



Press release

SOLIDARITY ECONOMY THE GREAT TRANSFORMATION IS UNDERWAY

SOLIKON2015: Week of Change and Congress on Solidarity Economy and Transformation

September 5-9 and September 10-13, 2015

Technical University of Berlin, Straße des 17. Juni

Solidarity economy and other forms of local, shared, ethical, ecological, cooperative and democratic ways of producing, working and consuming are growing rapidly all over Europe, both in countries with a long history of mutualistic and social economy, as well as in others where it is starting to emerge now, thanks also to the reaction to the economic crisis and the austerity measures imposed by governments and the EU. As it is everyday more evident that the Financial and Market globalised economy's devastating impact are harming our societies, communities and the environment, creating more poverty and inequality by continuing to promote limitless growth and wealth for the few, many citizens are realising they can join forces together and transform this broken system into a live, resilient and truly democratic one. Thousands of collaborative and solidarity initiatives are emerging every day and networking together, at the local, national and international levels.

Making Solidarity Economy ideas more prominent

How do we get ideas for transformation and criticism of the growth paradigm out of their niche position? In over 150 workshops and various international fora and panels, alternative, socially and ecologically more sustainable ways of economic activity will be discussed and made visible to a broader public. More than 1,000 national and international participants are expected for the **Solikon2015 – Congress on Solidarity Economy**, which is being organised by the Forum for Solidarity Economy e.V., RIPESS Europe (European network for the promotion of Social Solidarity Economy) and the Center for Technology and Society (ZTG Berlin) in cooperation with more than 50 partners hosts the Congress on Solidarity Economy and Transformation from September 10-13, 2015, at the Technical University of Berlin.

Solidarity Economy Europe: networking our common visions

RIPESS Europe – Solidarity Economy Europe was born thanks to the synergy produced by the RIPESS – the Intercontinental network for the promotion of Social Solidarity Economy - through the meetings for the Globalisation of Solidarity. The 4th International Forum for the “Globalisation of Solidarity” took place in Schiffflange (Luxembourg) in April 2009 and allowed to launch a dynamic process and build trust and acquaintanceship between the networks of Social Solidarity Economy at continental and international level. The European RIPESS network was founded in Barcelona in 2011 and aims to overcome the impacts of the current crisis and to promote organizational approaches from local to global that support freedom, reciprocity, solidarity and egalitarian exchange. In Berlin – **on Friday 11th**

September 2015, during the Solikon conference, RIPESS Europe will hold its 4th General Assembly, with new members joining.

Learning from the Global South

True to the motto „act local, think global“, Solikon2015 promotes an economy of short distances and global networks of responsibility and exchange: numerous guest speakers from Brazil, Bangladesh, African and Southern European countries will bring along their ideas on solidarity economy. We will welcome, amongst others, the Brazilian State Secretary for Solidarity Economy, Paul Singer, and activist Faridah Akthar, who has founded the world's largest seed bank in India.

Supporting regional networks

Success stories and initiatives for the good life already exist, here and now. With strengthened regional networks and the pooled forces of manifold currents within the movement (Commons, economy for the Common good, Degrowth, Transition Towns, Open Cooperatives, Community-based agriculture, ...) we want to reach the critical mass necessary for social change.

Registration at: <http://solikon2015.org/de/anmeldung>

Week of Change – Excursions in Berlin and Brandenburg (September 5-9, 2015)

Experiencing alternative concepts for living and the economy

The practically oriented Congress is preceded by the Week of Change, offering visits to initiatives opposing the dogma of economic growth and resource exploitation and promoting solidary alternatives in Berlin and Brandenburg. Community-based agriculture in Prignitz, collective businesses in Kreuzberg, holistic medical treatment in Friedrichshain, community gardens on the airfield of the former Tempelhof airport and swap shops in Berlin-Mitte: The trips will take place by foot, public transport or by bike. Full-day excursions and three-hour short trips, the Week of Change offers exciting insights into sustainable alternatives for living and the economy, age-independent and donation-based.

Registration at: <http://solikon2015.org/de/wandelwoche/touren>

Crowdfunding campaign: <https://www.startnext.com/solikon2015>

Video: <https://vimeo.com/132431418>

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/130033842@N04/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Solikon2015>

More information: www.solikon2015.org – www.ripess.eu

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