



Report of the 7th General Assembly

16-17 June 2018, Zagreb, Croatia



**ripress
europe**
Solidarity Economy Europe

INTRODUCTION

The General Assembly (GA) took place over 1 and a half days, in the premises of the Tituša Brezovačkog School in Zagreb, on Saturday 16 June 2018 and the morning of Sunday 17 June 2018. The GA was held in French and English, with the assistance of two interpreters.

Members present: 17 + 3 proxies

Observers: 10

[See - Annex : List of participants & contact GA 2018](#)

PROGRAM

Friday 15 June 2018 - Good Economy Conference

1. Good Economy Conference
2. Presentation of members at the educational ecological farm Zmag (Green Network of Activists Groups)

Saturday 16 June 2018 - First day of the RIPESS Europe General Assembly

1. Presentation of the activity report 2017
2. Presentation of strategic orientations (Working groups on strategic orientations Convergence, Public Policies, Education)
3. Election and presentation of new members
4. Coordination Committee Renewal Vote
5. Validation of the financial report 2017
6. Renewed CoCo meeting

Sunday 17 June 2018 - Second day of the RIPESS Europe General Assembly

1. Presentation of results of the workshops
2. Socioeco mapping presentation
3. Presentation of RIPESS Intercontinental working axes
4. Networking time: workshop on intercooperation
5. Timeline - Agenda 2018-2019-2020
6. Webinars
7. Conclusions

Friday 15 June 2018 - Good Economy Conference



1. Good Economy Conference

See – Annex : Conference’s Program

The General Assembly was preceded by the 5th Good Economy Conference held at the former Kino Tuskanac Cinema. The Conference was an opportunity to discover inspiring stories from all over Europe, including the SSE initiatives in Croatia. Several members of RIPESS Europe participated.

2. Presentation of members at the educational ecological farm Zmag (Green Network of Activists Groups)

The convivial event took place at the educational ecological farm of the Zmag activist group. Drazen Simlesa presented the history of the farm and explained the different ecological aspects of the place (green roofs, ecological insulation, renewable energy sources, etc.). The evening was also an opportunity for everyone to introduce themselves and exchange with local actors and observers invited to the GA (from Russia, UK, Serbia, etc.).



Saturday 16 June 2018 - First day of the RIPESS Europe General Assembly

1. Activity Report 2017 Presentation

See - Annex : Activity Report

The presentation of the 2017 activities report by members of the Coordination Committee - Jason NARDI (Solidarius Italia), Josette COMBES (MES), Eric Lavillunière (INEES), Laura Aufreere (CoCo expert), Judith Hitchman (URGENCI), Françoise Wautiez (Socioeco) and Drazen Simlesa (Good Economy Platform) - allowed to discover the network's activity on three levels of actions: internal, international and external, organized around the two strategic axes:

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 alternative economic movements

The results showed that the network was very active throughout the year, and has co-organised several events: from the UNIVERSSE Congress in Athens to the EFSSE in Brussels, meetings with alternative media, educational projects such as SSE IVET, the strengthening of the network in Northern Europe, the improvement of communication tools in more languages, alliance building activity, etc.

2. Presentation of the strategic orientations

After contextualizing the activities of the past year, the document on the strategic orientations of RIPESS Europe prepared by the Coordination Committee was presented. These strategic axes announce the RIPESS Europe roadmap for the years 2018-2020.

Reading the document, Jean Rossiaud (APRES-GE) pointed out that by placing a strong emphasis on criticism of capitalist economy and growth, the introduction of the document could result less inclusive and inspiring than through a more positive narrative about SSE. He then proposed an alternative text ([See - Annex : New version Strategic Orientations](#)). It will be discussed within the next CoCo.

Xavier Artigas (XES) reviewed the organisation of the next World Social Forum on Transformative Economies in Barcelona. As announced at the World Social Forum in Salvador de Bahia, a two-year convergence process has been launched by RIPESS and XES, among all initiatives and movements that share the common objective of transforming the existing economic system, from the local to the international level. The XES has started working in this direction at the local level and a first meeting took place in Barcelona among several movements: the eco-feminist movement, the movements for agroecology and food sovereignty, the commons (natural, urban and digital), the social solidarity economy, fair trade and cooperativism and the movements for solidarity finance.

3. Working groups

As foreseen in the agenda, we divided the working groups based on the strategic orientations presented before. The idea was to deepen the following axes: convergence with other movements (alliances), co-contrsution of public policies and education / cultural change – in order to collectively complete the document which aims at the next 3 years.



- **Convergence(s)**

RIPESS Europe seeks to create alliances with other social movements to better articulate strengths and competences and to give more visibility to actions undertaken, compare approaches, common issues; participate in federative campaigns.

Eric Lavillunière recalled the importance of defining who is the plural "we". Who do we hear behind transformative movements? There is a need to work on a better definition and common narrative of transformation and transition, both radical and as inclusive as possible.

An example was provided by Bob Cannell who was among the promoters of the CTRL-SHIFT meeting in the UK in March 2018. He stressed the fact that facilitation of the event is critical to the success of convergence.

See – Link : www.ctrlshiftsummit.org.uk

The debate focused on the process of the World Social Forum of Transformative Economies, launched by RIPESS and XES in Salvador de Bahia in February 2018. Xavi Artigas and Laure Jongejans described the convergence and co-organisation processes, as well as the route with two main events in Barcelona: meeting of the networks in April 2019, then organisation of a major Forum in spring 2020.

Participants agreed that more time and space was needed to discuss this topic.

The commitments that have been made are:

- Develop similar local convergence processes in Barcelona
- Call to other RIPESS continental networks
- Mapping SSE international networks and other "transformation" movements for the April meeting in Barcelona
- Call for "friends" networks at national and European level
- Deadline for first wave of communication: mid-September 2018
- Organise a specific meeting to discuss the Forum process in 2 years towards the end of 2018 for RIPESS Europe members

- **Public policies :**

Several strategies have been devised by members to engage political and institutional leaders to reorient their policies towards a more sustainable and balanced economy and to continue the advocacy and co-construction of public policies.



As a first step, it was proposed to create a mailing-list for the transmission of information concerning the links between SSE and public authorities.

The Socioeco.org website's mapping of public policies in favour of SSE must continue to be fed. An analysis and comparison between the different resources on this map could lead to a document that is easier to interpret (currently the resources are in the original languages of each country).

See online: http://www.socioeco.org/cartos_fr.html

It was also discussed and encouraged a more active intervention on the European advocacy level, notably with the European Commission and the European Parliament. This initiative should also be linked to the next European elections in 2019. Jason Nardi proposed to participate in the new edition of the campaign "The Europe We Want", proposed among others by Friends of the Earth, SDG Watch and FTAO, by developing European public policy proposals among RIPESS Europe members. The proposal was accepted.

More infos on : <http://www.en.europewewant.eu/>
See – Annex : Amsterdam Meeting Report

Judith Hitchman (URGENCE) proposed to organise an annual presentation of the best collaboration project between the SSE and public authorities. This event could be co-organized with UNFFSSE and would bring more visibility to existing projects and initiatives.

The members recalled the importance of the network taking place with regard to the Sustainable Development Objectives (SDO) and more particularly that it participates in the call for contributions "Implementing SDG's: what role for Social and Solidarity Economy?", launched by the UNFFSSE. Each member is invited to write a proposal related to their specific activities. (Deadline for participation: 2 August 2018).

See the full call / apply on: <https://unsse.org/?p=1581>

Laura Aufrere proposed to work with ILO SSE ACADEMY at European and national levels, also using these meetings to hold at the same time the RIPESS Europe meetings (financing of the meeting by this means). Laura also has been candidate for the EU Commission's GCES (Group of Experts on Social Economy).

Finally, the possibility of organising a meeting in autumn in Lyon with representatives of SSE actors and local authorities from different regions was raised. Dounia Besson (Deputy Mayor of Lyon, in charge of SSE and Vice-President of RTES) offered to host the meeting.

- **Education :**

Cultural change to build a solidarity economy from existing SSE solutions requires investment in education and training.

The international campaign for an SSE Global Curriculum was presented by Josette Combes.

See - Annex: [Presentation Campaign Curriculum Global ESS](#)

The project on education and vocational training SSE.E IVET was also mentioned as an example of a European Erasmus+ project promoting networking between members and other SSE actors.

Françoise Wautiez (Socioeco) presented the Soleclopedia tool, an open multilingual and intercultural encyclopaedia based on the participation of actors and researchers from many countries involved in the social and solidarity economy, social entrepreneurship and sustainable development. However, the lack of visibility of this encyclopaedia was noted. Françoise Wautiez and Josette Combes proposed to work on the development of this tool and the deepening of Wikipedia on SSE.

It was also suggested to produce educational material related to SSE and translate/subtitle it in English. Rita Kandikò (KIFESZ) proposed to translate the Hungarian resources at her disposal.



Olga Polyakova, a member of the Russian NGO Trava Education, shared the idea of organizing an international film festival on SSE that would be carried out with RIPESS. Inès Ghazli (trainee at RIPESS Eu) proposed to co-build the project with Olga Polyakova for next year.

4. Election and presentation of new members

Three organizations from 3 Eastern European countries took part in the Conference and the 2 days of General Assembly presented themselves and asked to join the network:

- **Our Good Earth** (*Наша Добра Земја en macédonien*), **Macedonia**

Our Good Earth is the first cooperative of organic food buyers in Macedonia. They started as an informal group of twenty families looking for local organic and ecological food from the most environmentally friendly and cleanest areas of the country. In less than two years, creating a budget with their own donations, the Our Good Earth team visited many producers and reached into most of the well hidden villages to visit many farmers and find seeds and products that usually don't arrive on the market. They wish to create a circuit or network in Macedonia inspired by SSE practices.

SMore information on their website: www.dobrazemja.org

- **Fair & Bio Coop, Czech Republic**

Fair & Bio Coffee Roasting House is the first fair trade roasting plant with disadvantaged employees in the Czech Republic. It is an inclusive social enterprise that supports the social and sustainable economy. Fair & Bio processes fair trade coffee, mainly organic coffee, and strives to promote the cooperative concept of entrepreneurship, which has a rich history of over 150 years in Czech countries. They are linked to the Ecumenical Academy of Prague and wish to organise themselves in a network at regional level (Central and Eastern Europe).

More information on their website: www.fair-bio.cz

- **Fairtrade Poland Fondation** (Koalicja Sprawiedliwego Handlu en polonais) – Fairtrade Polska is a national non-profit organization based in Krakow, Poland. The Foundation was registered in 2013. Before that date, it operated as an informal fair trade coalition created in 2009. The founders of the Coalition include - among others - the Polish Ecological Network, its member organisations and the Polish Humanitarian Action - one of the best-known Polish non-governmental organisations as well as other social economy entities (small fair trade enterprises).

More information on their website: <https://www.fairtrade.org.pl/about-us/>

The GA voted unanimously for the adhesion of each new member.

5. Coordination Committee Renewal Vote (CoCo)

Three members of the CoCo, Solidarius Italia, Urgenci and Forum Solidarische Ökonomie have completed their three-year terms. They all where newly candidate for another term and have been re-elected (vote for unanimously).

New application to the CoCo: Jean Rossiaud (APRES GE) presented himself with Antonin Calderon as alternate. They want to become more active members of the network. The GA

voted in favor unanimously. It was recommended that a woman be included in the binomial in order to ensure respect for gender balance.

Xavier Artigas wanted to propose his candidacy for the XES, but it is still debated within the Catalan network. It was then proposed that he be invited to CoCo meetings when the Social Forum of Transformative Economies in Barcelona is to be discussed.

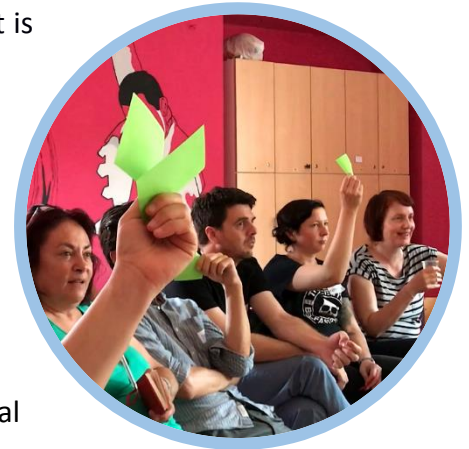
The Coordination Committee is now composed of 12 members.

6. Validation of the Financial Report 2017

[See - Annex: Financial Report 2017](#)

After hearing and debating the Financial Report, the General Meeting voted in favour of the following resolutions:

1. Approve the annual accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 2017 as presented.
2. Approve that the result of this financial year, i.e. a surplus of € 4,134.24, be added to the reserve.
3. Discharge the Board of directors (CoCo) of its direct financial responsibility by adopting the resolutions presented.



The financing from the SSE.E IVET project has made it possible to reach a balanced result. The challenge remains to be able to vary the sources of funds.

The tri-annual Agreement with the Foundation for the Progress of Humankind (FPH) to support the activities of RIPESS EU and Socioeco has been renewed for the period 2018-2020. The budget allocated is 275,000 euros for the three years. It includes funding of 142 500 euros for the Socioeco.org activity carried out by Ecosol.

As in previous years, a significant portion of membership fee payments is missing. Jason Nardi asked members if this was due to the amount of the fee (100 euros). The whole GA confirmed that it was not.

In accordance with our articles of association, the appointment of two auditors by the AGM must be carried out in order to give them a mandate to audit the accounts. The GA was asked if 2 persons wished to assume this function but no member was available for the post. This issue is postponed to the next GA.

7. Renewed CoCo meeting

The renewed CoCo met at the end of the first day of the GA. They discussed where and when to organise the next CoCo meeting – there was a general agreement to do it possibly in Barcelona and in connection with the GSEF in Bilbao (October 1-3).

Upon proposal formulated by Olga Polyakova, member of the NGO Trava Education, Russia, another CoCo meeting could take place in St Petersburg – with some members invited by local organisations.

The Coordinating Committee re-elected its four roles:

1. General Coordination (Chair): Eric Lavillunière is now supported by Drazen Simlesa for co-coordination
2. General Delegate: Jason Nardi is maintained
3. Treasurer: Bruno Lasnier is maintained
4. Communication: the trio of Françoise Wautiez, Josette Combes & Jason Nardi is maintained

Sunday 17 June 2018 - Second day of RIPESS Europe General Assembly

1. Presentation of the results of the workshops

Each Working group described the main discussions and results of their sessions. Summarized posters were made. See part (3) of the first day of the GA.

2. Socioeco mapping presentation

See – Link : [Mapping Socioéco](#)

Françoise Wautiez presented the SSE maps produced by Socioéco. Seven maps are currently available on the resource site. These include the ESS public policy map, the independent and cooperative media map and the ESS solutions and policies map for the Sustainable Development Goals. Each map organizes several SSE resources geographically: documents, law excerpts, videos, etc. with a descriptive sheet.

All members are invited to communicate about the tool to their partners and within their organizations, and to contribute actively to enriching its content.

The last map in preparation is that of the RIPESS network and its members, Socioeco is currently working to collect all the information. Jean Rossiaud (APRES-GE) stressed that the centralization of data by a single entity could give rise to debate, but in this case, it is public information that only allows more visibility to network members. The mapping and interoperability group is working on data decentralisation.

3. Presentation of RIPESS Intercontinental working axes

See – Annex: How to actively participate in RIPESS work axes

Laura Jongejans (Executive Secretary) presented the main lines of work of RIPESS Intercontinental. The latter is working on international advocacy to promote intercooperation between countries on different continents and give more visibility to local initiatives.



RIPESS Intercontinental wishes to highlight the role that SSE plays in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. This work is also done in connection with the Socioéco resources site (notably with the ESS mapping for the SDGs).

Finally, Laure Jongejans invited the members of RIPESS Europe to write to her if they are interested in one or more of the axes presented, in order to discuss the possibilities of collaboration.

4. Networking time: workshop on intercooperation

Time dedicated to intercooperation allowed members to exchange on the areas/domains/projects on which they would like to collaborate. These proposals will enrich the RIPESS Europe Action Plan.



Here is a restitution based on the proposals presented:

FEMINIST ECONOMY

Intercooperation Propositions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committees, training, dissemination of the Feminist Economy - Work on gender & SSE and the Feminist Economy
Members initiating proposals	XES SOLIDARIUS ITALIA

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

Intercooperation Propositions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Campaigns to promote alternatives during major tourist events - Mapping the actors of responsible consumption in tourism - Start a responsible tourism project
Members initiating proposals	TRAVA EDUCATION - Observer DOCK

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Intercooperation Propositions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pending for an Erasmus + project between Central and Eastern European countries and RIPESS on ESS training modules - Develop lectures and research on the ESS - Work with young people on the creation of their small business by collecting methods of SSE in rural areas - Committees / working groups to develop formats, summer schools, publications, academic exchanges - Promote social and civic education - Develop P2P education - Public awareness - Network partners working with young people - Participate in European projects - Educate and inform on the meaning of fair trade at the local level - targets: educators, trainers, students, public (with the media) - Masters degree programs in entrepreneurship focused on sustainability in Europe
Members initiating proposals	<p>ECUMENICAL ACADEMY OF PRAGUE ZMAG KIFESZ XES TRAVA EDUCATION - Observer RIUESS DOCK FAIR TRADE POLAND FAIRBIO COOP</p>

FOOD SOVEIREGNTY

Intercooperation Propositions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating a Community market for SSE actors - Establish an alternative distribution (coffee, olive oil, etc.) - See the Greek project "Fruits of Solidarity" - Developing food policy and sovereignty at local level - target: municipalities and the tertiary sector (cooperation) - Educational Permaculture Centre and Farm - Digital tools to build a direct (local) economic circuit based on ESS - To stimulate a cooperative participatory process around a cooperative (food) - Food sovereignty and agroecology (cf CSA cooperatives for the Good Economy platform) - -Working on the link between public policy and food sovereignty - Support communities for agriculture - Developing responsible consumption - Fair Market Cooperatives - Synthesize, network and share SSE food practices
--------------------------------------	--

	- CSA Training Program - Target: Local farmers in CSA member organizations
Members initiating proposals	<p style="text-align: center;">FAIR TRADE POLAND DOCK FAIR BIO COOP ZMAG SOLIDARIUS APRES GE URGENCI</p>

OTHER INTERCOOPERATION AREAS

Intercooperation Propositions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community housing, participatory housing - Digital Commons Committee / training / dissemination - Cultural themes: Animation in third places - National EHS network animation - Work on indicators to assess the EHS - Helping SSE actors to change their eco-habits - Centre for Circular and Shared Economy - Participatory action in neighbourhoods with residents (improving our own well-being) - Think about the transition between local and global thinking - Work on cooperation with WFTO (World Fair Trade Organisation) & especially at national level
Members initiating proposals	<p style="text-align: center;">MES RIUESS APRES GE INEES XES SOLIDARIUS TRAVA EDUCATION - Observer</p>

ETHICAL FINANCING

Intercooperation Propositions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Using ethical financial tools - Solidarity Fund - Rely on local currencies (and the blockchain) - Cooperative equity financing - Relocate the economy with the local currency and direct companies towards a post-carbon and post-speculative society
Members initiating proposals	<p style="text-align: center;">APRES GE SOLIDARIUS</p>

5. Timeline - Agenda 2018-2019-2020

A time-line of the next events of the network was completed by the participants of the GA. It draws the agenda for the current year and ends in 2020 with the World Social Forum in Barcelona.

Here is a summary table of the events registered:

Date	Place	Event
15-17 JUNE 2018	Zagreb, Croatia	RIPESS EU GA 2018
20 JULY -19 AUG 2018	Novi Sad, Serbia	Faircoop Summer camp
21-22 SEPT 2018	Hungary	KIFESZ Conference on volunteering SSE
1-3 OCT 2018	Bilbao, Spain	GSEF 2018
27-28 OCT 2018	Barcelona, Spain	VII FESC, Caltalunia's SSE Fair
9-11 NOV 2018	Thessaloniki, Greece	Urgenci – CSA European and Med Meeting
9-11 NOV 2018	Parlermo, Italia	The European Social Solidarity Economy Days
12 NOV 2018	Barcelona, Spain	Sharing Cities
23-24 NOV 2018	Toulouse, France	Forum Regional ESS ADEPES
21 NOV 2018	Lisbon, Portugal	SSE & the Commons
6-8 DEC 2018	Cordoba, Spain	III Social and Solidarity Economy Congress organised by REAS
1-7 APRIL 2019	Hungary	KIFESZ Training Cours Inbubanware India SSE + Youth
APRIL 2019	Barcelone, Spain	WSF Transformative Economies
2020	Barcelone, Spain	WSF Transformative Economies

6. Webinars

A series of webinars with RIPESS Europe members and other networks/organisations will take place starting from September 2018. Some new proposals were made during the GA and are summarized in the following table:

Theme	Membre	When
How to foster intercooperation through Socioeco.org Public Policies experiences WA3	SOCIOECO RIPESS Intercontinental	Feb-March 2019
SSE & Gender on SDG's WA4	RIPESS Intercontinental	11 septembre 2018
Campaign for a SSE Global Curriculum WA3	Josette Combes RIPESS Intercontinental	Autumn
Food sovereignty, agroecology and community supported agriculture	Judith Hitchman Isa Alvarez Urgenci	
Fair coop (ecosystem & tools)	Fair Coop Poland	

7. Conclusions

The second part of the year will be rich in events. A common agenda will have to be done in order to be able to represent RIPESS Europe and be connected to other networks and initiatives. The Coordination Committee welcomed the arrival of new members, particularly from Eastern Europe. They bring a lot of energy and validate the relevance of a European network promoting SSE. The network strengthens the actors in the exercise of their own activities and can attest to their dynamism and creativity, during inter-network meetings and with the European public authorities.

