

**INEES Seminar**  
**23-24 March 2007**  
*Remich – Grand Duchy of Luxembourg*

**The solidarity-based economy as part of a pluralistic economy: theoretical approaches for sustainable local development**

The market economy and capitalism have not always existed and, moreover, not all the inhabitants of our planet are established actors. This is frequently forgotten. The economic theories which guide the construction of socio-economic policies are more often than not rather strongly pervaded by a liberal approach. Their effects produce mixed results. Furthermore, a number of solidarity-based economy activities develop in order to respond to the more essential needs of populations. They are beginning to be recognised, but could occupy a noteworthy position in the political agenda. That is why we at the INEES are launching an event providing the opportunity to reflect calmly on the relevance of classic economic analyses, whilst assessing the contribution of possible alternatives.

The social and solidarity-based economy brings together a vast and ill-assorted number of actors which form the alternative economy. Today they are actors which have an inescapable effect on local development. Here one can find different logics of action which respond to so many economic views. We can mention:

- Alternatives on the market (the alternative economy): an activity is developed which is self-financing through sales but modes of collective, socially responsible operations are organised within the enterprise (e.g. cooperatives)
- Economy of the excluded (charity sector): charitable associations redistribute essential goods to the poorest people and sometimes organise economic activities to finance this (e.g. Emmaüs)
- Intermediate economy (improving the employability of people in order to (re)integrate them into the employment market): this is the sector of integration by economic activity, we speak sometimes of the secondary employment market
- Third social utility sector (from local welfare local to workfare): or in other words the organisation by the private sector of a public service by delegation, and this may be organised by calls for tenders
- Informal and/or non-monetary economy (e.g. local exchange systems)
- Solidarity-based economy in a pluralistic economy (mix of resources, local democracy, internal/external solidarity and so on): community economy. This is the new vision of the economy which organises services and produces goods which respond to the needs of the population not satisfied either by the market or the public sector. It is a very strong territorial approach and produces social cohesion

Our ambition is to contribute to a better recognition of the solidarity-based economy in a pluralistic economy. Public decision makers are surrounded by experts, economic advisers and academics who have been trained and reason almost always on a single paradigm: market growth = wealth = opportunity to redistribute = happiness. It should be observed that this model does not provide the appropriate responses to the expectations of citizens and generates severe inequalities. That is why we think we have a real responsibility today to gather alternative theories, to submit them to critical test and to convince political circles of their relevance in the long-term (should they be put to the test of experimentation).

So we are organising a two-phase working seminar + a day of preparation for the forum “globalisation of solidarity” LUX’09.

## Friday 23 March 2007

### Morning:

Dedicated to the history of capitalism, economics and the evolution of the wage-earning society. How have we reached the situation we are in today and what are the major issues for future years. The role of the solidarity-based economy in a pluralistic economy.

Contributions from Bernard Marris (subject to confirmation), Jean-Louis Laville and Karl Birkhölzer

Response: Jean-Claude Reding (OGB-L)

Chairman: Claude Wehenkel – Henri Tudor Public Research Centre, Luxembourg

### Afternoon:

Dedicated to the social and solidarity-based economy, the hybridisation of resources, its role and its place in the emergence of a European public democratic area and a global economy. What are its strengths and its weaknesses? How do we remove the obstacles impeding its full development? Definition of priority work.

Contributions from Bruno Frère (University of Liege), Suzanne Elsen (Munich Institute of Higher Education) and Eric Dacheux (University of Clermont-Ferrand)

Chairman: Eric Lavillunière - INEES

### Discussion panel:

Solidarity-based economy and public policies,

with (subject to confirmation) Jeannot Krecké, Luxembourg Minister of Economy, Jean-Philippe Magnen, councillor in charge of solidarity-based economics in Nantes and Vice-President of the French Network of Solidarity-Based Economy Territories, Romain Biever, “Objectif Plein Emploi” [Objective Full Employment] network and Laurent Fraise, CRIDA

The day closes with the announcement of the launch of a study into “the solidarity-based economy in Luxembourg: classic analysis of cost/advantage and the effects on the national economy – initial precepts for a community economy” – subject to confirmation

Working languages: French and German (simultaneous translation)

## Saturday 24 March 2007

### Morning:

Preparation for the forum “globalisation of solidarity” LUX’09 – presentation of objectives and examination of work lines by the INEES executive – involvement and contributions from members of the INEES and associated networks and structures.

+ INEES General Meeting