



## **BASES FOR THE INTERIM CONSTITUTION OF THE ADVISORY BOARD OF RIPESS EUROPE**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

This document is a proposal for the constitution of the Advisory Board of RIPESS Europe. Considering the current phase of RIPESS Europe's development, it is advisable to put into practice one of the statements included in the document "diagnostic and propositions", that was approved by the COCO during its meeting in Florence.

The existence of an advisory board can be an important asset to the network because it can fulfill a number of functions that are necessary and useful. The network was created three years ago and it increasingly shows the need for a body where strategic, theoretically-based and long-term decisions can be evaluated and proposed. It is not the case to replace the Coordination Committee, but rather to create a complementary and supportive space.

This proposal is provisional, in the sense that it was approved by COCO during its meeting in Toulouse last February, and will be subject of evaluation by the general meeting in Paris (June 6-7 2014). Then it will be tested during 2014 and 2015.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE ADVISORY BOARD**

The objectives of the Advisory Board can be summarized as follows:

- Help to build the theoretical and historical heritage of the network;
- Help to develop the strategic axes of the network;
- Develop records that can help to formulate the pronouncements of COCO;
- Respond to the requests from COCO, according to an agenda;

- Help the working groups, if appropriate;
- Disseminate the knowledge and information acquired to the network's members.

## **CHARACTERISTICS AND FUNCTIONING OF THE ADVISORY BOARD**

As its name indicates, it is an advisory body which does not intend to replace the assemblies, the COCO, or the workgroups. Besides, it is a complementary space for reflection on their proposals. Furthermore, it is an organ that formulates its own objectives, suggestions and reports. Therefore, it contributes to nurture the network, facilitate its enlargement and favor its visibility to other bodies (academics, researchers, ...).

The Advisory Board develops and produces documents to share with the network. It aims to bring together all the sensitivities and cultures that characterize the solidarity economy in Europe, without underestimating its international character. It works independently even though every year it writes an activity report to discuss in the General Assemblies of the network. It meets the COCO at least once a year.

The operating procedures (number of meetings, agenda, secretarial services, ...) of the Board will be decided by its members. If the demands from the COCO or the working groups are numerous, it will set an agenda of priorities. The Board may find resources itself for its functioning.

## **MEMBERS' PROFILE AND SELECTION**

The Board's members are people with long experience in the elaboration and practice of solidarity economy, either through their academic and teaching activities, either as researchers or through their commitment and expertise in networks and initiatives. They should be both, theoretically sound and oriented to action.

In the selection of members, it is necessary to take into account the diversity of cultures that composes the solidarity economy in Europe, as well as the diversity of countries and gender. In the current phase, and in order to be effective, the board should be composed of maximum six or seven people. COCO members cannot be members of the Board.