

This is the right time

This is issue **N° 13** (and let's hope that it brings us good luck) and the time has come to make changes to the INEES Newsletter. Since issue number 10, the newsletter has contained the latest news on Lux'09 and the networks. Since we have decided to aim for the highest possible level of participation of all of the SSE actors in the dynamics of the Lux'09 event, at the end of August we decided to send out internet alerts to keep you informed every time we had important updates to communicate. Whilst this is a more interactive and flexible system than the publication of a formal newsletter, it provides less visibility and coverage of the other activities in which INEES is involved.

For this reason, henceforward we will resume the publication of this newsletter and will focus it on the research actions and reflections we are currently engaged in. We wish to establish ourselves as a platform for discussions and exchanges between researchers, elected representatives, trade unionists, actors and citizens with a view to the construction of a 3rd economic pillar and reflection upon alternatives.

How can we fail to relate this to what is happening at the moment (and yes, I do want to talk about the current financial and banking crisis)? Certainly the stakes are high and, to a certain extent, are beyond our grasp...however, it would appear one or two cracks are beginning to appear in the wall of certainty surrounding the benefits of capitalism and the free and fair market.

So do we have any proposals to make? Yes, we do and we are putting them together through the Lux'09 interactive forums (www.lux09.lu).

Do we have any projects? Once again the answer is yes, indeed we have lots of them. Our first project is to be recognised as credible discussion partners and to open up spaces in which we can reflect upon the future of the world, from the global to the local. And that is a huge task in itself...

Eric Lavillunière – INEES

RIUESS

The inter-university networks of researchers in the social and solidarity network, which is a French language international and multi-disciplinary network, will be holding its IXth meeting on 18th and 19th June in Roanne (France - Loire). The title of this meeting will be "Doing business in the social and solidarity economy: is this a political issue?" The call for presentations, which will be open to researchers and actors, will be published in mid-November.

Some texts (in either French or Spanish) from the previous meeting held in Barcelona (the VIIIth meeting on "the social and solidarity economy, development, mobility and relocation", 8-9th May 2008, organised by the Universitat Abat Oliba CEU) are now available on-line at the following address:

<http://gilles.bruno.caire.fr/> (FR)



Proposal for a new book

The social and solidarity economy: a theoretical approach

Volume I: What is the social and solidarity economy?

Is this going to be yet another book that splits hairs in order to provide a definition of the social and solidarity economy (SSE) or that is a mere compilation of texts that are almost completely unrelated to one another? **NO!**

This project is based on a rather simple observation: it is not possible to devise a definition that suits everyone. The SSE is not a concept that has been conjured up in the minds of researchers and whose legitimacy and recognition is beyond question. The concept of SSE is a political compromise born out of the actors' desire to "undertake business in a different way", to unite their efforts and to project a clearer image of the movement (such as RIPESS at the international level, for example).

Nor will we set out to discover who used this term for the first time. What we are interested in doing is to provide elements to facilitate understanding: to identify where the differences lie and where splits exist, as well as the similarities and areas in which there is agreement. Indeed, we are surprised to see that everyone talks about the SSE without ever specifically defining what it covers. To make matters worse, everyone talks about it from their own point of view, without ever stopping to find out if this view is shared by others.

Of course, we can understand why this is the

case. The national contexts are so different from one country to the next in terms of the concepts that are used, the legislation and the public policies (where such policies exist) that it is difficult to know exactly what people are referring to. In this way, we encounter a hotchpotch of people who identify with the social economy, the solidarity economy, the third sector, community-based development, the people-based economy or even with more global approaches such as sustainable development (or, more recently, economic down-sizing).

Objective

To identify, from a scientific point of view, the different theories and schools of thought that are associated with the notion of the social and solidarity economy. The intention is to focus attention on the theoretical differences that exist between all of those who use the concept of the social and solidarity economy at one time or another.

Coordination

Eric Lavillunière
INEES Office Manager,
Coordinator of Lux'09

Eric Dacheux
University Professor
and organiser of the 8th RIUESS meetings

The Social Polis project

(www.socialpolis.eu)

Managed by the Social Platform on Cities and Social Cohesion, coordinated by Prof. Frank Moulaert and Prof. Jean Hillier represents a new step forward in engaging a wide range of individuals, organisations, groups and communities in the development of a research agenda for the European Commission to help to strengthen cohesion and inclusion in European cities. In this framework INEES, with the CNAM Paris, propose the workshop:

"Think differently: Supporting local socioeconomic initiatives in the city for strengthening social cohesion?"

Summary:

Supporting local initiatives from local civil society in deprived areas has been one of a strategy in Europe to reinforce social cohesion in particular through some structural funds programs. However the contribution of the grassroots initiatives to social cohesion in the city is partially recognised in the different UE member states and varied considerably from one local authority to another. This workshop will try to understand the possible place and statute of socio-economic innovations, in particular the social and solidarity-based economy, as a third economic pillar between public and private economy, in the urban governance. Through the exchanges of reflexions, practices and impacts, the participants would try to define a broader and shared vision of social cohesion which is too often limited to the job creation for the most excluded or economic activities in the deprived neighbourhood. They will propose their priorities for a better recognition and to acquire a deeper knowledge of this third economic pillar. This workshop will be organised in two steps: (1) a collective work for building a new and original common vision of urban social cohesion through e-mail exchanges, individual contributions and a collective text and (2) a public debate organised in the framework of a popular university.

Objectives:

The main objectives of this workshop are:

- (1) Exchanging and comparing of the contribution to social cohesion of urban innovative socio-economic practices in particular in the field of social and solidarity-based economy in the deprived neighbourhood;
- (2) Understanding the place of such kind of initiatives in the local government's agenda and in the public policies at the municipal and regional level;
- (3) Building a common vision of social cohesion and recommendations between different participants.

Social Polis field of research:

This workshop will cross several "Social Polis" thematic, not only the issue on grassroots initiatives and neighbourhood development but also the question of local social services and the place of non profit sector and social enterprises in the co-production and provision in such services of general interest. A reflexion on the potential and limits of social innovation and solidarity based initiatives in the urban governance would be also part of the exchanges with the local policymakers invited.

Partners:

This workshop will be organised by INEES in collaboration with the popular University at Cnam (Conservatoire national des arts et métiers, Paris) with the funding support of the Caisse des Dépôts.

Participants:

The participants to the workshops will be selected on the basis of academic contacts and the INEES, REVES and Social Polis networks with a balance between with different statute of stakeholders (local initiatives, NGO, social enterprises, researchers). A group of about 10 participants will be closely associated to the preparation of the workshop through individual contributions and a common elaboration of a collective text local initiatives and social cohesion. This process would be validated in a meeting the first day of the workshop. Those participants would also be the core group of the speakers during the popular university in the day 2. Among the expected participants:

Local initiatives and NGOs: Romain Biever (Objectif Plein Emploi, Luxembourg); Zinn Dinn (General Secretary, National Committee of Régies de quartiers, France);

European networks: Luigi Martignetti (European Network of the Cities and Regions for the Social Economy); Claire Roumet (Social Platform);

European and International Institutions: Gilda Farrel (DG Social Cohesion, Council of Europe); Antonella Noya (Program LEED - OCDE)

Policy makers and decision makers: Jean-Philippe Magnen, delegate to social and sustainable development economy (Nantes municipality); Morad Bachir Cherif, (Grenoble metropolitan area); Esteban Morales (Diputacion de Cordoba) ou Alfons Bonals i Florit (ville de l'Hospitalet) et Guilio Riccio, (député maire de Naples – politiques sociales); Alain Yvergnaux, (Conseil Régional Bretagne); Philippe Chesneau, Association des Régions de France (ARF) et REVES; Christiane Bouchart, présidente du RTES, Mairie de Lille.

Researcher: Jean-Louis Laville (Cnam, Paris); Karl Birkhölzer (Euronetz and Technische Universität Berlin IFG Lokale Ökonomie - De), Suzanne Elsen (Fachhochschule München - De), Ana Maria Dubeux, Université fédérale rurale de Pernambouc, Recife (Brésil) et Mouvement pour l'Economie Solidaire France and Eric Lavillunière (INEES - Luxembourg).

Location:

Cnam, Paris

Program proposed:

January 12th: Building a common vision of social cohesion. Workshop

January 13th: Public debate during the Popular University in Cnam.

Contact:

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The ECCE (European Centre for Community Education) re-launched its activities and reflections on education (from initial training to social work, including vocational training) at a conference held in Ostrava (Czech Republic) on 3rd and 4th October 2008.

Romain Biever (the President of INEES and managing director of 'Objectif Plein Emploi Luxembourg) seized this opportunity to further develop his thoughts on citizens' education.

Citizens' education as a process of understanding and knowledge sharing.

If we consider that human life within society is built upon four fundamental needs, namely: reproduction, subsistence, protection and information (Viveret, 2007) and if we accept that the natural extension of these four notions is desire, which in turn enables us to talk in terms of reproduction/love, protection/power and information/sense and knowledge, then we can deduce that the driving force behind human action is linked very closely to passion.

However, for the most part, social action has always been based on the notion of compassion (certainty) rather than on the notion of passion (uncertainty). Just as scientific research must be open to the uncertainty of knowledge, by making understanding a means, as well as an end, of human communication (Edgar Morin, 1999), the social professions are also faced with the challenge brought about by this change.

Moving from the assumption of power and consumption towards the sharing of knowledge (citizens' education) and of responsibility, which requires an original understanding and a new comprehension regarding the nature of goods and services (Calame, 2004), makes it possible to reinforce social cohesion in an innovative way and may be a founding element of a new social pact based on empowerment.

The complete article and a bibliography are available on line at the INEES website. (in FR)

In order to show the timelessness and relevance of the economic thinking of Charles Gide (1847-1932) and to enrich current reflection on the social economy, the Committee for the publication of the works of Charles GIDE organised a seminar on:

Charles Gide - The social economy and liberalism from the XIXth to the XXIst century.

Friday 7th November in Paris 15^e

Contact: colloquechide@gmail.com

The European dialogue platform on ethical and solidarity-based initiatives for combating poverty and social exclusion is this year organising its annual seminar on the following subject: "Involving citizens/communities in measuring and fostering well-being and progress: towards new concepts and tools". The seminar will be held on 27th and 28th November 2008 at the Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg, France.

http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/socialpolicies/platform/seminar/2008_EN.asp

The Ecosolies are organising **the Three days of social entrepreneurship** on 12th, 13th and 14th November 2008 at the Centre des expositions in Nantes Métropole, in order to promote a better understanding and knowledge of social entrepreneurship and to further develop its capacity to provide innovative responses to social, cultural, economic and ecological requirements. This event will provide social entrepreneurs with the opportunity to meet and to respond to the questions that are being asked, to prepare avenues for future reflection and to open up new areas of work. Further information, including the full programme (in French) is available at www.ecosolies.fr

Seminar to be held at the University of Munich: on 7th and 8th November 2008

"Developing communities – Learning for sustainable development". This is the second seminar in the European Masters Studies course on the "Development of communities, the management of neighbourhoods and the local economy", and will focus on current socio-economic issues. The future is not to be sought or found in an abstract or radical "otherness", rather it lies in an in-depth analysis of existing realities. It manifests itself in the plural diversity of the new currents present in society, in the community and social movements and the new schools of alternative thought in economics, science, politics and societal development.

<http://www.macd.hm.edu/> (DE/EN)

The European social economy conference in Strasbourg

The conference is due to be held on 21th and 22nd November 2008 under the French Presidency of the EU for all social economy entrepreneurs. This event will provide the opportunity to further develop and to promote the role played by the social economy in the economic, social and environmental development of the territories and will also serve to ensure that people become more aware of the specific features of these companies. You can register and see the complete programme at:

www.eco-soc2008.eu (FR + EN)



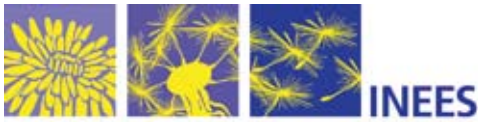
The Strasbourg 2008 territorial talks 3rd and 4th December 2008

"Extending the frontiers of territorial action" will be the central theme of the 45 meetings that are scheduled to take place over the course of this 2 day event. Transnational and cross-border initiatives and especially the transfer of issues between the state and the local authorities will be at the heart of these debates. We would like to draw your attention in particular to the workshop called "The social partners and civil society commit themselves to public action for the new employment territories", coordinated by France Joubert, President of Pactes Locaux. Cf. <http://www.inet-ets.net> (FR)

The third civil fora event organised by the Euromed Platform

took place this year in Marseille from 31st October to 02 November 2008. The main focus of this year's event will be: moving around and living together within the Euromed area. It will provide the opportunity for meetings, reflections and discussions between civil society on the three shores of the Mediterranean and provides a good example of how civil society is able to organise itself and to formulate specific proposals and recommendations.

<http://www.euromedplatform.org/> (FR + EN)



The third seminar on the knowledge-based economy from a European perspective "On the road towards Lisbon", 4 and 5 December in Luxembourg at the Centre de Recherche Public Henri Tudor

The idea behind this event is that it should be an open forum and, as such, it provides researchers and decision makers with the opportunity to meet and to discuss scientific analyses, as well as a forum for debates and the formulation of proposals on the issues of:

- Economic growth and employment,
- competitiveness,
- innovation and R&D,
- social cohesion,
- the management of skills, knowledge and human capital in enterprises.

The work will be opened by Georges Bourscheid, Chairman of the Board, Centre de Recherche Public Henri Tudor, Günther Verheugen, Vice-President and Commissioner for Enterprises and Industry at the European Commission, Jeannot Krecké, Minister for the Economy and External Trade, Claude Wehenkel, Member of the Board of Directors, Centre de Recherche Public Henri Tudor and Ann Mettler, Director, Lisbon Council.

A special plenary session will be held **from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on 5 December on "Social and solidarity Europe: an opportunity for the Union"**, with the participation François Biltgen, Minister for Labour and Employment, the Minister for Culture, Higher Education and Research, Jean-Louis Laville, Professor at the CNAM, Sergio Arzeni, Director of the LEED Programme, OECD, Gilda Farrell, Head of the Division for the Development of social cohesion at the Council of Europe and Denis Stokkink, Chairman of the European Think Tank for Solidarity, who will refer to the Appeal for a Social and Solidarity Europe launched in September 2005 (the text may be consulted on line at the INEES website).

A more academic session will then be held from 11.15 to 13.00 during which the participants will discuss the future of a Europe that would appear to have broken down, against the background of the financial and banking crisis. This will not be the first time that this has been discussed! Indeed, these are the kind of debates in which it is an almost impossible task not to fall foul of stereotypes when we talk about the question of social and solidarity Europe being the (only?) means to help us to get out of this mess and to provide new prospects for the construction of Europe. By failing to support the vision of growth as the be all and end all, we are inevitably labelled as dreamers or inveterate utopians. But let us leave these prejudices to one side for a moment

and consider the following:

- the European identity and projects are in a state of deep crisis and the results of the Irish referendum on the proposed Treaty and the shambolic way in which the current stock market crisis is being dealt with are only the latest manifestations of this;
- despite its undeniable potential (at least with regard to its solidarity and ecological aspects), the social dimension, which was initially promoted by the founding fathers of Europe, has been neglected to the benefit of the development of a market economy;
- the regeneration of the European project can no longer be based upon the pursuit of former social compromises that, more often than not, resulted from the aggregation of "national models".

All of this means that we have to change our way of thinking and, in particular, to revise the relationships between economy and democracy as part of a global and voluntarist European approach.

Presentations will be made on:

Innovative social policies and the European social model

Lars Hulgård, sociologist at the University of Roskilde, Denmark

Which social Europe?

Michele La Rosa and Roberto Rizza, sociologists at the University of Bologna, Italy

Budgeting for the Future, Building another Europe

Tommaso Rondinella, La Sapienza University, Rome

Europe looking beyond itself. Is the wind changing?

Matthieu de Nanteuil, sociologist, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium

The solidarity economy to strengthen citizens' Europe: where do we stand in terms of the recognition of the 3rd economic pillar in Luxembourg?

Romain Biever, President of INEES, Luxembourg

[Programme complet des 2 jours sur:](http://www.tudor.lu/cms/lisbonne2008/publishing.nsf/id/programme_2008)

http://www.tudor.lu/cms/lisbonne2008/publishing.nsf/id/programme_2008

(Fr)

SOLIDARITY INVESTORS

by Pascal Glémain

Editions Presses Universitaires de Rennes



An economic analysis of solidarity financing in France and Europe.

At a time of the financialization of our current economies and the optimisation strategy on which this process is based, several forms of solidarity savings are promoted by investors who are working on a solidarity economy project that may serve as the source for socially sustainable local economic development.

This book is the summary of several years of research into the economics of local financing systems and it is aimed at students, bankers and financiers, as well as at citizens who are sensitive to this alternative way of saving and of running the economy

COMMUNICATING UTOPIA

The solidarity economy and democracy

Edited by
Eric DACHEUX

Editions L'Harmattan

In the collection: "Communication and Civilisation"

Utopia is not dead. It has changed. It no longer sets out to place an ideal man within an ideal society. Rather, it opens the doors to what is possible on the basis of specific experiences. The social economy is the most successful example of this new utopia. What are the communication problems encountered by the activists and elected representatives who are striving to promote this project for society. The authors (researchers and actors) who have contributed to this publication provide clear responses to this question.

This is a straightforward and stimulating book that proposes an original vision of democracy in the 21st century.

