

Priorities of CEPLIS during the three coming years Summer 2019 – Summer 2022

In Europe there are 500 million consumers, over 20 million companies, 240 million workers. Among them, 5.6 million are liberal professionals, who contribute up to 10% of the European GDP. The number of liberal professionals in the various professional services has risen steadily in recent years. A targeted development policy for professional services can further increase this crucial economic entity. Not only it would raise the competitiveness of the production system, but also it would guarantee the rights and social protection of all European citizens, customers and patients.

Axes of Work

A. Advocacy for the Professions

- 1) Strengthening relations with European decision-makers at the level of the Commission, the Parliament, the Council and the EESC
 - **European Parliament:** Share our Manifesto with all those newly elected MEPs who are coming from our sector or have been sympathetic to our causes in the past; Establish an informal group of MEPs interested in all thematics touching our professions and organise frequent interactions with them in the form of breakfast meetings, lunches, interventions in front of our Permanent Committee, etc.
 - **European Commission:** Closely monitor the changes that the new College of Commissioners is going to bring at the level of the DG and Units relevant to our professions and establish a working relationship based on trust with the new persons; Maintain and use the excellent working relationship we already have with the DGs and Units relevant to our sector in order to better advocate for our causes; Establish a good working relationship with the Cabinets of the Commissioners concerned by our field of activities
 - **European Council:** Continue the good practice of Confprofessioni and visit the rotating Presidencies of the Council, informing them on the issues pending at the EU level that are of concern to us.
 - **EESC :** Strengthen the relationship with the Group III and have our voice heard as CEPLIS at the level of all the fora it organises (including the European Days of the Liberal Professions).
- 2) Obviously the reason we would like to do this networking for is to promote our ideas on issues such as:
 - The implementation of the measures proposed by the working group "Bolstering the Business of Liberal Professions";
 - Digitalisation;
 - Simplification of administrative burdens and procedures;

- Monitoring of the application of the European Directives on “Mutual Recognition”, “Services in the Internal Market”, “Proportionality”, as well as that of the “Package on Services” ;
- Implementation of the “Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs / Professionals” programme;
- Social Dialogue inclusive of our job-producing and growth-brinking category;
- The programming of the MFF 2021-2027, in particular regarding those European funds focused on the growth and the sustainability of professionals;
- Achieving the goals of the Agenda 2030 on sustainable development, urging the EU to adopt its own agenda
- Implementation of policies of equal opportunities
- Including new interprofessional member associations from EU-countries or new European professional organizations;

B. Enhancing the Quality of our Advice and Services by strengthening our ethical profile and giving emphasis to CPD-related activities

- Supporting our Center of Excellence in Professional Ethics in Malta, re-applying for EU funding and organizing events to raise its visibility;
- Collaborating with the European Commission to develop proposals that combine growth and productivity of professional services with respect for ethical principles;
- Assisting to our associations that intend to develop ethical codes.
- Enshrining CPD in all European and national legislative documents relating to our professional services

The main line of CEPLIS should become: When advocating for professionals we are in fact advocating for the citizens, our patients and clients. European liberal professionals are not working solely for lucrative purposes. Their satisfaction and pride first of all is a task well accomplished and the gratefulness of the client/patient. A liberal professional advise /service measures its quality also by the strict respect of ethical principals enshrined in professional Codes .

C. At the service of the professional

- 1. Engage in a serious discussion regarding the possibility to develop a CEPLIS – Services sector, aiming at assisting Professionals at the European level in matters such as : European funding, partnerships and networks etc.**

D. At the service of the Community

- 1. Monitoring and intervening, along with the WULP on issues of concern for the society as a whole: Equality of the sexes, Questions of Gender, Refugee crisis, Brexit, Sustainable development, Agenda 2030.**

E. Diversifying the sources of income of CEPLIS

In order for our organisation to maintain its independence from friends and foes alike it is essential that the income of CEPLIS does not come solely from the subscription fees of its members. In that light we should aim at participating in as many EU-funded projects as possible and at developing a sector of services along with our member organisations carried out in favour of our professionals.