



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Launch of the European Project "FUSE" for the promotion of Social Innovation**

SYNTHESIS Center for Research and Education and the Center for Social Innovation - CSI are pleased to announce the launch of the European Project "FUSE". The overall objective of the FUSE project is to improve the effectiveness of the *European Social Fund (ESF+)* as an instrument supporting social innovation by directing it towards the biggest social challenges faced at regional, national and European level.

Mr. George Isaias, Director of the SYNTHESIS Research Centre stressed "that the project is important because two Cypriot organizations (SYNTHESIS and CSI) constitute the National Centre for Social Innovation in Cyprus, aiming to promote social innovation at national level". He further expressed that "the consortium, as a national center for social innovation, can be the support mechanism for social entrepreneurship by assisting both the competent authorities and civil society in the implementation of social entrepreneurship programs and actions such as social inclusion and employment".

Through a variety of activities, the project aims to create and strengthen networks and partnerships in key sectors such as education and industry with public bodies/governmental institutions and civil society. The project activities aim to implement methods to raise awareness and strengthen the capacity and involvement of local authorities and public bodies in supporting social innovation.

One of the activities of the FUSE program aims to develop practical guidance, support and technical assistance to strengthen services and organizations that seek to improve people's well-being. Through a series of trainings this program will provide capacity building support to project promoters, agencies, social and civil society organizations.

Dr. Sotiris Themistocleous, Director of Strategic Development at CSI - Center for Social Innovation, states that "CSI is fully committed to strengthen and empower FUSE's activities as part of its long-term strategy to institutionalize and empower social innovation initiatives and actors in the Cypriot ecosystem".

The project has received co-funding from the European Union's Employment and Social Innovation Program (EaSI) and the European Social Fund.

For more information and the program of activities please contact Maria Georgiou at 2222315 or via email at [maria@synthesis-center.com](mailto:maria@synthesis-center.com)

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