



Strategic Orientations 2018 – 2020

The current economic system is based on the paradigm of growth, competition, legitimacy to tap into natural and human resources to create wealth measured by financial gain. This ideological positioning is based on a supposed scientificity of neoliberal postulates, originated especially from the Chicago School, and today dominant in the collective imagination, the narration of commercial media and the teaching in schools. Since the last financial crises (10 years after the one in 2008) scientists' alerts have followed one another: on the deadly impacts of industrial and agrochemical activities on climate equilibrium; biologists on the dangerousness of chemical products present in our food; on the abuse of drugs, threatening the health of humans and most living species. Aware of the urgency of changing the system, especially the new generations who visibly raised the alarm in many ways, as the Occupy Wall Street movement (the 99% against the 1% of the very rich), citizens seek to organize themselves, but what is still missing is a holistic and widely diffused view of alternatives to market fundamentalism and to the dominance of finance over politics and social life. It is in this paradigm that the SSE, as a movement of practices of systemic change and democratization of the economy, plays a very important role.

In this particularly tense context of unlimited exploitation of material and human resources, the rise of violent extremism, the disintegration of living conditions for a growing number of people, RPESS Europe has to focus on two fundamental objectives for the three years to come.

I - Give an impulse for the change of social and economic imagination, to build a post-capitalist economy

- Promote a new positive and concrete narrative, based on existing SSE solutions cooperative and collective modes of production and consumption, which preserve the quality of life and human dignity through fairness and justice and the right of every citizen to see what they produce and what they use or share. With an ecosystemic vision and democratic and intergenerational solidarity.
- Support projects to re-invent the city or regenerate the countryside by organising initiatives of organization of people-oriented services, collective renewable energy, shared mobility, short circuits of production and consumption of agroecological products stemming from the peasant agriculture, collective gardens, fair trade, ethical and solidarity-based financing tools, etc., and strengthen the territorial links between cities and the countryside.

- Participate (and co-organize) advocacy at several levels, whether in political, institutional, academic and popular education meetings, or in gatherings involving various social movements, festivals and alternative practice fairs. The visibility of solidarity economy initiatives will be stronger and more widespread through strategic alliances and convergences with other alter-economic movements on the one hand, and investing in artistic, media and cultural activities. real social innovations on the other side, that can strike the imagination of citizens and young people in particular, and invite them to actively participate in solutions that exist or can be created.

II. Strengthening the solidarity economy movement

RIPESS Europe is alive thanks to its financial supporters and the activity of its members and in return membership of the European network has a dynamic effect on building networks in countries that are still looking for a form of structuring and those who are older. It partly (and vice versa) equips development strategies. The network invites its members and co-ordination to participate as much as possible in events and platforms working on common grounds such as Transition Towns and Re-economy, Agroecology and Food Sovereignty, the Commons and Open Knowledge, Peer2Peer and Open Cooperativism, Degrowth, Renewable Energy Cooperatives, Solidarity Finance and Credit Mutuals, Fair Trade, etc. as well as research centers, independent and alternative media that promote forms of self-managed economic initiatives, collective and centered on civic initiatives.

Articulation in 4 thematic axes of action

1. The network

- **Deepen the knowledge of the members and support various modalities of inter-cooperation** (through European projects and other forms of financing). RIPESS Europe responds to the requests of its members either by participating directly in some of their events, or by offering an exchange with a representative of other members of one of the countries that seems the most appropriate according to the theme of the meeting (agroecology, energy, culture, public policy, education and training, etc.). Promote forms of economic cooperation and fair trade (eg. the Greek campaign "Fruits of solidarity" approach, developed in several countries).
- **Facilitate and promote regional meetings between members from different countries**, such as the North Europe Solidarity Economy Meeting (NESEM) held in Helsinki at the end of April 2018, or the meeting of SSE initiatives in the Balkans / Former Yugoslavia in Zagreb in June 2018, during the General Assembly of RIPESS Europe, or thematic seminars such as the one on independent media and SSE or Inter-mapping.
- **Design a series of webinars and peer-to-peer trainings** from 2018 to 2019, organized by the RIPESS Europe communication group, but each time facilitated by representatives of the members or allied organizations, who make an initial presentation, prepare the documentation and respond to questions from participants. Take part in the construction of an online training platform on SSE practices and themes.

- **Present common projects together:** 5 European projects have been presented so far this year, each with different members of the network, university partners or other close organizations. If they are funded, they should lead to a wider networking that will have an impact on the entire European network (and beyond, since some projects involve working at the Mediterranean level or with other non-European countries).

2. The alliances

- Seek alliances within social movements to better articulate forces and skills and give more visibility to the actions undertaken, compare approaches and common issues; participate in unifying campaigns.
- Co-organize the Thematic World Social Forum exclusively dedicated to the Economies of Change (or Transformation) in Barcelona in April 2019 and 2020. in partnership with the Xarxa of Economia Solidaria, REAS and the Municipality of Barcelona as an opportunity for convergence starting from the Social Solidarity Economy, the Commons, Feminist economies and environmental movements (transition, degrowth, agroecology), fair trade, ethical finance and other alter-economic movements.
- Strengthen the alliance with cooperative, alternative, independent media to better disseminate information on the SSE to all audiences.

3. Public policies

- Engage policymakers and institutions to reorient their policies towards a more sustainable and balanced economy and continue the advocacy and co-construction of public policies by supporting members in their local advocacy and public debate, or through communication and media (publications, webinars, conferences, etc.)
- Intervene, in connection with RIPPSS Intercotinental, in the events proposed by organizations such as the GSEF (Global Social Economy Forum), CITIES (International Center for the Transfer of Innovations and Knowledge in Social and Solidarity Economy), the Inter-United Nations Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (especially for initiatives in Geneva), the European Forum on SSE, etc. In particular, with comparative mapping of public policies and the real impact of the SDGs. The beginning of the work will be presented with Socioeco during the GSEF in Bilbao in October 2018.
- Get involved in the networks of cities and local authorities that promote SSE. Starting with the Network of Territories for the Solidarity Economy (RTES) or the Catalan network of Municipalities for Solidarity Economy (XMES). A project (Cities of Change - Urban Alternatives) mapping of urban regeneration initiatives is underway in partnership with the Transnational Institute, European Alternatives, Habitat International Coalition, Right to the City and others.

- Share and connect the expertise present within network among the members. For example by co-ordinating the work to produce a report or policy consultation, such as the one for the Greek Ministry of Labor, Cooperation, and the Social and Solidarity Economy for a "Strategic Plan for the Development of an SSE Culture in Greece". Or working with campaigns like Right to the City or institutional consultation platforms such as IPES food.
- Partner with other networks to promote solidarity economy and economic alternatives within the European institutions, eg. the "Europe We Want" Manifesto with many organizations such as Friends of the Earth, Fair Trade Advocacy Office or Greenpeace, in view of the upcoming European elections in May 2019.
- Cooperation with Social Economy Europe and the Inter-Group for the Social Economy can also be sought, depending on the issues at stake.

4. Cultural change

- Influence public opinion, especially through training (particularly with young people), public campaigns and communication to promote the general interest for economic cooperation to replace a ruthless competition, and the use of democratic and ecological ways to manage resources.
- Invest massively in the field of education and training by presenting European projects on the theme (eg. IVET / Erasmus), by initiating or pursuing collaborations with universities and by multiplying summer schools and the dissemination of webinars, online courses and other accessible tools.
- Seek alliances and joint projects with cultural creative networks (eg. UFISC - Federal Union for the Intervention of Cultural Structures, member of RIPESS Europe) or festivals (Creative Commons Film Festival, Alternatiba , Solidarity Festivals, etc.) and SSE fairs.

5. Relations with the Ripess Intercontinental network

- Share and animate transversal dimensions with RIPESS at international level: work, climate change, food sovereignty, gender equality, the fight against discrimination and social justice, paying particular attention to active participation of young people. Participate in advocacy on the SDGs, the United Nations, etc.
- Strive to be a facilitator of useful collaborations between the different SSE networks represented in RIPESS Intercontinental, by actively participating in the various working groups, by feeding the communication of the International Newsletter, and a diversified and abundant documentation on the SSE, mainly through Socioeco.org and other members' initiatives.