

## RIPeSS Europe & ECOLISE

### Partnership Agreement - Version 1.0

This partnership agreement is aimed at formalising, facilitating, and strengthening the ongoing, mutually beneficial collaboration between the European Network of the Social Solidarity Economy Organisations (RIPeSS Europe) and the European Network for Community-led Initiatives on Climate Change and Sustainability (ECOLISE).

RIPeSS Europe's mission is to share practices, inter-cooperate and engage in joint actions that can promote and enhance the visibility of the Solidarity Economy movement and contribute to legal frameworks and public policies.

ECOLISE's mission is to create and cultivate an accessible and evolving impact network and international platform for learning, action, inspiration, and advocacy in service to community-led initiatives on climate change and sustainability in Europe.

### Aim of Partnership

The overall intention of this long-term collaboration is to connect, empower, spread and advocate for community-led initiatives and the sovereign, active participation of citizens in ecological and social justice, localized social economies, and regenerative cultures - in harmony with nature's principles. We join forces to raise awareness, co-create, act collaboratively, care for, and bring to live communities and economies of the future!

As two partnering organisations, we aim to model an open and trusting relationship of mutual respect, appreciation, goodwill, and integrity. Our interactions are meant to benefit both organisations and also our network members, so value is exchanged between the people both those directly involved in the collaborative actions that the organisations will hold and all their relations.

### Synergies and Objectives for Collaboration

- Policy and Advocacy
  - RIPeSS Europe people to participate in ECOLISE's main stakeholder policy event on 28 November 2022 and become a supportive partner for the 10 thesis for transformative, local community-led development.
  - Link RIPeSS Europe public policy group with ECOLISE policy team and invite to join the policy positioning and co-creation for transformative local development in 2023.
  - ECOLISE to join forces to support the social economy action plan and engage in joint advocacy campaigns with RIPeSS Europe.
- Fundraising and Projects
  - Co-create and apply for Erasmus+ funded projects as both organisations and/or facilitate connections and collaborative projects between our network members. Same applies for other possible EU funds, in line with our networks' general objectives.

- Exchange donor contacts or engage in shared fundraising efforts and expert advice.
- Explore new funding streams together through the Fund Action platform, Regenerative Community Fund (to be developed) or others.
- Communities for Future
  - Align (network) mapping efforts and link data/tech where possible such as the map of community-led initiatives (lead by Transiscope) or ECOLISE’s social system map.
  - Cooperate in the mutual construction of knowledge bases, such as the ECOLISE wiki and RIPESS Europe wiki Soleclopedia and online library socioeco.org
  - Share connections, knowledge, tools and resources on shared issues such as climate justice, ecology, energy communities, (solidarity) economy and community building.
  - Support youth engagement and connections of RIPESS Europe youth group, with NextGEN and other youth-led, community, climate, and environmental movements.
- Events and Communication
  - Exchange relevant (online) trainings, capacity building opportunities and events to participate in, speak at, or collaborate on.
  - Coordinate participation in campaigns and platforms such as Transformative Cities, with other relevant partners.
  - Publish relevant news, stories and articles in each other’s (monthly) newsletter, blogs and/or social media channels.
  - Plan for attendance at each other’s General Assembly, collaborate on a Communities for Future session and jointly spread the European Day of Sustainably Communities

### **Shared Process and Commitment**

- All organisations will ensure that there is open communication between them regarding new collaboration ideas, as well as an open, transparent, and participatory approach toward the development and management of (new) projects in a way that is mutually beneficial and has the best possible impact.
- Any tensions regarding boundaries and identities of each organisation shall be dealt with in a spirit of mutual understanding, ensuring that all parties are comfortable and in line with each step of this long term partnership.
- Main contacts to steward and nurture the partnership are Jason Nardi, General Delegate of RIPESS Europe; and Laura Kaestele, Network Weaver of ECOLISE.
- Where (and when) appropriate we seek to widen the connections and involve other team members of both organisations e.g. co-directors, project coordinators, fundraiser, communication or policy teams for direct collaboration and operational matters.
- ECOLISE and RIPESS Europe’s main contacts will communicate regularly (at least once every 4 months) to ensure that the Partnership Agreement is followed up on and to discuss potential developments. We also seek out opportunities to connect at events in-person when possible.
- Together we will further explore “relationship containers” of membership, which brings additional governance responsibilities and influence, either RIPESS Europe becoming a member of ECOLISE and bringing in solidarity economy as an additional community-driven movement or mutual membership, where also ECOLISE becomes a member of RIPESS Europe.

The aim is to have clarity and make a decision by the ECOLISE General Assembly in spring 2023.

- RIPESS Europe and ECOLISE will both create visibility for this partnership, displaying each other's logos in their websites (including both the ECOLISE website and the Communities for Future website) sharing information about projects through their social media and newsletters etc.

#### **Other Actions in this Partnership Development**

- Display logos on websites to acknowledge a more formal partnership
- Update RIPESS Europe coordination circle about the developments and agreements of this partnership at their extra General Assembly meeting on 6 December 2022.
- Share ECOLISE membership information, application process and guidelines with RIPESS Europe contacts - and vice versa from RIPESS Europe.
- Invite each other to input into collective strategy development of ECOLISE and RIPESS Europe respectively happening in early 2023.

#### **Evaluation and Renewal**

Partners agree to evaluate and renew this agreement towards the end of 2023, and tweak as needed in the process, to integrate improvements, changes or (newly) emerging needs and opportunities. All changes will need to be agreed to by both partners. Either partner may terminate the agreement at any time, with written notice to the other party.

Date:

Signature

**On behalf of**

**Europe**

Jason Nardi – General Delegate

Signature

**On behalf of ECOLISE**



Juan Del Rio – Co-Director