

2017

ACTIVITY REPORT



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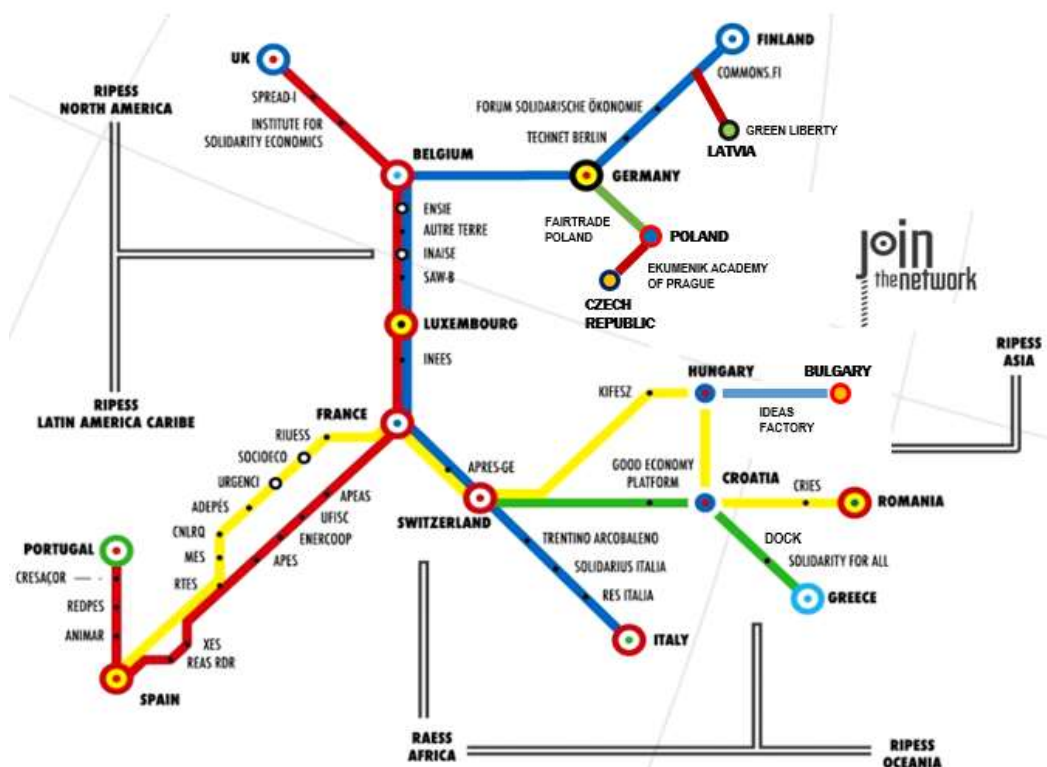
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RIPESS - SOLIDARITY ECONOMY EUROPE

RIPESS Europe - Solidarity Economy Europe is the European branch of the Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy. It was born in 2009 out of the 4th meeting of the Globalization of Solidarity in Luxembourg and founded in Barcelona in 2011. It currently has:

39 Members

in **17 countries in Europe**



RIPESS Europe brings together European regional, national, sectoral and intersectoral solidarity economy networks and organizations. It has included the [Socioeco.org portal](https://socioeco.org) in its activities to give more visibility to the SSE documentation and resources. An Advisory Board made up of researchers contributes to the historical heritage and theoretical development of SSE in the network.

OUR COMMITMENTS

In January 2016, following the European Forum on the SSE (EFSSE) organised in the European Parliament, the RIPESS Europe Coordination Committee drew up reviewed both the strategic guidelines and the plan of action for the years 2016 to 2018.

2 MAIN OBJECTIVES



1

Nurture a movement for social change, facing a current systemic socio-economic paradigm shift towards a more democratic and inclusive economy.

2

Strengthen convergences by promoting the meeting of the forces of systemic change at the heart of a constellation of alter-economic movements.

3 DIMENSIONS

Internal

- Consolidate the members' networking
- Search and welcome new members (mainly from Eastern Europe)
- Facilitate inter-cooperation among the members' networks

International

- Active presence in the RIPESS Intercontinental Board
- Opening to the participation of more European members within the international working groups
- Connection with the Mediterranean and African SSE

External

- Alliances and convergences
- Communication, media et knowledge sharing
- Close collaboration with socioeco for research, information and dissemination
- Institutional relations with local, national and European public authorities

INTERNAL DIMENSION

Consolidate the network and search for new members



The General Assembly was held during the **UNIVERSSSE 2017** 4th RIPESS European Congress, in Athens on the 9th of June 2017. 650 people officially registered and many other participant observers took part in the Congress, three days of intense debate and exchanges.

6 THEMATIC AXES

1. Solidary cooperativism
2. Responsible production and consumption
3. Social and economic integration of refugees
4. Innovation
5. Training and education
6. Public policies at the local, national, European and international levels

+1000

Participants



57

Sessions,
workshops,
convergence



A special session was dedicated to alternative media and one on the **SUSY** European project for local development and SSE. Participants coming from across Europe and beyond had the opportunity to meet and plan joint projects and activities.

The General Assembly welcomed **5 new members**:

Ideas Factory (Bulgaria), **Ecumenic Academy of Prague** (Czech Republic), **DOCK-Solidarity Economy Zone** and **Biocamp** (Greece) and the Portuguese national SSE NETWORK **RedPES**.

The session on the network's strategy focused on three main areas:

- 1.** Inter-cooperation and networking (including training and education, inter-mapping and the Panorama of the SSE)
- 2.** Promoting convergences and alliances (with the commons, fairtrade and ecological transition movements)
- 3.** Public policies (in particular with the movement of the municipalities in the co-construction of European policies).

Inter-cooperation

At the beginning of the year 2017, a meeting was held between the members of the coordination of REAS (Spanish national SSE network) and municipality officials in Madrid. REAS has participated in the implementation of **webinars** on the "SSE and feminism" and on public policy.



RIPESS had completed the report "**SSE.E: affirming a new paradigm through IVET curricula innovation**". It is now available on both the ripest.eu and socioeco.org websites.

This project is carried out in cooperation with **4 members of the network**. A transnational meeting took place in Berlin in July 2017, followed by **pilot training modules for innovation, education and**

vocational training (IVET) which were tested with youth in a system of exchanges between the partners in September. An assessment was conducted and the results will be presented in a transnational seminar in July 2018 in Portugal, together with an Action Plan and a Policy Brief.

Several other European projects are under discussion with other members and partners, including universities and municipalities with which the RIPESS EU has been relating to during the year.

RIPESS Europe and RIPESS Intercontinental presented their work during the **FESC** (Fira Economia Solidaria de Catalunya) organised by the XES (Xarxa of Economia Solidària) in October 2017. Among other things, a community mapping project with the team of Pam a Pam, developed by the catalan network was discussed. It was also an opportunity to meet with representatives of the SSE and Cooperatives "*Commissionat*" of the city of Barcelona and the new network of Catalan municipalities for the SSE.

In September, the members of the Coordination Committee traveled to Finland upon the invitation of Common.Fi, the Finnish Member network, to discuss the **development of the SSE in Nordic countries**. This meeting has resulted in the organization in April 2018 of the NESEM (**North European Solidarity Economy Meeting**) with participants from SSE organizations in Scandinavia and Russia and the possibility of forming a regional network, including Baltic countries and representatives of the indigenous Saami people.

In November, RIPESS Europe was presented during the **Regional Forum of the SSE** (FRESS), organized by one of its members, the ADEPES in Toulouse.

As one of the results of the Congress of Athens, in which several workshops on the topic of **alternative media** took place, the establishment of a independent alter economic media network related to the SSE is under construction (see part Communication).

Intercooperation among members continues through projects for economic cooperation as the campaign Fruits of solidarity, between small Greek oil producers, DOCK zone and organizations of the SSE in Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg, in order to support them to face the impact of the economic crisis.

INTERNATIONAL

Presence on the Board of RIPESS Intercontinental

The two representatives in RIPESS Intercontinental, Josette Combes and Jason Nardi, participated in the Board of Directors of the RIPESS Intercontinental, which was held in Barcelona in October 2017. **RIPESS Europe has taken over the coordination** and Jason Nardi was appointed coordinator of RIPESS Intercontinental, to replace Raul Luna Rodriguez of RIPESS LAC.

Furthermore, RIPESS Europe participates in the **international working groups**: Public policies and international advocacy, Education and Global Curriculum, Women and SSE, Communication, Finance and media.

The presence of the international Secretariat in Barcelona and the addition of a person dedicated to communications in 2017 helped to establish a strengthened partnership and to launch a series of actions to foster relations with other continents and the entire global network.

EXTERNAL

Convergences

Developing convergences is a strong focus of the RIPESS plan of action. Several opportunities were sought and made possible:

- In March, an expanded group met for a week in Florence to work on the "**Inter-mapping**": convergence of alter-economic maps, methodologies, technologies, interoperability.
- The **NESI Forum** (New Economy and Social Innovation) event held in Malaga in April brought together a large number of representatives of various networks and mouvements, from transition to the SSE, social innovation, responsible tourism, etc.
- In May, RIPESS EU took part in Marrakech at the **symposium organized by the Inter University network of SSE** (RIUESS) in partnership with the REMESS (Moroccan ESS network). This event was the opportunity of an encounter with the **RAESS** (represented by Madani Coumare and Pierrette Memong Meno) to explore cooperation between Europe and Africa, starting with education.
- RIPESS EU participates in the **Summer Schools** of social movements that bring together activists of popular education and international solidarity (ATTAC, CRID, Une seule Planète, etc). In August 2017, the European Summer University, took place in Toulouse and mobilized more than 2,000 people. A series of workshops on alternatives was conducted jointly with the Alternatives Commission of Attac.
- The link between the dynamics of food sovereignty and solidarity economy is becoming always more relevant. It has been debated, thanks to Urgenci, at the United Nations, the **SSE**

European Forum, the Mont Blanc meetings, the IPES Food and the Congress in Athens.

- RIPESS EU committed to actively participate in the proposal for an international meeting of the economies of change and systemic alternatives, which was conceived at the World Social Forum in Montreal 2016, with co-promoters such as the WFTO and Via Campesina.

Communication

A trio was appointed to work on communications: Josette Combes (MES), Jason Nardi (Solidarius Italia) and Françoise Wautiez (Ecosol). The newsletter was published on a regular basis in three languages (Fr, En, Es). The ripess website has been improved and translated into Spanish. Similarly, we feed the intercontinental RIPESS **Newsletter** sharing information relevant to all SSE actors worldwide. A flyer presenting the network was produced in order to be distributed during events. The use of **social networks** has also been further developed in recent years.

The need for a system of exchange, aggregation and interoperability of data between online platforms of the various actors of the SSE from existing maps, has been at the center of activities and meetings of the "**intermapping**" group.

Since the Congress in Berlin (2015) and Athens (2017), RIPESS Europe initiated the creation of a European network of **alternative, independent and cooperative media**, to develop collaborations with solidarity economy networks and strengthen the visibility and the narration of the SSE in different contexts and languages.

In February 2018, thanks to the support of the FPH Foundation, a 3-day meeting took place at Villarceaux (Paris) with the

representatives of more than 20 alternative media from 12 different countries, to discuss and create the basis for the European network.

Socioeco: more than a resource site

In 2017, the socioeco.org website further expanded its referencing power by associating with new partners, such as CIRIEC International and the REAS portal, the Spanish Network of Solidarity Economy Networks. More than 16,000 documents are available online, most of which can be downloaded. The number of visits is constantly increasing, as is the number of downloads, just under 200,000 and over 22,000 respectively.

200 000 Visites
+22 000 downloads
16 000 online documents

In addition, a closer **collaboration** between socioeco.org and RIPESS Intercontinental took shape when the site was redesigned: we have included the documents contained in socioeco.org on the sites of the continental members via specific filters.

Finally, socioeco.org continued its work on SSE mapping. The idea is to find a tool that allows both geographically and at a glance, all the initiatives that are found in different files, to set up several filters that allow better targeting of information and more detailed access to the information listed.

Advocacy

An important project has begun to identify the forms of **public policies that support the development of the solidarity economy**. In addition to this work of identification and compilation (see also

the Socioeco report), the RIPESS EU has initiated meetings with elected representatives (in Barcelona, Madrid, Athens, Rome, etc).

Within the **Congress of Athens**, workshops on this theme took place and welcomed the testimony of Greek political leaders on the **new national law promoting SSE** (of late 2016) and the possibility of future collaboration for implementation. The first result was a collaboration on the action plan for the development of SSE culture in Greece, in the form of a collaborative written report between a group of network members (completed in May 2018).

At European level, RIPESS EU participated in the co-construction of the second **European SSE Forum**, organised by the European Parliament in



Brussels (EFSSE, 9 November 2017). Each time this event represents an opportunity to promote SSE among public decision-makers and to compare with other representatives of SSE organisations and actors in Europe.

Perspectives

Meeting in Elne in January 2018, the Coordination Committee established an action plan for the next three years, articulated around the priorities decided at the Athens GA and the previous

objectives, with a stronger emphasis on education and the **active participation of young people**.



These two fundamental objectives are divided into 4 main areas:

- The network: deepening members' knowledge and supporting various forms of inter-cooperation (through European projects and other forms of funding)
- Alliances: compare approaches, common issues, participate in federating campaigns. Support convergences of advocacy and public events with other alternative economic networks
- Public policies: continue advocacy work and co-construction of public policies by supporting members in their local advocacy work.
- Cultural change: influencing public opinion, including through training, public campaigns and communication. To advance knowledge among the general public of the value of forms of economic cooperation for the transformation of society

The transversal dimensions shared with RIPESS International are those of work, climate change, gender equality and the fight against discrimination for social justice. All these projects are open and the coming years will be devoted to them.

MAIN EVENTS IN 2017

17–18 Jan	Madrid (Spain)	Meeting with REAS and ESS officials in the municipality of Madrid
1-5 Feb	Czech Rep.	« Open Space SSE » training seminar
16-19 Feb	Madrid (Spain)	Meeting with REAS RdR and Municipality of Madrid
10-15 Mar	Florence (Italy)	Inter-mapping meeting
28 March	Île Saint Denis (France)	Participation in the Pôles Territoriaux de coopération meeting organised by the MES (Fr)
19-21 April	Malaga (Spain)	Participation in the New Economy and Social Innovation (NESI) Forum
26-28 April	Barcelona (Spain)	EDGE Congress Funders Alliance
22-24 May	Marrakech (Marocco)	XVII RIUESS International Meeting on social and solidarity economy - Commitment, citizenship and development. How to train for SSE?
27-28 May	Roma (Italy)	Porta Futuro - meeting with the Italian network
09-11 June	Athens (Greece)	UNIVERSSE 17. RIPESS EU conference organised by the networks
23 June	Paris (France)	Solidarity meeting organized by CRID
12 July	Berlin (Germany)	Second transnational meeting of the IVET / Erasmus project
19-21 July	Monte Ginezzo (Ita)	Synergia Institute Summer University
23-27 Aug	Toulouse (France)	Participation in the European University of Social Movements
22-24 Sept	Helsinki (Finland)	Seminar on the commons. Meeting with our members. CoCo
16-19 Oct	Villarcieux (France)	Media commons – rencontre Remixthecommons
20-22 Oct	Barcelona (Spain)	FESC organised by the XES of Catalonia
23-25 Oct	Barcelona (Spain)	Intercontinental RIPESS Board of Directors
08 Nov	Brussels (Belgium)	CoCo RIPESS EU
09 Oct	Brussels (Belgium)	EFSSSE 2017 : European SSE Forum European Parliament
17-18 Nov	Toulouse (France)	FRESS ESS Regional Forum organised by ADEPES
20 Nov	Geneva (Swiss)	Meeting on social currencies
4-5 Dec	Archamps (France)	European Dialogue and Forum Rencontres Mont Blanc



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