

Crisis time! ¹⁾

The shock waves that have been shaking the financial system and the stock exchange with increasing frequency and strength still have not caused people to question our economic model.

The decision-makers, supported by all kinds of experts are trying to bail out and patch up the sinking boat and are reduced to commenting and "speculating" on the ups and downs of the market.

We agree with Michel Serres who defends the idea that there is no looking back and that we need to invent a new approach. And this new approach is happening through the innumerable alternative projects in agriculture, transport, health, and information technologies...and even in finance. But the institutions have not changed.

Social and Solidarity economy is the standard-bearer of a project that is in phase with the citizens' aspirations for a more democratic society with greater solidarity.

There is still no real organised resistance to the oppression of the market, but an increasingly wide gap is growing between the citizens and the "elites".

Members of universities are considering these changes and ques-

tioning the dogma of the market and the growth model. Amartya Sen, Joseph Stiglitz and Elinor Ostrom, to just quote these Nobel prize-winner have breached the pseudo-scientific thinking of the dominant economic model.

Social and Solidarity economy (SSE) also has its own network of thinkers: the RIUESS. They shall be holding a meeting to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the network in Luxemburg on June 3rd and 4th. (c.f. pages 2-3)

The recognition of the work by the IPCC has considerably helped the question of climate change to move forward. The RIUESS does not yet have this strength or universality but their work contributes to consolidating the relevance of the SSE.

Without wanting to appear overly pessimistic, we can however say that we are running out of time...It is always difficult to work land that has been lying fallow...but I'm prepared to bet a kilo of cherries that in a few years' time these themes will be very much present in discussions.

At least we're working on it.....

Eric Lavillunière

1) This title is from a book by Michel Serres, in the Manifestes collection ed. Le Pommier, 2009. In French it is a pun on « cherry time », which refers to the Paris Commune between March and May 1871, when an organisation similar to self-management was introduced to run the city.

ECOSOLUX

INEES is the project leader of ECOSOLUX. This project aims to map the actors involved in solidarity economy in the Grand Duchy, in order to draw the outlines of solidarity economy in Luxemburg and improve the visibility of the actors by providing them with a web-site www.ecosolux.lu (will be on-line as of September). It will include various functions such as a search motor and snapshots of the actors, and space for cooperation that will allow people to exchange on their experience and dialogue and build new partnerships that will help joint projects to emerge.

Following the official project launch on 25th of March, the representatives of the various structures met on April 18th to jointly write an ECOSOLUX Charter that provides an explicit reference framework that actors can identify with the values and principles of solidarity economy. The Objectif Plein Emploi network, Etika and Caritas Confederation are members of the evaluation committee that is coordinated by INEES and the Henri Tudor public Research Centre.

The project and its technical elements will be presented in four public meetings organised in each region of Luxemburg in order to take the expectations of the networks into consideration. There are similar projects underway in France, Germany, Austria, Italy and Spain, as well as in Brazil and Canada. A specific European work-group has been created to exchange know-how in the course of the RIPESS-Europe meetings.

Contact: gyolai@inees.org.

RIPESS Europe - Eric Lavillunière (INEES) and Christine Gent (WFOT) are responsible for the coordination of RIPESS Europe (Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social and Solidarity Economy). The network is now taking shape and aims to bring together the sectoral and national networks to create a European platform for social and solidarity economy that will continue the dynamics launched at the 4th International Forum of "Globalisation of Solidarity" Lux'09 last year.

The aim of RIPESS Europe is to improve the visibility of the SSE through the exchange of good practice as well as project development and joint actions. The networks involved in the initial process are from France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Luxemburg, Spain, Switzerland and Austria, and the intend to create a network with a Founding Conference planned for 2011.

The initial steps to structure the network include setting up a multi-lingual website (www.ripesseu.net) aimed to showcase the network, but it will also provide a work space for members; Following a meeting that took place on 22nd and 23rd of March in Paris, the members of the network plan to meet again in Venice on July 5th and 6th "Planetaria", an SSE event will be taking place there, organised by the Solidarity Economy Network, between July 1st and 4th in the New City for another economy. Participation in this event will undoubtedly enrich the founder members of RIPESS Europe with new ideas, and will provide an opportunity to strengthen partnerships.

For further information, contact Ewa: brzezinska@inees.org.



Xth meetings of the University network for Social and Solidarity Economy (RIUESS)

« Developing a theoretical framework for social and solidarity economy: in view of an alternative model for society »

At the University of Luxembourg, 2, 3 and 4 June 2010

Over a period of ten years the meetings of the University Network for Social and Solidarity Economy and many scientific events have dealt with a variety of topics that have increased our understanding of the various challenges, areas and problems facing the SSE (visit our website at www.riuess.org). Despite the amount of research on and publications concerning SSE, there is still no agreement even internally as to its shape or foundation. By comparison with traditional theories and analyses, this is certainly a scientific weakness.

The problem needs to be resolved and the tenth anniversary of RIUESS presents an opportunity to do so. We need to draw on what we have learned from our work over the years while laying the foundations for the next ten years. Without agreement on what social and solidarity economy is and where disagreements about it lie, researchers into SSE could dissipate or lose their object.

Identifying the foundations is essential if SSE is to be a credible alternative to prevailing economic thought. Without anticipating the outcome - SSE concepts need considerable discussion among its various schools of thought - SSE is increasingly distancing itself from the prevailing, itself controversial, model. We must now look at the true similarities and differences between the concepts.

To achieve this, 3 series of workshops, 3 plenary sessions and 2 round tables are organised with acknowledges personalities of social solidarity economy such as researchers, PhD students and the actors themselves as producers of thought. To strengthen the theoretical basis of the SSE, it was essential not only to clarify its conceptual foundations through its key aspects, but also to question its epistemological foundations the complexity of which might represent a characteristic feature. In a logic of exchanging ideas and of open discussion with all stakeholders of the SSE.

Programme abstract

Wednesday the 2nd of June 2010 - Preliminary meetings

- 14h00-16h30 Meeting with the PhD students
- 16h30-19h30 Meeting of the RIUESS network members

Thursday the 3rd of June 2010

- 09h00-09h15 Welcome of participants
- 09h15-10h15 Introduction round-table by Romain Schneider, Delegate Ministry for solidarity economy in Luxembourg and John Castegnaro, President of Objectif Plein Emploi network
- 10h15-10h30 Coffee break
- 10h30-12h30 Round-table (plenary session 1) - International perspectives
- 12h30-14h00 Lunch

- 14h00-15h30** Parallel workshops
- The specificities of social and solidarity economy
 - Public policy & social and solidarity economy
 - Solidarity finances
 - The debate between social and solidarity economy and the other economic theories
- 15h45-17h15** Parallel workshops
- Towards new conceptions of social and solidarity economy based on the experiments
 - From education towards autonomy in social and solidarity economy
 - Renowned authorities for social and solidarity economy
 - The identity of social and solidarity economy
- 17h30** Departure for visits - 3 proposed tours:
- On the road to the Moselle;
 - On the road to the South;
 - On the road to the North-East
- 20h00** Dinner on the site Oïkopolis in Munsbach

Friday the 4th of June 2010

- 08h30-11h00** Parallel workshops
- The borders of social and solidarity economy
 - The systems of social and solidarity economy
 - Democracy and territory in the heart of social and solidarity economy
 - An alternative thinking of economy
- 11h00-11h15** Coffee break
- 11h15-13h00** Round-table (plenary session 2) - Social and solidarity economy, another economy?
- 13h00-14h30** Lunch
- 14h30-16h30** Round-table (plenary session 3) - The political aspect of social and solidarity economy
- 16h45-17h30** Closing of the colloque with the speeches of Nicolas Schmit, Minister of Labour and Employment and a representative of RIUESS
- 17h30** End of the colloque

With the support of:



Location: Amphitheater BS 0.03

Building of Sciences: 162a avenue de la Faïencerie. L-1511 Luxembourg

Main language: French – English translation planned

Registrations: by email before 15th May 2010: fdef-colloques@uni.lu (last name, first name, institution)

Registration fees: 50 € + 20 € for dinner on thursday evening / PhD Students: 20 € + 10 € for dinner on thursday evening

Payment should be done before the colloque on the University bank account

Bank: Banque et Caisse d'Épargne de l'État

Bank account number: LU36 0019 2355 9899 3000

BIC/Swift code: BCEELULL

Communication: Your name followed by "F2R - EVT D Hiez 02-06"

Hotel suggestion: The University has negotiated a special price with Alvisse Parc Hotel, <http://www.parc-hotel.lu/?section=fr.0>

Single room: 72 € room/night

Twin room: 87 € room/night

Booking at the latest on 15th May 2010 with reference «Uni Luxembourg» - Prices guaranteed until 15th May 2010

Note: A bus shuttle will be planned between the hotel and the University

Complementary informations: Mrs Armelle Arnould, Tel.: +352 46 66 44 6619, Email: armelle.arnould@uni.lu

Ewa Brzezińska, a young Pole, has discovered solidarity economy in Luxemburg



Ewa, who comes from Gdansk, a town on the South coast of the Baltic arrived in the Grand Duchy in February 2010. This young Polish woman is here as a participant in the European Voluntary Service Programme. She studied politics and languages, speaks fluent English, Serbian, Croatian, Slovenian and German, she is involved in contributing to setting up RIPESS Europe. She later hopes to promote and share her ideas on Social and Solidarity Economy and her personal experiences of life and work in a multicultural environment.

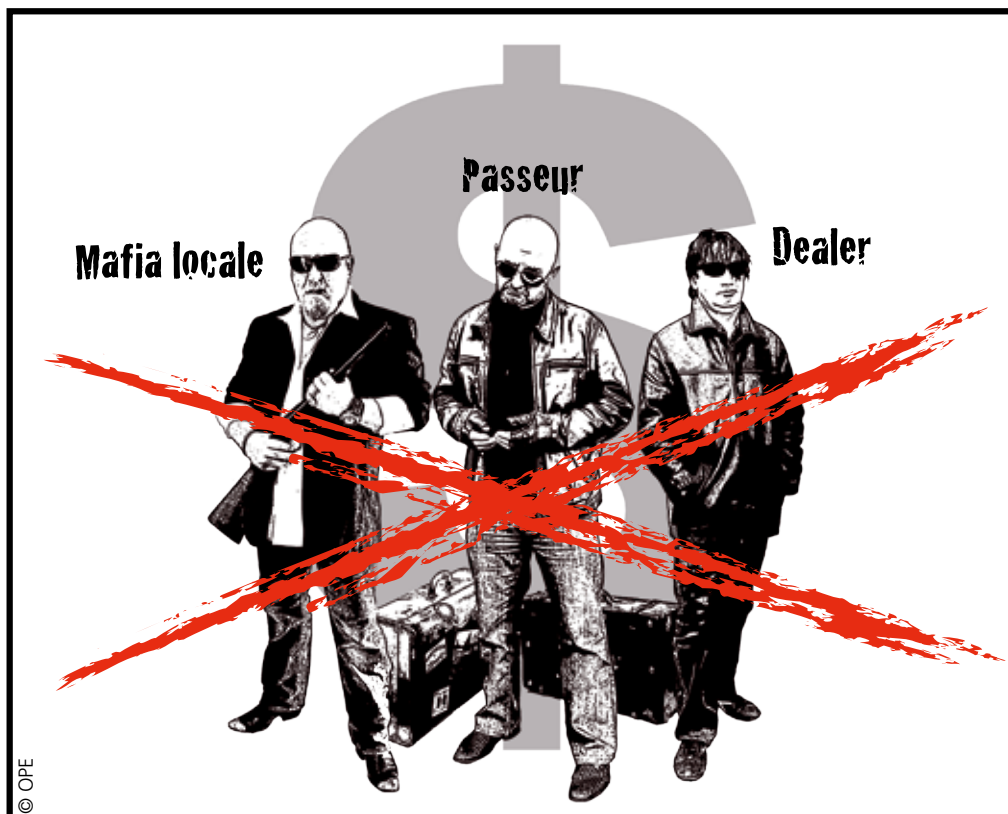
Sharing Brazilian experiences with **Rosana Kirsch**



Rosana, who comes from Sao Leopoldo in the South of Brazil, arrived in Luxemburg in May for a three-month internship in the course of cooperation between CEDAC (Community Action Centre Rio de Janeiro) and INEES. Rosana has been putting all her energy into promoting Solidarity Economy in Brazil for some years. She studied sociology. Her experience working with Caritas Brasileira, the Brazilian Forum for Solidarity Economy and her interest in Solidarity Economy make her an ideal candidate for INEES. Rosana has also carried out research and published several articles on public policy and practice of the actors in SE in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, in Brazil. She is currently visiting SSE initiatives in Luxemburg, with a view to developing a stronger programme of exchange.

WORLD FAIR TRADE DAY 2010

<http://www.worldfairtradeday10.org/>



PRODUCTEUR  **CONSOMMATEUR**

is great, but fair trade is good on a daily basis too!