Employee Ownership: Bridging competitiveness and shared prosperity

3 November 2026

9:00 – 14:00

@ COMET Stephanie, Pl. Stéphanie 20, Brussels

Employee ownership is gaining momentum across Europe as a way to promote democratic control over the economy, better sharing of gains from economic activity, and as a means to improve productivity and sovereignty. Employee ownership is also an answer to the big and growing problem of business succession for a large number of European companies that are owned by private individuals and do not have immediate successors. When they are faced with an option to sell the business to private equity funds, employee ownership offers an attractive alternative. Moreover, the recent strategic turn of the global economic relations puts the question of who owns and controls European production in the spotlight.

In practice, employee ownership in Europe remains fragmented, advancing at different speeds country by country without the cross-border exchange of knowledge, models and policy tools that could accelerate its growth. There is clearly a case for better coordination and exchange on this topic that would feed into the elaboration of a supporting policy framework and the spread of best practices.

This event will bring together practitioners, policymakers, financial institutions, business owners, chambers of commerce, trade unions, advisors, and NGOs to explore how employee ownership can support economic democracy, competitiveness and strengthen the continent's economic sovereignty. It is part of **"**European EO Days**"-** a two-day series of events in Brussels.

*This fringe event is organised by **FEPS** in collaboration with **IED** and with the support of **FEBEA – European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks and Financiers**, **Fondazione Messina**, **Fundació Seira** and **SOCODEN**.*

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Agenda

8:00 – 9:00 Registration of participants

9:00 – 9:30 **Opening remarks**

- **László Andor**, Secretary General, FEPS
- **Kosta Juri**, Director, IED

9:30 – 10:45 **Bridging Competitiveness and Shared Prosperity**

- **Christian Damholt**, Business Policy Consultant, Danish Trade Union Confederation
- **Liza Herzog**, Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Groening
- **Martin Stucki**, Former CEO, Transitec Consulting Engineers

Moderated by **Linda van Goor**, Finexus

10:45 – 12:00 **The state of employee ownership in the European Union**

- **Jone Nolte**, Agrupación de Sociedades Laborales de Euskadi (ASLE)
- **Nikolett Szolnoki**, European confederation of industrial and service cooperatives (CECOP)
- **David Ellerman**, IED
- **Melike N. Kaplan**, Danish Research Institute for Democratic Businesses

Moderated by **Luca Pastorelli**, President, DIESIS Network

12:00 – 14:00 *Networking lunch*

12:45 – 13:45 **Presentation of case studies: France and Spain**

- **Rachel Bachman**, Head of Strategic Initiatives, IED
- **Klara Žerak**, Project officer, IED

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