

39 member states

210

Albania
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Georgia
Greece
Holy See
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Moldova
Netherlands
Norway
Romania
Poland
Portugal
San Marino
Serbia
Slovak Republic
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
"the former Yugoslav
Republic of Macedonia"
Turkey

Signing of a loan agreement between the Crédit Coopératif and the CEB: 50 million euros for the enhancement of social cohesion and environmental protection

Paris, 27 November 2007 :

Jean-Claude Detilleux, Chairman of the Crédit Coopératif, and Raphaël Alomar, Governor of the CEB, today signed a 50 million euro loan agreement aimed at financing investments in the health, education and vocational training sectors throughout France.

The projects that will be receiving CEB funds are primarily targeted to vulnerable population groups: the elderly and the disabled faced with illness or in a state of dependence, on the one hand, young people and adults in difficult social situations, on the other. The wider aim of the investments in question is to contribute to strengthening social cohesion.

On account of its role focused on promoting sustainable social development, the Crédit Coopératif can be expected to partner the CEB for other operations, notably in certain Central and Eastern European countries.

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*The **Crédit Coopératif** is a cooperative banking group set up in 1893 for the purpose of financing social economy firms. It is the reference bank for associations, mutual benefit groups and cooperatives, which in France occupy a prime position in non-profit general interest activities and services: medico-social sector, social and "very social" housing, insertion, environment, culture, education, etc.*

It is present throughout France. As the mother company of the Groupe Banque Populaire, it combines the advantages of a human-scale bank and the resources of a major group, which gives it a national mission to promote the social and solidarity economy. At European level, it is a founding member of the European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks (FEBEA). With the creation of the Coopest Investment Fund in 2006, it also contributes to developing the social economy in Central and Eastern Europe.

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*Set up in 1956, the **CEB** (Council of Europe Development Bank) has **39 member states**. 17 Central and Eastern European countries are listed among the member states.*

As a major instrument of the policy of solidarity in Europe, the Bank finances social projects by making available to them resources raised in conditions reflecting the quality of its rating (AAA with Standard & Poor's, Fitch Ratings and Moody's). It thus grants loans to its member states, to financial institutions and to local authorities for the financing of projects in the social sector, in accordance with its Articles of Agreement.

Loans are granted in accordance with precisely defined criteria. Statutory priority is given to projects that "help in solving the social problems with which European countries are or may be faced as a result of the presence of refugees, displaced persons or migrants consequent upon movements of refugees or other movements of populations and as a result of the presence of victims of natural or ecological disasters".

Since the Bank was set up fifty years ago, the scope of its activity has gradually broadened to other sectors: education and vocational training, health, social housing, employment in SMEs, improving living conditions in disadvantaged urban areas and rural modernisation, protection of the environment, preservation of historic and cultural heritage, and infrastructure of administrative and judicial public services.