



ripess
europe

Solidarity Economy Europe
www.ripess.eu

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

17 - 20 SEPTEMBER 2022

EKOCENTRUM (WROCŁAW, POLAND)

REPORT

Detailed Program

DAY 1	SUNDAY 18TH SEPT	
9:00	Warm up session	<i>Ekocentrum</i>
9:30	Plenary meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the GA • New members • Reports (discussion and validation) 	<i>Ekocentrum</i> > Online Participation
11:30	Plenary meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elections • Revision of the charter of principles • RIPESS Intercontinental 	<i>Ekocentrum</i> > Online Participation
14.30	Plenary meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Educational tools 	<i>Ekocentrum</i> > Online Participation > Posters and online notes
15.00	Working Groups and thematic discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • territorial cooperation / public policies / social impact / youth / Digital platforms 	<i>Ekocentrum</i> > Online Participation
16:00	Working Groups and thematic discussions	<i>Ekocentrum</i> > Online

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> territorial cooperation / public policies / social impact / youth / Digital platforms 	Participation
16:45	Plenary Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conclusions and results 	
18:00	Visit to local initiatives → <i>Point of Social Integration (refugees from Ukraine)</i>	7, Hubska Street

DAY 2	Monday 19th Sept	
9:00	Warm-up session	<i>Ekocentrum</i>
9:30	Eastern European gathering focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HATI-SOS and BUSSE presentation The situation of the SSE in each country 	<i>Ekocentrum</i> > Online Participation
11:00	Building a care-based response to periods of crisis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (self)-care activity Worldcafe dynamic 	<i>Ekocentrum</i>
15:00	Projects proposals and Market of ideas Open Public Event (Presentation of the SSE environment in Poland, local food communities, grassroots and climate initiatives...)	<i>Ekocentrum</i> > Online Participation > English /Polish interpretation

DAY 3	Tuesday 20th SEPT	
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9.00	Warm-up	<i>Ekocentrum</i>
9.30	RIPESEU Closing session: let's wrap-up - Networking and alliances in Europe: convergences, exchanges, advocacy - Priorities for the next year: Ripess Europe's plan of action	<i>Ekocentrum</i> > Online Participation
12.30	LUNCH and bye bye: Tajfun, 5, Cybulskiego str.	https://tajfun.wroclaw.pl/

DAY 1 - SUNDAY 18th SEPT.

1) Activity report

Presentation of RIPESS EUROPE 2021 Activities by Josette Combes, communication coordinator and Jason Nardi, delegate general ([see the slides](#))

1. Background

For RIPESS Europe, one of the challenges of the year 2021 was to collect testimonies from its members on the effects of Covid 19 on their activity and the responses they were able to organise. This collection has complemented that of RIPESS Intercontinental. We have seen that stopping economic activity has had disastrous effects when SSE businesses are forced to close if there is no social fabric or safety net to support people.

Thanks to several European projects, the exchange between members has continued to be structured and to produce a number of results. Paradoxically, the systematic use of video-conferencing has increased the opportunities for outreach through easier participation in partner events and the use of webinars to reach more people than face-to-face. As a result, the solidarity economy has fostered the resilience of local people and communities, who have found and rediscovered their capacity to overcome emergencies and rebuild a future through short circuits, local solidarity, and a global and holistic perspective. RIPESS Europe has pursued the objectives it set for itself in both its strategic plan and the commitments it made to the FPH.



2. The animation of the network

RIPESS Europe's 10th anniversary: the year 2021 corresponded to the tenth anniversary of the founding of RIPESS Europe and after a preparatory meeting of members online in the Spring, a dedicated General Assembly was organised in September, the anniversary of the founding congress in 2011 in Barcelona. The event took place from the 7th to the 10th at the Bergerie de

Villarceaux thanks to its availability by the FPH. It was attended by 44 people in person and 14 by video, representing 18 countries. A video gathering the testimonies of about ten members expressing their vision of the solidarity economy was projected at the opening and a publication

in English and French was produced and distributed. The whole meeting was filmed and a professional video was produced for wider distribution.

The new members accepted in 2021 are the Irish network SOLIDNET, the Austrian network VSOK and ESS'PLICITE (French youth organisation). A collaboration between REMESS (the Moroccan SSE network) resulted in a partnership agreement formalised during the GA, which should lead to a youth exchange project to be financed by European funds dedicated to trans-mediterranean exchange (including Tunisia).

As the Scientific Council has initiated an exchange with Turkish universities, RIPESS EU has responded positively to the membership application of Sosyal Ekonomi, a Turkish organisation that has initiated a networking process of social enterprises and organisations that recognise SSE values.

The development of a youth platform for SSE - YOU'CONOMY - led by Andrea Rodriguez supports the expansion of collaborations between members and other youth networks.

Webinars

Several online meetings and webinars, on different themes (youth, cooperative platforms, territorial cooperation, solidarity tourism, etc.) were held, including those of the Scientific Council on ecofeminism from February to April. In collaboration with Urgenci (founding member), a webinar was created to support the contribution of associations for the maintenance of peasant agriculture (AMAP) to encourage community seed banks.

Mapping



The [mapping of RIPESS Europe](#) members is visible on Socioeco.org. It includes RIPESS Europe members with their records in the 3 languages, and members of members.

RIPESS Europe has officially joined the Pilot coordination group of Transiscope for the interoperability between the existing maps with the intention to make it more international. Work has also resumed with the collaborative platform Communecter.org.

Alliances

In 2021, in addition to the continuation of the convergences promoted by the FSMET (World Social Forum of Transformative Economies), partnerships have been developed with platforms such as Transiscope (for mapping and interoperability); with Transformative Cities (Transnational Institute, Friends of the Earth, Habitat International Coalition, UCLG); with the Communities for Future initiative (Ecolise); with FTAO, Concord and other advocacy networks (on international trade, public procurement policies and the 'Build back fairer' campaign); with Social Economy Europe for the European Parliamentary Intergroup; with REVES and other municipality-led networks (such as RTES in France and XMESS in Spain); with Commons Network and Remix the Commons for the Municipalist and Commons movements' forums.

3. Groups outcomes



Documenting good practice

The Erasmus+ SSE VET 2 project on the training of trainers has collected all the materials resulting from 3 years of work. They are available on the socioeco.org website. The next project - COOP4FUTURE - was approved, which was to commit the partnership for another three years, consolidating the work done so far. Unfortunately the project has to be re-presented, as there have been financial issues with the Erasmus+ Portuguese national agency.

The project for the dissemination of SSE in Central and Eastern Europe (BUSSE - Building Up Social Solidarity Economy) ended with the production of 4 modules on the basics of building up solidarity and self-managed communities and enterprises, on agro-ecology and socio-ecological transition. Follow-up is already underway through a new Erasmus+ project called HATI-SOS (Hard Times - Soft Skills), which continues the peer training activity.



The youth and solidarity tourism group met in Cremona (Italy) in November for a practice exchange session between the different participants who develop solidarity and eco-responsible travel modalities.

The social utility evaluation group, after a first failed attempt to access European funding, reiterated the proposal to the EU, which validated it in early 2022. It is about cross visits of exchanges on the modalities of measurement of social utility adopted by each partner, to serve as a basis for a common denominator in terms of measuring the impact of the SSE.

The agreement signed between RIPESS and REMESS (Morocco) has made it possible to start working again with organizations and networks in the Maghreb, on different aspects (training, territorial cooperation, advocacy and dissemination).

During the September GA a workshop on the use of online platforms developed a [Charter on digital tools](#) to be proposed to members and partners.



4. Communication

The communication team has consolidated its activity on a more regular basis, advancing on several aspects. In particular, the design have been changed to renew the visual identity and many new tools have been adopted.

- 1) A new logo has been developed
- 2) **Framavox** platform has been implemented based on Loomio : organised discussions for the working groups, decisions orientation, etc.
- 3) Agreement with Dunia.earth for the use of most of the platforms implemented
- 4) Open source meeting space (**BigBlueButton**)
- 5) **Odo** members and financial management platform - with training for the team
- 6) Renovation and designing of the website
- 7) **Monthly newsletter** : monthly video (access to our [Youtube channel](#)) and every 2 months a dossier with a specific theme or a dossier per country (we started with Poland in September 2022).
- 8) Creation of [Solecopedia](#)

5. Perspectives

1. Development of economic cooperation platforms (digital currencies and translocal exchanges), (e.g. Smartketplace) and further collaboration in common platforms such as Transiscope.org (for mapping and event calendars) and Communecter.org - as well as with Communitiesforfuture.org.
2. Support the emergence of new networks and the valorisation of local SSE practices, their networking at European level and their economic inter-cooperation.
3. Recognition of SSE: advocacy (including participation in the European meeting organised in

Strasbourg in May 2022 "Social economy, the future of Europe").

4. Movement building: through convergence, peer education, youth engagement, developing those we have created, seeking new alliances and strengthening existing ones, both at institutional level and with other transformative economy movements.

2) Financial situation

The financial report could not be approved yet as it was not fully ready : we started working with the Odoo open source software for our accounts in 2022 and need more time to fully implement it. We asked the assembly to reconvene for the approval of the financial report **before 31st December 2022** . Odoo is a very useful and flexible platform (Bruno, Jason, Juliette, Andrea have been trained). The network invested in this tool and it will make our job way easier for all administrative work as well as the creation of an intranet for the members. We are planning to offer it to all members for internal use in their organisations - specific trainings will be organised by Ripess Europe once we are confident with the platform (see : <https://odoo.ripess.eu/>).

3) New membership applications

This year we received 3 membership requests, which were all approved unanimously :

CSX Network eV (Germany)

The CSX Network eV is an association of people who work, research, advise or have founded community-based companies on the subject of community-based enterprise. We started as a loose network and decided in November 2020 to found an association in order to be able to promote the notion of CSX more professionally in the future.



CSX ('community supported everything') is inspired by the practice of community supported agriculture. Its core is the incorporation of prosumers as active participants in running a business, combined with the collective financing of the yearly operating costs. Based on the budget for each new business year, members of the cooperative community formally commit in advance to contribute a share of the costs. CSX thus fosters direct relationships and transparency among all participants, who use community contributions instead of prices to pre-finance their costs, thereby sharing all risks and responsibilities. Many CSX operations are also run on the basis of solidarity-based financing, participatory decision making, co-production, and community-owned property.

Our association sees itself as a lively organization that enables its members and interested parties to learn together and to become and be effective. In accordance with our statutes, we are particularly committed to education, science and research. Specifically, this means we:

- inspire and actively support people in founding community-based enterprises,

- research practical examples and practices of community-based economics and publish these results,
- promote the exchange between existing practical projects.

In our association we rely on co-creation, cooperation and collaboration instead of competition, on direct connections and personal relationships, on transparency and interactions at eye level, on needs orientation and participation, on self-reflection, solidarity and self-efficacy. And we have decided to turn our network into a learning space for diversity and to constantly question old habits of communication and hierarchy.

Website: <https://gemeinschaftsgetragen.de/en/>

Reference person: Bernd Bonfert

Profilantrop Association - Hungary

The main goal of Profilantrop is to raise the environmental awareness, strengthen the independence and self-esteem of local communities to find a way to a responsible, sustainable and peaceful lifestyle. Empowerment is a cornerstone in our work, incorporating the creativity and skills of the people in finding solutions to their problems – instead of waiting for help from outside. We have been active in youth work since 2006, in the last 6 years we hosted volunteers in our Charity Shop, in the heart of Budapest. We are taking part in youth exchanges, recently leading two Erasmus+ strategic partnership projects. In 2015 we established a Charity Shop in Budapest, where we receive ESC volunteers.



PROFILANTROP

 ASSOCIATION

We believe in Transformative Economy, and the goals of solidarity economy, we would love to improve this field in our association and in Hungary.

Website: <https://www.profilantrop.org/en/home>

Reference person: Zsafia Szepesi

DUNIA – international sectoral



Dunia is a platform of free digital tools and networked communication, created in 2012 around the Earth Summit (Peoples Summit Rio+20) in Brazil. At that moment, it became more evident that the world was heading to a more intense confrontation in terms of political, economic, and technological rivalries. Alongside the effect of digitalization, the global economy showed also at that time

that it was more and more embedded into a large process of hyper-industrialization, bringing a new kind of inequities, social polarization and concentration.

Since the 90's, the same wave of growing digitalization has also changed the way civil society is acting. Information has become an unseen leverage to struggle and pressure political actors, at the same time it has become a strategic issue for many organizations. The economy of innovation and monopolistic competition is now reinforcing the strategic dimension of information.

The new networked economy is currently driving territories and social communities to a new configuration: more global competitive, capitalistic, conflicting, individual-centric, and relational. This gives a new role to social and solidarity economy.

In this context, Dunia started to provide online tools and services to foster networked communication to organizations involved in the large field sustainability and altermundialism (digital infrastructure, servers, clouds, websites, streaming, etc.). It established partnerships with around 60 worldwide networks and institutions.

On the way, the platform has been structured by three specific operational lines: 1. Develop an offer based on open and interoperable digital tools for networking, rooted in the community of free software and activism. 2. Deepen the methodological experimentations undertaken by organizations in terms of collective intelligence, coordination and global outreach. 3. Contribute to generate new conceptual frameworks to address the new networked economy and power relations through information.

The core team of Dunia is currently composed of 5 persons based in Argentina, with a double juridical status of association (France, law 1901) and entrepreneur (Argentina). The digital infrastructure is mainly hosted in OVH (France), with dependencies in Germany (Hetzner) and Finland (Hetzner). The FPH is mainly supporting the project, while other organizations are contributing according to their financial possibilities.

Dunia was involved in the World Social Forum of Transformative Economies (2020), and the World Social Forum. It's now working with the Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF) and the Institute for Iconomy (France).

Website: <https://dunia.earth>

Reference person: François Soulard

4) Election of CoCo members

As every year, the RIPESS Europe Coordination Committee (CoCo) is up for renewal of a third of its members. After reviewing all the expired roles and candidacies, two new CoCo members are approved : Fairtrade Polska represented by Monika Onyszkiewicz (Food Community, SSE in Poland) and Apres- Vaud (Switzerland) represented by Constance André-Aigret - bringing the total number of components to 14. Moreover, RedPES proposed Ana Margarida Esteves to substitute Sofia Pereira.



The proposal to split the coordinator role in two was approved and the new co-coordinators of the network will be elected during the next CoCo meeting, possibly a woman and a man to respect the parity principle.

It has also been decided that the network could join the ECOLISE network, possibly with a mutual membership. The question of mutual membership with Social Economy Europe has also been proposed and discussed - but there was no consensus on it. Instead we should pursue a MoU or similar agreement to work on common campaigns and advocacy issues.

Finally, the proposals to start a process towards the renewal of a RIPESS EU Charter of principles and mapping of the narrations of SSE were approved, in close relation with the work done in ongoing projects (such as the manifesto on Territorial cooperation and SSE, the Trainings, the Social utility and impact, Soleclopedia and the work that member networks such as REAS have done on reviewing their principles and the campaign RIPESS Intercontinental is doing to illustrate SSE to a wider public.

5) New RIPESS EU representative in the RIPESS Intercontinental board

Introduction to the activities of **Ripess Int.** by Stephanie Barrial (new general secretary) and Andrea Echeverria (communication officer) - [see slides](#)

Ripess Intercontinental is working on **4 work areas** :

1. Transcontinental advocacy in international arenas (UN mainly)
2. National and local networks' advocacy for SSE public policies

3. Convergence with other movement for joint advocacy and the reinforcement of the networks
4. Information, and education material for SSE promotion

Sofia Peireira is no longer available to be co-representative with Drazen Simlesa in the RIPPSS Int. board. Ruby van der Wekken proposes to replace her and is unanimously nominated.

Working groups

Youth and Education



First of all, the need to define youth was addressed as we always talk about it as a homogeneous group determined by age, but it is important to mention that apart from being characterised by a vital moment, it can be said that youth is divided between those who are already convinced in the world of Social and Solidarity Economy and those who are not. In this sense, we have to differentiate with whom we work at each moment and think about how we can

influence school curricula to put the SSE at the centre.

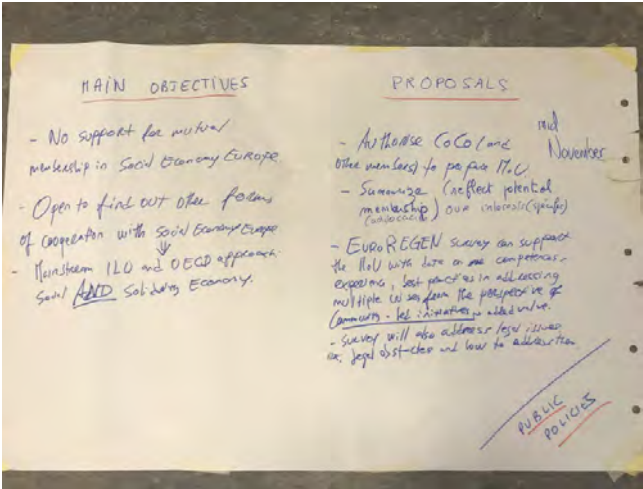
On the other hand, the idea of working from an intergenerational point of view was addressed and it was proposed to survey the members to see if they currently have projects on youth, have youth groups and members, work with educational organisations or institutions, etc.

Another working proposal is to focus on linking up with youth groups related to SSE and connected to our members and try to strengthen them instead of putting efforts into creating a new one.

Public Policies and Advocacy

The main issue discussed was the relationship with Social Economy Europe. We used to cooperate with Social Economy Europe for the European Parliament intergroup, but we stepped back a few years ago - due to lack of people able to engage and follow. Now the cooperation should start again as the Social Economy action plan has been developed as well as the European Green Deal. Our contact so far has been with Victor Messenguer (director), but

it has not been very fruitful. Since last year and in the leadup to the Strasbourg conference (May 2022), we have opened the discussion with Jérôme Sadiet, president of ESS France - and with Patrizia Busso, director of ENSIE and vice-president of SEE.



The group proposes to have the CoCo (and other interested members) prepare an MoU agreement, summarizing our specific interests.

The EuroREGEN survey, led by Ana Margarida, can support the MoU with data on competences, experiences, best practices in addressing multiple crises from the perspective on community-led initiatives - as well as legal obstacles and how to address them.

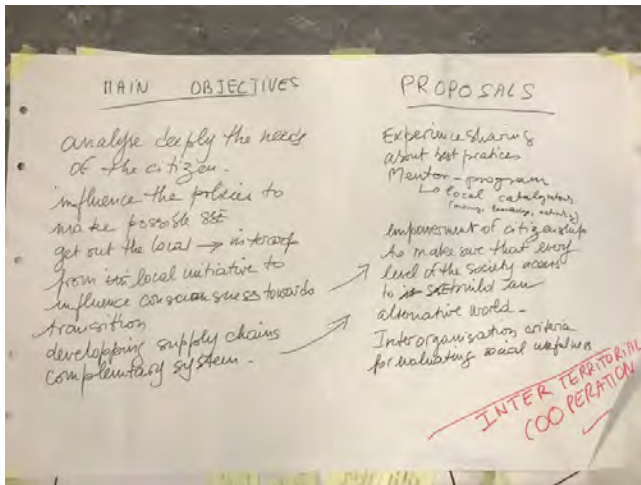
Public policy work has also been done with the ECOLISE network and should be continued with a wider participation.

The group should also work more in connection with RTES and other local authorities networks at country and European levels (UCGL, REVES, etc.).

Concrete suggestions by Judith Hitchman (Urgenci) for a Public Policy action plan for the next year would be the following:

- * Immediate follow-up with Social Economy Europe to ask how they plan to implement the enclosed document and how we could develop a joint action plan
- * Immediate follow up with Social Economy Europe to ask how they plan to implement the Conclusions and Resolutions of the International Labour Conference at EU level, and see if we can work jointly on certain aspects.
- * Work on sustainable Food Systems Law: how can we gain traction with Social Economy Europe to ensure SSE approaches we have input and will be working on in the Food Policy Coalition are taken up jointly with Social Economy Europe?
- * Same for other food policy aspects where Urgenci will be engaging in Europe?
- * How can we strengthen the bridge between the Farm to Fork and Sustainable Food Systems Law policy and the Green Deal?
- * What other groups in RIPESS EU PP working group can engage on other aspects of the Green Deal?

Territorial cooperation and Inter-cooperation

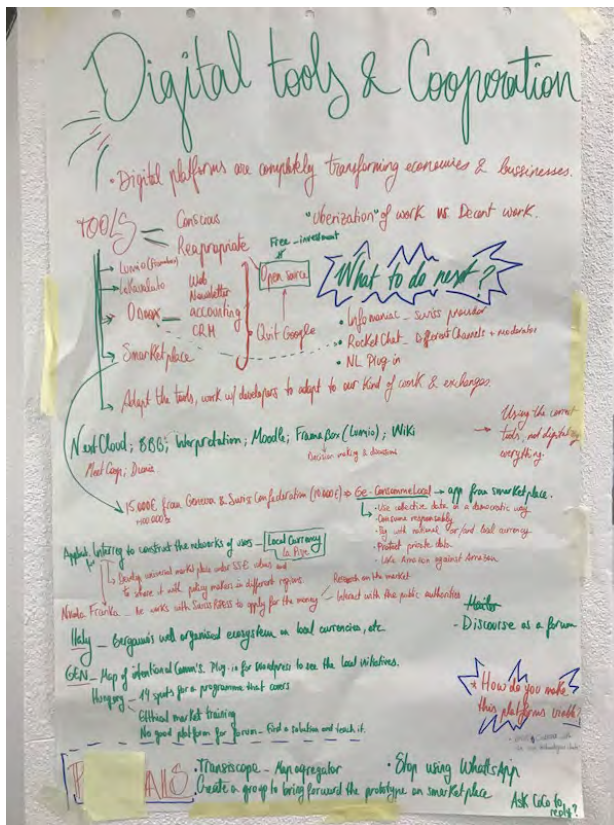


The group agreed that it was necessary to carefully analyse the citizen's needs to be able to influence the policies that would make possible SSE initiatives. Important is not to stay strictly local but as well opened to global issues.

Here are the main objectives raised during the discussion :

- Set up inter-cooperation in order to raise awareness towards the transition
- Develop supply chains based on complementarity between organisations
- Sharing best practices
- Develop empowerment of citizenship to make sure that every level of the society get access to SSE and not only the middle class
- Program training for local catalyzer
- Set up inter-organisation evaluation criteria to measure the social consciousness raising and the social usefulness of actions.

Digital platforms for SSE



For many people, the current economy is not serving anymore. This transformation is connected to the effect of computerisation of society. There is a new vision of social justice. How can we improve free software open source tools ? How to use and promote online technologies that we are fighting against ? At the same time, online collaboration is more and more useful for our intercooperation between networks. Also for economic exchanges.

Smartmarketplace is a start. Apres-Ge has received a grant of 15000€ from the state of Geneva. They also received a more important subvention to develop the platform as JeGe (je consume local). Smartmarketplace is a whitelabeled common app and every region/country can replicate it. The objective is to build a network of users. Each

region can develop a specific strategy. They have hired someone to make applications and to follow up the project.

A collaboration with Open Food Network has started and could be a good integration with Smartmarketplace as well as with the other platforms.

Thanks to the agreement with Dunia, we now have a whole set of tools at the service of the network: nextcloud (documentation), meeting tool (big blue button), moodle (knowledge exchange platform) ; as well as a connection with meet.coop (cooperative developing bbb), , and other tools such as loomio - framavox, from Framasoft. The idea is not digitalize everything we do but more to use the right tools for the right task.

GEN EUROPE has set up a map with filters where you can see each region, country etc. In Hungary, they have started a system with a local food community (logistics, finance etc).

Conclusion : the network has to build a strategy to facilitate the exit from the GAFAM's (Google Apple Facebook Amazon Microsoft) dependency and find the means to elaborate this transition.

DAY 2 - MONDAY 19th SEPT.

Eastern European gathering focus (HATI-SOS presentation, alliances, FairTrade, agroecology,...)

Presentation of BUSSE project



It is an Erasmus + project, aimed to disseminate a know how about how to establish SSE initiatives. Cooperating with partners from Poland, Slovakia, Austria and Ripess EU. We created an informal education

program for people who would like to establish an SSE initiative. We created 2 publications : one for learners, the other one is an infopack for trainers. They were edited in all partners' languages. We launched a conference about SSE as a response to the Covid-19. The themes discussed were community building, cooperatives and food sovereignty. Food sovereignty and SSE share the same principles and values. All publications from the BUSSE project can be found on Socioeco.org.

To know more the project, you can look at the [slides](#) and on the ripess.eu website.

Presentation of HATI-SOS project

The project is the continuity of the BUSSE project. It is centered mainly in Central Eastern Europe countries. The project started at the end of 2021. The first step is to work on a training. From it, we will prepare a publication about soft skills for all our organisations. A part of the project is about organising an event. It will be followed by a forum in Budapest in 2024. These topics are very crucial for SSE initiatives. Topics of training modules :



non-violent communication, giving and receiving feedback, organising successful meetings, inclusive decision making, distributed leadership, working with conflict, self care.

Contact the Hati-Sos team about your experiences of soft skills if you have something to share. It will help preparing the different trainings of the project.

To know more, you can access the [Hati-Sos slides](#) and on the ripess.eu website.



SSE in the Czech Republic (see [slides](#))

SSE is at the very beginning but there are different ways to develop it, today, in the country. Traditionnally, the term « social » means helping the weak members of the society. Social initiatives are seen as employ disadvantaged people and not as an alternative approach to economy. But times are changing. During elections, a new coalition was called « solidarity ». Traditionnally, the cooperatives played an important role in the agriculture. Today, around 3000 cooperatives are working in the country. Most of them are housing cooperatives. The

Ecumenical Academy is promoting SSE through different means : projects on SSE, events, founder of the Fair&Bio cooperative.

SSE in Slovakia

The term Social Economy is seen as a way to create employment for disadvantaged people (Roma, women, unemployed). In 2018, the Slovak parliament passed the first law on SSE. In general SSE enterprises should serve a common public interest, SE should have at least 50 percent of their profit to reach their common goal and use democratic management. The forms of support for social enterprises are state contributions, preferential treatment, vouchers, lower tax and non-refundable grants (hard to meet conditions). SSE is quite weak and the interest of the researchers is very weak too. There are almost no official data. It is very difficult to show/ know what is the general picture.

SSE in Hungary (see [slides](#))

In Hungary, the word « social » is not really ween seen, it reminds the population of bad memories. It is complicated to develop SSE in the country (dictatorship), it has to be the most informal possible. The countryside is more and more right wing because people are very poor and tend to be racist against Roma people. There is a strong tradition of « hating » in Hungary. We have to be very careful with using certain words such as : feminism, social, gender, etc. A Solidarity Economy Network has been created in 2018 in Hungary and is gaining more and more members, year after year. We alos organize a festival « Everything - goes » by the Together association, promoting a countryside and sustainable life.

Fairtrade Poland: Change of society by Mikal Brida, communication manager of Fair Trade Poland



« At Fairtrade we want to build a world where fairness is the norm. » Fairtrade farmers can earn enough money even if when the market is going down. This is a sort of protection system. There are 3 production networks : Africa, Asia and Latin America. Fairtrade refers to the certification system, with a

charter of principles, and Fair Trade is broader in its meaning (it includes various organisations). Fairtrade is somewhere between SSE and CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility). Advantages for farmers : economic resilience, production quality, protection of the environment, etc.

Fairtrade, in Poland, is achieving gross increase. In 2021 the wholesale value grew by 49% by year. The recognition of Fairtrade in Poland also grows year by year. We have a lot of campaigns in Poland to promote Fairtrade products, such as the Fairtrade month, the Chocolate Day, I choose Fairtrade, Coffee week, International Coffee Day and the Advent Calendar.

World Cafe - How can we create a self-care culture in our work ?

This activity was led by the HATI-SOS team through group discussions which led to the following considerations and proposals.

Self-care is a strategy of political resistance, and that there is an urgency to democratize it and not see it as something individual. Self-care is not only fundamental for individual wellbeing, but also for the survival of movements and organizations, as it is a strategy of resistance and resilience. The political sense of self-care that we mentioned, can only be possible in the collective dimension, in the reflection and action that allows us to learn to feel accompanied among ourselves, to resist and transform from belonging to something more than "myself". It is in this collective space where subversive power is exercised.

(Self-)care is a term that began to develop especially in the feminist movement, as a response



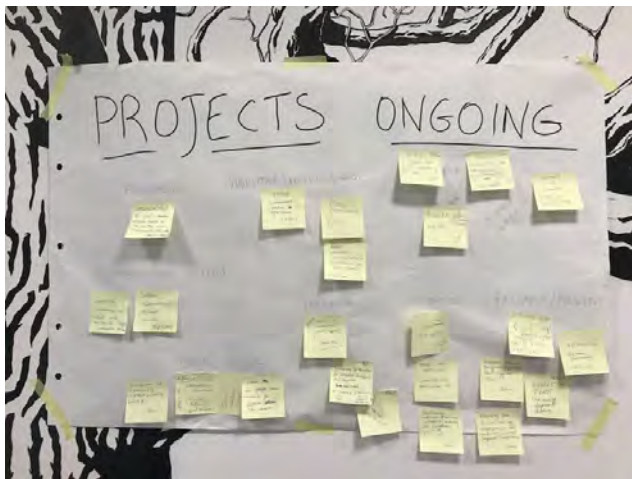
to the trauma suffered by women victims of gender violence. In fact, in recent times the discourse of self-care has been incorporated into the agenda of feminist practices, approached from very diverse perspectives. Often from the global north, self-care is understood from a disarticulating and individualistic perspective; capitalist logics have denied us this perception of care from a deeper, ancestral and communitarian vision. That is why,

many times, when we talk about self-care we think of the world of mindfulness, therapy, etc. All these things are not bad in themselves, but if they are not connected to the collectivity with the creation of a community and a network, we will never be truly "cared for" because human beings are interdependent. In the face of this, we have the knowledge of our partners in the Global South, especially in Latin America, who speak from the perspective of good living (*el buen vivir*), taking care of each other, sharing discomforts and accompanying each other.

Social Solidarity Economy has done important work in the area of care, based on the premise of the urgency of moving towards an economy for life. In this sense, care can function as a policy to guide this necessary transition in two ways: a reorganization of socially necessary work and the replacement of the public-private logic with a public-social-community logic.

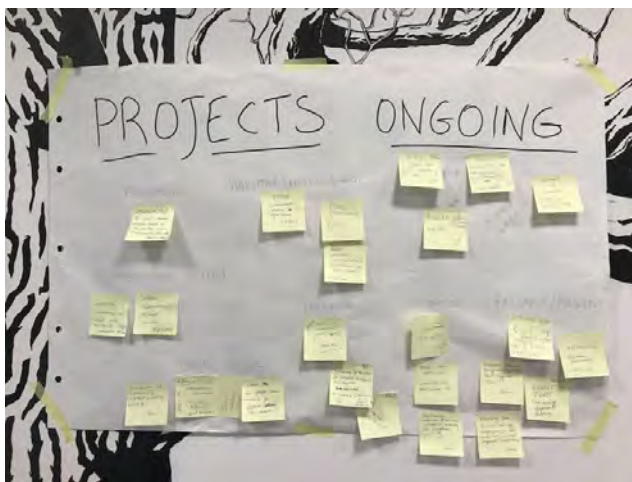
The term democratization of care is powerful and evocative. It implies proposing a social organization of care based on democratic values both for the people who receive it and for those who provide it.

Members' ongoing projects and « market of proposals »



is really welcome.

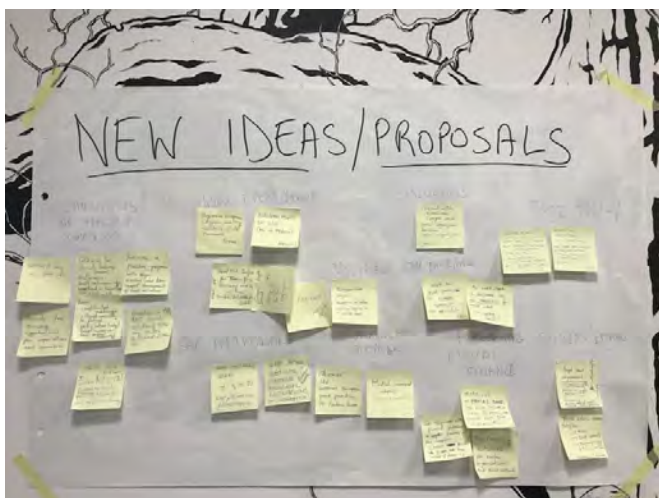
This session was dedicated to sharing the ongoing projects and areas of work of RIPESS Europe's members and to group them, in order to see which would be strategic priorities for the network at large. The main areas that emerged were Knowledge and Experience sharing, Mapping, Organisational development, Education, Climate change, Research and advocacy, Evaluation. They are already in part activities that also the network is trying to pursue, so more inter-cooperation



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A proposal for an intranet on project exchanges was made and well received.



Communication campaign(s) ; Youth and education focus ; Fundraising and Ethical finance ; SSE

The second part of this collective exercise was focused on proposals of projects and initiatives that could be done by or through the RIPESS EU network. The proposals emerged will be analysed in detail by the CoCo.

Here are the main topics : SSE communities of practice (especially around the issues of Climate change) ; a European SSE period (a week, a month ?) ; SSE territorial networks;

networking (at different levels); Food policy and agroecology; Care, soft skills and work environment; Citizens' empowerment; SSE impact and social utility evaluation; Mutualization of our communication tools.

At the end of the « fair » and brainstorming, it appears clear that RPESS has a strong potential, but it needs more structured work and information channels.

Open public Event: the reality of SSE in Poland

History of SSE in Poland

In 1945 the cooperatives were nationalized, many did not survive. The true social SSE definition only really arrived in 2004. It is very hard for SSE cooperatives / enterprises to survive in Poland ; they are not enough developed ; seen as social exclusion workers/field ; and have a poor legal framework. SSE is not perceived except for helping unemployed people, nobody is really interested. Our goal, in the future is to try to get a pact for SSE, and more financing possibilities. Most organisations are not interested in joining the process because there is a lot of paperwork to join in. A couple years ago, we tried to create a pact for SSE. It is still the idea for the future.

Bazar Krotka Droga

[Presentation](#) of the place by the co-funder Mariusz Sibila. For these last years, I have mainly been involved in arts and education. Bazar is a place focused on social activism but it is also a cafe where you can buy food, etc. We did a lot of lectures to popularize the place. For many reasons, internal, budget, etc. we had to close the place. We then opened a next venue which is a Bazar and Art gallery. It is a cultural venue completely independent. It has worked quite well for several years and finally, the municipality decided to sell the place last year. It was a very enjoyable place, there were a lot of artists, concerts, exhibitions, etc. The closing event was attended by a huge amount of people. The place became very popular. In all the Bazar we opened, we have had a great chef working in slow food who only works with local food. We also organize regular markets with local food. We have also built a Mobilne Centrum, which is



inspired from Finland architecture. The place is completely modifiable. It is mainly made of wood. We work with farmers. Each farmer has their own business, we only distribute their

products. We got very inspired from the AMAPs network in France.

Wroclaw coalition for climate by Mariusz Maslosz, climate activist ([slides](#))

We try to create a change in our city that we think necessary. Our coalition was created in summer 2020. We regrouped experts, activists, from different movements and we fought to save a park that the municipality wanted to remove from Wroclaw. We have various members and partners. The majority of them work for national organisations, some are local, some are

international such as Parents for Future, Extinction rebellion, etc. We are now fighting to save and preserve many parks and green areas. Our work is based on nature analysis and we work with various experts and scientists. We have made a campaign very successful, we created a number of slogans and all of them used several controvertual words games. We try to reach as many people as possible.

DAY 3 - TUESDAY 20th SEPT

1) RIPPESSEU Closing session

Networking and alliances in Europe: convergences, exchanges, advocacy

Guests and alliances

- Juan del Rio and Laura Kaestele from [ECOLISE*](#) (community led initiatives and climate change) European network with members in more than 20 countries; [communitiesforfuture.org/](#)
- Patrizia Busse from [ENSIE*](#) (European network of Social integration enterprises); important role in advocacy, link with SEE.
- Mikkel Kofod Nørgård from [WFTO*](#)
- François Soulard from [Dunia*](#)
- Anne Shwach (GEN) [University of Vechta*](#)



International activities we participated in

- Social economy Europe Conference (Strasbourg, France) feedback: Berenice (MES FRANCE) and Juliette organised a workshop on Economic democracy and Citizenship; other members had workshops too (RTES, URGENCI, etc). The official plenaries were very interesting. It was important to be there even if we didn't have a big role next to other social economy actors.
- Ecovillages network gathering (Denmark) feedback: Good connection with Gen Europe (Gen youth group). We would like to maintain and reinforce the relations wit them and let them know about how SSE can connect with ecovillages.

Next events organised by members

- REAS Red de Redes is co-organising an event on cooperative housing happening in November in Barcelona. With REAS the next step is to organize meetings with MES Occitania to explore our common interests on social balance (meeting in October): focus on getting closer to our neighbour networks (around the Mediterranean).
- An international event in Sevilla (Spain) - End of November / beginning of December; important event with Ministry of Labor and Economy (Greece, Portugal, Mediterranean countries...). Also possible to join online. Ripess Europe could intervene.
- [FRESS*](#) (Occitanie) 25th, 26th November - (happening for 22 years). The title is "Citizenship and solidarity Europe": we will work on the framework of Europe to understand better what is going on in Europe. Also what is SSE in Europe (with climate change, Human rights, culture and education perspectives). We will also celebrate the MES 20th birthday on 24th November and we will edit a book « Solidarity in Mouvement » (Eres editions) that will be published on November 3rd. The book has been written by 40 contributors (organised by Bruno Lasnier, Josette Combes and Jean-Louis Laville).

General Assembly brief summary



Fair Trade is doing really well in Poland and other countries and the climate youth movement is very active. New idea of networking inside and outside the network - we talked about research, education, youth, collaboration, etc. We have to reinforce and develop our networking inside the network but also outside the network, with our partners. We are living an

important moment in history when SSE finally starts to be recognised (Covid-19, ILO declaration on decent work, OECD recommendation, Green deal etc). How to collaborate concretely? Joining mutual campaigns, being mutual members, work on the same projects. We should value the fact that we are a grassroots movement. We can mobilize our members who represent the reality of the European territories and are directly impacted by European policies. For example, we can reinforce a common position on the non-profit sector which is a large problem for all of us.

2) Priorities for 2023 to increase the network's effectiveness

Summarizing the proposals emerged and the needs to address in order to strengthen the network and involve the members more, here are some points we want to focus on in the coming year :

- Relaunch the process on the SSE Charter: what are our principles in light of today's geopolitical situation?
- A clearer message about changing the system vs systemic change: how to design this (with milestones)
- What are the specific needs of our members that the network can address? With an emphasis on Eastern Europe : a network is important to share good practices
- Spend more time together, meet more often and in depth
- Reinforce our internal communication



*SSE is a vector of change : let's ride it !
Thank you all*

Documentation and slides presented during the GA are available here :

<https://nextcloud.ripest.eu/s/tNTQWtYYERZFSdG>