifically France's Ministry of Employment, and includes the policy of active inclusion through employment;
- **Social cohesion policy: Town Council level and State level:** Social cohesion policy is the joint responsibility of the Town Council and the State, through a contract between the Town Council and France's inter-Ministry Social Cohesion Policy office. Social cohesion policy is specifically aimed at helping people who live in underprivileged areas.

1.3 Implementing social inclusion policies at Town Council level

Like other town councils, Roubaix Town Council implements social inclusion policies through a number of services and facilities as follows:

- **Roubaix Community Social Action Centre (Le Centre Communal d'Action Sociale):** The town's Community Social Action Centre coordinates and organises, with its partners, the town's social action services.
 - **Statutory financial payments:** The Community Social Action Centre handles applications for all the statutory financial payments awarded as a result of state legislation or Nord Department legislation. These include applications by older people and disabled people for social security benefits, as well as applications for the guaranteed minimum welfare payment (RMI).
 - **Discretionary financial payments:** The Community Social Action Centre manages the discretionary funding awarded by the General Council of the Nord Department to pay for social inclusion initiatives to prevent social exclusion in Roubaix. It also manages any financial benefits granted on an occasional basis to people suffering from hardship.
- **Roubaix Employment Directorate (Direction Emploi de la Ville de Roubaix):** The town's employment directorate deals with employment policies for the town by focusing on two organisations:
 - **Roubaix Mission Locale Centre:** The town's Mission Locale Centre provides services to help young people no longer in the education system. It provides information, guidance and advice to young people aged between 16 and 25 to resolve all the problems linked with their social and employment integration.
 - **Roubaix Employment Centre (Maison de l'emploi (MIE):** The town's Employment Centre is focused on all aspects of employment in Roubaix. Its roles include:
 - Analysing employment requirements in the area;

- Guiding jobseekers towards the most suitable jobs;
 - Providing technical help and training to support business start-ups and business development; and
 - Offering a unique hub where organisations involved in training and setting up companies are brought together to create and deliver innovative services.
- **The Social Cohesion Project and the Urban Contract for Social Cohesion:** The Social Cohesion Project manages the urban contract for social cohesion which is an agreement between the state and the town councils. This contract commits both parties to implement jointly-agreed initiatives to improve the daily life of the population living in deprived areas. The initiatives are designed to tackle problems such as unemployment, violence, and poor accommodation.

The urban contract for social cohesion ensures that Roubaix Town Council can undertake a variety of initiatives to help underprivileged people in Roubaix: 70% of Roubaix Town is benefitting from this agreement. The contract covers both the structural measures developed by Roubaix Town Council, as well as the specific initiatives undertaken locally by different organisations. It is therefore important for Roubaix's social cohesion project managers to coordinate all the various initiatives and ensure they are consistent, regardless of who is implementing them. A local project management team is assigned to each area of Roubaix, to lead the social inclusion activities in that area. This makes it possible to coordinate all the local players, to ensure an integrated approach covering:

- Housing and lifestyle;
- Citizenship and preventing crime;
- Employment;
- Education;
- Health.

1.4 The main priorities for social integration in Roubaix

The main policy priorities for achieving social integration in Roubaix are:

- Ensuring the education of children and teenagers at risk of social exclusion;
- Developing businesses in order to support job creation and make it easier for people to find work;
- Preventing criminal behaviour;
- Favouring citizenship;
- Improving housing conditions.

The largest group of people at risk of long-term exclusion in Roubaix are young people. They find it very difficult to get work, and they have to live on the statutory minimum income.

There are also two new categories of people who are at risk of social exclusion in Roubaix. Firstly, people in regular employment with dependents; and secondly, older people in regular employment. There are 1.3 million people in these two categories in France (INSEE 2009), and their numbers are likely to increase in Roubaix. They often work part time and only earn the minimum wage. They therefore often experience financial problems, especially those who are single-parent families with dependent children, or those who are living alone.

1.5 The importance of the social economy in Lille Urban Community (see annex 3)

Since the 1960s, the social economy in the Lille Urban Community has been an integral part of policies designed to fight poverty in the area. However, the effectiveness of social economy organisations has been called into question many times in different research reports, due to their lack of impact in providing long-term employment. On the other hand, the social economy does have a real impact on social cohesion by employing the most underprivileged in suitable jobs, even if only on a short-term basis. For each job-seeker, the work is tailored to meet their needs, and productivity and profitability are less important than for a normal job. This type of work represents a vital interim stage enabling the long-term unemployed to reintegrate into the primary job market on a gradual basis.

In July 2010, the Lille Urban Community adopted an action plan to develop programmes favouring the development of the social economy. In Roubaix, there are already many social economy organisations and they play a genuine role in the town. Figures show that in the wider Roubaix-Tourcoing area there are some 1,018 social economy companies employing local people; and in the Roubaix, Tourcoing and Valley de la Lys area, the social economy has a total of about 13,000 employees. (This larger area has 421,512 inhabitants and is 185 km²).

Example of a social enterprise in Roubaix: ICEO Roubaix

ICEO Roubaix is a not-for-profit social enterprise operating in Roubaix. The organisation provides work and on-the-job training for the long-term unemployed, in fields such as urban cleaning, industrial cleaning, industrial estate services, building, car park surveillance and secretarial services. The organisation was awarded the cleaning contract for Roubaix Town, following an integration agreement with the Town Council. At any one time, ICEO Roubaix employs 200 staff, and some 175 long-term unemployed people. Every year, the organisation provides work experience and training to about 400 people on its integration programmes.

1.6 The importance of the social economy in helping socially excluded people in Roubaix

In June 2010, the Lille Urban Community set up a thinktank to ensure synergy between urban community planning and local social integration initiatives. The thinktank has developed proposals for an effective urban plan for Lille Urban Community that will help to promote the social economy. An important aspect of this is a commitment to encourage integration initiatives by companies subsidised by the state, to help people overcome their problems and to move into employment.

In September 2010, in line with the urban contract for social cohesion, Roubaix Town Council adopted a working plan for an active integration project. This defines a training and advisory programme for people who are at risk of social exclusion. Long-term job-seekers will be provided with basic educational knowledge, business theory and individual advice. This programme will start in 2011. Grants will be allocated to not-for-profit organisations to develop this type of integration programme.

Above all the social economy in Roubaix helps by providing a significant number of placements for socially excluded people, in a town where the overall unemployment rate is close to 30%.

A further point is that the social economy embodies humanist values, and social economy stakeholders gradually move towards these new values. This includes embracing an economic model that supports the virtues of sustainable development, and also includes working effectively with the market economy while adhering to these values. Social economy players are able to innovate and have the flexibility to adapt to the needs of the underprivileged.

2. Social economy trends

The Lille Urban Community does not receive funding from the national government to implement social action, and therefore has no financial power to support the social economy. However, the Urban Community's 2010 thinktank (mentioned above) was set up specifically to provide strategic advice on broad policy ideas and direction for the social economy in its area.

Roubaix Town Council is fully committed to a policy of supporting the social economy in the town. Specifically, Roubaix is committed to providing:

- **Financial support for not-for-profit organisations:** Financial support from the Town Council can include operational grants and loans to secure offices or other premises. Currently, Roubaix Town Council provides funding to approximately 300 not-for-profit organisations.
- **Budget allocation:** Budgets are set aside specifically for not-for-profit organisations that lead to programmes providing services such as: social assistance, careers advice, support with accessing benefit entitlement, accommodation search, and food provision.
- **Reserved contracts:** A number of Town Council contracts are reserved for social integration organisations, including intermediary not-for-profit organisations, social integration programmes, and social integration employers.

Roubaix's proactive social economy policy also has the full support of the Council's directorates, coordinated by Roubaix's Community Social Action Centre.

Apart from these specific support measures for the social economy, Roubaix has also a few other measures in place to promote active inclusion via the intermediary labour market:

- **A mandatory integration clause:** For businesses awarded public sector procurement contracts with Roubaix Town Council, their contracts include a social integration clause requiring mandatory employment of jobseekers¹.

The integration clause enables public sector buyers to oblige the companies awarded contracts to allocate some of the working hours generated by the contract to people seeking integration or reintegration into employment. This can be a predetermined number of working hours or a predetermined percentage of the contract's working hours. It is a condition of accepting the contract and must be followed through.

In order to meet their integration obligations, public sector contractors can choose between: directly taking on workers, sub-contracting, working jointly with an integration organisation (SIAE), or employing job seekers provided by an SIAE.

- The Town Council has also decided to put in place a programme enabling jobseekers with qualifications to sign an employment contract with the council

¹ With the procurement contract code 2001 (articles 14, 30, 53 and 54), public contracts become a way to integrate people with no access to employment. With procurement contracts, local authorities can promote employment in their area. Indeed, during the launch of a procurement contract, for example, for important building or alteration works that require hire of workers, public authorities include in their requirements a social "integration clause" which makes it clear that the company winning the contract will have to hire job seekers.

Within the urban renovation initiatives, an integration clause is required by the Urban Renovation National Agency (ANRU) to include a minimum of 5% job-seeker workers.

Article 14 of the procurement contract code aims to give a legal structure to social integration clauses:

- social integration clauses can define social integration as mandatory when carrying out the contract (not just a selection conditions).

- the aim is to promote employment of disadvantaged people
- a proportion of working hours is to be allocated to disadvantaged people
- carrying out the conditions must not have a discriminatory effect on potential contractors.

while benefiting from a training course to prepare them to sit the Civil Service Managers open competition examinations.

2.1 The size of the social economy

In 2008, the French national statistical and economic research institute (INSEE) produced a report on the size of the social economy in the Lille Urban Community (LMCU) which indicates the likely size of the social economy in the area. According to the report, there were 8,983 social economy organisations in the Lille Urban Community, which provided work for approximately 50,000 people, working either as staff or as jobseekers in work placements.

The report showed that in Roubaix Town there were 2,671 social economy organisations. 88% of these were not-for-profit non-governmental organisations (NGOs). However, only 1,018 actually employed people. The remaining 1,653 organisations worked with volunteers. In Roubaix, social economy jobs provide work for approximately 14,000 people in total.

In addition to providing work for job seekers and volunteers, the social economy plays an important role in providing public services in Roubaix, including social work, children's leisure, sport, and educational back-up: all of which promote active inclusion.

2.2 Active integration in Lille Urban Community and Roubaix

Active integration, meaning integration through work and then integration through employment², has been used for many decades to help socially excluded people in the Lille Urban Community and specifically in Roubaix. During the late 1960s and the 1970s, active integration mainly focused on helping people with social problems and/or psycho-social difficulties, working being the means to help them reintegrate into society.

However, at the end of the 1970s, with the lack of qualifications among young people and the increase in unemployment, a new trend emerged for active integration initiatives. This was based on policies to fight unemployment. Continuous social guidance and a training component formed an integral part of this new trend in active integration.

Both trends currently exist both in Roubaix and throughout the whole Lille Urban Community conurbation: work is seen as an important element in social integration and in solving social problems as well as being a necessary step to finding regular employment.

Even though the phrase 'active integration' is little used in France, active integration is nevertheless widely implemented throughout the country, with these three areas of focus: a minimum income; tailored employment; and social follow-up. These correspond to the three pillars of social inclusion policy mentioned earlier: social security policy; employment policy; and social cohesion policy.

² Integration through work began in 1965 with the development of informal workshops. Then, from 1970, this continued with the creation of social companies related to reception and social rehabilitation centres (CHRS). (The term rehabilitation was replaced by reintegration). These companies did not aim to reintegrate by employment, but to increase people's self-sufficiency through work, either in a sustainable way, in a protected context, or as a possible transition to the labour market. Reintegration by employment aims specifically to integrate people into the labour market.

For example, the local plan for integration and employment (PLIE) provides a policy tool which is used in municipalities across France. In Roubaix, this local plan provides poorly-qualified and financially underprivileged people with personalised guidance and training programmes that can lead to employment in the long term.

Organisations in the social economy sector, particularly the not-for-profit organisations, benefit from financial help to fund the wages of underprivileged people and play a very important role in the active integration programme in Roubaix.

The issue of the quality of the social economy services in the field of active inclusion is difficult to assess, partly because this approach runs counter to the volunteer ethos.

2.3 Quality standards for active integration

Quality obligations have been in place since January 2002 (Law 2002-2). This forced buildings to which the general public are admitted for health services and home care to meet certain standards. Organisations are also obliged to arrange quality assessments by service users.

Statutory quality standards

The law focuses on the following four main aspects in terms of quality standards for social services and medical services.

Users rights and freedoms: This includes affirming and promoting the rights of the beneficiaries and their families; ensuring service users' understand their rights by having a better **information** and defining the particular rights and liberties for users of social services and medical services.

Improved access: This includes a number of priorities: broadening the social action initiatives and the medico-social initiatives ,diversifying the intervention work of the organisations and services concerned; providing the main social and medico-social action services; and emphasising the two principles that must guide the activities: respect for the dignity of every individual; and the right to fair access throughout the local area.

Improved project management: This includes improving the technical procedures for managing the programme; reinforcing the governance and cooperation of decision-makers and players; and having a more transparent process of the relationships between the different organisations.

Internal and external assessment: private and public company in social and medical services must submit procedures for assessing all the departments and third-party service-providers involved in active integration. All these organisations must carry out a self-assessment process every five years and be externally assessed every seven years.

When social businesses receive funding, either from the state or from town councils, they are usually subjected to the requirement to exercise due diligence, so that they endeavour to ensure the quality of, for example, their premises and their qualified personnel. But few results-based criteria are used to check the quality of their activities. One of the reasons is that it is far more difficult to measure social development than to measure the number of people given jobs.

Roubaix Town Council is currently negotiating a charter for not-for-profit organisations. This will provide an ethical framework and define the common obligations shared by the not-for-profit organisations and Roubaix Town Council. To help the Council assess the quality of their service providers, all not-for-profit organisations providing services in Roubaix are required to provide the following information:

- The qualifications of the not-for-profit organisation's staff.
- The quality of the programmes as assessed by the service beneficiaries.
- Results achieved for the beneficiaries compared with the organisation's objectives.
- Number of beneficiaries.

3. The challenges for Roubaix Council and Lille Urban Community

3.1 Maintaining social services despite state budget cuts

In France, the state's public services are currently being reformed in order to reduce costs. For every two civil servants or local government workers who retire only one will be replaced, and some public bodies will be merged.

In addition, state funding will be reduced across all of the states' policies. The impact of this on the funding of Town Councils and Departments in charge of implementing these policies is yet to be assessed. The affect on social benefits and the supplementary payments for people earning low wages policies (revenu de solidarité active) is also not yet clear.

It is likely that financial cuts by the state for social services actions will have a negative impact on the social economy in Roubaix. Many social economy organisations in the town provide help at home, looking after children, people who are sick and older people, and the cuts will particularly affect these organisations.

3.2 Proving the quality and impact of the social economy

The important role played by the social economy in economic terms in Roubaix is leading to more and more questions being asked concerning the impact on a sector whose lifeblood in France is essentially generated by state aid.

Roubaix Town Council and the not-for-profit organisations are faced with the challenge of using assessment techniques to enable them to prove to the state that the social economy is a vital contributor to the fabric of society. The council and service providers need to be able to show that:

- Social economy organisations in Roubaix deliver significant savings to the public sector, in a range of ways, including improving health, improving security by reducing criminal behaviour etc.,
- Without the social economy, the state would have to pay for other more serious consequences, with an estimate of likely costs. Some issues can be successfully tackled by the Town Council, but there are some issues that are best solved by the third sector, with an indication of how the services should be allocated.

This is a major challenge for Roubaix. Assessing the quality of the activities and outcomes of each social economy organisation, one by one will not be easy.

Having to examine each social economy organisation in Roubaix in detail, and the possibility of funding being cut, is likely to jeopardise the mutual trust between the Town Council and the dedicated volunteers and staff of the not-for-profit sector, which is providing services and creating jobs. This may well affect the future willingness of the social economy sector to work with the public sector to provide vital services.

The Council of Europe defines social cohesion as the ability of a society to ensure the well-being of all its members, by reducing disparities and avoiding exclusion. The Council of Europe has proposed a number of social cohesion indicators that provide a concrete

means of measuring social cohesion progress. These indicators are being tested and refined by Mulhouse Town Council. (For more information, see Annex 1.)

It is likely that the most effective strategy would be for Roubaix to use the Council of Europe's methodology to measure the achievements of its social economy organisations for all areas where co-responsibility for services is shared between the Town Council, the social economy players, and the local population. This could provide proof of the value of Roubaix's social economy.

4. A few good lessons

4.1 The Lille Urban Community integration clause

The Lille Urban Community Regeneration body (Lille Métropole Rénovation Urbaine) is an economic interest group (Le Groupement d'Intérêt Public (GIP)), which is an intermediary body between society and businesses. Set up to spearhead regeneration in the area, it initiated a charter for integration and employment, which was signed by Lille Urban Community and 26 other partners in September 2007.

The charter includes an integration clause, which requires construction and civil engineering companies working on an urban renovation site to hire people from Urban Problem Areas (Zones Urbaines Sensibles) and provide effective training (via training courses and sandwich courses).

This integration clause is designed to enable people who are experiencing social exclusion problems such as long-term unemployment and/or a lack of qualifications, to find long-term employment. The aim of the integration clause was not purely social (to provide reintegration assistance): it was also economic. When construction and civil engineering is buoyant in the area there is normally a shortage of labour.

This construction and engineering integration clause, unlike the public procurement integration clause, is more constraining, since it is mandatory. In the long-term, this clause represents a million hours of work in the Lille Urban Community - and therefore a million hours of integration. This corresponds to 610 one-year fixed-term contracts. After six months, 70% of the people who were taken on as trainees under the integration clause had an employment contract.

This construction and engineering integration clause provides a good way of supporting people back into employment, for three key reasons:

- It has been observed that results are better when trainees work in companies in the primary job market;
- Trainees work full-time in commercial businesses;
- Partnership between companies and the social economy is normally very difficult to bring about: this approach has overcome the difficulties.

4.2 Roubaix Town Council's integration contracts

When Roubaix Town Council puts contracts out to tender in order to find service providers, it often chooses to aim its Invitations to Tender at organisations that promote economic integration: for example, cleaning services. These are often social economy organisations.

This approach to public tenders makes it possible for Roubaix Town Council to award employment contracts (which are partially funded by the state) to the jobless in Roubaix. It allows the council to support these people towards social inclusion and put in place training courses to prepare them for work. Grants are often provided to these organisations to help fund their service provision.

The Council uses a large number of social economy service providers for public procurement contracts, including:

- School exit safety;
- Urban mediators;
- Educational success;
- Urban cleaning;
- Maintenance of parks and green spaces.

Inviting not-for-profit organisations to tender for public sector contracts in Roubaix is good practice for several reasons, including the following:

- The not-for-profit organisations have to provide training and help people in terms of their social needs;
- It enables not-for-profit companies to have financial security;
- This style of initiative makes it possible for the Town Council to develop integration actions for jobseekers and put in place a public service for the same price as that offered by the competitive private economy.

4.3 The added value of active inclusion for Roubaix Town

Active inclusion initiatives by the social economy have a significant positive effect in Roubaix, by:

- Preventing jobseekers from becoming the victims of long-term unemployment.
- Enabling people to learn the basic skills required to get jobs;
- Enabling the public to obtain supplementary income;
- Making it possible to implement an overall programme for the most underprivileged people.

4.4 Solving Roubaix's current challenges

To help solve Roubaix Town Council's financial problems, the council is taking the following course of action:

- Roubaix Town Council is fighting to receive additional state funding to finance active inclusion in its most underprivileged areas;
- Roubaix Town Council is involved in discussions on the development of a new European Social Fund programme. This is one of the benefits of EUROCITIES membership. So far Roubaix Town Council has been strongly supported by the European Social Fund.

With regard to improving the quality of the social economy activities and quantifying their impact, Roubaix Town Council has put in place an assessment system, within the framework of the Urban Social Cohesion Agreement. The first stage was to draft a specification for each service or activity, that defined the criteria for choosing social economy organisations to deliver these services as well as the criteria for assessing their actions.

All the Council Departments give their opinion on the quality of the proposed projects via an internal IT system. This technical consultation process enables projects to be ranked on the basis of their worth to the Town Council in meeting the objectives defined by the elected representatives.

The defined criteria for choosing a social economy organisation to deliver a service are:

- The project must correspond to the Council's objectives in terms of social cohesion.
- The budget is realistic.
- The organisation is certified and the employees are properly qualified.
- The not-for-profit organisation has had good results in previous years.
- The organisation has the technical skills to manage the resources used.

4.5 Promoting active inclusion in the social economy

Both the Lille Urban Community and by Roubaix Town Council promote active inclusion in the social economy in various ways.

In particular, Roubaix Town Council provides information about integration opportunities and initiatives to the local population via information websites. The council also provides financial measures to encourage active inclusion activity in the social economy.

5. Future plans

Due to the recession, there are currently no plans to work on improving the framework of the social economy.

Instead, the current focus in Roubaix is to find ways of maintaining the current level of activity in the town's social economy so that it can continue to provide a significant contribution to social integration and to reducing social exclusion.

To identify possible solutions and maintain the size and scope of the social economy in Roubaix, research is currently being conducted on the following questions:

- What type of person is likely to be attracted to set up and manage a not-for-profit social enterprise organisation?
- How can the social economy be encouraged in Roubaix, as a sector which is not in competition with the commercial sector?
- How can the social economy organisations secure their future by finding alternative revenue streams when public sector financial assistance for individuals and organisations is being cut?

The answers to these social economy questions will help Roubaix Town Council to put in place policies and plans to help mitigate the effects of budget cuts, and plan for increased involvement of the social economy in Roubaix once the global recession is over.

ANNEX 1. References

Definition of social cohesion (Council of Europe)³

Social cohesion is defined as the ability of a society to ensure the well-being of all its members, by reducing disparities and avoiding exclusion.

Social cohesion indicators

As specified in the Council of Europe's Revised Social Cohesion Strategy, the methodological work of the Council of Europe has led to the creation of social cohesion indicators that can be put into practice on a voluntary basis. This will provide both the Council of Europe and the Member States with a concrete means of measuring social cohesion progress.

These social cohesion indicators have been collated to form a useful methodological guide to ensure effective co-responsibility at local, regional, national or European level. The methodology guide defines social economy concepts and strategic approaches. It provides practical advice for preparing questions and selecting indicators, in order to develop a framework for action.

An example: Town Council of Mulhouse, France

The Town Council of Mulhouse, in the Alsace Region of France, is pioneering the use of the Council of Europe's methodological guide. At a local level, Mulhouse has put in place the process set out in the guide. This has not only made it possible to test the approach and check its feasibility; it has also allowed Mulhouse to fine-tune the methods for collaboration and for developing shared parameters.

This exercise has paved the way to consultation and coordination between all the different players: the local authorities, NGOs and citizens and families suffering from exclusion and poverty. It has also given rise to a shared vision of well-being, based on criteria that differ from conventional approaches.

The next phase consists of analysing how local players can together achieve this shared vision of well being. Mulhouse Town Council is therefore moving quite naturally towards the idea of Mulhouse becoming an area known for its positive approach to social cohesion (Territoire Responsable pour la Cohésion Sociale). It is becoming an area in which all the stakeholders, including the citizens, work together towards meeting shared expectations for well-being and social cohesion.

³ www.coe.int/t/dg3/socialpolicies/socialcohesiondev/source/strategy_en.doc.

ANNEX 2. Data

2.1 Lille Urban Community (LMCU) : demographics

Population

- 1,091,438 inhabitants (2008 : national INSEE census).
- 16.6% of population is aged 20 - 29 years (July 2010).

Unemployment

- 11% unemployment for 15-64 year olds (July 2010).
- 27% unemployment for 15-25 year olds (July 2010).

Income

- €20,150 per annum: average taxable income per capita (2008).
- 6% of households live entirely on social benefits (2008).

2.2 Roubaix Town: demographics

Population (2008: national INSEE census)

- 98,000 inhabitants.
- 50% of population is under 30 years: 24% of these are 20 - 29 years.
- 33% of the population are people living alone.
- 26% of families are single-parent families.

Unemployment (July 2010)

- 28.4% unemployment for 15 - 64 year olds.
- 45% unemployment for 15- 25 year olds.
- 50% unemployment for females aged 25 - 60 years.

Income (2008: national INSEE census)

- €9,257 per annum: average taxable income per capita.
- 30.3% of households live entirely on social benefits.

ANNEX 3. Data social enterprises in Roubaix - Tourcoing area

88, 5% of social economy enterprises are organisations, 81% of these associations are on the territory of Roubaix Tourcoing

Typology of social economy enterprises and number in 2008 - see section 1.1				
	Roubaix-Tourcoing area		Lille Métropole	
	Number	Share in Social Economy	Number	Share in Social Economy
Cooperatives	114	8.4	250	7.2
Mutual	33	2.6	110	3.2
NGOs	2 521	88,9	3 085	89.2
Foundations	3	0,1	12	0.3

Institutions of social economy dominate the field of social work, leisure and sport

From institutions of social economy in the regional economy Lille at December 31, 2006			
	Roubaix	LMC.U.	Region
Trade	0,3	0,4	1,0
Construction	0,4	0,4	0,4
Personal and Household Services	0,4	0,5	0,7
Real estate activities	0,7	0,5	0,6
Industries	0,9	0,8	0,7
Hotels and restaurants	1,4	1,6	1,8
Services aux entreprises	1,7	2,6	3,1
Transports	1,9	2,7	2,8
Activities related to health	5,7	5,9	4,1
All activities	9,4	10,5	9,6
Financial Activities	21,5	21,7	26,4
Education	32,3	28,8	19,2
Association activities	56,1	50,6	34,5
Social Action	57,5	64,9	60,3
Recreational, cultural and sporting	72,3	73,4	76,3

The jobs of the social economy represent about 14,000 jobs in Roubaix and about 50,000 positions in the Metropolitan area

Distribution of workstations in social economy INSEE 2008				
	Zone d'emploi de Roubaix-Tourcoing		C.U. de Lille Métropole	
	Number	Share in Social Economy	Number	Share in Social Economy
Cooperatives	1 253	9	3 680	1
Mutuals	s	1	1 631	0
Associations	13 220	90	44 658	10
Foundations	s	0	998	0
Total Social Economy	14 692	100	50 967	11



This publication is commissioned under the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (2007-2013). This programme is managed by the Directorate-General for Employment, social affairs & inclusion of the European Commission. It was established to financially support the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in the employment and social affairs area, as set out in the Social Agenda, and thereby contribute to the achievement of the EUROPE 2020 goals in these fields.

European Commission

For more information see: <http://ec.europa.eu/progress>.

The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission.