**European Social Economy Regions 2018 Pilot**

*Local event project proposal*

1. ***NAME OF THE EVENT:*** “*New Cooperativism in Agriculture in Valencia*”
2. ***BACKGROUND:*** The region of Valencia is one of the main agricultural producers in Europe. In 2009, the value of agricultural production amounts to € 2,243 million and the activity takes place on 688,400 hectares, which are 30% of the available territory. At this respect, 31% of the total production is referred to citrus fruits, which contribute 50% of the final value.

The most of the agricultural sector works through cooperatives which are located in the main municipalities along the region of Valencia and generate employment in rural areas.

Moreover, the government of the region of Valencia approved a plan on organic agriculture to increase the percentage of organic producers, with a total budget of €78,760,000 for the period 2016-2020. In 2015, Valencia had 2,251 organic producers, and a total of 77,014 hectares, which is only the 4,5% of the land dedicated to the agriculture. This plan contributes to the promotion of the professionalization of the producers, the introduction of new technologies and the dissemination of *How Know*.

Therefore, in the region of Valencia many groups of small producers have come together to market their products and to be integrated into the agricultural market, based on a Social Economy model. This has allowed avoiding intermediaries and defending a fair and ecological trade.

1. ***DETAILS OF THE EVENT:*** 
   1. AIM: (i) Spreading, defending and stimulating the cooperativism as an entrepreneurial model which allows small farmers to participate in the added value of their products and to give by extension more transparency and stability to the agricultural markets; (ii) discussing the future challenges of the sector; (iii) spreading the meaning and advantages of a Social Economy model.
   2. EXECUTION: The event will be developed by the regional Government of Valencia, through the joint work of Presidency, the regional Ministry of Economy, and the regional Ministry of Agriculture.

This joint work shows how the Valencian Government is committed to a Social Economy model, and to the promotion of the cooperativism as a formula which helps to avoid the depopulation on the countryside, to develop social aims, maintaining and creating employment in the areas where the cooperatives are established, contributing to the sustainability of the environment and to the rural development.