

# What could be the future for Social Firms in Europe?

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European Social Firms Research 2008

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# Outline

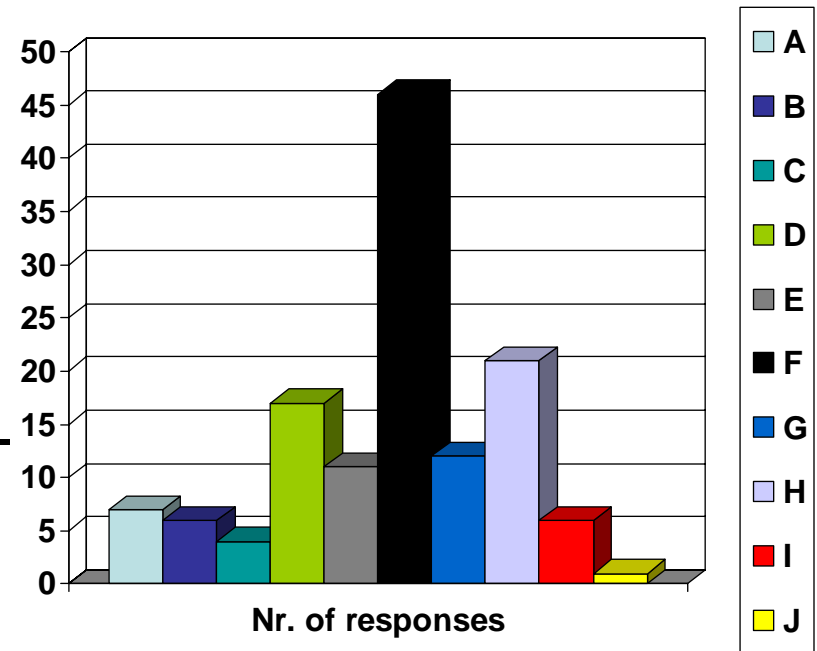
- 1-sided questionnaire distributed
- Sent out to European Social Firms via CEFEC Executive Committee members
- Contents:
  - 3 main problems/challenges
  - What they think their national government could do to help
  - Whether they feel they will overcome their challenges and whether they feel positive or negative about the next 5 years

# Responses

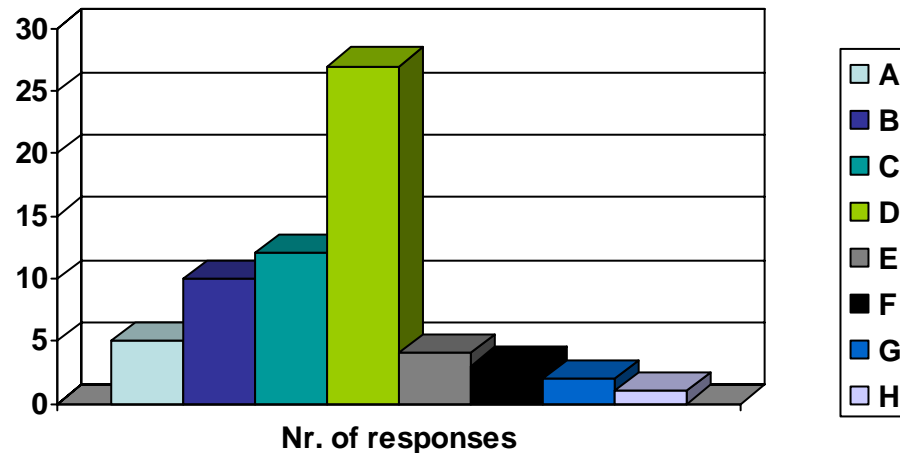
- 47 questionnaires returned
  - 15 from Germany
  - 8 from Spain
  - 6 from Switzerland
  - 4 from Greece
  - 4 from Finland
  - 4 from Czech Republic
  - 2 from Slovenia
  - 2 from UK
  - 1 from Austria
- Some answers held multiple answers (so the numbers don't add up!)
- It was 'free text', so interpretation/grouping can be done potentially in different ways
- It is obvious from some answers that some countries are in very different situations (e.g. with Germany having public funding, albeit decreasing, with others having no public funding)

# Main problems

- A=Procurement / Public authorities (7)
- B=Credibility/lack of understanding generally (6)
- C=Competition (4)
- D=Increasing trade income/issues around growth (17)
- E=Money / accessing finance / finding resources (11)
- F=Staffing problems / finding & keeping staff / issues to do with employment of disadvantaged/disabled people (46)
- G=Public subsidies / compensation (12)
- H=Improving management & quality within Social Firms (21)
- I=Lack of strategic framework for Social Firms as a sector, coordinating agency, clarity around long term support (6)
- J=Resistance from traditional service providers (1)



# What national governments can/should do



A=Increase their understanding of Social Firms (5)

B=Raise the profile of Social Firms / encourage procurement (10)

C=Change / introduce legislation or legal structure for Social Firms (12)

D= Increase public funding (or reverse decrease in public funding) / help more financially / be more flexible (27)

E=Establish a long-term framework for the development and operation of Social Firms (e.g. representative body etc.) (4)

F=No (3)

G=Make things easier (2)

H=Change power to federal level to determine employment programmes (1)

# Where next?

- The main conclusions and findings will be shared with the 47 Social Firms that participated
- The findings will inform the priorities for Social Firms Europe (CEFEC) activities
- Social Firms Europe (CEFEC) will continue to build up other research into the European Social Firm sector