

**Draft of 10 March 2022**

## **SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SUMMIT**

### ***Developing social business: towards a sustainable and inclusive economy***

28 March 2022

*The social economy sector plays an important role both in the overall economic growth of the country and in addressing the societal challenges. Organisations in this sector have demonstrated a remarkable ability to contribute to the strengthening and building of resilient communities and to manage major transitions as well as ‘[...] outperformed other industry sectors and generated up to 12% of jobs while also advancing key societal issues. The collective scale and impact of these purpose-driven enterprises is vast, with 2.8 million social enterprises in Europe alone [...]’. (Unlocking Social Entrepreneurship for the Recovery | World Economic Forum, Davos 2021).*

*At the end of 2021, the European Commission set out a Social Economy Action Plan, which will be launched this year. The plan aims to improve social investment and entrepreneurship, support social economy organisations to start up and scale up their activities, increase their social impact, innovate and create jobs. It will also draw on the unique characteristics of social economy organisations in order to ensure that the green and digital transitions leave no one behind and that our communities strengthen their economic and social resilience.*

*Social economy organisations play an important role in job creation, inclusion, sustainable growth, and integration of vulnerable groups into the labour market. They ensure industrial development and empowerment, as well as reskilling and upskilling. Social economy organisations operate in a wide range of economic sectors and ecosystems, including social and public services, health, social housing or affordable energy for the most vulnerable, thus helping mitigate the effects of the economic crisis and increase resilience.*

*This year, the **Social Enterprise Summit** invites leaders of the social business ecosystem to dialogue with policy makers on the development prospects of this sector and its importance for the Lithuanian economy and for addressing societal challenges. Guests from foreign countries will also speak at the event to review good practices. The event will feature foreign keynote speakers who will provide an overview of best practices.*

*The event is co-organised by the Lithuanian Social Business Association in cooperation with the European Commission Representation in Lithuania, ‘Enterprise Lithuania’, the Office of the Nordic Council of Ministers in Lithuania, and Office of the Embassy of Canada and NGOs which include ‘Avilys’, ‘Gerinorai.lt’, and ‘Katalista Ventures’.*

### **PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME**

*Venue: Constitution Hall, Building 1, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania  
(Hybrid event)*

<b>10.00–10.30</b>	<b>OPENING SESSION</b>
<b>Welcome address</b>	H.E. Ms Viktorija ČMILYTĖ-NIELSEN, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania <i>(virtual address)</i>
<b>Opening speeches</b>	Ms Aušrinė ARMONAITĖ, Minister of the Economy and Innovation, Lithuania

	<p>Mr Kazys STARKEVIČIUS, Chair of the Committee on Economics, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania</p> <p>Ms Monika OŠMIANSKIENĖ, Member, Committee on European Affairs, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania</p> <p>Ms Viktorija BRAŽIŪNAITĖ, Director of the Lithuanian Social Business Association</p>
<b>10.30–11.00</b>	
<b>Keynote speech</b>	Ms Ruth PASERMAN, Director DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion at European Commission will deliver a speech on the Social Economy Action Plan
<b>11.00–12.00</b>	
	<p><b>SESSION I: CREATING THE RIGHT CONDITIONS FOR THE SOCIAL ECONOMY TO THRIVE</b></p> <p><i>Policy and legal frameworks are key in creating the right environment for the social economy to thrive. This includes taxation, public procurement and State aid frameworks that have to be adapted to the needs of the social economy. The session will feature members of the Committee on Economics of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and other members of the Seimas as well as their counterparts from the European Union and other parliaments, who will speak on these matters and share best practices.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Kazys STARKEVIČIUS, Chair of the Committee on Economics, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania</li> <li>• Mr Laima MOGENIENĖ, Member of the Committee on Economics, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania</li> <li>• Mr Joël LIGHTBOUND, Chair, Standing Committee on Industry and Technology, House of Commons, Canada, <i>tbc</i></li> </ul>
<b>12.00–13.00</b>	<p><b>SESSION II: OPENING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL ECONOMY ORGANISATIONS TO START UP AND SCALE UP</b></p> <p><i>Social economy entities should benefit from business development support to start up and develop, as well as to reskill and upskill their workers. For 2021–2027, the Commission is aiming to increase its support beyond the estimated €2.5 billion allocated to the social economy previously (2014–2020). During Session II, representatives from the Lithuanian Ministry of the Economy and Innovation, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, and counterparts from the European Union and other countries will discuss best ways to create more opportunities for social businesses to start up and scale up, as well as to foster entrepreneurial competences.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Ieva VALEŠKAITĖ, Vice-Minister of the Economy and Innovation, Lithuania</li> <li>• Mr Vytautas ŠILINSKAS, Vice-Minister of Social Protection and Labour, Lithuania</li> <li>• Mr Egidijus GIEDRAITIS, Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Lithuania</li> </ul>
<b>13.00–14.00</b>	Break
<b>14.00–15.00</b>	<p><b>SESSION III: ENHANCING RECOGNITION OF THE SOCIAL ECONOMY AND ITS POTENTIAL</b></p> <p><i>The Social Economy Action Plan aims to make the social economy more visible and improve the recognition of its work and potential. The</i></p>

	<p><i>Commission together with the EU Member States will carry out communication activities emphasising the role and specificities of the social economy and demonstrating best practices in social entrepreneurship. During Session III, representatives from Lithuanian and foreign social enterprises will share their best practices and impact stories</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Imad ELABDALA, Founder &amp; CEO at Kidnovation</li> <li>• Mr Eimantas BEKĖŽA, CEO &amp; Co-founder at Memby/ Digiklasė (EdTech Startup)</li> <li>• Ms Viviana RIZZUTO, Founder &amp; President of Identità &amp; Bellezza, President of the Steering Committee Community Foundation of Agrigento and Trapani</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator: Ms Jurgita RIBINSKAITE-GLATZER, CEO at Gerinorai.lt</i></p>
<p><b>15.00–16.30</b></p>	<p><i>Discussion: leaders of parliament, governments, social enterprises, business, academia and media will discuss the prospects of the development of the social business sector and its importance for Lithuania’s economy and for addressing societal challenges. Participants will share their ideas on vision and concrete steps to strengthen a sustainable and inclusive social business sector.</i></p> <p><i>Panellists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Monika OŠMIANSKIENĖ, Member, Committee on European Affairs, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania</li> <li>• Mr Lukas SAVICKAS, Member of the Committee on Economics, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania</li> <li>• Ms Ieva VALEŠKAITĖ, Vice-Minister of the Economy and Innovation, Lithuania</li> <li>• Ms Sofia BREITHOLTZ, CEO at Reach for Change</li> <li>• Ms Viktorija NAUSĖDĖ, Founder and CEO at TexTale, Board Member of the Lithuanian Social Business Association</li> <li>• Víctor MESEGUER, Director of Social Economy Europe</li> <li>• Ms Greta MONSTAVICE, Katalista Ventures CEO &amp; Co-Founder</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Mr Ugnius SAVICKAS, Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship expert</p>
<p><b>16.30–17.00</b></p>	<p><b>SUMMARY AND CLOSING SESSION</b></p>