



Institut Européen pour l'Economie Solidaire a.s.b.l.

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Dakar Declaration (Extracts):

Empowering people

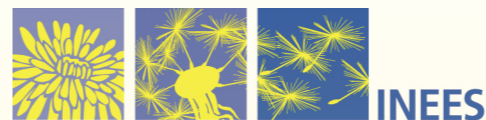
Meeting in Dakar in November 2005, more than 1200 participants from six continents representing social enterprises, co-operatives, associations, NGOs, development and co-operation organisations, academics, trade unions, governments, local authorities, etc, decided to mobilise their efforts in order to:

1. Promote Social Solidarity Economy in a sustainable development perspective. Increase its political impact by using different opportunities such as the World Social Forum and addressing multilateral and continental organisations such as the World Bank, the IMF, the WTO, the ILO and the UN.
2. Systematically optimise information flow by the use of new technologies of information and communication and actively pursue advocacy activities to influence the Governments in all countries of the world.
3. Support the principle that the finality of all economic activity must be satisfaction of fundamental human rights of the peoples (political, civic, economic, social and cultural) and ensure that multinational firms do not benefit from the fruit of years of struggle
4. Develop social and ethical finance, share innovative management tools including information and promote the strengthening of local currencies.
5. Foster popular alternatives to the private and state model of development.
6. Promote fair trade at all levels.
7. Advocate the cancellation of third world debt.
8. Build a partnership for sustainable development between political leadership and civil society in order to jointly develop public policy.
9. Continue initiatives such as the Fair Trade Village in future forums in order to develop dynamics of partnership, as well as holding grass-roots events in city centres in order to make Social Solidarity Economy more visible.
10. Recognize the fundamental contribution of women to collective life and vigorously develop their rights to equal participation at all levels of decision-making (economic, social and political).
11. Recognize the place of youth in Social Solidarity Economy and establish the necessary means to permit their full participation.
12. Work for the mobilisation of farmers' and other civil society organisations to confront the risks related to negotiations with the WTO and encourage them to defend and exercise the principle of regional food sovereignty.

RIPESS, novembre 2005 (www.ripess.net)

Regional Platform of the SSE.

The actors of the social and solidarity economy are organising themselves in the Grande Région area around Luxembourg. In the framework of the Grande Région's Economic and Social Committee, Renaud Rahier (from the German-speaking Community in Belgium), is chairing a Working Group that is going to organise a forum on the social and solidarity economy, to be held in Eupen on 19 November 2007. The ultimate aim of this initiative is to place the actors within a network. INEES may well call upon this platform to act as the regional organisation that will assist in the organisation of Lux'09.



Institut Européen d'Économie Solidaire

Mobilisation for the 4. International Forum Globalisation of Solidarity

Another economy exists:
the innovations of the social and solidarity economy

Edito For a real cultural change

INEES has committed itself to the organisation of the next RIPESS meetings because it has the ambition of taking up the itinerant torch of these events that continue to grow in both scale and stature and to maintain this dynamic process at the highest possible level of excellence. This is a perilous exercise and it requires us to change our mindset.

It would be very simple to elect a leader who would then propose a political line, would mobilise his or her networks composed of figures that are already recognised and would merely recreate a nice, well-organised conference in which we could discuss what is happening in the world beneath the benevolent gaze of the authorities who run the planet!

However, that is not at all what the social and solidarity economy is all about. It does not represent a demand to take the place of those who are already in a position of power, rather it is a new vision of society and social relations between men and women. That is why we have started a truly participative process in the context of the organisation of Lux'09, by asking the networks to be involved, to make proposals and to lead discussion.

I don't know if we will end up with the prettiest programme, but we will reflect directly with those who are concerned by (and interested in) the issues that are at the centre of our concerns.

We have banned terms such as "there is only", "we must" and "it would be good if," from our vocabulary and have replaced them with acts of commitment and responsibility, along with simple and clear rules such as gender equality and North/South equality. We have also adopted a way of doing things that we consider to be as open and collegial as possible, so as to set an example.

The real stars of this event will be the participants, whilst those involved in the organisation will be facilitators who will strive to guarantee the values and coherence of the overall approach. If we succeed in doing this, then Lux'09 will be a success!

Eric Lavillunière – INEES General Coordinator of Lux'09

In terms of activities, it introduces an innovative approach to the production of goods and services, particularly in areas that have been abandoned by the State or the market, as well as to methods of financing and marketing. It provides for the joint organisation of supply and demand by professionals and users and therefore the elaboration of a better response to each person's needs and aspirations. Finally, it is also innovatory in its capacity to bring about a "hybridisation of market sector, non-market sector and non-monetary resources."

It involves users in the construction of responses that are tailored to meet with their needs and aspirations. It refuses to accept exclusion as the price to be paid for economic globalisation. For those who have been cast aside by a highly selective labour market, it opens up new prospects for professional and personal fulfilment by offering them the possibility of working in a different way.

The SSE is therefore innovatory in terms of both content and its implementation processes. Consequently, the SSE also introduces a new socio-political approach to our societies, since this alternative economic model is also a philosophy of action that places "respect for men, women and the environment" at the forefront. It returns money to its rightful place, namely as an instrument that facilitates exchanges, rather than an instrument of financial speculation that may be a destructive force from a social and environmental point of view. It pioneers and experiments with new forms of exchanges, a new way of organising the economy, so as to emerge from the impasses that weigh so heavily on the lives of our populations as a result of the constant efforts made to increase production and the overexploitation of natural resources.

For Lux'09, the principles and values of the network (cf. www.ripess.net) will serve as the basis for our reflections and actions. They have been established and consolidated through the experience of actions. Ten years after the first meetings (indeed, it will be 12 years when Lux'09 is held), it will be a strategic moment in time to mark the significant advances made in this period.

- We are therefore called upon to implement solidarity.
- We are required to confirm the sense and the reality of being in a network.
- We must ask ourselves how each of our experiences respect people and the environment and look at the means we use to achieve this.
- We must strive to experiment at a wider level with the innovations introduced naturally by the SSE, so as to develop them, to make them better known and to launch future forms of cooperation.

LUX'09 will provide all of the participants with the opportunity to benefit from the potential inherent in experience that has already been acquired, to gauge its scope and to implement it more widely. Improving the way in which we share our knowledge and our know-how and making them accessible to everyone, is the best way to progress the forward-thinking approach and philosophy of which we are the proponents. That is why the workshops will have four transversal objectives:

1. To focus on the realities faced by practitioners, to combine ideas with practice in order to be as pragmatic as possible, to learn from other people's experiences, through the way in which other people think and do things;
2. To give a sense and meaning to functioning in a network and to consider the way in which this can be achieved;
3. To reinforce links, to improve the quality of the relationships that exist between the various actors. This type of event provides us with the opportunity to do this, whether it be at a regional level or between regions, at a national level or between different countries, at a continent level or between continents, so as to devise new initiatives together;
4. To further develop the innovatory dimension of our activities and to explore the challenges that await us.

Finally, we will also have to address a fifth element, one that will be key to our future: how can we guarantee the economic survival of these initiatives and their networking within RIPESS. The social and solidarity economy offer sustainable prospects for the world's future and as such should be given greater consideration in economic policies. There remains a great deal of work to be carried out together in order to develop our initiatives and to consolidate our network! ... and to write many more new chapters.

1) Term borrowed from the canadian scientist Benoît Lévesque
2) This term comes from the french scientist Jean-Louis Laville

NEWSLETTER N° 10

SPECIAL EDITION

November 2007



LUX'09 RIPESS INEES

from 29. april to 2. may 2009

Once upon a time... in 1997 in Lima, Peru, a group of activists, proponents of socio-economic alternatives, researchers and trade unionists, had the intuitive idea, which was somewhat prophetic at the time and was well before the launch of the World Social Forum, that the moment had come to create a vehicle for meetings at an international level. At the time, the world was seeing a proliferation of initiatives which were later to be called "social and solidarity economy" initiatives (SSE). The time had come to create a major forum and space for sharing, forecasting and policy development in order to raise the visibility and institutional legitimacy of these initiatives. On the back of the success of this event, a decision was taken to organise a second meeting in Québec in 2001. The participants lost no time in organising a network that then became the International Network for the Promotion of the Social Solidarity Economy (RIPESS). The name of this dynamic process of the "Globalisation of Solidarity" has slowly imposed itself and it is now part of the worldwide heritage of social movements.

Since then, this event has continued to take place every four years, alternating its venue between the North and the South, with an increasing participation of SSE networks from throughout the world (Latin America, North America, Africa, Asia, Europe). Following the meetings in Lima in 1997 and Québec in 2001, then Dakar in 2005, the next meeting will take place in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in 2009 (LUX'09). This will be the fourth meeting of its kind and its specific theme will be: "Another economy exists: the innovations of the Social Solidarity Economy".

The title is a clear expression of our ambitions

On the one hand, it is the tangible affirmation of the fact that not only does the SSE exist, but that it exists in all regions of the world! Thanks notably to the dynamics created by the intuitive ideas discussed in Lima, it has now developed into a reality that is well-known and recognised by an increasing amount of people and authorities throughout the world. It has become credible through the strength of its economic alternatives and the sheer number of people who apply SSE practices, particularly since this is constantly increasing. On the other hand, the theme chosen for the meeting also serves to emphasise that the SSE is a "laboratory of social innovations", consisting of a great wealth of ideas and creativity.



LUX'09 RIPESS INEES

4. international Forum - Globalisation of Solidarity

from 29. april to 2. may 2009

Another economy exists: the innovations of the social and solidarity economy

General Coordinator: Eric Lavillunière - lavilluniere@inees.org

	WE 29 Avril	TH 30 Avril	FR 1er mai	SA 2 Mai
		Illustration	Discussions	Proposals
09h30 - 11h00		Workshops 1 a	Workshops 1 b	Workshops 1 c
11h30 - 13h00		Workshops 2 a	Workshops 2 b	Workshops 2c
lunch				
14h30 - 16h30		Plenary session with elected representatives and representative from international institutions	Plenary session with other civil society movements	Thematic forums
17h00 - 19h00	Opening of the Forum Opening of the village	Continental meetings	Intercontinental meetings	Closing plenary
soirée				
<p>More than 1,200 people from all over the world are expected to attend the Forum to share their experiences, to create networks and to work towards a future that is increasingly built on solidarity.</p>				

As well as the plenary sessions, the Forum will also include workshops that work on two series of six topics (see opposite page) in 3 parallel working sessions (illustration of issues, discussion and proposals).

For each of these, the coordinating organisation will:

- Prepare a list of themes to be discussed so as to develop an approach to the issue
- Put forward speakers who respect the following rules:
 - gender parity
 - North-South parity
 - the speakers should not have already spoken at the Dakar Forum
- Contact the networks in Luxembourg and the neighbouring regions in Germany, Belgium and France that have an interest in the specific topic (if they exist).

The Forum will take place from Sunday 26 April to Saturday 2 May and the delegations from the other continents will be hosted upon their arrival in Europe (arrival on Sunday, visit of local experiences on Monday and Tuesday) before converging on Luxembourg on Wednesday. (see the sheets - www.lux09.lu)

We must therefore act relatively quickly to identify people who are prepared to host the delegates from the other continents, how many people they are able to host, the possible working languages and the financial capacity they have to cover their guests' expenses (it will be necessary to at least cover the board and lodgings and local travel costs incurred during this pre-forum period).

The social and solidarity economy is the expression of the re-appropriation of the economy by the citizens and that is why it is essential to construct this event together.

Do not hesitate to commit yourselves to this forum, to provide us with your opinions and to put forward your proposals!



Twelve topics to be discussed in workshops. (draft program)

Twelve topics have been pre-selected for the workshop sessions, although other topics may be added to this list if the networks are prepared to lead other workshops (the coordinating network is indicated in bold). The organisation and the contact person are responsible for the smooth running of the workshop and for the preparation of issues for discussion, although they may share this responsibility with others (workshop chairperson, moderator).

WORKSHOPS - SERIES 1

- 1 SSE and co-construction of public policies.** The SSE is based on a project that it is economic, social and political. Partnerships are constructed with local governments. What is their nature? What sort of processes are put in place? Exchange of views with elected representatives and actors. **REVES, RTES** - Contact: Luigi MARTIGNETTI - lma@revesnetwork.net and Jean-Philippe MAGNEN - jean-philippe.magnen@mairie-nantes.fr
- 2 SSE, social services of general interest and common goods.** Social services and common goods such as water respond to the general interest and represent a significant share of economic activities and jobs. How does the SSE take potential for growth in this area into consideration in a way that is coherent with its values? **European Think Tank for Solidarity** - Contact: Denis STOKKINK – denis.stokkink@pourolsolidarite.be and Ariane FONTENELLE - ariane.fontenelle@pourolsolidarite.be
- 3 Solidarity-based entrepreneurship.** Or how all around the world concrete initiatives demonstrate that «entrepreneurship differently» is possible, it means that it is the human being who is in the centre of the concerns and not the maximization of the profit. **ENSIE, EUCLID, EURONETZ, OPE ...** - Contact: Patrizia BUSSI - info@ensie.org
- 4 SSE and the environment.** The SSE is developing within a context of sustainable development: what sort of implications and joint forms of progress does this represent? **RESSOURCES, RREUSE, IEW** - Contact: Thibaut JACQUET - t.jacquet@res-sources.be
- 5 SSE and food sovereignty.** Food sovereignty is only possible along side real economic sovereignty. This can be established through the development of SSE projects that are not just makeshift measures designed to make up for the shortcomings of the present system, but are rather alternatives that guarantee self-sufficiency, healthy food and biodiversity. **FIMARC, SOS Faim, Via Campesina** - Contact: Daisy HERMAN - fimarc@skynet.be
- 6 Responsible production, consumption and marketing.** The need for responsible partnerships and enterprises, changing the way we trade both locally and at a global level. **IFAT, URGENCI, IRIS?, UFISC (spectacles vivants)?** - Contact: lux09@ifat.org

WORKSHOPS - SERIES 2

- 7 Democratic participation and anchoring the SSE at a territorial level.** The participation of the inhabitants in the local democracy makes it possible to respond effectively to the needs of the community. What can be done to ensure that this participation is organised in the best possible way, so that it is real and takes place on the right scale at the local and worldwide level? **Local Pacts (FPH), EURONETZ** - Contact: Martine THEVENIAUT - martine.theveniaut@wanadoo.fr and Géraldine LECHEVALIER - geraldine.lechevalier@wanadoo.fr
- 8 The contribution of SSE.** It is difficult to use conventional indicators of results and evaluation systems to measure the capacity of innovation, production of social cohesion and the societal responsibility of SSE organisations. The construction of new shared and negotiated instruments will enable us to better measure the added value that they bring. **INEES, ...** - Contact: Eric LAVILLUNIERE - info@inees.org
- 9 Networks within the SSE.** To forge alliances and to gather the actors of the economic alternative proves an essential stake to strengthen the grass root's experiences. The functioning in networks is also an economic model. But with what participative methods and mode of organization to implement it? **SAW-B** - Contact: Marie-Caroline Collard - mc.collard@saw-b.be
- 10 The SSE and communication.** How do we approach communication through the media towards local authorities, enterprises and the public at large in order to provide information about the SSE and to convey its values? **SYNSOL** – Contact: Pascale DELILLE comlux09@free.fr
- 11 SSE and trade union action.** The trade union and the social and solidarity economy have a long common history. The wave of neo-liberalism has obliged these two protagonists to redefine their strategies. What sort of new and adapted pact of collaboration does this imply? **OPE, OGB-L** - Contact: Romain BIEVER - biever@ope.lu
- 12 SSE and solidarity-based financing.** Every citizen is both a saver and a consumer, so he is an economic actor who can direct his choices. Of the micro credit to the social / durable banks, by way of the social / local currencies, we can act in favour of a sustainable development and build collectively the adequate strategies. **INAISE** - Contact: Viviane VANDEMEULEBROUCKE - lux09@inaise.org